



TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Chief Executive Officer:
Mrs Sue Vickerman
Principal:
Mr Steven Walker

Designated Safeguarding Leads: (DSL)
Mr Steven Walker – Safeguarding Officer
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Thursday 5th October 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

Events in School Last week

Year 5 visit to Eden Camp

Our Year 5 children had a fantastic time visiting Eden Camp last week, where they experienced the sights, sounds and smells of wartime Britain all within the grounds of an original POW Camp!



KS1 visit to the wildlife park

On Friday, all of KS1 visited the Yorkshire Wildlife park. They had an amazing time and enjoyed getting closer to some of the animals!



Upcoming events in school:

Friday 6th October	Due to our library being used for another event our coffee morning will not take place this week.
Assessment week wc 9th October	Teachers will be carrying out their teacher assessments throughout the week, to support parents evening when we return from the half term holidays.
Friday 13th October	Twitter “drop in” session with Ms Eke and Mrs Berry 3.15 to look at the new academy twitter account and how to sign up for it.
Monday 16th October	Open book mornings in EY and KS1 – parents are welcome to come into school in the morning when they drop their children off to share a book and ask staff about reading.
Tuesday 17th October	3.30-4.30 Year 3 and 4 reading open evening. Mrs Berry will be leading a session to show parents how they can help their children with KS2 reading at home.
Thursday 19th October	3.30 - 4.30 Year 5 and 6 reading open evening. Mrs Berry will be leading a session to show parents how they can help their children with KS2 reading at home. The PTA are also holding their Halloween disco after school. See letter attached for information and a reply slip if you are able to volunteer at the event! NO KS2 MULTISPORTS THIS DAY
Friday 20th October	Harvest festival as part of the celebration assembly. This will be the last day of the half term.
Monday 30th October	Return to school.

Parents Evening

Next week you will receive a parents evening letter to sign up for parent appointments for parents evenings (Monday 30th October 15.30 – 19.00, Thursday 2nd November 15.30 – 17.00). These are on a first come first serve basis, so please return your slips as soon as you can to enable your child’s teacher to organise their sessions.

Academy Website

The academy has a new website provider (same address as before www.towngateacademy.co.uk)

It has taken a couple of weeks to get the content transferred but we are now in a position to update this with a fresh new look.

Twitter

In line with other schools in the MAT, the academy is setting up an academy twitter account. Please see the information from Ms Eke below:

Towngate’s Twitter Feed @TowngatePA

At Towngate Primary Academy, we are keen to find new and exciting ways to engage with parents and carers about their child’s school life whilst continuously trying to stay up-to-date with the rapid changes in technology. In order to further communicate with parents and carers, we have decided we would like to introduce the use of ‘Twitter’ as a whole school communication tool to involve parents and carers in the activities and learning experiences that are happening in school.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social networking and microblogging service that allows you to send out short messages called tweets; tweets are limited to 140 characters but can also contain media such as photos or videos. Twitter is designed as a tool to communicate with the public and provide live updates to those who follow a Twitter account.

Why use Twitter?

By introducing Twitter into school, class teachers can share short messages and photographs to document learning in the classroom, whilst out of school on educational visits and through sporting events. Posts will be written to share the exciting learning opportunities taking place in school and to notify parents of key events and achievements of the school. The Twitter account will not replace parent mail or regular newsletters, but will provide additional opportunities for parents and carers to keep up to date with school. Imagine your child being on a school trip and seeing pictures throughout the day of the exciting events coming through to your phone!

Safeguarding Pupils

In line with other MAT schools, who have trialled this for a year, the Twitter account will be open to the public to view and follow. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will regularly monitor the follower activity of the school's account, and any user following the school account that is deemed unsuitable will be blocked. In order to safeguard the pupils at Towngate Primary Academy, Twitter posts will not contain any pupil's names alongside any photographs or videos, therefore pupils will remain unidentifiable.

As detailed on the attached permission letter, should any parent or carer decide they do not want their child's photograph to feature on the school Twitter account, parents are required to notify their child's class teacher.

Should you wish for any additional information about the Twitter account, Miss Eke and Mrs Berry are holding a parent 'drop-in' session on Friday 13th October at 3.15pm in the Year 6 classroom.

Updated Permissions Agreement

As part of our commitment to developing the academy curriculum, we seek to use innovative teaching methods and approaches. These include gardening, food tasting, and accessing the local community using our minibus or walking. To this end, we request that parents sign and return the attached permission letter (a copy will be coming home with each child today) there are tick boxes for each of the permissions required, please read it carefully and return to the school office as soon as possible but no later than 20th October.

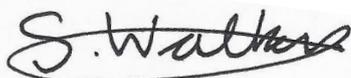
McMillan Coffee Morning

We raised £137.45 at our McMillan Coffee Morning last week, well done to our Year 4 children for arranging this and thank you to all who donated!

PTA

If you are interested in volunteering with our amazing PTA please see the attached flier with details of what you can do to help and how you can get in touch!

Yours sincerely



Mr S Walker
Principal