Townhill Junior School

Weekly Update: 16.10.26

It has been an extremely busy and active week in school with Year 5 learning to cycle all week, Year 4 having an Ancient Greek workshop and there was also success for our boy's football team.

Year 4 Ancient Greek Workshop

On Friday, Year 4 enjoyed an Ancient Greek workshop led by a Greek warrior who immersed them in life during Ancient Greek times. They got to find out about battles, weapons and chants as well as developing their knowledge to support their history work. The children impressed our visitor with their excellent knowledge and positive attitudes to their work.













Year 5 Bikeability



Year 5 have shown great perseverance and resilience to develop their cycling skills throughout the week with excellent progress being made in their balance, signalling and knowledge of road safety. The instructors commented on how engaged the children were in their cycling and how good they were at following instructions. The children will collect their badges and certificates in assembly on Monday.





Y6 Boys Football Tournament at Stoneham

On Thursday, our Year 6 football team travelled to Stoneham Football Complex to compete against the best school teams from across Southampton in the SSFA City 6-a-sides. After a long afternoon of matches, they played some exceptional football and ended up as City Champions following a convincing 3 – 0 victory in the final. The boys now progress to the County Finals in January.



Group Stage:
Townhill 4 – 0 St Patrick's
Townhill 3 – 0 Orchard
Townhill 2 – 1 Calmore
Townhill 4 – 0 Ludlow B
Townhill 0 – 1 Springhill
Quarter Final: Townhill 4 – 0 Highfield
Semi Final: Townhill 0 – 0 St Patrick's
(Townhill won 5 – 4 on penalties)
Final: Townhill 3 – 0 Springhill

Harvest

On Monday, some of our new School Councillors accompanied Mrs Austin and Mr Bolton to deliver our Harvest offerings to our partners at Big Difference. They visited their Woolston branch and the children got to see how the products we gave them are used to support the local community and they were very grateful for our donations.





Year 3 Art Work

Year 3 have been working on self-portraits and some of their recent sketches have been very impressive. Who do you recognise from these fantastic self-portraits?



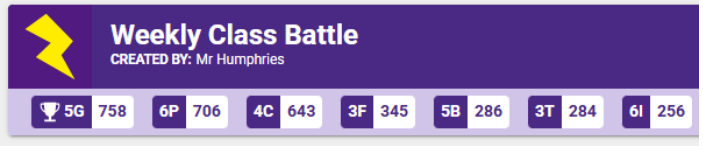
Star of the Week

Class	Name
3F	Delilah
3T	Amira
4C	Layla
4T	Fatima
5B	Aoife
5G	Bow
6I	Jayde
6P	Callum



Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Accuracy of Answers
1	Alex	3F	100%
2	Evie	3F	98%
3	Caiden	3F	95%
4	Eason	3T	87%
5	Marnie	3F	86%
6	Veronika	6I	76%
7	Isaac	6I	68%





Boom Reader

Class	Most Reads
3F	Delilah & Louis
3T	Annabelle
4C	Chloe & Maggie
4T	Poppy
5B	Oliver P
5G	Louis
6I	Fleur
6P	Bella-Grace
Class	**5G**



Townhill Junior School
Learning is the key to success

Current Learning



	WB	Subject	What the children will be learning	Ideas to support with the learning at home
Y3	**19/10**	**English**	Narratives	Read a fairytale to a friend or adult.
		Maths	Place value and number	Log in to www.maths.co.uk and complete the questions.
		PSHE	Belonging	Think of ways we can make someone feel like they belong.
Y4	**19/10**	**English**	Narratives	Retell the Perseus myth to an adult at home
		Maths	Addition and subtraction	Complete questions on www.maths.co.uk
		Science	Environment	Look in your snack cupboards or in the supermarket for food that has paper packaging
Y5	**19/10**	**Reading**	Narratives: Beowulf	Read to an adult 3 times this week and log on Boom Reader.
		Maths	Multiplication	Go on TT Rocks – beat Year 6!
		Spanish	Introducing yourself	Teach someone how to introduce themself in Spanish. Get a little conversation going
Y6	**19/10**	**English**	Narratives	Look at how settings are developed in your favourite narratives.
		Maths	Fractions and Decimals	Learn your multiplication facts fluently with additional practice on TT Rockstars.
		Science	Animal adaptations	Look at clips of birds eating and see how they use their beaks to help.

Home Learning

A reminder that all of our home learning is online through two main platforms and the expectation is that every child should be logging their reading, and completing challenges on TT Rocks every week. The children should also be learning their spelling lists.

Maths: Times Tables Rockstars
Reading: Boom Reader

School Attendance News

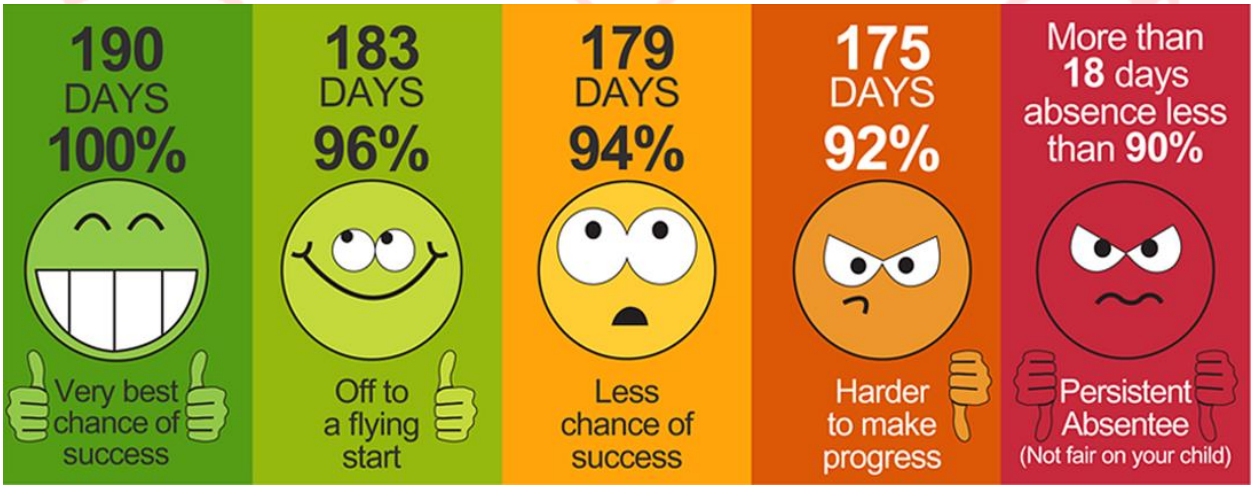


Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	Whole School Attendance this year to date
97.5%	96.2%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	**Number of children with over 97% attendance this year**
179	114

Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3T	4C	4T	5B	5G	6I	6P
Attendance Percentage	97.7%	98.5%	98.3%	97.6%	95.6%	97.4%	97.3%	98.4%
Progress	+1%	+3.6%	+5%	+3.2%	-1.8%	+1.1%	0	+3.7%



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI COMPANIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.



EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

CENSORED

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

18 CENSORED

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school - such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book Ethical AI and Education, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026

BREAK THE RULES DAY

Thursday 22nd October



Non-uniform £1



Wild Hair £1



Temporary tattoo 50p



Nail varnish 50p



Make-up 50p

How many are you going to break?



Cash only on the day please.

School Age Immunisation Service

NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Your child's Flu vaccine is due



FLU: 5 REASONS TO GET PROTECTED AGAINST FLU

1. Protect your child - The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
2. Protect you, your family and friends - Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.
3. No injection needed - The nasal spray is painless and easy to have. **(A porcine free injection is available)**
4. It's better than having flu - The nasal spray helps protect against flu and has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record.
5. Avoid costs - If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare.

The Immunisation team will be in the school on

Thursday

19th November 2026

Scan the QR code to complete a flu consent form
(even if you wish to opt out)

School Code

CW116134

For more information, visit our website:
www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/annual-nasal-flu-vaccination-programme/

Southampton City Council

2d ·

📣 Secondary School applications deadline closes in October! 📣

If you are applying for a Year 7 school place for September 2027, the application deadline is almost here!

If you need help completing the application form, please contact your child's current school or pop into your nearest Best Start Family Hub.

👉 Applications close on Saturday 31 October at 23:59 👈



NON CONTACT KARATE TAUGHT BY FULLY QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS

SOUTHERN KARATE ORGANISATION





EVERYONE WELCOME FROM 4 YEARS OLD



WE TEACH TRADITIONAL KARATE ENCOURAGING CONFIDENCE, RESPECT, DISCIPLINE, SELF AWARENESS AND AGILITY IN A FUN & CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. ALL CLASSES ARE FRIENDLY, INFORMATIVE & CATER TO THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF THE STUDENT.



TOWNHILL JUNIORS SCHOOL

TUESDAYS 5.00PM – 6.00PM

£6.50 PER CLASS – PAY AS YOU GO

MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED AFTER FIRST CLASS £27.50 PER YEAR

MANY MORE CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM, FIND THEM ALL AT: WWW.SOUTHERNKARATE.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

EMAIL: info@southernkarate.org

Tel: 07764 478507

DBS CHECKED

Child Protection in Sport Unit

What's on

September - December 2026

SEACITY MUSEUM | SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY | TUDOR HOUSE & GARDEN



Wizard School (6yrs+)
Mon 26 & Tues 27 Oct | 10.30am, 12pm and 1.30pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All:
Bats on Bags Printing Workshop! (4 yrs+)
Mon 26 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All:
Autumn Watercolour Vignettes (7 yrs+)
Tue 27 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Spooky Portraits! (5 yrs+)
Wed 28 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Hands on History: Frightening Folklore (6yrs+)
Thu 29 Oct | 10.30am, 12pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Clay Pumpkins (4yrs+)
Thu 29 Oct & Fri 30 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

CULTURE CLUB for kids



Mon 26, Tue 27, Wed 28 Oct
9am - 4pm | SeaCity | £35, £90 for all three days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days! **Our theme for October Half Term is Spooky Autumn!**

See our "What's on" brochure or venue websites for details on workshops and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



What's on

September - December 2026

SEACITY MUSEUM | SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY | TUDOR HOUSE & GARDEN



Halloween Family Day at Tudor House & Garden

Friday 30 October • 10am – 5pm

Tudor House is the home of Halloween and you are invited to join in the spooky celebrations! We'll have games, face paints, spooky ghost tours and more.

£4 pre-booked Ghost Tours
Additional charges for other activities

See our "What's on" brochure or venue websites for details on workshops and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com


Monkey Bizness
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!
SPOOKY FUN FOR EVERYONE!
MINI DISCO & DANCING
FANCY DRESS COMPETITION
SPOOKY CRAFTS
GAMES & PRIZES
JOIN MARVIN FOR A HOWLING GOOD TIME!
£12.50 PER CHILD
£2.50 PER ADULT
FUN GAMES TREATS MEMORIES
29TH & 30TH OCTOBER
5:30PM - 7:30PM
WWW.MONKEY-BIZNESS.CO.UK


Ascension
LIGHT PARTY
FANTASY WORLD
EXPECT GAMES, CRAFTS, FOOD AND LOTS OF SWEETS AND PRIZES!
DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVOURITE FAIRYTALE CHARACTER
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
4-6PM
1 THOROLD ROAD
SCAN TO BOOK YOUR £2 TICKETS
WWW.ASCENSIONSOUTHAMPTON.CO.UK
ASCENSION CHURCH, 1 THOROLD ROAD, SO18 1HZ

Townhill Junior School

Open Evening & Tours

We would like to invite Year 2 families to visit our school on the following dates:

Open Evening: Wednesday 11th November 2026 @ 5PM

Parents, carers & children are all welcome.

Tours: Wednesday 21st October & Tuesday 10th November @ 9.15am (no school children)

You will have the opportunity to tour the school and learn about our school day and the exciting opportunities we offer.

To book onto our open evening or tour, please email sbudden@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk with date required and number attending.

We look forward to seeing you.



Next Week at Re:Minds

19th-23rd October

Drop in

10.30am · Tuesday 20th October

CAMHS Autism Advice Clinic

Short, private advice appointments for parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health including where autism may be contributing to their needs.

Book a 10 minute virtual session with an experienced CAMHS clinician to talk through concerns about your child's behaviour, attention or day-to-day challenges at home or school. You'll come away with practical advice and guidance to help you better understand and support your child.

Book your slot: info@reminds.org.uk

Please check our Facebook events page for any changes, or visit our website to find out more information about our advice clinics and support groups.

reminds.org.uk /groups/reminds info@reminds.org.uk

With thanks to

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight CAMHS Shentons Solicitors

THE
GREGG

Discover The Gregg Difference

From Reception to GCSE, our pupils learn with confidence in small class sizes. They are truly understood by their teachers, academically challenged and supported as individuals.

Pair this with the wide range of enrichment clubs, activities and trips together with our beautiful 23-acre campus, and you have the ideal environment for children to learn and play.

We know the difference it makes to every one of our pupils.

We invite you to come and see for yourself.



Open Evening
Thursday 8th October
4.30pm-7pm

Open Morning
Tuesday 24th November
9.30am-11.30am

Book now!
thegreggschool.org

Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Does your child have or might have autism?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

"An Introduction to Parenting Children with Autism"

Insights and strategies for families

Thursday 22nd October 2026, 7.30 - 9.00 pm

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

Meeting ID: 837 3366 5621
Passcode: 160704

If you prefer, feel free to email us at **info@sftrust.org.uk** for the Zoom link.

www.sftrust.org.uk

Scan the QR code for the Zoom link

Dates for the Year

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Monday, 19th October	:	Y3 Stone Age Day
Thursday, 22nd October	:	'Break the Rules' Non Uniform Day
Friday, 23rd October	:	INSET Day
26th – 30th October	:	Half Term
2nd – 6th November	:	Y6 Stubbington Residential Trip
Wednesday, 11th November	:	Y4 Mayflower Trip to Welsh National Opera
(New) Saturday 14th November	:	Table Top Sale on the playground
16th – 20th November	:	Assessment Week
Friday, 20th November	:	Disco (5:30pm - 7pm)
Tuesday, 1st December	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
Friday, 4th December	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:30pm)
(New) Friday 11th December	:	SFC Film Evening
Tuesday, 15th December	:	Carols by Candlelight (5pm)
Wednesday, 16th December	:	Christmas Lunch
Friday, 18th December	:	End of Term (3.15pm)

SPRING TERM 2027

Monday, 4th January	:	Spring Term begins
18th – 21st January	:	Y6 Mock SATs Week
Friday, 12th February	:	'Break the Rules' Non Uniform Day
15th – 19th February	:	Half Term
Tuesday, 23rd February	:	Language and Culture Day
Friday, 26th February	:	Disco (5:30pm - 7pm)
Monday, 22nd February	:	INSET Day
1st – 5th March	:	Assessment Week
Thursday, 4th March	:	World Book Day & Dress Up Day
Tuesday, 16th March	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
Friday, 19th March	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:30pm)
Thursday, 25th March	:	'Break the Rules' Non Uniform Day
		End of Term: (3.15pm)



SUMMER TERM 2027

Monday, 12th April	:	Summer Term begins
Wednesday, 21st April	:	Y6 SATS Parents Evening Event (6:00pm)
Monday, 3rd May	:	Bank Holiday
10th – 13th May	:	SATs Week (Y6)
Monday, 24th May	:	Class Photos
Friday, 28th May	:	Y6 Careers Fair (pm) 'Break the Rules' Non Uniform Day Disco (5:30pm – 7pm)
31st May – 4th June	:	Half Term
TBC: Friday, 11th June	:	Y6 Paultons Trip
Friday, 18th June	:	INSET Day
14th – 18th June	:	Assessment Week (Y3 –5)
Monday, 5th July	:	Year 2 Parents Evening (5:30pm)
Wednesday, 7th July	:	Transfer Day
Thursday, 8th July	:	Y3 & Y4 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day
Friday, 9th July	:	Y5 & Y6 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day: Mon 12th July)
Friday, 16th July	:	Year 6 Leavers Prom (6.30pm – 8:30pm)
Tuesday, 20th July	:	Y6 Leavers Celebration Event (6:00pm)
Wednesday, 21st July	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)

NB: All dates are subject to change, but you will be notified in advance if this happens.

INSET Days for 2026/27

Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 22nd February 2026
Friday 18th June 2027

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend,

Mr H
Headteacher

