



Townhill Junior School

Weekly Update: 9th January



Happy New Year & Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to wish a Happy New Year to all our school community and thank you for your support in getting the children back to school with such an excellent attitude. It has been a busy and exciting week with lots of learning opportunities and hard work across the school despite the changeable weather this week. The school year 2026 has many exciting things in store for the TJS community so watch this space!

Y6 Science Work

We were fortunate to receive a delivery of science equipment on Monday from the University of Southampton as they supported our Y6 and Y3 learner through their Life Lab project. This week, Y6 got to don their lab coats ready to look at the circulatory system and how blood travels around the body. They created a large circulatory system in the area using the resources provided as they acted out a journey through our blood vessels and learning how our blood can become oxygenated. This was an engaging way to learn about a tricky scientific topic.



Cutbush Lane Parking

A reminder that Cutbush Lane is now high on the list for traffic enforcement officers and they have already sent warnings to a number of cars parked illegally and were targeting anyone parking on the zig zags. They have also asked us to monitor the zig zags and make them aware of cars who persistently park there making the children's route to school more unsafe than it needs to be. We would encourage you to not park in Cutbush Lane at all, unless you are a blue badge holder, and instead park over the road in Ozier Road where there is plenty of parking and you can then walk in crossing at the pedestrian crossing on Meggeson Avenue.



Reminders: Water and Uniform



A reminder that the children are only permitted to have water in class. This should be in a bottle with a sports cap to avoid leaks ruining work. In the same way that we do not allow toys in school, we would ask that the children do not come to school with expensive branded drinks containers.

Uniform: If girls are wearing leggings to school, as outlined in the uniform policy they must also wear a skirt over the top and not just be in plain leggings.

School Roof Update

Thank you for your support and patience with the roof. Work is progressing slowly and we are hopeful that they will remain on schedule for a finish towards the end of March. There is even more scaffolding in place now as they extend the work and I am pleased to report that we have been water tight over the break.

Managing Children's Digital Lives – Online Safety

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

Please click the link below to see a guide from the Children's Commissioner:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Star of the Week

Class	Name
3F	Olivier
3G	Theo W
4OR	Blessing
4T	Daniel
5T	Divino
5C	Connor W
6I	Ellie-Jo
6OH	Amelia
PE	Jayde (5T)



Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Correct Answers
1	Connor	5C	2109
2	Eliza	4T	1464
3	Aoife	4T	1170
4	Charis	5T	712
5	Desandu	6I	528
6	Penny	4OR	393
7	Oscar	4T	356
8	Cohen	5T	337
9	Ruby	4T	260
10	Fleur	5T	239



Boom Reader Leaderboard

Class	Most Reads
3F	Maggie & Charlie
3G	X
4OR	Penny
4T	Aoife
5C	Bella – Grace
5T	X
6I	Desandu
6OH	Matilda
Class	4OR



Learning is the key to success



Current Learning

	Subject	What the children will be learning	Ideas to support with the learning at home
Y3	English	Non – chronological reports	Show your family our Talk 4 Writing performance!
	Maths	Length	Log on to: www.maths.co.uk
	History	The skeleton	Tell someone why our skeleton is important. What jobs does it do?
Y4	English	Non-Chronological reports	Practice the actions you learned in your English lessons.
	Maths	Further multiplication and division	Practice a formal method of division
	Science	Locality study	Find your home on google maps. Is it near any landmarks? What physical features is it near? What human features is it near?
Y5	English	How to write a non-chronological report to inform the owners of their new 'perfect pet'	Begin to think about how to look after the 'perfect pet' you have created. What does it need to eat? Drink? How does it keep healthy? Is there anything special that the owner needs to know?
	Maths	How to write improper fractions and mixed numbers and find equivalent fractions	Print or draw a fraction wall at home. Use it to compare fractions and show how $\frac{3}{2}$ equals $1\frac{1}{2}$ for example.
	Science	Space	Can you tell an adult the order of the planets in our solar system and then discuss what it means for the length of a year if the planet is closer to the sun
Y6	English	Writing a non-chronological report	Research key facts about The Spitfire and the role it played in World War II
	Maths	Ratio	Log on to: www.maths.co.uk
	History	World War II	Try to find out how and why World War II began

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
93.0%	94.4%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year
170	121



Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3G	4OR	4T	5C	5T	6I	6W
Attendance Percentage	99.3%	92.6%	88.2%	96.9%	96.2%	90.9%	92.5%	91.4%
Progress	+4.4%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-4.3%	-4.1%	-2%	-1.7%	-9.2%

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, if Your Child is Late Every Day By... Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately... or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance



TEAM SPIRIT ALL STARS DANCE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

AVAILABLE SPACES AT YOUR SCHOOL - BOOK
ONLINE TODAY!

Come along to our dance classes, offering
new styles, more opportunity for performances,
technique training and pushing yourself to be the
BEST DANCER YOU CAN BE!

CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE

<https://team-spirit-all-stars-dance-academy.pembee.app/>

CONTACT US ON:

07899962473 | teamspiritallstarsdance@yahoo.com

Coming up at Re:Minds



9th - 19th January 2026

Shirley Support Group
For parents and carers of children who are neurodivergent and/or have mental health needs

10am Friday 9th January

No booking needed. No cost. Just drop in.

A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Meet others who understand, and get advice and support from our trained staff with lived experience. You can also find out more about the wider support and projects we run across the city.

St James Road Methodist Church, St James Road, Shirley, SO16 6JG. (Free parking available at the rear and free wheelchair access.)

For dates and details, visit www.reminds.org.uk or scan the QR code.

ADHD Advice Clinic

10am Monday, 12th of January

About the Clinic
Book a private, 10 minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about any questions or concerns related to ADHD, pre or post diagnosis.

Appointments will be with **Laure Nisbet, Lead ADHD Nurse from CAMHS.**

To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

SEND Legal Advice Clinic

12.30pm Tuesday 13th January

About the Clinic
We are linking with **Shentons Solicitors** to offer free SEND legal advice clinics for Reminds families. These sessions provide clear guidance and support on issues such as:

- **DHC needs assessments** and how to request one
- **Problems at school related to SEN** (with or without an EHCP)
- **Appeals**, including requests to assess, refuse to issue a plan, and issues with plan contents or placement
- **Preparing for Tribunal** and gathering evidence of need
- **Issues with provision in an EHCP**, including non-delivery or placement limitations
- **Annual reviews, statutory timescales, and LA compliance** (health and social care needs linked to EHCPs)
- **Disability discrimination in education**
- **Rights of young people aged 16+** (with capacity) regarding their EHCP

To book your 30 minute advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

CAMHS Advice Clinic

10am Thursday 15th January

About the Clinic
Book a private, 10-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about any issues covered by CAMHS.

This clinic is led by the **Southampton Specialist CAMHS service** and is open to all Re:Minds members seeking general advice.

To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

Weston Support Group
For parents and carers of children who are neurodivergent and/or have mental health needs

10am Monday 19th January

No booking needed. No cost. Just drop in.

A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Meet others who understand, and get advice and support from our trained staff with lived experience. You can also find out more about the wider support and projects we run across the city.

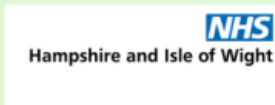
The Hope Centre, Dayton Close, Weston, SO40 6JH. (Free parking available & fully accessible.)

Kerstin from our 16-25 service Mental Health Collective will be at each group to offer her support and guidance for anyone who is looking after a young person in this age group

Please email info@reminds.org.uk to book your space at the clinic

with thanks to:

No need to book to attend the support group - just drop in!



Family Hub

Being a Parent

What does the Course Cover?

Being a Parent

- Getting to know each other
- Goals for parent and child
- 'Good enough' vs 'perfect' parent
- Taking care of ourselves

Feelings

- Remembering what it was like to be a child
- Acknowledging and accepting feelings
- Expressing feelings
-

Play and listening

- Non-directive play – Special time

Valuing my Child

- Avoiding 'labels' and describing behaviour
- Using descriptive praise to change behaviour

Understanding Children's behaviour

- Understanding children's needs and their behaviour in response to needs
- Discipline
- Commands, consequences, rewards and star charts

www.soton.cc/familyhub

Family Hub

Being a Parent

Discipline Strategies

- Understanding what we mean by boundaries
- Time out and saying 'No'
- Household rules

Listening

- Communication styles
- Helping a child when upset
- 'Open' and 'Closed' questions
- Reflective listening

Review and Support

- Coping with stress
- Reviewing the course & knowing where to get support
- Ending and celebration

For More information about the Family Hub Parenting programmes please visit our website using the following link: soton.cc/familyhub-parenting



To make a referral or register for a course please use the following link:
soton.cc/familyhub-parentingreferral

www.soton.cc/familyhub

Dates for the Year

SPRING TERM 2026

19th – 23rd January	:	Y6 Mock SATs Week
Wednesday, 21st January	:	Y4 Temple Visit
Friday, 13th February	:	'Break the Rules' Non-Uniform Day Disco (5:30pm - 7pm)
16th – 20th February	:	Half Term
Monday, 23rd February	:	INSET Day
Thursday, 5th March	:	World Book Day & Dress Up Day
9th – 13th March	:	Assessment Week
Tuesday, 24th March	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 7:00pm not 5T)
Wednesday, 25th March	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:00pm)
Friday, 27th March	:	'Break the Rules' Non-Uniform Day End of Term: (3.15pm)

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday, 13th April	:	Summer Term begins
Wednesday, 22nd April	:	Y6 SATS Parents Evening Event (6:00pm)
Thursday, 23rd April	:	Spanish Language Day
Friday, 24th April	:	Disco (5:30pm - 7pm)
Thursday, 30th April	:	Y3 Hilliers Trip
Monday, 4th May	:	Bank Holiday
11th – 14th May	:	SATs Week (Y6)
Friday, 22nd May	:	Y6 Careers Fair (pm) 'Break the Rules' Non-Uniform Day
25th – 29th May	:	Half Term
Friday, 5th June	:	Disco (5:30pm – 7pm)
Friday, 19th June	:	INSET Day
22nd – 26th June	:	Assessment Week (Y3 –5)
Monday, 29th June	:	Year 2 Parents Evening (5:30pm)
Wednesday, 1st July	:	Transfer Day
Thursday, 2nd July	:	Y3 & Y4 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day
Friday, 3rd July	:	Y5 & Y6 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day: Mon 6 th July)
Friday, 10th July	:	Y4 Itchen Valley Teambuilding Day
Friday, 17th July	:	Year 6 Leavers Prom (6.30pm – 8:30pm)
Monday, 20th July	:	Y6 Leavers Celebration Event (6:00pm)
Wednesday, 22nd July	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)

