



# Townhill Junior School Newsletter - December 2025

*Welcome to our school newsletter*



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## Welcome

It has been another absolutely fantastic term here at TJS and I am really proud of how well all the children and staff have done throughout this long Autumn term, and a particularly busy last week of term. It was also fantastic to see some many of our families in attendance at our Carols by Candlelight event.



Children across the school have continued to have engaging and exciting learning experiences: Year 6 have travelled back in time to look at Victorian England and the industrial revolution; Year 5 have been to Anglo-Saxon England which included a visit to Butser Ancient Farm; Year 4 have looked at Ancient Greece and the influences on Europe; and Year 3 have been learning all about the UK in geography. We are really grateful to the parents and carers that have been in to help with reading, DT and the outcome afternoons and we know how much the children value you being there.

Remember: you can find all the details of what your children will be learning on the Curriculum section of the website: <https://www.townhilljuniorschool.co.uk/topic/curriculum> and I will continue to provide updates each week in the weekly newsletters.

A key part of life at TJS are the trips and experiences we offer the children. Over the term, we have had a number of trips and a residential to Stubbington, plus numerous visitors and activities in school. With even more events planned in the Spring term, there is a lot to look forward to as we try provide carefully selected enrichment opportunities to add to the children's learning experiences and we are grateful for your support with these opportunities.

I would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year and to say a huge thank you to all the staff, volunteers and governors at the school. We will continue to work together to ensure that all our children thrive and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Best wishes,

*Mr Humphries*



## Wonderwall

Huge congratulations to our Wonderwall winners who were announced in assembly on Monday and chosen by their teachers for their hard work over the term. The recipients were as follows:

**3F: Kingdavid**

**3G: Dylan**

**4OR: Heritage**

**4T: Janelle**

**5C: Herkus**

**5T: Isla W**

**6I: Viren**

**6OH: Adam**

**PE: Kelly-Joe**



## Carols by Candlelight

On Tuesday evening we had a wonderful time singing carols under candlelight and it was great to see such a fabulous turnout. Our fantastic School Fundraising Committee team provided food, drink and stalls, along with over 30 prizes in our raffle which raised over £300 in ticket sales alone. They are currently raising funds to support year group trips and projects across the school to benefit the children. If you would like to join them and help at future events please let Mr Humphries know.



## Staff Panto: Snow White

On Thursday morning, the children were treated to a fantastic performance of the staff panto, Snow White. Oh yes they were!! With some questionable acting and unusual costumes, great fun was had by all (except the Evil Queen who had to suffer make up being helpfully applied on stage and an alternative script!)



## Sports News

At the start of the month, we took our Y5/6 indoor athletics team to the city championships. The children competed in two races and two field events each, scoring points for team TJS. Our talented athletes finished runners up and received their silver medals in school. They now go on to represent Southampton in the County Athletics event in Portsmouth in the new year. This adds to the success of the lower school athletes who were City Champions.

In our lessons, we played tag rugby and basketball including the termly house competition. After Christmas we will be moving on to hockey, so please don't forget warm clothing!

Year 3 have enjoyed developing their sporting ability in multi skills. Year 4 have learnt different dances from across Europe. Year 5 put their knowledge of the Vikings into a shield dance which they performed with great vigour. Finally, Year 6 have improved their health through fitness circuits.

## Sports Values Awards – Autumn 2

Our Sporting Values awards for this half term were:

### Passion

Layla S – 3F  
Rhema A – 4OR  
Hannah B – 5C  
Alexandra P – 6I

### Teamwork

Theo C – 3F  
Oliver O – 4T  
Finley W – 5T  
Ben K – 6OH

### Determination

Daniel P – 3G  
Ibrahim G – 4T  
Mason S – 5C  
Adam D – 6OH

### Self-belief

Tommy W – 3G  
Penny B – 4OR  
Jayde B – 5T  
Mysha M – 6I

### Honesty

Jessica L – 3G  
Bow G – 4OR  
Sarah L – 5T  
Alicja M – 6I

### Respect

Phoebe V – 3F  
Clara S – 4T  
Connor P – 5T  
Oliver S – 6OH



## Church Visit

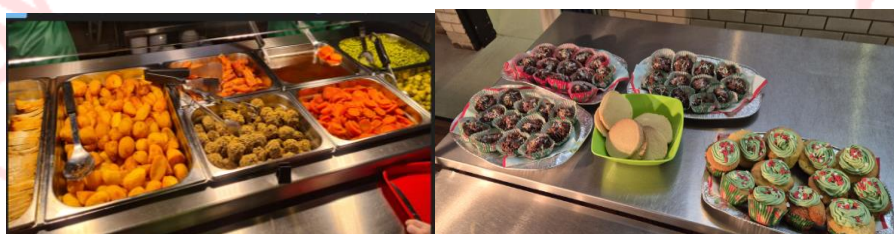
On Tuesday afternoon, we had our annual carol service led by Ascension Church in Bitterne and their team Jo, Luke and James who delivered a Christmas message and included the opportunity to sing carols.

**CHRISTMAS AT  
ASCENSION**



## Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children got to enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch with festive treats for pudding. The team at Dolce provided great service and everyone enjoyed the music accompanying their meal.



## House Points

Throughout the half term, the children have enjoyed competing as a house and collecting house points by demonstrating the school's learning values and following the three school rules. Additionally, children can also gain house points for participating in TT Rockstars and Boom Read - the children with the highest participation rates earn their house a house point; and children with most reads in their class will also earn a house point.

### Our Houses



This half term there was also the latest round of the House Sports Cup with a basketball competition and points were allocated based on team success.

House	Basketball Points	Autumn 2	Total Points
Sapphire	5	3	8
Emerald	5	2	7
Ruby	4	2	6

After a very closely fought contest, congratulations to the winning house for this half term which was... **Sapphire**. On the first Friday back, they will get the opportunity to be 'first' for everything including school dinners and breaktimes. They will also have a longer break and lunch time than the other children.

## Staff Changes



The end of term saw two long serving members of staff retiring from TJS and I am sure you will join me in wishing them a well-deserved and enjoyable retirement. After supporting our SEN children and their families so wonderfully, Ms Parker will be taking early retirement as SENCO and this role will be taken on by Mrs Salmon, our Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Rogers will also be retiring and is well known to all our children and families having taught across the school in every class for many years. As our minibus driver, she has also supported a huge number of trips bringing learning to life for everyone. However, we will still see her around TJS as she is still volunteering to drive the swimmers every Wednesday!

Additionally, two of our teaching staff will also be leaving TJS to pursue other paths in their careers. Mrs Pearce, who has been at the school for over 13 years and has taught across the school with many leadership roles in that time, is moving to look at other teaching roles. Miss O'Hara will also be leaving us at the end of term having started her teaching career at TJS and led the subject of PSHE so diligently. She will be replaced in Y6 by Mr West who starts with us in January having come from teaching Y6 in another local school. We wish both Mrs Pearce and Miss O'Hara all the best and thank them for their service, and look forward to welcoming Mr West in the new year.



## Candy Canes

During the last week, the drama club sold kindness candy canes at break time. We are pleased to report that **145 candy canes** were sold, raising **£72.50**. With a further **£7.50 generously donated by staff**, this brought the total amount raised to **£80**.

The drama club children worked extremely hard during break times to organise and run the sale, and they should be very proud of the effort and commitment they showed. It was lovely to witness how eager the children were to spread kindness by buying candy canes for friends, family members, and teachers and to see the smiles on their faces as they received them.

The money raised will go to the school **Drama Club** to help towards the costs of the **licence, costumes, and props** for our upcoming production of **High School Musical JR**.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Mrs. McAllister



## Christmas Celebrations

The last day of term saw snow arrive at break and the end of the day thanks to Miss Fogerty. We also had a special visit from Father Christmas who delivered festive gift boxes to every child which were kindly supplied to us from our partners at Big Difference to help make the end of term magical for everyone.



## Poetry Competition

Recently as part of National Young Poets Week, Mrs Gregory launched a poetry competition based on poems by the Children's Laurate Alex Wharton. After much deliberation from the judging panel, the winners were:

Veronika 5T  
Jaxon 4OR  
Fleur 5T

Their poems will be published on the website and shared with the author himself.



## Uniform Push

We completely understand that the end of the term means it is difficult to maintain uniform with shoes breaking, but we would ask that full uniform is restored for the start of the Spring Term. If you are having any problems with getting uniform please see Mrs Austin and she will be able to support with this. She can also source water bottles if needed.

## School Parking

For the safety of the children, please do not park on the zig zags in Cutbush Lane (seen in the picture). Traffic enforcement officers were recently in attendance and noted the registration plates of 7 cars who were parked illegally. Should those registration plates be identified again on their next visit, fines will be issued.



# Year 3 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Learning</b>
Reading	Main text: Tales of Ancient Egypt & The Ancient Egypt Sleepover
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports and Narratives
Maths	Statistics, Fractions & Time
Science	Animals including humans
PSHE	Dreams and Goals
RE	Good and Evil in the context of Holi
History	Ancient Egypt
DT	Sewing – Egyptian collars
Computing	Desktop Publishing
Music	Developing singing techniques
Spanish	Los instrumentos
PE & Games	Gymnastics Hockey and Netball



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# Year 4 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Learning</b>
Reading	Main text: Journey
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports and Narratives
Maths	Statistics, Fractions and Time
Science	Animals including humans
PSHE	Hopes and dreams
RE	Avatar – stories of Hindu Gods
Geography	Locality Study
DT/Art	Clay Work
Computing	Image editing
Music	Changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics
Spanish	Las estaciones (the seasons)
PE & Games	Gymnastics Hockey and Netball



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# Year 5 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Learning</b>
Reading	Be the Change: Poems to help you change the world The Barnabus Project
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports and Narratives
Maths	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
Science	Living things and their habitats
PSHE	Dreams and Goals
RE	Stewardship
Geography	The Maya
DT	Food - Crumbles
Computing	Video Editing
Music	South & West African Music
Spanish	Mi Familia (My family)
PE & Games	Gymnastics Hockey and Netball



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# Year 6 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Learning</b>
Reading	Rose Blanche Then
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports and Narratives
Maths	Algebra, ratio, measurement and area
Science	Life Lab: Living people and the heart
PSHE	Dreams and goals
RE	Rituals
History	World War II
Art	Anthony Gormley: Wire Sculptures
Computing	Webpages
Music	Film and TV
Spanish	La Ropa (clothing)
PE	Dance: World War II Hockey and Netball



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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit these permissions whenever possible.

### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

### Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

## School Attendance News



### Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week  92.1%	Whole School Attendance this year to date  94.4%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week  127	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year  128



### Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3G	4OR	4T	5C	5T	6I	6OH
Attendance Percentage	96.1%	92%	93.7%	96.9%	94.1%	89.3%	92.9%	93.4%
Progress	+1.2%	-4.9%	-3.7%	-0.4%	-2.7%	-3.3%	-2.7%	0

## 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**

## Clubs



**BOOK NOW**

# AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

**Football Junior School**  
Education is the key to success

### FOOTBALL

FRIDAY 3.20-4.30PM All ages £4.50 per session  
16th January - 27<sup>th</sup> March (excluding Half-Term)

Join our After-School Football Club for fun, fitness, and teamwork! Open to all abilities, the club focuses on developing football skills through games, drills, and friendly matches in a supportive and energetic environment. It's a great way to stay active, build confidence, and make new friends after the school day ends.



**STAR SPORTS**

📞 023 8212 7331  
🌐 [www.superstarsportsuk.com](http://www.superstarsportsuk.com)



# TEAM SPIRIT ALL STARS DANCE ACADEMY

## 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](mailto:teamspiritallstarsdance@yahoo.com)

Adverts

# Strengthening Families

Book a place on the course by emailing [info@sfrtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@sfrtrust.org.uk)

FREE course online via ZOOM



Mums, Dads and Carers participate together with one of their children.

Must be aged 10–14 years

- Explore subjects together such as:
- Encouraging positive behaviour
  - Communicating when you don't agree
  - Using consequences
  - Setting loving limits
  - Making house rules
  - Building bridges

8-week course starting 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM via ZOOM

20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Jan  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Feb  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March

Course materials and snacks will be sent to your home!

Learn helpful tips to strengthen your relationship with your child!



# TAKING ON NEW NHS DENTAL PATIENTS

Damira Weston Lane: Centre For Healthy Living, SO19 9GH



Book your appointment online to register as an NHS patient  
We are also holding specialised kid's clinics this summer!

[www.damiradental.co.uk/location/weston-lane](http://www.damiradental.co.uk/location/weston-lane)



## Dates for the Year



### SPRING TERM 2026

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

### SUMMER TERM 2026

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



## Contact Us

Should you need to contact us:

### Townhill Junior School

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Townhill Park

Southampton

SO18 2NX

Tel: 02380 473611

Email: [info@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk](mailto:info@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk)

Visit our website at: <https://www.townhilljuniorschool.co.uk/>

Wishing all our families a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year  
from all of the team at TJS!

