

Townhill Junior School Newsletter - October 2026

Welcome to our school newsletter

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Welcome



It has been a long but extremely successful first half term at TJS and I am extremely grateful for the help and support from children, staff and parents alike who have made it such a positive one.

We have already seen so much wonderful learning and many great achievements across the school with a number of trips and visitors coming in to enrich our curriculum offer. Our Year Three children have settled in brilliantly, with a fantastic attitude to learning and they have produced some brilliant narratives based on their own versions of The Three Little Pigs. Year Four visited the Art Gallery to extend their leaning about the Ancient Greeks and have done some brilliant history work linked to their topic. Year Five have travelled back in time to Anglo-Saxon England, where they have produced some fantastic writing linked to the book How To Train Your Dragon. Year Six have been learning about Victorian times and the Industrial Revolution which has led to some fantastic writing based on Oliver Twist.

As ever, I am incredibly proud of how hard all the staff have worked to support our children. This half term we have been really focussed on developing our oracy to support our learning by discussing responses and considering sentence stems to extend our ideas. You can find all the details of what your children will be learning later in the newsletter and on the Curriculum section of the website: https://www.townhilljuniorschool.co.uk/topic/curriculum

In sport, our lower school athletics team were runners up in the City Indoor Championships and our boys football team became City Champions at the annual six-a-side event progressing to the County finals.

We are also incredibly proud to have been awarded the Reading Charter Silver at the recent celebration event which Mrs Gregory and some of our Reading Champions attended.

I hope you have all had a restful and safe half term and we cannot wait to welcome you all back for the second half of the Autumn Term on Monday 5th November when some of our Year 6 children will be going to Stubbington.

Mr Humphries





Wonderwall

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

3F: Ruby
3T: Annabelle
4C: Chloe
4T: Zack
5B: Archie
5G: Eliza
6I: Tallulah
6P: Iliana
Sport: Teddy (3T)



Sports Values Awards

Our sporting values were also celebrated in assembly and our first award winners of the year were:

Passion
Eason
Darcey B
Sasha
Alfie W

Teamwork
Reggie I
Zack
Louis
Elsie

Determination
Ruby H
Maggie
Darcy H
Kelly-Joe

Self-belief
Bowie
Phoebe
Rosa
Jaxson M

Honesty
Rosanna
Freddie
Seb
Connor P

Respect
Annabelle
Theo C
Dylan H
Seth

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.

After a close fought half term, all eyes were on the final week of results as all houses were on 2 points each. After a final check, Mrs Salmon revealed the trophy with green ribbons, meaning emerald won the final week. They will now be chosen first for everything on the first day back and have extra time at break and lunch. The scores now reset for the second half of the Autumn Term.

House	Total Points
Sapphire	2
Emerald	3
Ruby	2

Reading Charter Silver Award

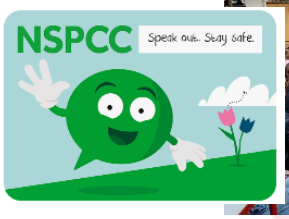
Following a year of hard work developing our reading in school, Mrs Gregory took a group of our Reading Champions to St Mary's Stadium last Wednesday. This was part of a celebration event where we were proudly presented with the Silver Reading Charter Award. Only a small number of schools in Southampton have achieved the award and we are now looking forward to working towards gold when the criteria is released after half term. This is a fantastic achievement for the school and will see the silver plaque placed on the wall in reception. Mrs Gregory and the children also got to meet and receive signed books from the author M.G. Leonard (@mglnrd).



NSPCC Visit



Following our launch assembly earlier in the term, we had a visit from Buddy and The NSPCC team who delivered workshops to the children in upper school with advice on keeping safe and what to do if they needed to reach out for help. The children learnt an easy way to remember the phone number 0800 1111 and learn more about Buddy's message to Speak Out, Stay Safe.



Police Talk



Year 6 were visited by the Police Education Team and also got to meet our local PCSO. They spoke to the children about respecting one another, Protected Characteristics and the fact the children are now at the age of criminal responsibility. The children asked some excellent questions and the team were more than happy to answer these questions and any concerns the children had ahead of the half term break.

Year 3 Stoneage Workshop

Year 3 had a visit from a Stoneage man who helped the children to learn more about their history topic. They had the opportunity to handle artefacts and weapons, learn to hunt, see how structures were built and got the opportunity to let out chants! Our visitor was very impressed with their knowledge and how well they engaged with the learning opportunities throughout the day.









School Fundraising Committee (SFC)

Events like our Break The Rules Day and school discos help to raise funds for the school. Each year group gets a funding allocation to support with either trip costs or for having an educational experience in school, such as our Stoneage visitor. This year they are also raising funds to upgrade our lighting and sound in the hall to support with performances and events in the hall.

The SFC are currently busy preparing for the first disco of the year on Friday 20th November. We are very keen for new members to support our fundraising and help run their events. Please let Mr Humphries know if you are interested.

They are also organising out Table Top Sale on Saturday 14th November. If you have had a clear out during the half term break please see the flyer below for more information on how to book a table for the event.

Year 2 Open Evening and Tours

We will be hosting an Opening Evening and Parent / Carer Tours for prospective children currently in Year 2 on the following dates:



Open Evening: Wednesday 11th November 2026 @ 5pm
Tour: Tuesday 10th November 2026 @ 9:15am (no school children)

Please let the office know if you are planning to attend.

Is your child moving onto Secondary School in September 2026?

Applications need to be submitted by **31st October 2026 at 23.59pm.** Applications should be submitted by using 'Your Citizen Portal' on Southampton City Council website.
For further information please visit:
https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-school/apply-school/year-7/

Table Top Sale

Saturday 14th November 2026
9.30am - 12noon



£10 cash per table

Refreshments available

All Welcome

Cash in advance to the school office

Entrance through Cutbush gate

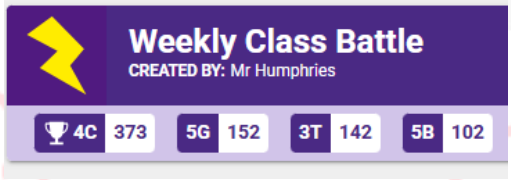
Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Correct Answers
1	Ava	4C	4149
2	Alisa	3T	2746
3	Seb	5B	2599
4	Sophia	5G	2486
5	Michelle	4C	995
6	Jack	4C	937
7	Isabel	4C	917
8	Ayla	5G	882
9	Eliza	5G	753
10	Chloe	4C	487

Boom Reader

Class	Most Reads
3F	Delilah
3T	Alisa
4C	Chloe
4T	X
5B	Oscar
5G	Penny
6I	X
6P	Bell-Grace
Class	**3T**





Home Learning

By now you should have received the necessary passwords for our online learning platforms: Boom Reader and TT Rockstars.

Boom Reader – this is an on-line reading log, and does not have online books for your child to read. Once on the site all you need to do is log when your child reads. There is even the option to for children to log for themselves. This allows us to keep a record of the texts and genres each child reads. We would expect a minimum of 4 logs a week, this can be just parents, just children or a mix. It would be great if it was more – they may just be our weekly star reader!

TT Rockstars – On TT Rockstars there are a number of options to practise your times tables. Sound check is beneficial for practising against the clock in preparation for the Year 4 times table check. Or to get up the school leader board, choose Studio!

Any problems please speak to your child's class teacher.

School Attendance News

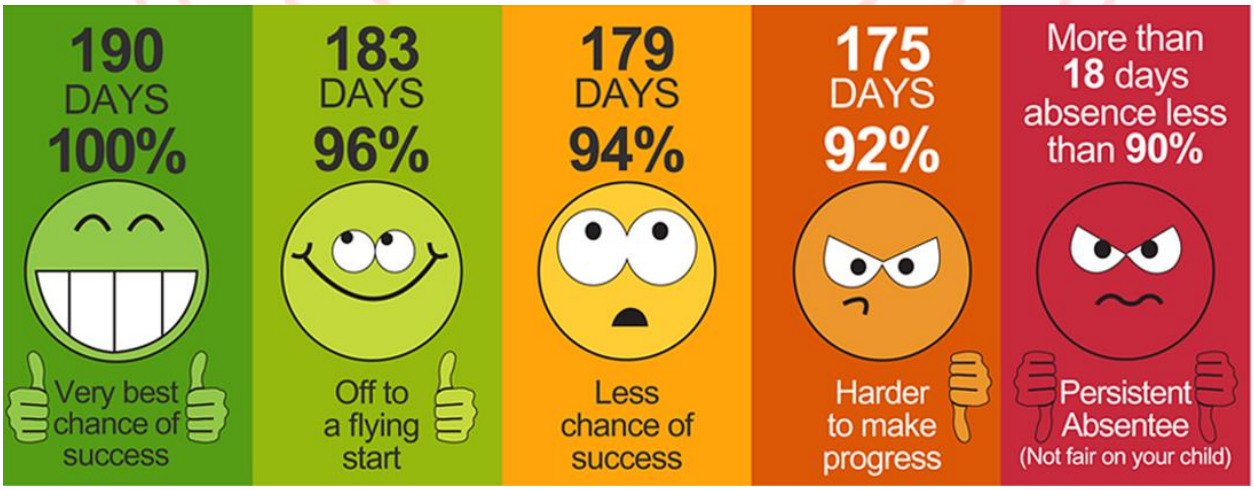


Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	Whole School Attendance this year to date
94.3%	96%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	**Number of children with over 97% attendance this year**
171	134

Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3T	4C	4T	5B	5G	6I	6P
Attendance Percentage	94.7%	100%	100%	91.3%	92.5%	91.1%	91.1%	98.4%
Progress	+3%	+1.5%	+1.7%	-6.3%	-3.1%	-6.3%	-6.2%	0



Year 3 Update

Next half term, we will be learning…

Subject	Learning
Reading	Main texts: Hortense & The Shadow How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Writing	Persuasive letters and newspaper reports
Guided Reading	I don't like poetry
Maths	Multiplication & Division and worded problems
Science	Forces & Magnets
Geography	The UK
PSHE	Celebrating Differences
RE	Angels
DT	Marble Mazed
Computing	Stop-motion animation
Music	Mountains
Spanish	Aprendo Espanol – greetings and colours
PE	Multi Skills
Games	Rugby & Basketball

Year 4 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning…

Subject	Learning
Reading	Misadventures of Frederick
Writing	Persuasive letters & newspaper reports
Guided Reading	Everest
Maths	Multiplication and division
Science	Sound
PSHE	Celebrating differences
RE	Holiness
Geography	Europe – Greece
Art	European Artists
Computing	Audio editing
Music	Rock ‘N’ Roll
Spanish	I know how to…
PE	European Dance
Games	Rugby & Basketball

Year 5 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning…

Subject	Learning
Reading	Main texts: Elio
Writing	Persuasive letters & newspaper reports
Guided Reading	The Thousand Year Old Boy
Maths	Multiplication & division, graphs, fractions
Science	Earth & Space
PSHE	Celebrating Differences
RE	Interpretation
History	Anglo Saxons & Vikings
DT	Construction: Fairy-tale Engineering
Computing	Video Editing
Spanish	Presenting myself
Music	Blues
PE	Anglo Saxon & Viking Dance
Games	Rugby & Basketball (and Swimming)

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Learning is the key to success

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Learning is the key to success

Year 6 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning…

Subject	Learning
Reading	Main text: Macbeth
Writing	Persuasive letters & newspapers reports
Guided Reading	Shakespeare Then
Maths	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
Science	Living Things and their Habitats
PSHE	Celebrating Differences
RE	Prophecy
History	Victorians & The Industrial Revolution
DT	Food: Mix It Up
Computing	Web Page Creation
Music	Songs of WWII
Spanish	In the Classroom
PE	Gymnastics: Flight
Games	Rugby & Basketball

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

RECOGNISING & MANAGING STRESS

According to recent studies, over 60% of young people report feeling regularly overwhelmed – with stress impacting their learning, emotional wellbeing and social connections. If left unaddressed, stress can lead to more serious concerns such as anxiety, depression or disengagement. This guide offers ten practical, evidence-based strategies to help children and young people recognise, manage and recover from stress in healthy ways.

1 SPOT THE SUBTLE SIGNS

Look out for changes in mood, behaviour, or energy levels, such as irritability, withdrawal, clinginess, or frequent headaches. These may indicate that a child is feeling overwhelmed. By tuning into these cues early and offering a calm, non-judgemental space to talk, adults can help children feel heard and supported before issues escalate.

2 KEEP CONVERSATIONS FLOWING

Make time for open, informal check-ins – whether it's during car journeys, over dinner, or in quiet classroom moments. Let children know it's okay to talk about what's bothering them. Regular, low-pressure conversations create a safe space where emotions are validated, not dismissed.

3 MAKE MOVEMENT PART OF THE DAY

Physical activity can dramatically reduce stress hormones while improving mood and focus. Encourage movement through activities children genuinely enjoy – from team sports to dancing around the kitchen. Even light activity like stretching or walking the dog can help us all unwind.

4 SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Poor sleep makes stress harder to manage. Establish a calming evening routine that avoids screens before bedtime and promotes winding down, such as reading, listening to music, or chatting quietly. Good sleep hygiene helps reset mood, enhances concentration, and boosts emotional resilience.

5 PRACTISE MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness doesn't have to mean long periods of meditation. A few slow breaths before lessons or short family meditation sessions before bed can make a real difference. These simple habits help children ground themselves, reduce emotional reactivity, and build inner calm over time.

6 SET DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Excessive screen time, especially before bed or on social media, is linked with higher stress levels. Set clear expectations for when and where devices can be used and suggest screen-free alternatives like crafts, nature walks, or board games to promote digital balance and reduce overstimulation.

7 NURTURE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Strong relationships act as a buffer against stress. Whether it's a trusted adult, a sibling, or a good friend, ensure children have people around them they can talk to and spend quality time with. Help them build those bonds through shared activities and meaningful interaction.

8 PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

Set realistic goals and praise effort, not just outcomes. When children feel pressured to be perfect, stress naturally follows. Celebrate small wins and help them reframe setbacks as learning opportunities. This helps build confidence and reduces the fear of failure.

9 TEACH EVERYDAY PROBLEM-SOLVING

Use real-life scenarios to build resilience. Encourage children to identify problems, consider possible solutions, and choose a plan of action. Practising these steps builds a sense of control and reduces the helplessness that often accompanies stress.

10 BE THE MODEL THEY NEED

Children notice how adults respond to challenges. Model healthy coping strategies such as taking breaks, asking for help, or calmly expressing frustration. By showing how you manage stress constructively, you help normalise these behaviours and encourage children to do the same.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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Dates for the Year



AUTUMN TERM 2026

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)
Thursday, 3rd December	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:30pm): 3F, 6I, 6P
Friday, 4th December	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:30pm): 3T, 4C, 4T, 5B, 5G
(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
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 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027
Friday 18th June 2027

Contact Us

Should you need to contact us:

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Townhill Park
Southampton
SO18 2NX
Tel: 02380 473611
Email: info@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk

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

