

# Townhill Junior School

## Weekly Update: 4<sup>th</sup> July



### Sports Day

It was fantastic to see so many children and their families at our Sports Days this week. The weather was fantastic and the new layout worked brilliantly. There were some excellent performances with 8 school records being broken this summer. Our Sports Leaders were so helpful in scoring and organising the team events and they were completed with a wonderful team spirit even with house rivalries in place!

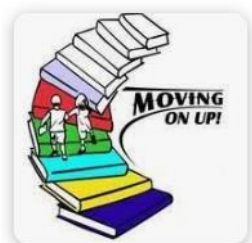


### Healthy High 5

On Tuesday, three of our Year 6 children were invited to speak to the Mayor about all that we have been doing with Healthy High 5 and even met Captain Carrot! They spoke confidently about each of the categories: Nurturing Nature, Physical Activity, Access to Water, Healthy Eating and Mindfulness. We are proud of all that we do to keep the children healthy and what the children said reflected this.



### Transfer Day



We had a very positive Transfer Day on Wednesday with the children getting to meet their new teachers and it was lovely to meet our new Year 3 children and their parents in the evening. We also had very positive feedback from the local secondary schools as our Y6 children had their taster days or weeks in their new schools.

## Y6 Leavers Show

Tickets are now available to order and an email will be coming out shortly with booking details.



# Fonetti Summer Reading Challenge



## Townhill junior School

Register your child for FREE at:

<https://readaloudchallenge.co.uk/join/H4KR-6WSJ-K3IN>



- ★ **FREE** for children from July 1st - August 31st
- ★ Safe and easy for every child to use **without supervision**
- ★ Encourages a child's love for reading and helps **maintain and improve** reading skills
- ★ Uses games, competition, leaderboards and prizes as a proven method to further **engage children in a fun and competitive way**
- ★ Encourages **independent** reading, fires up their imagination and **improves** their reading skills
- ★ Winning schools get 4 places to a fully-funded day trip to London to the awards event hosted by **Clare Balding CBE** at Amazon HQ.

[readaloudchallenge.co.uk](https://readaloudchallenge.co.uk)  
#BeProudReadAloud

**"Reading is fuel for our imaginations and reading aloud is all about confidence... So let's get reading!"**

Clare Balding CBE, National Read-Aloud Challenge & Fonetti Brand Ambassador



#BeProudReadAloud

Enrol Now



**"We started the National Read-Aloud Challenge to make reading accessible for every child—especially over the summer, when many fall behind. We offer Fonetti free during the holidays, and by partnering with like-minded businesses to help spread the word, we're sparking a love for reading and driving lasting change."**

Kim Antoniou, Founder of Fonetti



### Meet Fonetti



Children choose from a library of engaging books and simply read them aloud. Progress and stars achieved are shown to inform and encourage.



When read correctly, the words turn green. If skipped or misread, they turn gray. For children, an audible clue can be accessed by simply double-tapping the word.



Children can effortlessly monitor their progress on a daily, weekly, monthly or overall basis! Parents and carers are kept informed with weekly progress updates.

Introducing the **award-winning** Read-Aloud App for children, the perfect tool to improve literacy, fluency and language skills.

74%

of students notice an improved reading level in just 3 weeks!

16%

Average accuracy improvement

25

Additional correct words per minute

**Fonetti is proven to boost oracy, fluency, reading and English language skills.**

Measured from a dataset of over 200,000 reading sessions on Fonetti in 2023.

... is the key ...

## Family Board Game Night

We have teamed up with Board in the City to host a Family Board Game Night this Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Raffle prizes so far have included offerings from:

- > The Riverside Diner
- > Golden Ghecko
- > Romsey Rapids
- > Harbour Lights Picture House
- > High Score Arcade
- > Bursledon Brickworks
- > Mighty Adventures
- > Bouldershack
- > Solent Sky Museum
- > Mike's Chippy
- > Jewels
- > Exbury Gardens
- > Playshack



## Star of the Week

Class	Name
3G	Oliver T
3T	Oakley
4T	Jaivon
4P	Jake
5I	Alyssia
5OH	Aleasia
6S	Rory
6C	Evie-Grace
6O	Nathan
PE	Sofia (6C)

## Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Correct Answers
1	Desandu	5I	1317
2	Kaci-Jai	4T	1316
3	Desandi	5OH	1158
4	Fleur	4P	1016
5	Tawfiq	5I	844
6	Heritage	3T	735
7	Divino	4T	586
8	Penny	3T	528
9	Aoife	3G	448
10	Matilda	5OH	400



## Boom Reader



## Spelling Shed



Class	Most Reads
3G	Louis & Oliver P
3T	Penny
4P	Iliana
4T	X
5I	Mysha
5OH	Desandi
6C	Andrea
6O	Gabriel
6S	Jasmine
<b>Weekly Class Winner</b>	<b>3G</b>

Rank	Pupil	Class	Score	Total Score
1	Mysha M	5I	15,164,185	78,533,342
2	Charis M	4P	6,440,820	171,251,646
3	Janelle O	3G	5,776,146	198,502,037
4	Joanne O	3T	1,660,288	10,860,550
5	Joshua O	3G	1,453,852	13,297,372
6	Tawfiq R	5I	1,123,560	75,612,397
7	Aoife P	3G	1,051,895	14,480,010
8	Heritage O	3T	815,226	1,735,612
9	Desandu G	5I	667,324	53,682,876
10	Amelia K	5OH	634,000	28,013,266

## School Attendance News



### Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	Whole School Attendance this year to date
94.5%	93.8%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year
215	122



### Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3G	3T	4P	4T	5I	5OH	6C	6O	6S
Attendance Percentage	97.9%	95.4%	97.1%	99.0%	87.1%	91.2%	93.8%	93.4%	95.5%
Difference on last week	+4.8%	-0.9%	-0.2%	+3.1%	-6.5%	-2.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%	+7.6%

## 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**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 game console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a HD-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18  
CONTENT

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Overwatch* (2017) and *Call of Duty: Warzone* (2019) are still available on the platform. With the Switch, its improved performance, development of the title to port some more mature-rated games. There may appear to children due to their playful style, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and the protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases in leading game titles and, especially those with free trial periods – without parental approval.

### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While eShop that is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch online realm, being streaming of up to 16 friends or up to 16 in-game play or chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted content.

### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional voice and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the above functionality could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional HD-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of spying on or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are available to manage how and when it is used.

### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario, along with Pikachu, Link and others in various ways appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and other features in merchandising, advertising and game production, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying any, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor game play, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings via the Parental Controls app to watch all video or voice chat if necessary.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by removing credit cards from the device. Instead, consider setting funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can also be reported any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Loyal O'Connell is the games editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular writer to the *App Store* by *entertainment*, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *ITN*, *Technet*, and *Partyware*.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

## Events at Waterstones in West Quay



Cruise Ship Kid:...

Emma Swan

Jump on board with CRUISE SHIP KID!

Emma Swan is a West End Actress who frequently stars in the *Horrible Histories* stage shows. She spent her childhood living on cruise ships. Her parents worked onboard and like Silver, the star of her book CRUISE SHIP KID, she was 'ship-schooled,' while travelling the globe.

In this special event, Emma will reveal what life was like at sea and how it felt to be a mini crew member, in her cabin, at the bottom of the ship. There will be fun quizzes, drama games and maybe a couple of interruptions from Silver herself! It's *shore* to be a good time!

All children attending will take home some CRUISE SHIP KID goodies.



Waterstones, Southampton -  
West Quay

Saturday 26th July 2025  
10:30 - 11:15

£5.00

£10 ticket and book

BOOK TICKETS



Cirque Du Freak...

Come along and meet Darren Shan to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his international bestselling book *Cirque du Freak*. Atmospheric, funny, realistic, moving and terrifying, *Cirque du Freak* has been thrilling readers for twenty-five years and is now available in a stunning anniversary edition. Darren will be signing copies and meeting readers.

Book a ticket in advance to secure a place in the queue and a copy of the *Cirque du Freak*, to be collected on the day, and which Darren Shan will the dedicate and sign for you.

There will also be copies of the book available to purchase from the bookshop on the day, so feel free to pop along and get a copy then and meet Darren Shan.



Waterstones, Southampton -  
West Quay

Sunday 9th November 2025  
14:00

£7.99 for admission & copy of  
*Cirque du Freak* (incl. fees)

BOOK TICKETS

# Next Week at Re:Minds...

7th - 11th  
July

Shirley Evening  
Support Group



Monday 7th July at 6.30pm

A chance to talk to other parents/carers with neurodiverse children and/or mental health issues. Get advice & support from our team - it doesn't matter where you live, you can attend any group!

You can also access the book & sensory library on request  
\*please allow 48 hours prior notice for this\*

Face to face meetings are held upstairs in Room 7 at St James Road Methodist Church, Shirley, SO15 2HE

This venue has free parking, is accessible (has a lift) - Refreshments available



Adult Mental Health  
Advice Clinic

Wednesday 9th July at 10am

Sarah Leonard, Head of Adult Community Mental Health Services, will be able to give advice and information for anyone needing it for themselves or their young person over the age of 18

Email [info@reminds.org.uk](mailto:info@reminds.org.uk) to book

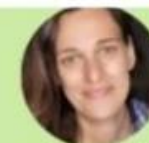
Parents are welcome to attend with their young person



Please email [info@reminds.org.uk](mailto:info@reminds.org.uk) to book an appointment at any of the clinics.

You do not need to book to attend support groups - just turn up!

Kerstin from our 16-25 team will be on hand at Shirley to support anyone with children/young people who are in or approaching this age group



Kerstin from Re:Minds is offering

- Peer Support
- Information
- Advice
- Advocacy
- links to other services



Advice Clinic

Thursday 10th July 10am

Book a 10 minute, private, virtual Zoom appointment to speak with a clinician about any issues CAMHS deal with

The clinic is led by the Southampton Specialist CAMHS Service and is open to ALL members of Re:Minds for general advice



Shirley Support Group



Friday 11th July 10am

A chance to talk to other parents/carers with neurodiverse children and/or mental health issues. Get advice & support from our team - it doesn't matter where you live, you can attend any group!

You can also access the book & sensory library on request  
\*please allow 48 hours prior notice for this\*

Face to face meetings are in Room 7 upstairs at St James Road Methodist Church, SO15 2HE

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with thanks to

**FREE-PLAY FUN  
FOR EVERYONE!**

## High Score Arcades

Locations in: Bracknell, Farnborough, Newbury,  
Poole, Southampton, Swindon & Worcester



- 🎮 **Pay once for an hour of unlimited arcade fun!**
- 🎮 **Children 3 and under go free with a paying adult**
- 🎮 **Birthday parties and exclusive hire available!**
- 🎮 **Prebook online @ [highscorearcades.co.uk](https://highscorearcades.co.uk)**

**Only £12.50 per person!**

**Family of 4 ticket for £40!**

**Use code PACMAN20 for 20% off!**

\*T&Cs apply. To be redeemed on single General Admission tickets only.



Nothing is the key to success



# SUMMER HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP



**BOYS & GIRLS**  
**5-11**  
Year Olds

**MONDAY 28TH JULY - FRIDAY 15TH AUG 2025**

**Individual Day Course**

**COST: £13 A DAY**  
**TIME: 9AM-3PM**



**Join our fun-filled activity sessions during half term! Entertaining games and exciting matches of Football, Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Tag Games and much more!**

**4 year olds can join sessions from 9am-1pm or 11am-3pm**

**S018 Residents\* COST: £9 A DAY**  
\*S018 Residents - qualifying criteria applies, email sportinthecommunity2020@gmail.com to see if you are eligible for discount

**BOOK HERE** → <https://sport-in-the-community.classforkids.io/>

See all our sessions on the below link  
<https://sport-in-the-community.classforkids.io/>

**Wynter Road Playing Fields**  
Wynter Road | Bitterne | S018 6NX

## Dates for the Diary

<b>Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	:	3T Pizza Express Trip
<b>Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	:	Y4 Itchen Valley Teambuilding Day
	:	Board Game Family Evening (6pm – 8pm)
<b>Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	:	Music Showcase (4pm)
<b>Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	:	Y3 Stone Age Workshop Day
<b>Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	:	Year 6 Leavers Prom (6.30pm – 8:30pm)
<b>Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	:	Y6 Leavers Celebration Event at BPS (6:00pm)
<b>Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)



## INSET Days for 2025/26

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Thursday 4th September 2025

Friday 10th October 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 19th June 2026

Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend,

Mr H  
Headteacher



Learning is the key to success