

# Townhill Junior School

## Weekly Update: 17<sup>th</sup> April



It has been a really positive start back to the Summer Term. The children settled back in wonderfully and there has been a really positive atmosphere around the school. Those children and staff in the classrooms with new skylights have really benefitted from the extra brightness and the better weather has lifted everyone. We have even started to use the field at lunch for some activities.

### Year 3 Reading Cafe

As part of the Year of Reading, we held a Reading Café for parents and carers in Year 3 on Thursday morning. This was a great success with a positive turnout and lots of reading activities taking place. There were a number of tables laid out with different genres and books for the children to share with an adult.



Mrs Gregory also shared the importance of reading and the latest updates on the Year of Reading. The next event will be the Year 4 Reading Café which takes place on Monday afternoon, from 2:20pm.

### Year 4 Language Morning

On Tuesday morning, one half of Y4 got to visit the Gregg School and take part in a language morning led by their Language Leaders. This was an engaging morning and the children learnt lots of new words in French, German and Spanish. They were a credit to the school in speaking clearly and taking part on all the activities on offer. The other half of the year group will be going later in the year.



Calling ALL TJS families...

# World Book Night



April 22nd 7-8pm



We want you to get involved in World Book Night. Join us and the rest of the nation to dedicate time to stories. You can do this by getting stuck into a book, listening to an audiobook or reading together at bedtime.



We would love to see your efforts and shout about them on social media! Please send photos to [rgay@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk](mailto:rgay@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk)

# LEMON JUICE INVISIBLE INK EXPERIMENT

Secret  
Message

## Materials needed

- 1-2 lemons
- Paper (plain white works best)
- Cotton buds, thin paintbrush, or small stick
- Heat source (lamp, low oven, or iron)
- Optional: bowl and spoon for squeezing juice

## Why does this happen?

Lemon juice contains organic compounds, mainly acids and sugars.

When the juice dries on the paper, it's invisible because it doesn't change the paper's colour.

Heating the paper speeds up a chemical reaction called oxidation.

During this reaction, the juice's compounds break down and turn brown, revealing the hidden message.

## Method

1. Cut a lemon in half and squeeze the juice into a small bowl.
  2. Dip a cotton bud or small brush into the lemon juice.
  3. Write a message or draw a picture on the paper.
  4. Wait 5-10 minutes until the paper is completely dry.
  6. Heat the paper to reveal your hidden message.
- You must have an adult to help with this part.**
- Option 1 - Lamp: Hold the paper a few centimetres above a warm lamp for 1-2 minutes. Move it slowly to prevent burning.
  - Option 2 - Oven: Preheat oven to 100°C. Place paper on a tray for 2-5 minutes. Watch carefully.
  - Option 3 - Iron: Place a plain sheet of paper over your message. Use the lowest iron setting and press gently for a few seconds.

Show us how you did!

X: [Townhilljuniorschool](mailto:Townhilljuniorschool)

email:

[Botiver-Rogers.@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk](mailto:Botiver-Rogers.@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk)

# SOUTHAMPTON READING NEWSLETTER



EDITION 12

## World Earth Day Events

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

### Test your knowledge with Judy Wise

11am - age 6+



Embark on this journey through the natural world, following the footprints of Earth's most majestic creatures and magnificent minibeasts, with author Judy Wise. You'll learn some footprints are more harmful than others. Click [here](#) to register.

### Mike Barfield: Earth Day

10am - Years 3 - 6

Award-winning author Mike Barfield shares his passion for nonfiction on Earth Day, delivering an interactive event packed with surprising facts to engage your class. Click [here](#) to register.



## Books for World Earth Day



Clean Up  
Nathan Bryon  
Age 3+



Earth Heroes  
Lily Dyu  
Age 7-12



Global  
Andrew Donkin  
Age 9-14

## Other virtual author visits



The Night I  
Borrowed Time  
Iqbal Husain  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
11am  
Year 5-7

Click [here](#) to register.



Freedom Braid  
Cboh Moses  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
2pm  
Age 4+  
Click [here](#) to register.



### Star of the Week

Class	Name
3F	Charlie
3G	Jessica
4OR	Ayla
4T	Oliver P
5T	Bogdan
5C	Renesai
6I	Elina
6W	Ben
PE	Tiago
GAMES	Lower School Tag Rugby Team

### Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Speed Improvement
1	Marley	4OR	-1.25
2	Lincoln	4T	-0.93
3	Oliver	4T	-0.59
4	Oscar	4T	-0.46
5	Sasha	4T	-0.38
6	Jaxon	4OR	-0.33
7	Joshua	4T	-0.24
8	Jonah	4T	-0.21
9	Charis	5T	-0.16
10	Charlie	4T	-0.16

### Boom Reader Leaderboard

Class	Most Reads
3F	Jack
3G	Jessica & Emilia
4OR	Penny
4T	Oscar
5C	Iliana
5T	X
6I	Alexandra
6OH	Matilda
<b>Class</b>	<b>4OR</b>



**Spring Battle: Championship**

4OR 201 6OH 144 3F 54 3G 22

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**Spring Battle: Premier League**

4T 500 6I 406 5C 127 5T 64



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	20/4	English	Letters writing	To write a short letter to your friend and give it to them.
		Maths	Angles	To identify acute, right and obtuse angles around your home.
		Geography	Bee conservation	Find out 3 facts about bees that you can share in class.
Y4	20/4	English	Newspapers	Practise using speech punctuation for your quotes <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztcp97h#zw6wg2p">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztcp97h#zw6wg2p</a>
		Maths	Money	Help an adult calculate how much change they will get in the shop
		DT	Magnets	Look around your house for things that use magnets. What do the magnets help the object to do?
Y5	20/4	English	Non-Chronological report	Tell someone at home a fact about Jupiter and Saturn
		Maths	Angles	Look at things around your bedroom see which angles you can spot
		Science	Properties of materials	Create a poster showing the different materials we researched and their properties
Y6	20/4	English	Letter writing	Think about what you would like to complain about in our 'you do' writing
		Maths	Position and movement	Work on <a href="http://www.maths.co.uk">www.maths.co.uk</a>
		Science	Light	Discuss with someone at home how light works

## 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 Read



## School Attendance News



### Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	92.4%	Whole School Attendance this year to date	94.3%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	170	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year	107



### Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3G	4OR	4T	5C	5T	6I	6W
Attendance Percentage	95%	89.5%	94.7%	95.6%	91.7%	94.4%	91.2%	89.5%
Progress	+1.3%	-4.4%	-2%	-1.2%	-3.2%	-0.8%	+1.1%	-6.6%

## 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 APP & PLAY STORES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

### MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

### UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

### PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

### ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

### SIDLOADED BANNED APPS

'Sideloaded' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

### LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

### TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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Tel: 07764 478507



Child Protection  
in Sport Unit





# Next Week at Re:Minds 20-24<sup>th</sup> April

To book in for an advice clinic, please email [info@reminds.org.uk](mailto:info@reminds.org.uk)

With thanks to:

  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight

  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

  
Solicitors

## Advice Clinic



10am Thursday 23rd April

### 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](mailto:info@reminds.org.uk)

  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Foundation Trust



## Dates for the Year

### SUMMER TERM 2026

<b>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	:	Y4 Reading Café (2:20pm)
<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
	:	Y5 Outcome afternoon (2:20pm)
<b>Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	:	Disco (5:30pm - 7pm)
<b>Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	:	Y5 Astrodome event (1)
<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>Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	:	Drama Club Performance: High School Musical (5:30pm)
<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>Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	:	Y5 Astrodome event (2)
<b>Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	:	Disco (5:30pm – 7pm)
<b>Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	:	Y6 Paultons trip
<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>Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)

