

Townhill Junior School

Weekly Update: 28th March



Year 3 Church Visitors



Year 3 had Jo and Luke visit from Bitterne Church of Ascension on Monday to learn about suffering and Holy Week as part of their RE work. They got to experience a range of engaging activities to help their learning.



County Indoor Athletics Championships

On Wednesday, our indoor athletics team competed against 15 other teams from across Hampshire in the County Athletics finals at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth. The standard was extremely high and the children represented both the school and Southampton brilliantly, with a 12th placed finish.



Junior Site Team Leaders

This week, Mr Reading was helped by our Junior Site Team Leaders who have been fixing the decking on the playground and clearing rubbish from the footpath by the Cutbush Lane gate. We are extremely grateful for their keenness to help and improve our school environment.



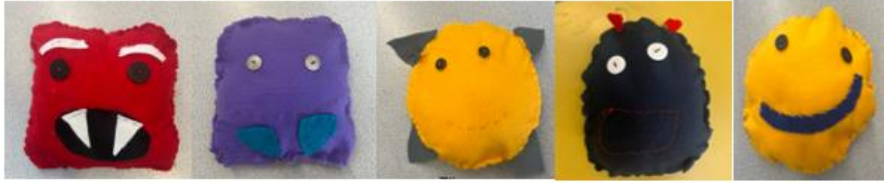
Parents Evenings



We look forward to seeing you all at Parents Evening over the coming days and would like to apologise for any issues you may have had booking onto the Arbor system. We are very aware it is far from perfect and are trying to work with them to resolve the issues and try to simplify the process in the future. Please contact the office if you have had any issues with this or would like to check and confirm your appointment.

Year 5 DT

Year 5 put the finishing touches to their soft toys and have now taken them home. The end products were impressive and the children were very proud of what they achieved.



Cross Country March Hare Relay

On Friday, some of our cross country runners took part in the March Hare Relay. On a hilly and rough course, they ran brilliantly with some excellent performances.

The individual results for Upper School were:

Girls Team: 3rd

Boys A Team: 3rd

Boys B Team: 4th

Boys C Team: 8th



Mother's Day Gifts



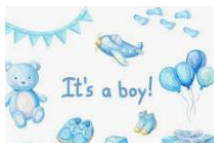
Our School Fundraising Committee had a successful sale this week for Mother's Day. We hope our families have a relaxing weekend celebrating and enjoy your gifts and treats.

Easter Raffle

Look out for details of our Easter raffle going out at the end of this week. As well as the usual selection of chocolate based prizes, the star prize will be a brand new bike!



Congratulations



Congratulations to Mrs Smith who recently gave birth to a baby boy. We are pleased to report that mother and baby are doing well and I am sure they will be popping in for a visit in due course.

Current Learning

	Subject	What the children will be learning	Ideas to support with the learning at home
Y3	English	Dialogue	Imagine you met your favourite character – write a conversation you would have using speech marks and synonyms for said.
	Maths	Fractions	Tell an adult all you have learnt about fractions this term.
	Art	Sketching	Sketch some objects from around your house
Y4	English	Newspaper Reports	Think about quotes you could use in your newspaper report
	Maths	Decimals	BBC Bitesize: Equivalent decimals of halves and quarters – KS2 Maths resources for Year 5 - BBC Bitesize
	DT	Following Recipes	With an adult, try to cook something by following a recipe
Y5	English	Newspaper Reports	Re-tell the events of Bess' death in the style of a newspaper
	Maths	Geometry: Measuring angles	Every time you see a straight line or a point, tell an adult how many degrees there are
	Geography	South America	Tell an adult everything you know about South America
Y6	English	Persuasive Speeches	Think about something you feel strongly about that you can do your persuasive speech on. Come up with reason for and against.
	Maths	Geometry: Describing Position	Draw a shape on a grid, then translate it and reflect it. Tell an adult the difference between reflection and translation.
	Computing	Planning an event	Make a spreadsheet and write a formula to calculate totals



Year 6 Revision Packs



As Year 6 build up to SATs there will be optional revision packs available for each week from class teachers. Please ask your class teacher each **Friday** and they are ready for you to take home.

Subject Spotlight on Geography



Subject Leader: Mrs Ilyat

Subject Summary: This half-term we are embarking on an exciting journey around the world, from the United Kingdom to South America. We will explore human and physical geography as well as looking at natural phenomena, to understand their impact on our planet.

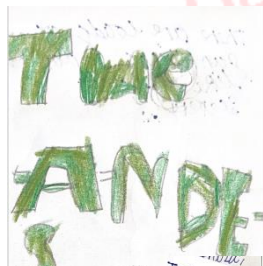
This term we are learning about:

Year 3	The United Kingdom
Year 4	N/A: Geography Unit
Year 5	South America
Year 6	Earthquakes and Volcanoes

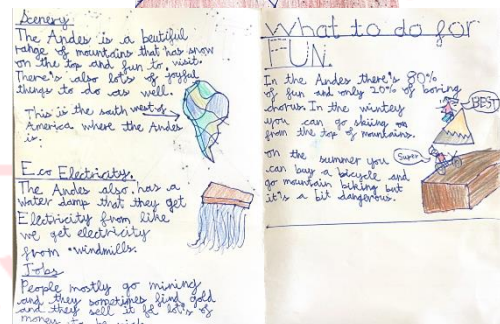
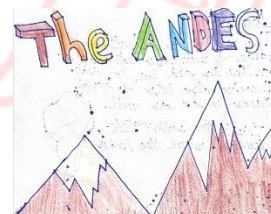
Developments in geography:

- ❖ Streamlined Learning Objectives in order to aid durability
- ❖ Created user friendly knowledge organisers

Achievements / New Learning in geography:



Some informative leaflets about The Andes Mountain Range made by Year 5.



Thought of the week for geography: 'What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.' **Jane Goodall**

Star of the Week

Class	Name
3G	Ava
3T	Heritage
4T	Glynnis
4P	Hannah
5I	Harley
5OH	Sofia
6S	Amayah
6C	Jayden
6O	Anabella
PE	Idah



Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Improvement in Speed
1	Connor	4T	-1.17
2	Jacob	6S	-0.76
3	Jasmine	6S	-0.57
4	Alfie	4T	-0.38
5	Amayah	6S	-0.37
6	Rhema	3T	-0.35
7	Matilda	5OH	-0.27
8	Ayda	4T	-0.19
9	Olivia	3G	-0.14
10	Aoife	3G	-0.09



Boom Reader



Class	Most Reads
3G	Aoife
3T	Penny
4P	Herkus
4T	Connor P
5I	Desandu
5OH	Matilda
6C	Andrea
6O	Max B
6S	Eli
Weekly Class Winner	3G

Spelling Shed



Rank	Pupil	Class	Score	Total Score
1	Rhema A	3T	20,049,322	47,878,681
2	Idah M	5OH	18,033,263	141,659,299
3	Tawfiq R	5I	7,982,126	41,962,237
4	Desandu G	5I	7,602,322	15,803,813
5	Charis M	4P	3,543,140	119,668,006
6	Mysha M	5I	3,291,777	32,677,213
7	Kaci-Jai G	4T	3,116,292	28,181,146
8	Janelle O	3G	3,059,984	88,372,091
9	Charlie S	3G	2,831,938	38,538,301
10	Oscar C	3T	2,776,458	8,756,474

School Attendance News



Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	91.9%	Whole School Attendance this year to date	93.9%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	203	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year	110



Class Attendance for this week: 27th – 31st January

Weekly Attendance	3G	3T	4P	4T	5I	5OH	6C	6O	6S
Attendance Percentage	95.1%	91.8%	87.0%	91.2%	91.6%	94.1%	90.9%	91.9%	93.3%
Difference on last week	-0.7%	+0.8%	-8.8%	-7.3%	+0.9%	-0.3%	-4.3%	-1.2%	-3.1%

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

Quick Guide to FREE SCHOOL MEALS



My child is in Year 3 or above

YES

Please contact the school office if you have any questions

I receive benefits or have an annual income below £16,190 or less

YES

Visit Southampton City Council to start a new claim for Free School Meals:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/southampton>



A school meal for children is the perfect choice!

- Helps your child work towards their 5 a day
- Introduces your child to new tastes and flavours
- Menus are varied and include dishes your child will enjoy
- Meals contain the correct amount of nutrients to help your child grow and learn
- Ingredients are fresh and sourced locally

Benefit checklist

If you meet the criteria below, you will be eligible for Free School Meals:

- Universal Credit – must have an annual income of £7400 or less (after tax and not including other benefits)
- Asylum support – as per part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Pension Credit – In receipt of the guarantee (main) element
- Child Tax Credit – for applicants from before Universal Credit roll out, providing you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an income of £16,190 or less
- Working Tax Credit – Paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 4.1 & Google Play rating of 4.6

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account's being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and mute on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being contacted by scammers, harassed by predatory adults or exposed to adults with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real names.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different since it lacks a content filter, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informant, harvest user data or malicious bots.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not necessarily be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more upstart users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic language. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'Advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, blocking – for example – all-terms content, extremist content, and even nude posts.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a parent or teacher or other personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be contacted by official domains, with users' handles being to either @bsky or .bsky. While this isn't always used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a safer place for everyone.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much. It's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unnecessary. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Allen Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechCrunch, Tech's Daily, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Matruver.



Wake Up Wednesday

The National College



Dr Neil Gostling, dinosaur expert is hosting an AMAZING exhibition at God's House Tower which will open next week and over the Easter holidays more information below:

Exhibition, 4th April to 1st June 2025, God's House Tower, Southampton.

From Dorset to Sussex, under the busy pavements and natural spaces of Britain's South Coast, is a near unbroken sequence of rocks that span 200 million years of Earth's history. *Hidden in Stone* is an exhibition about shifting continents, changing climates, and evolutionary radiation.

Did you know that 160 million years ago the South Coast was under water and terrifying sea monsters, ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, hunted in the ocean as ammonites jetted through the water?

Or, that 125 million years ago forest fires ripped through the landscape as dinosaurs roamed across the scene. Again, the land gave way to the sea, and the chalk was deposited preserving sea urchins as flint, before the end of the dinosaurs and the rise of mammals in a warm tropical land of crocodiles and prehistoric hippos.

Then, in the last few hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands of years, across cycles of ice and snow, we see the emergence of a new type of animal settling in our shores, and prehistory, gives away to history, and humans become part of the tale.

Join us as *Hidden in Stone* explores *Jurassic Seas*, where *Dinosaurs Room*, *Chalk Seas*, *Tropical Hampshire* and *Frozen Britain*, with several 'stops' along the way, using fossils, artwork and sculpture to show the rich heritage of fossils, literally beneath your feet as you wander across the South Coast, from Dorset to Hastings in Sussex.



KIDS HOLIDAY CAMPS

TEAM SPIRIT

SPORTS COACHING

7TH APRIL - 17TH APRIL



FREE SPACES for children in receipt of free school meals as part of Southampton HAF

Join us over the half term break for some action packed days full of enjoyable activities!
 MULTI-SPORTS, FOOTBALL, TENNIS, TEAM XTREME COURSES AND OUR LET'S GET MESSY EASTER SPECIAL!
 SO MUCH FUN TO BE HAD - DON'T MISS OUT BOOK TODAY!



Visit our site



Highfield CE Primary School (Junior Site) - Hawthorn Road, SO17 1PX
 Wordsworth Primary School (Shirley) - Victor Street, Shirley, SO15 5LH
 Shirley Junior School (Shirley) - Bellemoor Road, SO15 5XE
 Freerounds Junior School (Hedge End) - Hobb Lane, SO30 0GG
 St Michael and All Angels CE Infant School (Lyndhurst) - High Street, SO43 7BB

For More Information, contact us :
 admin@teamspirit4sport.co.uk
 023 80 658 636

Limited spaces - BOOK TODAY:
www.teamspirit4sport.co.uk



TESTLANDS HOLIDAY CLUBS

EASTER HALF TERM

PAID AND FUNDED SPACES AVAILABLE WITH SOUTHAMPTON HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME

MONDAY 7 APRIL - THURSDAY 17 APRIL

- VARIOUS DIFFERENT SITES
- LONG & SHORT DAYS
- SIBLING DISCOUNT
- CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
- OFSTED REGISTERED
- HOT MEAL INCLUDED WITH HAF SPACES

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- FOOTBALL - NETBALL - BASKETBALL - CAPTURE THE FLAG
- DODGEBALL - ARTS & CRAFTS INFLATABLES - DANCE & MORE!



TO BOOK, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE PROVIDED OR VISIT WWW.TESTLANDS.COM/HOLIDAYCLUB
 FOR A SIBLING DISCOUNT CODE, PLEASE EMAIL CONTACTUS@TESTLANDS.COM



WWW.TESTLANDS.COM/HOLIDAYCLUB
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TESTLANDSCV



OFSTED REGISTRATION NUMBER: 3002449

Next week at Re:Minds...

31st March - 4th April 2025



Wednesday 2nd April 10.30am

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

The clinic is led by the Southampton Autism Assessment Service
Email info@reminds.org.uk



SEND Legal Advice Clinic

**Wednesday 2nd April
12.30pm**

We are linking with Shentons Solicitors to offer three SEND legal advice clinics to our Re:Minds families who require advice around education, tribunals, appeals etc.

**Please email info@reminds.org.uk
to book a slot,
or follow the link on the event**



Shentons
Solicitors

Please email info@reminds.org.uk to book an appointment at the clinic



Re: Minds

with thanks to



NHS
Solent
NHS Trust



AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

Every Other Wednesday,
10 am - 12pm
432 Bittern Road, SO18 5RT

DATES :
MARCH - 26TH
APRIL - 23RD
MAY - 7TH, 21ST
JUNE - 4TH, 18TH
JULY - 2ND, 16TH

Call: 02382
320332
Or Email

For
Parent/Carers
and
Autistic
Adults



sass@southamptonautismsupportservice.com



Neurodiversity Hub in Bitterne

432 Bitterne road, SO18 5RT

Multi-Agency Drop-In Support Group

A multi-agency drop-in
support group for service users



THURSDAY 27TH MARCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN 10-1 FOR SUPPORT AND INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT SERVICES WORKING TOGETHER. WITH A PERSON CENTERED APPROACH, COVERING ALL DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF NEURODIVERGENCE. POP IN AND SEE HOW WE CAN HELP. THIS SESSION WILL INCLUDE AUTISM HAMPSHIRE AND SOUTHAMPTON AUTISM SUPPORT SERVICE.



THIS WILL BE HELD MONTHLY INCLUDING
MANY DIFFERENT SERVICES



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: [KATHRYN.EVANS@AVENUESGROUP.ORG.UK](mailto:kathryn.evans@avenuesgroup.org.uk)



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
 ENGLAND**



Monday 7th April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Shiny Easter Egg Pictures Bitterne Library Suitable for all ages
Wednesday 9th April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Origami Plant Pots Woolston Library Suitable for all ages
Wednesday 9th April	10.30am - 12pm	Miffy & Peter rabbit masks Portswood Library Suitable for all ages
Thursday 10th April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Mainly Miffy Central Library Suitable for all ages
Thursday 10th April	10.30am - 11.30am	Brilliant Bird Hats Shirley Library Suitable for all ages
Thursday 10th April	2.30pm - 3.30pm	All aboard! Lordshill Library Suitable for all ages
Monday 14th April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Origami Plant Pots Bitterne Library Suitable for all ages
Wednesday 16th April	10.30am - 12pm	Bunny cones & Easter baskets Portswood Library Suitable for all ages
Wednesday 16th April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Shiny Easter Egg Pictures Woolston Library Suitable for all ages
Thursday 17th April	10.30am— 11.30am	Rockin'Rabbits Shirley Library Suitable for all ages

Dolce School Meals



A reminder that the price increase for school meals comes into effect on Monday. The price for a meal will increase from £2.35 to £2.59.

Big Difference Pantry Visit



Following a successful recent visit, you can now jump on board the school minibus and join Mrs Austin on a visit to the Big Difference food pantry, 'a social supermarket in Northam providing accessible and healthy food and drinks at reduced prices.' This is a great way to stock up on essentials and socialise with other TJS parents! Coffee and cake available back at school.

Upcoming trips - Thursday 3rd April at 10.10am-11.30am Tickets are £1 per person. Please contact Mrs Austin or the office to reserve a seat!

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 31st March: Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:00pm) (Not Y4)

Tuesday, 1st April: Parents Evening (3:30pm – 7:00pm)

Thursday, 3rd April: Y5 Parent Reading Event (2:30pm)

Big Difference Pantry Visit (10:30am – 11:30am)

Friday, 4th April: Break the Rules Day

End of Term: (3.15pm)



Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend,

Mr H
Headteacher

