

# Townhill Junior School

## Weekly Update: 7<sup>th</sup> March



### World Book Day

On Thursday there were a range of fantastic costumes on display as we celebrated World Book Day.



### Virtual Book Tokens

Each of the children have been given a World Book Day token to spend in a range of bookshops. If you are unable to get to a bookshop you can find how to use a virtual book token using the following link:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/book-token/digital-tokens/>

## World Book Day Activities

Throughout the day each year group took part in a range of activities linked to books and authors.

Don't forget to send entries in for our Book Day competitions including designing your own book token with the theme 'Read Your Way' and send in your photos of getting caught 'extreme reading'.



## County Cross Country



On Tuesday, four of our cross country runners were selected to represent Southampton at the County Cross Country Championships in Basingstoke. Kaya, Amayah, Jesaiah and Callum represented the school and the city brilliantly in a high quality race on muddy and challenging course.



## The Roof



The first phase of the roof work is now complete which means Year 6 returned to their own classrooms this afternoon. Year 5 have now moved to their new classroom bases for approximately the next two weeks:

- 5I have moved to the spare Year 4 classroom.
- 5OH have moved to the Year 3 spare classroom.

. I will keep you informed as the works progress.

## Dolce School Meals



A reminder that there will be an incoming price increase for school meals. From 31st March the price for a meal will increase from £2.35 to £2.59.

## Cutbush Lane Parking

We have taken delivery of a number of road signs to discourage visitors from parking on the zig zags outside the gates on Cutbush Lane. Please take notice of them and keep the children safe as they make their way to and from school.



## Scholastic Book Fair

From 18-24 March we will be hosting Scholastic Book Fair after school each day in the Art Bay. Entry will be via the Y3 & Y4 entrance doors.

**SCHOLASTIC** TRAVELLING BOOKS

**FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU BUY AT THE BOOK FAIR!**

**COME TO THE BOOK FAIR**

**DATE: 18th - 24th March 2025**

**A POP-UP BOOK-STORE WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99**

**NEW** FINDING BEAR  
HANNAH GOLD  
£7.99

**NEW** GEORGE WEBSTER GEORGE and his MINI DRAGON  
From CBeebies presenter George Webster  
£6.99

**NEW** DOG MAN BIG JIM BEGINS  
DAVE PILBECK  
Hardback only £9.99  
IN CINEMAS FEBRUARY 2025  
£12.99 £9.99

**NEW** DORK DIARIES Sister Spudswallop  
Hardback only £7.99  
£12.99 £7.99

**NEW** PAMELA BUTCHART DIARY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE  
WOTTO  
£7.99

**ONLY £2.99** My Bum is SO CHEEKY!  
Dawn McMillan  
Illustrated by Ross Kincaid  
£6.99 £2.99

**NEW** NINJAGO THE DRAGON CATCHER  
ACTIVITY COMIC STORY  
£8.99

**NEW** BEASTIE BROS  
A LAUGH OUT LOUD new illustrated series  
£6.99

**NEW** Butterfly book  
£8.99

**LAST YEAR YOUR SUPPORT HELPED DONATE £5.3M IN FREE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE**

Illustration: Ben Beardsley. Inks © David O'Connell 2025.

## Current Learning

	Subject	What the children will be learning	Ideas to support with the learning at home
Y3	English	Diary Writing	Discuss with an adult the plot of Little Red Riding Hood.
	Maths	Equivalent Fractions	Tell an adult how to find equivalent fractions
	Science	Light and Shadows	Look at your shadow on a sunny day and think about how they are created.
Y4	English	Diary Writing as Medusa	Write a diary about your dream weekend
	Maths	Time	Learn key facts about seconds, minutes, hours, weeks, years and how many days in each month.
	Computing	Data Logging	Discuss with an adult the type of data we could capture around the school using data loggers
Y5	English	Writing a diary based on The Highwayman	Think about how The Highwayman might plot his revenge
	Maths	Geometry	Refresh your memory on the properties of shapes, including their angles
	Geography	South America	Use Google maps to find interesting facts about South America
Y6	English	Writing escape stories based on King Kong	Write sentences that you might use in your story. Rearrange the words and punctuation in your sentence and consider how it changes the effect
	Maths	Geometry: Shape and Problem Solving with Angles	Tear the corners off 2D shapes and lay them on a line or around a point to see the sum of their angles
	Geography	Earthquakes	Research what people do when they live in areas prone to earthquakes



## 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.

### Star of the Week

Class	Name
3G	Sasha
3T	Rhema
4T	Isla J
4P	Reimisa
5I	Desandu
5OH	Lilly H
6S	Poppy
6C	Charlie
6O	Tyler
PE	Herkus (4P)
Music	Kai (6C)



### Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Improvement in Speed
1	Isla W	4T	-6.54
2	Tallulah	4T	-3.55
3	Jorgie	4T	-2.09
4	Divino	4T	-0.8
5	Wonder	3T	-0.3
6	Desandu	5I	-0.28
7	Renesmai	4P	-0.17
8	Kelly-Joe	4P	-0.15
9	Daniel	6C	-0.06
10	Sarah	4P	-0.06



28th February - 6 March 2025 06:00 - 21:00

Year 5

797

Year 4

118

Year 3

105

Year 6

28

### Boom Reader



Class	Most Reads
3G	Aoife
3T	Penny
4P	Herkus
4T	x
5I	Kara
5OH	Matilda
6C	Denys
6O	X
6S	Eli
<b>Weekly Class Winner</b>	<b>3T</b>

### Spelling Shed



Rank	Pupil	Class	Score	Total Score
1	Alexandra P	5I	19,860,258	249,223,789
2	Idah M	5OH	8,361,766	122,399,320
3	Louis H	3G	7,699,868	18,117,198
4	Leo B	6S	5,277,592	50,161,870
5	Is'haq Y	6S	3,957,516	4,003,920
6	Mysha M	5I	3,102,357	28,914,554
7	Peterclever	5I	2,065,532	5,735,033
8	Janelle O	3G	1,984,887	81,151,986
9	Hector G	5OH	1,207,498	40,824,108
10	Bogdan M	4T	1,070,944	10,806,486

## School Attendance News



### Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	95.7%	Whole School Attendance this year to date	94.0%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	225	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year	123



### Class Attendance for this week: 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January

Weekly Attendance	3G	3T	4P	4T	5I	5OH	6C	6O	6S
Attendance Percentage	95.2%	100%	96.9%	97.4%	90.5%	95.6%	94.4%	97.7%	92.3%

### 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

### Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a parent governor vacancy and we would love to hear from you if you would be interested in supporting the school in a governor capacity. Meetings are on Monday evenings through the year, with two meetings per half term. If you would like to express your interest please email:

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



## Helping Your Child Manage their Worries

### A Workshop for Parents and Carers

- Does your child have a lot of 'what if' worries?
- Does your child feel anxious about school?
- Does your child fear particular places, situations or objects?
- Does your child struggle with separation?

All children have fears and worries but for some children this can start to impact their wellbeing.

It can be difficult for parents/carers to know how best to support children to overcome these challenges.

This workshop is for parents and carers to understand more about what anxiety is and learn some tools which help with managing worries.



**Who:** All Parents and Carers are welcome  
**Where:** Townhill Junior School  
**When:** 24th March 2025  
**Time:** 1:45-2:45  
**What do I need to bring?:** Just yourself, however you are welcome to bring note paper and a pen if you would like.  
**What to do if you would like to attend this workshop?** Complete sign up sheet within infant/junior school reception

Southampton Mental Health in Schools Team

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

## 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the type of text that a child engages with. If they need help accessing, digital reading tools can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in class if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

## 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customize text for better readability. Adjusting text type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

## 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as tablets and e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

## 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogue and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzle or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

## 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Especially watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

## 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 8 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press a key to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 9 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. Typing text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

## 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-17 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media sites include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

### Meet Our Expert

Catherine is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, [www.thenationalcollege.com](http://www.thenationalcollege.com), which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catherine also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-agency teams, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College

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#chiuni      



If you are interested in teaching and want to find out more about our Post Graduate teacher training programmes, then please join us at our next virtual post graduate open event which is being held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. You can register by contacting [studyhere@chi.ac.uk](mailto:studyhere@chi.ac.uk).

You can also email Debs Wilkinson ([d.wilkinson@chi.ac.uk](mailto:d.wilkinson@chi.ac.uk)) to talk about the primary courses and Jeremy Smith ([j.smith@chi.ac.uk](mailto:j.smith@chi.ac.uk)) to discuss the secondary routes.

## Our Club Offer

There are still places available in some of our clubs, so if you would like your child to join please contact the staff responsible for leading them, book a place via Arbor or the office, or go to the website of external providers.

Y6 Morning Revision is also on every morning in 6S from 8:20am.

### Townhill Junior School – Extra Curricular School Clubs Programme for Spring Term 2025

<b>Monday</b>	Gymnastics Club: 3:15pm – 4:20pm Leader: Superstar Sports Location: Hall Places: <a href="http://www.superstartsportsuk.com">www.superstartsportsuk.com</a>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Athletics Club: 8:10am – 8:40am Leader: Mr Innes Location: Hall Places: Invite only.	Board Game Club: 10:25am – 10:45am Leader: Mr Innes Location: Y5 Spare Classroom Places: Just turn up!	Violin Club: 12:30pm – 1pm Leader: Mrs Bemister Location: Music Room Places: See Mrs B
	Rugby Club: 3:15pm – 4:45pm Leader: Mr Innes Location: Field Places: 20 places. Apply on Arbor.	Street Dance: 3:15pm – 4:15pm Leader: Team Spirit Location: Hall Places: <a href="http://www.teamspirit4sport.co.uk">www.teamspirit4sport.co.uk</a>	Southern Karate 5:00pm – 6:00pm Leader: Sempai Mark Location: Hall Places: Please Contact Sempai directly: <a href="https://southernkarate.org/">https://southernkarate.org/</a>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Benchball / Dodgeball: 8:10am – 8:40am Leader: Mr Innes Location: Hall Places: 20 places. Apply on Arbor.	Drawing Club: 10:25am – 10:45am Leader: Mr Innes Location: Y5 Spare Classroom Places: Just turn up!	Choir: 12:30pm – 1pm Leader: Mrs Bemister Location: Music Room Places: See Mrs B
	Badminton Fixtures: 3:15pm – 5:15pm Leader: Mr Innes Location: St Marks Places: Invite only.	Drama Club: 3:15am – 4:15pm Leader: Mrs McAllister Location: Hall Places: Based on auditions	Y3 Homework Club Leader: Mrs Gregory Location: 3G Places: See Mrs G
<b>Thursday</b>	Badminton Club: 8:10am – 8:40am Leader: Mr Innes Location: Hall Places: 20 spaces. Apply on Arbor.	Piano / Keyboard: 12:30pm – 1pm Leader: Mrs Bemister Location: Music Room Places: See Mrs B	Craft & Gardening Club: 3:15pm – 4:15pm Leader: Miss Oliver Location: 6O Places: 20 places
	Multi Sports Club: 3:15pm – 4:15pm Leader: Mr Innes Location: Hall Places: 20 places. Apply on Arbor.		
<b>Friday</b>	Computing Club: 3:15pm – 4:15pm Leader: Mrs Salmon Location: Computing Suite Places: 20 spaces. Apply on Arbor.	Ball Sports Club: 3:15pm – 4:15pm Leader: Mr Innes Location: Hall Places: 20 places. Apply on Arbor.	Football Club: 3:15pm – 4:20pm Leader: Superstar Sports Location: Field Places: <a href="http://www.superstartsportsuk.com">www.superstartsportsuk.com</a>

Please Note: Clubs run by external providers will be charged for.

Most clubs will run for the whole term, but some will be for a half term only. You will be notified if this is the case.



# DISCOVER THE AMAZING



## SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DAY

Saturday 15th March 2025

Highfield Campus and Boldwood Innovation Campus, Southampton



 Book your **FREE** tickets  
[www.sotsef.co.uk](http://www.sotsef.co.uk)

   #SOTSEF



BARCLAYS WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY  
**MAR 22**

KICK-OFF  
5:30PM

ST MARY'S STADIUM

FREE TICKETS



SCAN  
HERE



## Comic Relief Red Nose Day

Children can wear a red nose to school on this day (please ensure they have their initials on them) and we will take donations for the charity, but this will not be a non-uniform day.



## Parents Evening

Don't forget to sign up for your Parents Evening appointment through Arbor. See the dates below for when they are taking place for each class.



## Dates for the Diary

**10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March:** Assessment Week for Y4 and Y5

**NEW: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Y5 Cinema Trip

**NEW: 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Assessment Week for Y3

**NEW: 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Scholastic Book Fair (in the Art Bay)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March:** Comic Relief Red Nose Day

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Parents Evening for 4P, 4T, 5I and 6S

**Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:00pm) (Not Y4)

**Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Parents Evening (3:30pm – 7:00pm) (Not 5I and 6S)

**Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April:** Y5 Parent Reading Event (2:30pm)

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Break the Rules Day

End of Term: (3.15pm)



Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend,

Mr H  
Headteacher

