



Townhill Junior School Newsletter - December 2024

Welcome to our school newsletter



In this issue...

- Welcome
- Wonderwall Winners
- Carols by Candlelight
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Sports News & Sports Values Awards
- Walk to Church
- Christmas Lunch
- Our Roof
- School streets
- House Points
- Other News
- Governor Vacancy
- E-Safety
- Year Group Newsletters
- Spring Term Clubs
- Contact Us



Welcome

It has been another absolutely fantastic term here at TJS and I am really proud of how well all the children and staff have done throughout this long Autumn term, and a particularly busy last week of term. It was also fantastic to see some many of our families in attendance at our carols and year group outcome events.



Children across the school have continued to have engaging and exciting learning experiences: Year 6 have travelled back in time to WWII; Year 5 have been to Anglo-Saxon England; Year 4 have travelled the biomes of Europe and Year 3 have experienced life as a Victorian child. We are really grateful to the parents and carers that have been in to help with reading, DT and the outcome afternoons and we know how much the children value you being there.

Remember: you can find all the details of what your children will be learning on the Curriculum section of the website: <https://www.townhilljuniorschool.co.uk/topic/curriculum> and I will continue to provide updates each week in the weekly newsletters.

A key part of life at TJS are the trips and experiences we offer the children. Over the term, we have had a number of trips and a residential to Stubbington, plus numerous visitors and activities in school which are outlined in the year group sections of this newsletter. With even more events planned in the Spring term, including a workshop and Ancient Greek visitor on the first day back for Year 4, there is a lot to look forward to as we try provide carefully selected enrichment opportunities to add to the children's learning experiences and we are grateful for your support with these opportunities.

I would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year and to say a huge thank you to all the staff, volunteers and governors at the school. We will continue to work together to ensure that all of your children thrive and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 6th January 2025.

Best wishes,

Mr Humphries



Wonderwall

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

3G: Tommy

3T: Oakley C

4P: Sarah

4T: Jorgie

5I: Reggie C

5OH: Lily N

6C: Sofia

6I: Orla

6S: James

PE: Molly A-W



Carols by Candlelight

On Tuesday evening we had a wonderful time singing carols under candlelight and it was great to see such a fabulous turnout. Our fantastic SFC team provided food, drink and stalls, along with over 40 prizes in our raffle. They are currently raising funds for a new sound system and adventure play equipment. If you would like to join them and help at future events please let Mr Humphries know.



Jack and the Beanstalk

On Friday morning, the children were treated to a fantastic performance of the staff panto, Jack and the Beanstalk. Oh yes they were!! With some questionable acting and unusual costumes great fun was had by all (except the poor Dame who had to suffer make up being helpfully applied on stage!)



The cast on stage!

Sports News

At the start of the half term, we took our Y5/6 indoor athletics team to the city championships. The children competed in two races and two field events each, scoring points for team TJS. Our talented athletes finished runners up and received their silver medals in school. They now go on to represent Southampton in the County Athletics event in Aldershot in the new year. This adds to the success of the lower school athletes who were City Champions.

On Wednesday night the TJS lower school basketball team visited Solent University and played against a number of other schools in the city. They play the new Olympic 3 v 3 version and our 3 teams did brilliantly winning the majority of matches they played! The children showed brilliant self-belief and determination to keep working hard on a busy afternoon of basketball. Well done to all the children that represented TJS so brilliantly.

In our lessons we finished tag rugby and also played basketball this half term. After Christmas we will be moving on to hockey, so please don't forget warm clothing!

Year 3 have enjoyed learning traditional dances, including the waltz. Year 4 have learnt different dances from across Europe. Year 5 put their knowledge of the Vikings into a shield dance which they performed with great vigour. Finally, Year 6 have explored dancing from the 1930s to fit in with their war topic and confidently performed their dance to parents at the outcome afternoon.

Sports Values Awards – Autumn 2

Best Dressed - 4P

Passion

Rhema 3T
Connor W 4T
Clarke 5I
Sofia 6C

Teamwork

Heritage 3T
Seth 4T
Amelia 5OH
Oliver 6S

Determination

Tommy 3G
Elizabeth 4T
Lily N 5OH
Orla 6O

Self belief

Wonder 3T
Sarah 4P
Harley 5I
Amayah 6S

Honesty

Alfie 3G
Marlie 4T
Adam 5OH
James 6S

Respect

Jonah 3G
Arthur 4P
Alexandra 5I
Andrea 6C



Church Walk

On Tuesday morning, we had our annual walk to Ascension Church in Bitterne with a service led Jo and Luke, including the opportunity to sing carols.



Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children got to enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch with festive treats for pudding. The team at Dolce provided great service and everyone enjoyed the music accompanying their meal.



Our Roof



After years of relentless campaigning for a new roof, the process has finally got under way. On Friday morning two large portacabins were delivered to site as the process for work on repairing and replacing parts of the school roof began. On our return to school, you will notice scaffolding in place around the perimeter of large parts of the school and the works are scheduled to run through until the end of April. We will provide regular updates throughout the term.

School Streets

We are very disappointed to learn that the School Streets campaign designed to make the children safer coming into school in Cutbush Lane has come to an end for the time being. This is something we do not support in any way and will be looking to see what can be done. This was to do with a lack of flexibility in the scheme being able to change city wide timings. In the meantime, although there will be no barriers in place we will be actively patrolling next to the zig zags (seen in the picture) and have been asked to report those vehicles who persistently park on them. There will also be an increase in parking enforcement officers in the area.



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, Spelling Shed 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.

This half term there was also the latest round of the House Sports Cup has begun with basketball and points were allocated based on team success.

Our Houses



House	Autumn 1	Basketball Points	Autumn 2	Total Points
Sapphire	2	2	2	6
Emerald	4	1	1	6
Ruby	2	1	4	7

After a very closely fought contest, congratulations to the winning house for the Autumn term which was... Ruby. On the first Friday back, they will get the opportunity to be 'first' for everything including school dinners and breaktimes. They will also have a longer break and lunch time than the other children.

Other News:

Pupil Safety and Knife Crime Talk

On Wednesday, Year 6 were visited by PC Richards from the Hampshire Police Education Team. He gave an informative presentation and talked to the children about personal safety and a focus on knife crime. They listened brilliantly and asked a series of excellent questions.



Uniform Push

We completely understand that the end of the term means it is difficult to maintain uniform with shoes breaking, but we would ask that full uniform is restored for the start of the Spring term. If you are having any problems with getting uniform please see Mrs Austin and she will be able to support with this. She can also source water bottles if needed.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have one 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.



Year 3 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2



We've made it to the end of our first term together! Your children have done you proud with all their hard work and definitely deserve a well earned break! Some of the highlights this half term have been our trip to the cinema to watch 'Harold and the Purple Crayon'; Victorian Day with a dusting of snow; DT projects making marble mazes and Carols by Candlelight. We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

What we have been learning this term:

- Maths = Multiplication and Division – including written methods and problem solving.
- English = Diaries in role as a character from Fair's Fair and non-chronological reports about the lives of Victorian children. Skills taught: coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, present perfect tense, adverbs of manner and time, expanded noun phrases and apostrophes for possession and direct speech.
- Guided Reading = fluency and discussing the texts of Oliver Twist and A Christmas Carol.
- History = The Victorians – Queen Victoria, life of the rich and the poor, schools, homes and how Southampton changed during Victorian times..
- Spellings = prefixes dis- and mis-; suffixes, -ing, -ed, -en and -er; 'ai' and 'aigh'.
- Science = Rocks and Soils – the three natural types of rock and how they are formed, fossils and soil.
- Spanish = Greeting, counting to 10 and colours.
- DT = Resistant Materials – Marble mazes – keep your eyes open for them coming home!
- Computing = Stop frame animations.
- PE & Games = Dance and basketball.
- RE = Imagery with a focus on angels.
- PSHE = Celebrating Differences
- Music = Creating Compositions



Next half term, we will be learning...

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Learning</u>
Reading	Main texts: I was there....Boudicca's army and What the Roman's Did For Us.
Writing	Persuasive adverts.
Maths	Measures: length, mass and volume.
Science	Animals including humans.
PSHE	Dreams and Goals.
RE	Good and Evil in the context of Holi.
History	The Romans in Britain.
DT	Sewing – Roman games.
Computing	Desktop Publishing.
Music	Developing singing techniques
Spanish	Los animales
PE & Games	Roman invasion dance & Hockey and Netball

Key Dates

6/1 – Back to School.

10/2 – Year 3 Outcome Time Afternoon - Time TBC

13/ 2 – Parent helpers needed for sewing morning – 9.15am.

14/2 – Break the Rules Day & School Disco

17/2 – 21/2: Half Term Break

24/2 – Inset Day

Home Learning

A reminder of the expectations....

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!

Spelling Shed – Once logged on your child should head to assignments where games have been allocated that match the current pattern / rule being learnt in school. We would expect the children to spend ten minutes, 4 x a week playing these games.

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



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Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn 2

What an amazing term we have had this year, we can't believe it has already come to an end.

What have we learned this year?

In English we have travelled across the world in Baba Yaga's house with chicken legs and learned about Russian folklore.

In maths we have been working on our multiplication and division.

We have been exploring the different biomes and climates in our topic lessons. We found out we live in a temperate climate!

This term in DT we have been making winter ornaments. We had fun learning the overstitch and blanket stitch!

In Science we have been looking at living things, how we keep our teeth healthy and our digestive system. We even made some poo using bananas and tights - it got very messy!



Small intestine and large intestine, rectum, anus + toilet!



Oesophagus + stomach



Poo



Stomach



Small intestines and large intestines



Stomach and intestines



Equipment



Mouth

This half term's optional home-learning project:

Next half term we will be learning how to make Greek pots, why don't you have a go at researching and designing your own?

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	Main text: Who let the Gods out?
Writing	Greek Myths, narrative and diaries
Maths	Multiplication/ division and fractions
Science	Sound
PSHE	Hopes and dreams
RE	Avatar – stories of Hindu Gods
History/Geography	Greeks
DT/Art	Creating a Greek Pot
Computing	Image editing
Music	Changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics
Spanish	Las estacione (the seasons)

Key Dates

Monday 6th January – Spring term begins

Ancient Greek workshop & visitor in

Tuesday 21st January – Y4 Temple visit

Thursday 13th February – Y4 Break the Rules Day

Friday 14th February – Art Gallery trip & Discos

17th - 21st February – Half term break

Monday 24th February – Inset Day



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Year 5 Newsletter - Autumn 2

The children have worked incredibly hard this half-term and we are really proud of how they are tackling challenges across their learning; the winter break is truly deserved! We wish you all a restful and Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025! We look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

What we have been learning this term:

- In English, the children have created some fantastic escape narratives and informative newspaper reports based around The Barnabus Project.
- In maths, we have been learning efficient methods for multiplication and division as well as reading data from graphs.
- The children have really immersed themselves in our Space unit this half-term. We were lucky enough to have Southampton University visit us for a number of workshops, which the children really engaged with.
- We have been learning about the Viking invasion in Britain during history, with the children working really hard to produce an assembly on our outcome day.
- Both the science and history units were continued in our DT sessions this half-term, with the children creating some amazing pop-up books on the respective lesson, which we hope to share with a younger audience next half term.

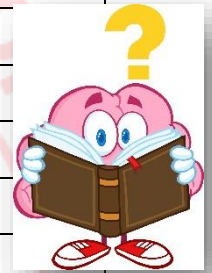


This half term's optional home-learning project:

Next half-term we will be learning about landscapes and perspective in Art. Take some pictures when you are on your winter walks of things you notice getting smaller in the distance and try and recreate this at home with paints, or pencils.

Next half term, we will be learning...

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Learning</u>
Reading	Amazon River
Writing	Non-chronological report in the style of David Attenborough Narrative based on Harry Potter
Maths	Fractions
Science	Living things
PSHE	Dreams and Goals
RE	Stewardship
Geography	The Amazon
Art	Landscapes
Computing	Desktop publishing
Spanish	Instrumentos musicales



Key Dates

Monday 6th January: Return to school
Thursday 16th January: The Living Rainforest trip
Friday 14th February: Break the Rules Day & Discos
17th - 21st February: Half Term
Monday 24th February: Inset Day



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Year 6 Newsletter

Autumn 2



What we have been learning this half-term:

- Half of year 6 had a really successful trip to Stubbington! We learned about how animals have adapted to their environments and saw badgers in their natural habitat.
- Those who stayed at school made their own Guy Fawkes and did some amazing science experiments.
- In English we have looked at Macbeth and have written persuasive letters and newspaper reports.
- We have learned about fractions, decimals and percentages.
- Our Computing has focused on 3D creations. We are now Tinkercad experts!
- In the wider curriculum we have completed our learning about WW2 and had an outcome afternoon to show the parents our songs, dances and art pieces.

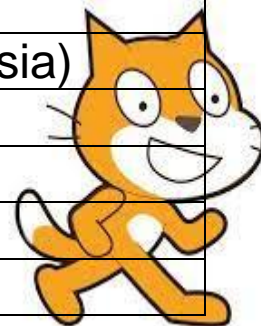
This half term's optional home-learning project:

A revision booklet will be sent home to complete over the Half Term if it will be helpful. It doesn't need to be done all at once, even 5 minutes a day will be useful. Please also keep going with TT Rockstars (Soundchecks are really useful) and logging reading every day!



Next half term, we will be learning...

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Learning</u>
Reading	Main texts: A series of unfortunate events
Writing	A series of unfortunate events
Maths	Algebra, ratio, measurement and area
Science	Life Lab: Living people and the heart
PSHE	Dreams and goals
RE	Rituals
History/Geography	Volcanoes and earthquakes
DT/Art	DT- Cooking (food of West Asia)
Computing	Webpages
Music	Film and TV
Spanish	La Ropa (clothing)
PE	Gymnastics: Flight



Key Dates

Monday 6th January: First day back at school

Friday 14th February: Break the Rules Day
Disco (6:45pm – 8pm)

17th - 21st February: Half Term

Monday 24th February: Inset Day



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Spring Term Clubs at TJS

SUPERSTAR SPORTS

After School Clubs at Townhill Junior School

Venue: Townhill Junior School
Age: All ages

Time: 3.20 - 4.30pm
Cost per session: £4.50

Gymnastics	Football
Monday	Friday
13/01/2025	17/01/2025
-	-
31/03/2025	04/04/2025



To book visit www.superstarsportsuk.com 02382 127331
Click "Book Now" on our main home screen to begin.

Contact Us

Should you need to contact us:

Townhill Junior School

Benhams Road

Townhill Park

Southampton

SO18 2NX

Tel: 02380 473611

Email: info@townhilljuniorschool.co.uk

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

