



# Townhill Junior School Newsletter - March 2026

*Welcome to our school newsletter*



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## Welcome

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your support through what has been a busy and productive half term with many exciting learning opportunities and experiences, including various activities and author workshops linked to World Book Day.



In class, the children have continued to dig deep into our curriculum. In Year Three, the children have been reading *The Secrets of a Sun King* as the hook to their Ancient Egyptian work. In Year 4, they have been using *The Iron Man* to support their diary and newspaper writing. In Year 5, they have travelled back in time to the era of the Highway Man and produced some fantastic writing inspired by this text. Year 6 have been using the book *King Kong* as the basis to write some very powerful speeches with some interesting points of view. If you want to know more about the topics we cover, be sure to take a look at the Curriculum section on the school website.

As ever, I am very grateful to all of our teachers and staff for working so hard to encourage our pupils' learning and for the support of our parents and wider community. It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents Evening in the last week and I thank you for supporting the school and your children so fantastically.

Have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing you all back at the start of the Summer term on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

*Mr Humphries*



## Wonderwall

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

**3F: Mason**

**3G: Emilia**

**4OR: Alexander**

**4T: Clara**

**5C: Hannah**

**5T: Max**

**6I: Scarlett**

**6W: Woody**

**Sport: Vlad (6W)**



## 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 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.

The winning house each week gets one point on the main assembly board. The winning house this half term and for the second half term in a row was... Emerald!

### Our Houses



House	Total Points
Sapphire	1
Emerald	3
Ruby	1

## Easter



On Wednesday we had our Easter assembly led by Jo and Luke from Bitterne Church of Ascension.

Then on Friday our Easter raffle draw took place. There were 246 tickets sold, meaning we raised £246 for school projects. The draw took place in assembly on Friday afternoon and there were 23 prizes in total.

## Sports Values Awards

Our sporting values were celebrated in assembly on Wednesday and our Spring Term 2 winners were:

### Passion

Yr 3 – Danny T  
Yr 4 – Darcey H  
Yr 5 – Elizabeth S  
Yr 6 – Elena D

### Teamwork

Yr 3 – Theo W  
Yr 4 – Marley L  
Yr 5 – Arthur H  
Yr 6 – Maisie S

### Determination

Yr 3 – Freddie A  
Yr 4 – Kacper K  
Yr 5 – Isla J  
Yr 6 – Hector G

### Self-belief

Yr 3 – Layla S  
Yr 4 – Ivy H  
Yr 5 – Rio M-S  
Yr 6 – Reggie C

### Honesty

Yr 3 – Maggie G  
Yr 4 – Anaya J  
Yr 5 – Callum S  
Yr 6 – Woody E

### Respect

Yr 3 – Michelle B  
Yr 4 – Timur L  
Yr 5 – Iliana H  
Yr 6 – Ava B



## Sports News: County Athletics

On Monday afternoon, our indoor athletics squad travelled to Aldershot to represent Southampton in the County Athletics. The standard was extremely high but the team did TJS proud and represented both the school and the city fantastically.



## Big Difference Pantry Visit



Following our successful recent visits, 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!

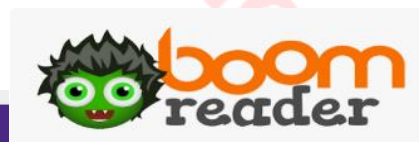
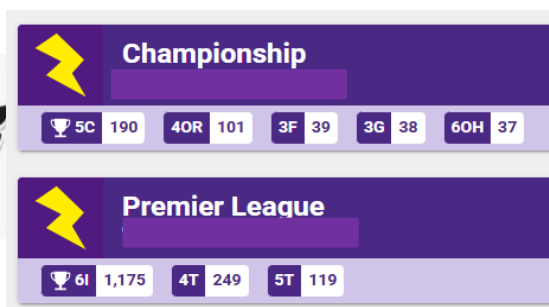
The next trip is on: Thursday 20th May at 10.10am-11.30am. Tickets are £1 per person. Please contact Mrs Austin or the office to reserve a seat!

## Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Speed Improvement
1	Alicja	6I	-3.76
2	Ellie-Jo	6I	-3.16
3	Lana	4T	-1.73
4	Martin	6I	-1.72
5	Arthur	5T	-1.32
6	Donat	4T	-1.1
7	Riley	4T	-0.96
8	Yavi	5C	-0.66
9	Ava	4T	-0.42
10	Alyssia	6I	-0.32

## Boom Reader

Class	Most Reads
3F	Chloe
3G	Emilia
4OR	Penny
4T	Ruby
5C	Iliana
5T	Fleur
6I	X
6W	Matilda
<b>Class</b>	<b>4T</b>



## Home Learning

**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!

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

## School Attendance News

### Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	Whole School Attendance this year to date
93%	94.4%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year
170	110



### Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3G	4OR	4T	5C	5T	6I	6OH
Attendance Percentage	96.7%	88.9%	98.9%	92%	89.9%	95.6%	92%	92.5%
Progress	+0.6%	-10%	+2.2%	-2.3%	-5%	0	0	+3.2%

## Every School Day Counts



# Year 3 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd
Writing	Non Chronological Reports & Letter Writing: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
Maths	Angles, Lines & Perimeter
Science	Plants
Geography	Bee Conservation
PSHE	Relationships
RE	Sacred Places of Worship
Art	Sculpture
Computing	Desktop Publishing
Music	Jazz
Spanish	Las Frutas (fruits)
PE	Gymnastics
Games	Athletics



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# Year 4 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports & Letter Writing
Maths	Measures, Area & Perimeter
Science	Electricity
PSHE	Relationships
RE	Devotion
History	The Romans
Computing	Photo editing
Music	Samba instruments
Spanish	Las estaciones (The seasons)
PE	Gymnastics
Games	Athletics



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# Year 5 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	Wild Robot by Peter Brown
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports & Letter Writing Text: Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers
Maths	Measures, Area & Perimeter
Science	Properties of Materials
PSHE	Relationships
RE	Sacred Places
Geography	Rivers
Art	Landscapes
Computing	Vectors
Spanish	En el café (In the café)
Music	Looping and re-mixing
PE	Gymnastics – Twisting and Turning
Games	Athletics



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# Year 6 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson Boy 87 by Ele Fountain
Writing	Non-Chronological Reports, Diary Writing & Narratives Main text: The Arrival by Shaun Tan
Maths	Position and Movement, Statistics, Negative Numbers
Science	Light
PSHE	Relationships
RE	Death Ceremonies
Geography	UK Study
Art	Digital Art: Pop Art
Computing	Variables in Games (Scratch)
Music	Baroque
Spanish	Tienes una mascota (Do you have a pet?)
PE	Gymnastics: Symmetrical Group Routines
Games	Athletics



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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS

As exam season ramps up, revision often becomes louder, busier, and less effective. Many pupils still rely on comfort strategies like re-reading and highlighting. These can feel productive but rarely build long-term memory. This guide will help you create a low-effort, high-impact revision system that teaches pupils how to revise, rather than merely emphasising its importance.

### 1 DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING

Before adding more sessions, identify why a pupil is underperforming: knowledge gaps, weak routines, poor choices, or low effort driven by a lack of confidence. Treating every issue as 'needs more revision' creates noise. Use a quick check: what do they know, what do they misunderstand, what can't they retrieve under pressure, and what do they avoid? Then match revision to the actual problem.

### 2 TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY

Most pupils haven't been taught how to revise well, so they pick what feels easiest. Build short revision mini-lessons into curriculum time; demonstrate retrieval, spacing, and how to self-check. Model it live, do it together, then gradually hand over responsibility. The goal is independence, not dependency. When pupils understand why strategies work, they're more likely to use them when it matters.

### 3 PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Make recall the default. Use methods such as low-stakes quizzes, flashcards, free recall, blurring, and 'answer then check'. Effective testing helps to measure and strengthen learning. Keep it specific and frequent – small chunks, lots of repetition, and immediate feedback. For parents, the best question isn't 'Have you revised?' but 'What can you remember today, without notes?'

### 4 SPACE IT OUT

Cramming can boost short-term performance, but it's weaker for long-term retention. Help pupils spread practice across days and weeks, revisiting content after memory has faded. That 'slight struggle' is the point. Use a simple rhythm: new learning, next-day retrieval, a three-day revisit, a weekly revisit, and mixed practice before the exam. This turns revision into a routine, not a panic.

### 5 MIX, DON'T BLOCK

Practising one topic for a long stretch – known as 'blocked practice' – can feel easy, but it can hide fragile learning. Mixing topics, question types, or methods strengthens long-term learning and helps pupils apply knowledge later. For educators, design homework and revision packs so topics reappear in a planned cycle. For parents, encourage sessions that mix two topics rather than focusing on just one.

### 6 USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY

Revision should feel effortful, not effortless. Durable learning comes from challenging revision techniques: attempting answers before looking, explaining ideas aloud, writing from memory, or tackling unfamiliar question formats. The key is 'hard, but doable': If a pupil always gets everything right, it's too easy. If they always fail, it's too hard. Aim for productive struggle with quick feedback loops.

### 7 CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY

Revision fails when pupils waste energy finding resources, navigating platforms, or guessing what matters. Reduce cognitive overload by centralising what they need: a single hub per subject, a clear list of priority knowledge, and a small set of standard task types such as quizzes, flash cards, exam questions, or corrections. Less admin clutter means more working memory for learning.

### 8 PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE

Strong revision is self-regulated. Pupils plan what they'll do, monitor if it's working, and evaluate what to change next time. Use a weekly revision routine that asks: 'What did I try?' 'What improved?' 'What didn't?' 'What's my next micro-goal?' Post-mock action plans are powerful here because they force honesty about time spent, strategy used, and impact achieved.

### 9 WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY

Mocks only help if pupils learn from them. Use an exam wrapper approach: before the mock, set strategy goals; afterwards, analyse errors such as knowledge gaps, misread questions, weak methods, and timing issues, then create a targeted relearn and retest plan. Parents can support by asking, 'What type of mistake was it, and what's your fix?' rather than 'What grade did you get?'

### 10 MAKE TIME VISIBLE

Revision becomes real when time is protected and predictable. Help pupils build a timetable that's short, repeatable, and realistic: 30–40 minute blocks, clear start and stop times, and specific tasks, not 'revise science'. Avoid perfectionist plans that look pretty and collapse by Tuesday. Consistency beats intensity. Build momentum with small wins, then build from there.

### Meet Our Expert

Amjad Ali is the creator of Try This Teaching and the CPD and Inclusion Lead for the Chiltern Learning Trust. With over 19 years' experience in education, including leadership roles in diverse and high-need schools, he specialises in inclusive, evidence-informed practice. His work focuses on practical, low-effort, high-impact strategies that help students learn more and retain knowledge over time.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 25.03.2025

Adverts

# Easter at Ascension

<b>Sun 29 Mar</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
9.00am	Traditional Palm Sunday service
10.45am	All Age Palm Sunday Service
<b>Mon 30 Mar</b>	<b>HOLY WEEK PRAYERS</b>
<b>- Wed 01 Apr</b>	9am Morning prayer (6:30am on Wed)
9am & 7.00pm	and 7pm Evening prayer
<b>Thu 2 Apr</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>
7.00pm	Meal and communion
	(£5pp, book via office or QR)
<b>Fri 3 Apr</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
9.00 - 11.00am	Reflective prayer space
<b>Sun 5 Apr</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
6:33am	Sunrise service at Riverside Park
9.00am	Traditional communion service
10.45am	All-age celebration communion
3:00pm	EDGE Crew Easter Celebration
	(at Townhill Park Community Centre)

Ascension, 1 Thorold Road, Southampton SO18 1HZ  
[www.ascensionsouthampton.co.uk/easter](http://www.ascensionsouthampton.co.uk/easter)



Tickets available until 29 Mar

# Waterstones

## Hitting the High Seas with the Cruise Ship Kid!

Thursday 9th April 2026

14:00 - 16:00 at Waterstones, Southampton - West Quay





## TEAM SPIRIT ALL STARS DANCE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

AVAILABLE SPACES AT YOUR SCHOOL - BOOK  
ONLINE TODAY!

Come along to our dance classes, offering  
new styles, more opportunity for performances,  
technique training and pushing yourself to be the  
**BEST DANCER YOU CAN BE!**

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<https://team-spirit-all-stars-dance-academy.pembee.app/>

CONTACT US ON:  
07899962473 | [teamspiritallstarsdance@yahoo.com](mailto:teamspiritallstarsdance@yahoo.com)

WHAT'S ON January -  
April 2025

**Southampton**  
City of Opportunity

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
CITY COUNCIL

# EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

**Hands on History:  
Off With Their Heads (6+)**  
Mon 30 Mar | 10.30am, 1pm  
Tudor House | £8

**Art School Plus:  
Mind-blowing Mixed Media,  
inspired by artist Emma  
Richardson (11 - 18 years)**

Drop off your young people  
Mon 30 Mar | 10.30am - 3.00pm  
Art Gallery | £28

**Art for All: Perfect Peter Rabbit  
Puppets (4+)**  
Tue 31 Mar | 10.30am, 10.30pm  
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

**Art for All: Fabric Print an Egg  
Hunt Bag (5+)**  
Wed 1 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm or  
3.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

**Hands on History:  
WR2 Clavers and Splees (7+)**  
Thu 2 Apr | 10.30am |  
Tudor House | £8

**Year for All: Southampton and  
the Second World War**  
Thu 2 Apr | 3pm | Tudor House |  
£10 (accompanying  
children free)

**Art For All: Wonderful  
Wooden Eggs (8+)**  
Thu 2 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm or  
2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

**NEW FOR 2025**

**Toddler Time:  
Beautiful Butterflies (under 4s  
and friends)**  
Thu 2 Apr | 10.30am |  
SeaCity | £6

**Art for All: Paintexperimentation  
Workshop (8+)**  
Tue 7 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm or  
2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

**Art for All: Spring Decopatch  
Plant Pots (4+)**  
Wed 8 Apr | 10.15am, 11.30am or  
1.15pm | Tudor House | £8

**Art for All: Clay Axolotls (5+)**  
Wed 8 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm  
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

**Year for All:  
Titanic Walking Tour**  
Thu 9 Apr | 11am |  
Tudor House | £10  
(accompanying children free)

**Art for All: MARVELlous Clay  
Superheroes (6+)**  
Thu 9 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm  
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

**Hands on  
History: Titanic Science! (7+)**  
Fri 10 Apr | 10.30am, 1pm  
SeaCity | £8

**Junior Art School: Paint, Paint,  
Paint inspired by artist Emma  
Richardson (7 - 12 years)**

Drop off your young people  
Fri 10 Apr | 10.30am - 3.30pm  
Art Gallery | £28

## CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS

(Age 8½ - 12 years)

Drop off your young people  
Three days per week | 9am-4pm  
(drop off from 8.45)  
SeaCity | £28 (per day) or £80 for  
all three days

Get creative, explore our  
collections and learn how staff  
while making really cool things at  
our themed activity days.

**Week 1: Spring Has Sprung**  
Mon 30 Mar, Tues 31 Mar, Wed 1 Apr  
**Week 2: Planet Earth**  
Thurs 7 Apr, Wed 8 Apr, Thurs 9 Apr



See venue websites for further details on events and to book  
[seacitymuseum.co.uk](http://seacitymuseum.co.uk) | [tudorhouseandgarden.com](http://tudorhouseandgarden.com) | [southamptoncityartgallery.com](http://southamptoncityartgallery.com)



# WICKED

## Dance Day

Wednesday 8th April | 10am - 2pm  
 Wordsworth Primary School

- ☆ Dance to your favourite Wicked songs
- ☆ Easter games and an egg hunt

WITH A VISIT FROM

Who will be coming along to play games, sing songs!

To book please follow the link:  
<https://team.spirit-all-stars-dance-academy.pembee.app>

TEAM SPIRIT ALL STARS  
 EASTER DANCE WORKSHOPS!

# DESCENDANTS ZOMBIES DANCE PARTY

Get ready for an **ACTION-PACKED** day of dancing to all your favourite *Zombies* & *Descendants* hits!

- Epic Easter Egg Hunt
- Fun Easter Games & Activities
- High-Energy Dance Sessions

WORKSHOP DATES & LOCATIONS

- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – Wordsworth School (10AM–2PM)
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bevois Town School (10AM–2PM)
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Highfield School (10AM–2PM)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](https://team.spirit-all-stars-dance-academy.pembee.app)

[HTTPS://TEAM-SPIRIT-ALL-STARS-DANCE-ACADEMY.PEMBEE.APP](https://team.spirit-all-stars-dance-academy.pembee.app)

## Dates for the Year



### SUMMER TERM 2026

<b>Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	:	Summer Term begins
<b>Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	:	Y6 SATS Parents Evening Event (6:00pm)
<b>Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	:	Language & Cultural 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)



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

Visit our website at:

<https://www.townhilljuniorschool.co.uk/>



Wishing you a wonderful Spring break from all the team at TJS!



Have a lovely Easter and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on:

Monday 13th April

Learning is the key to success