



Townhill Junior School Newsletter - May 2026

Welcome to our school newsletter



In this issue...

- Welcome
- Wonderwall Winners
- High School Musical Performance
- Healthy High 5 Gold
- Y3 Science
- National Year of Reading
- Sports News and Sports Values Awards
- House Points
- Speech Competition
- School Fundraising Committee
- TT Rocks and Boom Reader Winners & Home Learning
- School Attendance
- Year Group Updates
- E-Safety
- Adverts
- Dates for The Year
- Contact Us



Welcome

This half term has gone really quickly and the weather has really made it feel like summer. We also have so much to look forward to in the remaining half term including: Sports Days, the Year 6 Prom, lots of trips and of course Transfer Day on Wednesday 1st July.



This past 5 weeks has seen some exciting and engaging learning take place across the school. Year 3 were wonderfully engaged with their activities at Hilliers Garden Centre where the staff there praised them for their questions and manners, as did the visitors from the Beek Keeping Society. Year 4 have enjoyed reading the House with Chicken Legs, making circuits work in the Science unit on electricity and created some entertaining photo images in computing. Year 5 have been inspired by two books - Here We Are and Wild Robot which have led to some fantastic writing outcomes. They have also painted some impressive landscapes in art and looked at vector drawing in computing. Year 6 worked so hard on their SATs, showing real resilience, and have since started to produce some great written work for the next part of their end of year assessments.

Throughout the term, and particularly during SATs Week, we have seen fantastic teamwork across the school and the support that was given to ensure the children had the very best conditions to do well in their SATs made us even prouder than ever of the children and staff.

That just leaves me to thank the staff and governors for all of their continued efforts: the children of Townhill are thriving because of this.

Have a great half term,

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: Layla

3G: Jessica

4OR: Rosa

4T: Oakley

5C: Kyra

5T: Ozzy

6I: Elina

6W: Maisie

Sport: Kara



High School Musical Performance

Our fantastic Drama Club had a very busy week. On Monday it was time for a final rehearsal in front of the whole school during assembly which helped to get the nerves out of the way. Then on Wednesday they had their evening performance on the stage with parents and family members there to watch. Their performance of High School Musical was the culmination of months of hard work learning lines and the songs of the musical under the expert direction of Mrs McAllister, with support from Mrs Bemister and Shine Performing Arts School.



There were some fantastic performances and very positive feedback from the audiences at both shows. We are looking forward to seeing what the Drama Club have in store for their next performance. If it has inspired your child to get involved please get them to speak to Mrs McAllister.



Healthy High 5 - Gold

Following our changes to the tuck offering and additional work around healthy eating, I was delighted to hear that we have now been awarded Healthy High 5 – Gold. This is a fantastic achievement for the school and is part of a huge team effort from everyone at school around each of the key areas of the scheme:

- ❖ Nurturing Nature
- ❖ Physical Activity
- ❖ Access to Water
- ❖ Healthy Lunch, Breakfast and After School Clubs
- ❖ Mindfulness Minute



The judging panel, who decided the award, commented: “We have reviewed the evidence, and we are particularly impressed with the access to clubs for the children. We think the hard work shown by Townhill Junior School deserves a GOLD award, as you have gone above and beyond in all areas.”

Year 3 Science

In Science this week, Year 3 were again visited by Southampton Beekeepers Association who showed the children how to use bees wax to make candles. This has been a very engaging Science unit and



National Year of Reading



To recognise the National Year of Reading, St James Church, West End, have a series of window displays to celebrate and TJS were invited to submit our entry. They are on display for the next two weeks so feel free to pop down.

Sports Updates

Sporting Success: Our lower school cross country runners produced some excellent performances in the City Championships.

BOYS TEAM		
RANK	TOTAL	SCHOOL
1	39	Springhill A
2	47	Bitterne Park
3	51	Townhill A

GIRLS TEAM		
RANK	TOTAL	SCHOOL
1	38	Townhill A
2	47	Portswood
3	55	Ludlow

The girls team A Team of: Sasha, Kaya, Ruby and Maggie crowned City Champions and boys A Team of Trent, Conor, Oscar and Kacper finishing in 3rd place meaning we were the overall winning school too. All of our runners showed huge promise and positive signs for the future of TJS.

Curriculum Updates: In year 3 the children have been learning each of the different disciplines for athletics and improving on their running, throwing and jumping. Our year 4 children looked at rhythmic gymnastics. The children created routines using jumps, rolls and balances which they then added in using a hoop, ball or ribbon to the routine. Year 5 have been looking at twisting and turning and using the apparatus to build them into gymnastic routines, showing some impressive control in their landings and movement. In year 6, the children have been looking at group symmetrical routines in gymnastics.

Sports Values Awards

Our sporting values were celebrated in assembly on Friday and our Summer Term 1 winners were:

Passion

Yr 3 – Trent
Yr 4 – Oscar
Yr 5 – Elise
Yr 6 – Elina

Teamwork

Yr 3 – Layla
Yr 4 – Eliza
Yr 5 – Ozzy
Yr 6 – Viren

Determination

Yr 3 – Isabel
Yr 4 – Kaya
Yr 5 – Divino
Yr 6 – Clarke

Self-belief

Yr 3 – Tiago
Yr 4 – Sasha
Yr 5 – Sarah
Yr 6 – Joshua

Honesty

Yr 3 – Bright
Yr 4 – Penny
Yr 5 – Fleur
Yr 6 – Peter

Respect

Yr 3 – Chloe
Yr 4 – Timur
Yr 5 – Hope
Yr 6 – Mysha



Running Club

Throughout the term, Mrs Porter has been busy running around the school grounds with her Running Club as she prepares for taking part in the Southampton Half Marathon (13.1 miles) on 31st May to raise money for Leukaemia UK. If you would to sponsor Mrs Porter, please follow the link below:



<https://givestar.io/gs/southampton-10k-juniors-may-2026-9144?userId=00f5f8a9-78e1-4cff-b95b-cb68cb1dd509&activationCode=fc35e4d2-a4bf-42c5-9f0f-4ae5fa862658>

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. After a close battle all half term and for the first time ever all three houses finished level on points. Therefore they share the TJS House Cup and will all get extra break and lunch on the first Friday after half term.

Our Houses



House	Total Points
Sapphire	2
Emerald	2
Ruby	2

Speech Competition



During the last half term we will be launching our annual TJS Speech Competition. Each child will have the chance to research and prepare a speech about something that interests them that they will then share with their class. Why not use the half term break to come up with a theme for the speech.

School Fundraising Committee

We are very keen for new members to support our fundraising and help run their events. Please let Mr Humphries know if you are interested.

If you or your business would be interested in sponsoring school events or providing equipment or resources for our events please let Mr Humphries know.



Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Speed Improvement
1	Isa	6I	6041
2	Kaci-Jai	5C	6023
3	Olivia	4T	4675
4	Desandu	6I	4387
5	Joshua	6I	3792
6	Lana	4T	3144
7	Sophia	4T	2987
8	Janelle	4T	2618
9	Louis	4T	2426
10	Clara	4T	2236

Boom Reader

Class	Most Reads
3F	Jack
3G	Poppy
4OR	Penny
4T	X
5C	Ayda
5T	Cohen
6I	X
6W	Matilda
Class	3G

Weekly Battle: Premier League

4T 1,379 | 6I 781 | 4OR 650 | 5C 394 | 3F 318

Y3 Ultimate Duel

3F 318 | 3G 269

Y4 Ultimate Duel

4T 1,247 | 4OR 650



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 multiplication tables check. Or to get up the school leader board, choose Studio!

If you have 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
94.8%	94.3%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year
179	109



Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3G	4OR	4T	5C	5T	6I	6W
Attendance Percentage	98.8%	95.1%	97.3%	99.3%	89.7%	96%	96%	97.6%
Progress	-0.4%	-1.7%	+1.7%	+3.1%	-0.1%	+1.2%	-2.0%	+2.7%

Every School Day Counts



Year 3 Update

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	The Sound Collector – Roger McGough No.115 Dreams by Jackie Kay 10 Things in a Wizard's Pocket – Ian MacMillan I asked the River – Valerie Bloom
Writing	Speech, Poetry and Narrative Using a range of poems and film clips
Guided Reading	Main texts: Hunter Gatherer, plus a selection of poems Global: A Graphic Novel
Maths	Data handling & Time
Science	Light
Geography	Land Use, Economy Activity and Travel
PSHE	Changing Me
RE	Protection
DT	Bread making
Computing	Events and Actions
Music	Indian Music
Spanish	Las Frutas: Fruits
PE	World Dance
Games	Tennis and Cricket



Townhill Junior School
Learning is the key to success



Year 4 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	The Village That Vanished by Ann Grifalconi
Writing	Speech, Poetry and Narrative
Guided Reading	White Giraffe by Lauren St John
Maths	Position and movement, shapes
Science	States of Matter
PSHE	Changing me
RE	Symbols
Geography	Weather and Climate
DT	Dips
Computing	Repetition in Games
Music	Adapting Motifs
Spanish	Los Helados: Ice Cream
PE	Line Dancing
Games	Tennis and Cricket



Townhill Junior School
Learning is the key to success



Year 5 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	The Savage by David Almond
Writing	Speech, Poetry and Narrative
Guided Reading	Be The Change: Poems to help you save the world
Maths	Volume and Roman Numerals
Science	Animals including Humans
PSHE	Relationships
RE	Umma (Community)
History	Biomes and Eco Systems
Art	Pop Art: Keith Haring
Computing	Selection in quizzes
Spanish	En el café: In the café
Music	Musical Theatre
PE	Dance: Journey of a River
Games	Tennis and Cricket



Townhill Junior School
Learning is the key to success



Year 6 Updates

Next half term, we will be learning...

Subject	Learning
Reading	Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen
Writing	Speech, Poetry and Narrative
Guided Reading	Overheard in a Tower Block by Joseph Coelho
Maths	Word Problems / Consolidation
Science	Electricity
PSHE	Changing Me
RE	Peace
Geography	Sustainability
DT	Food: South East Asia
Computing	Coding – using a Micro:bit
Music	Leavers Song
Spanish	Tienes una mascota? Do you have a pet?
PE	Leavers Dance
Games	Tennis and Cricket



Townhill Junior School
Learning is the key to success



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#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: 20.05.2026

Discount Activities May Half Term

- 25th May | Bowling Eastleigh | 6pm
| Bowling Portsmouth | 6pm
- 26th May | Oceans Play Soft Play | 10am
| Rock Up Whiteley | 1pm
- 27th May | Family Swim Romsey | 1pm
| High Score Southampton | 1pm
| Ice Skating Gosport | 3pm
| Ninja Warrior Southampton | 3pm
| Monkey Bizness Southamptton | 6:15pm
- 28th May | Monkey Bizness Gosport | 6:15pm
- 31st May | Ninja Warrior Southampton | 3pm

All discounted prices are subsidised by Spotlight UK



For more details please email activities@spotlightuk.org

★ MAY HALF TERM ★
DANCE WORKSHOPS

**KPOP
 DEMON
 HUNTERS**

*Dance
 Workshop*



KATSEYE
 DANCE WORKSHOP



★ **THURSDAY**
28th MAY
 Highfield primary school

★ **FRIDAY**
29th MAY
 Bevois town school

🕒 **10-2pm**
 To book follow the link

📅 **TUESDAY**
26th MAY
 Wordsworth primary school

🕒 **10-2pm**

👥 All ages and
 ability welcome



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

JAMES BEATTIE FOOTBALL ACADEMY
JAMES BEATTIE
SUMMER HOLIDAY
FOOTBALL CAMPS

COACHING THE STARS OF TOMORROW

2 DAY CAMP

Thurs 23rd - Fri 24th July
 9:00am - 3:00pm

£45.00 Full Camp
 or
 £25.00 Per Day

Stoneham Lane Football Complex,
 Stoneham Ln, Southampton,
 Eastleigh SO16 2PA

3 DAY CAMP

Mon 3rd - Wed 5th August
 9:00am - 3:00pm

£67.50 Full Camp
 or
 £25.00 Per Day

Passfield Avenue Football
 Passfield Ave, Eastleigh
 SO50 9NL

4 DAY CAMP

Mon 17th - Thurs 20th August
 9:00am - 3:00pm

£90.00 Full Camp
 or
 £25.00 Per Day

Winchester City Football Club
 Charters community Stadium,
 Hillier Way, Winchester SO23 7SU

**LEARN NEW SKILLS,
 FACE FUN CHALLENGES,
 COMPETE IN GAMES
 AND ENJOY EVERY
 MOMENT ON THE PITCH**



BOOK YOUR
 SPACE HERE

BROWSE
 OUR SHOP



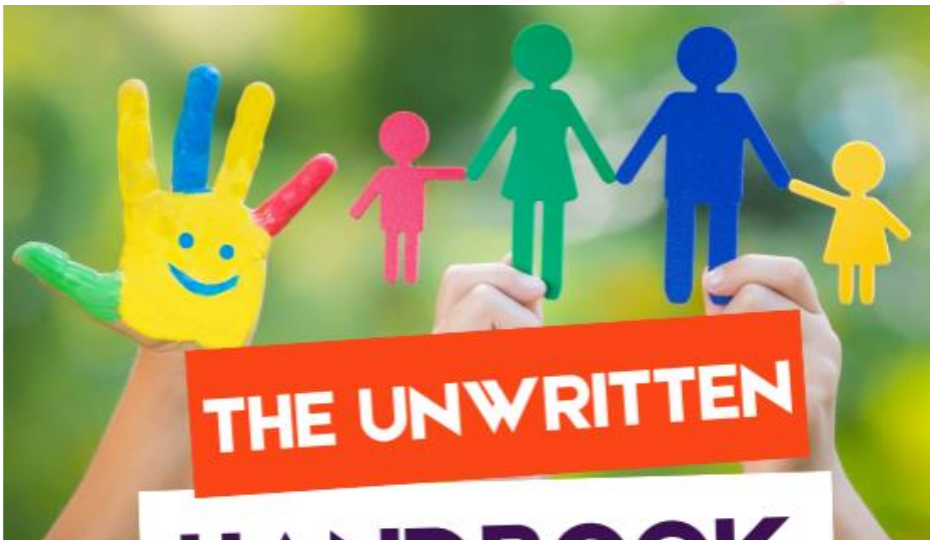
Proudly
 Sponsored By



To sign up please contact: info@jamesbeattiefootballacademy.com

f @James Beattie Football Academy | @jamesbeattiefootballacademy





THE UNWRITTEN HANDBOOK

HELPING YOU NAVIGATE BIG EMOTIONS AND TOUGH MOMENTS - 6 WEEK PROGRAMME

Feeling overwhelmed at home?

Our six-week Introduction to NVR programme gives parents and carers practical tools to manage the tough moments, regulate emotions and create a calmer, happier home for the whole family.

- How to stay calm when emotions run high
- Simple ways to look after your own wellbeing
- How to set clear boundaries and routines at home
- How to build a support network around your family

£198pp

Every Tuesday from 16th June - 18th July, 10am to 12pm

“ Home is a much nicer place and we are having fun again!”



www.youthoptions.org.uk

Youth Options is a registered Charity (1056463).



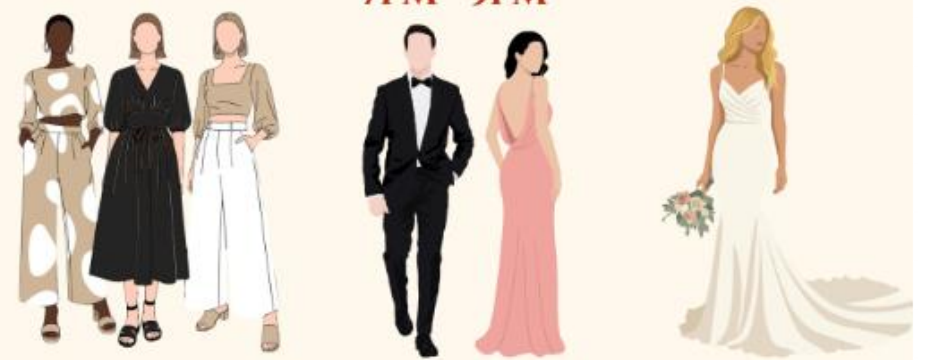
PRESCHOOLS & CHILDCARE PREVENTION TARGETED PROGRESSION OUTDOOR LEARNING

Ascension & Edge Hub Present an Evening of Fabulous Fashion

LIVE RUNWAY FASHION SHOW & AUCTION



SATURDAY MAY 30TH
7PM - 9PM



THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
MEGGESON AVENUE
TOWNHILL PARK

BNWT Designer Bridal, Occasion & Prom followed by an exciting live auction

BIG BRANDS AT CRAZY PRICES

BROWSE THE RAILS - GRAB A BARGAIN!

Fashion Clothing, Footwear & Accessories For Ladies & Gents

(sorry, over 14's only!) Tickets £5.00

<https://ascensionsouthampton.churchsuite.com/events/s7leirob>

This is a fundraising event for the Edge Hub in Townhill Park

CRANTHORPE
MILLNER
PUBLISHERS

B. WARE – AUTHOR VISIT



wordsofwarning.com

Visiting TJS on: Wednesday 17th June

Dates for the Year



SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday, 1st June	:	Class Photos
Wednesday, 3rd June	:	Y5 Astrodome Event (2)
Thursday, 4th June	:	Y4 Winchester Science Museum Trip
Friday, 5th June	:	Disco (5:30pm – 7pm)
Friday, 12th June	:	Y6 Paultons Park Trip
Wednesday, 17th June	:	Author Visit: B. Ware
Friday, 19th June	:	INSET Day
22nd – 26th June	:	Assessment Week (Y3 –5)
Monday, 29th June	:	Year 2 Parents Evening (5:30pm)
Wednesday, 1st July	:	Transfer Day
Thursday, 2nd July	:	Y3 & Y4 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day
Friday, 3rd July	:	Y5 & Y6 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day: Mon 6 th July)
Friday, 10th July	:	Y4 Itchen Valley Teambuilding Day
Friday, 17th July	:	Year 6 Leavers Prom (6.30pm – 8:30pm)
Monday, 20th July	:	Y6 Leavers Celebration Event (6:00pm)
Wednesday, 22nd July	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)



INSET days: 2026-27

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 22nd February 2027

Friday 18th June 2027

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



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/>

