

Townhill Junior School

Weekly Update: 6th March



World Book Day

There were some fantastic costumes in school for World Book Day on Thursday. Here are a collection of the outfits from the day.



World Book Day Activities



There were a number of activities during World Book Day. As well as the wonderful costumes, Years 3 and 4 had a virtual author talk with the engaging Jasbinder Bilan and came together to read together with others in their house team. Meanwhile, Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an author talk with Tom Palmer. A group of children were chosen from class across the school to visit Waterstones and select a new book for each class Book Corner through funding from the School Fundraising Committee. Lastly, Mrs Gregory kept up her book competition record by winning a special delivery of books (and branded cap!) from the Rebel Reading Society which adds to our wonderful range of books in school.

County Cross Country

On Tuesday, our top performing cross country runners got the chance to represent Southampton in the County Cross Country event held in Basingstoke. Competing against runners across Southampton, they represented both the city and the school fantastically.



Parents Evening

A reminder that the online booking system for Parents Evening is now open on Arbor. We look forward to welcoming you into school on:

Wednesday 18th March: 5T

Tuesday 24th March: All Classes

Wednesday 25th March: All Classes except 5T



Neighbouring Private Property



Cutbush Lane view



Meggeson Avenue view

Thank you for your support with parking in Cutbush Lane this week. It has led to a noticeable improvement in safety and ease of access for everyone.

Please could I ask for your support in stopping the children from cutting through the garden of a neighbouring property on the corner of Cutbush Lane and Meggeson Avenue. The way the fences have been cut makes it look through a footpath but it is in fact their garden and therefore private property which is worrying the residents when they cannot see who is passing by their windows.

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www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases



Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.



*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.
All books subject to availability. Book ranges may vary. • Warning: Not suitable for children under 3. Small parts.

Adult Reading



2.4 million adults in England alone cannot read at all or struggle to read, but many people don't tell anyone. There are many reasons why some people find it difficult to learn to read when they are children, but the good news is that it's never too late to learn.

We know it can seem like a big challenge, but improving your reading skills can change your life. We have helped hundreds of adults to learn to read and are here to support you when you're ready.

We offer free, confidential one-to-one reading coaching to adults who want to learn to read.

If you would like support with your reading or you are seeking support on behalf of someone else, see our website:

<https://readeasy.org.uk/learn-to-read/>



To learn to read



Allison Walker



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southamptoncoordinator@readeasy.org.uk

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 types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams 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 customise text for better readability. Adjusting font 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 Kindle and other 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 dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles 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. Repeatedly 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.

9 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 Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 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. By using 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 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos 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

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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Star of the Week

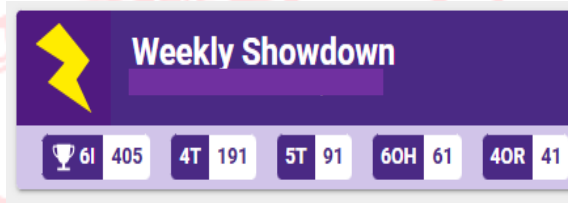
Class	Name
3F	Chloe
3G	Poppy
4OR	Oscar
4T	Joshua
5T	Leo
5C	Elsie
6I	Lillia
6W	Arey
PE	Cohen

Times Tables Rocks Leaderboard

Rank	First Name	Class	Correct Answers
1	Ruby	4T	-1.17
2	Fiky	6I	-0.8
3	Matilda	6OH	-0.31
4	Charis	5T	-0.28
5	Ibrahim	4T	-0.24
6	Ellis	6I	-0.22
7	Charley	6OH	-0.21
8	Elina	6I	-0.2
9	Olivia	4T	-0.18
10	Callum	5C	-0.13

Boom Reader Leaderboard

Class	Most Reads
3F	Maggie
3G	Daniel
4OR	Penny
4T	X
5C	X
5T	X
6I	X
6OH	Matilda
Class	3G



Learning is the key to success

Current Learning



	WB	Subject	What the children will be learning	Ideas to support with the learning at home
Y3	9/3	English	Diary writing	Read to an adult at home and discuss what you have read. Log it on Boom Reader.
		Maths	Fractions	Explain to an adult how to find an equivalent fraction. Challenge: How do you know if it's in its simplest form?
		History	Rameses II	Find 3 facts about Rameses II. Be prepared to share in class.
Y4	9/3	English	Diary writing	Try to speak without using contractions like "can't" or "won't" – which words do you have to change?
		Maths	Decimals	Continue to practise your times tables on TT Rockstars
		History	Ancient Egyptian Gods	Choose an Ancient Egyptian god and research them
Y5	9/3	English	Diary writing	Write about something you do this weekend
		Maths	Decimals	Tell an adult at home how to convert a fraction into a decimal
		Geography	South America	Research a country in South America, share a fact with your teacher on Monday
Y6	9/3	English	Persuasive speech	Come up with for and against arguments for taking Kong out of his home
		Maths	Volume	Work on www.maths.co.uk
		PSHE	Healthy Me	Discuss what 'Healthy Me' means with someone at home

Home Learning

A reminder that all of our home learning is online through two main platforms and the expectation is that every child should be logging their reading, and completing challenges on TT Rocks every week. The children should also be learning their spelling lists.

Maths: Times Tables Rockstars

Reading: Boom Read



School Attendance News



Attendance Statistics

Whole School Attendance this week	94.9%	Whole School Attendance this year to date	94.3%
Number of children with over 97% attendance this week	177	Number of children with over 97% attendance this year	116



Class Attendance for this week:

Weekly Attendance	3F	3G	4OR	4T	5C	5T	6I	6W
Attendance Percentage	98.8%	86.7%	93.8%	98.1%	97.2%	96.0%	88.9%	96.4%
Progress	+0.3%	+12.7%	-5.7%	+0%	+1.2%	-0.9%	-4.4%	+6.6%

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

**NON CONTACT KARATE
TAUGHT BY FULLY
QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**



**EVERYONE WELCOME
FROM 4 YEARS OLD**



**WE TEACH TRADITIONAL KARATE
ENCOURAGING CONFIDENCE, RESPECT,
DISCIPLINE, SELF AWARENESS AND AGILITY IN
A FUN & CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. ALL
CLASSES ARE FRIENDLY, INFORMATIVE &
CATER TO THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF THE
STUDENT.**



**TOWNHILL JUNIORS SCHOOL
TUESDAYS 5.00PM – 6.00PM**

**£6.00 PER CLASS – PAY AS YOU GO
MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED AFTER FIRST CLASS £27 PER YEAR**

MANY MORE CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM, FIND THEM ALL AT: WWW.SOUTHERNKARATE.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

EMAIL: info@southernkarate.org

Tel: 07764 478507



**Child Protection
in Sport Unit**





DISCOVER THE AMAZING





**SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING DAY**
Saturday 14th March 2026

Highfield Campus and
Boldwood Innovation Campus,
Southampton



Book your **FREE** tickets
www.sotsef.co.uk

    #SOTSEF



All new sessions for 2026



Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

EMBRACING AUTISM



Tickets £20
Tea and
coffee
included

A day that focuses on skills and strategies, for parents, carers and professionals supporting a child with Autism.

Topics include:

- Supporting your autistic child to thrive - adapting to meet the needs of the autistic young person and practical strategies.
- Support for SEN in education & what to do if it's not working.
- Supporting Young People to Make Sense of their Experiences - empowering young people and putting them at the centre of their experience - Jess Garner from The Grove Practice is our guest speaker.

GROVE

Discretionary tickets available to families on request.



9 July 2026

Junction Church,
2 Romsey Road,
Eastleigh, SO50 9FE

17 November 2026

Andover Community Church
Charlton Road, Andover
SP10 3JH

For more information scan the QR code or visit:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>



Previous attachment



Next Week at Re:Minds 9-13th of March

Please email info@reminds.org.uk to book a space at one of our advice clinics. Bookings close the day before the clinic

With thanks to:



ADHD Advice Clinic

10am Monday 9th March

About the Clinic

Book a **private, 10 minute virtual appointment** to speak with a clinician about any questions or concerns related to ADHD, pre or post diagnosis.

Appointments will be with **Laura Nisbet, Lead ADHD Nurse from CAMHS.**



To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk




Shentons Solicitors 

SEND Legal Advice Clinic



From 12.30pm Tuesday 10th March

About the Clinic

We are linking with **Shentons Solicitors** to offer **free SEND legal advice clinics** for Re:Minds families. These sessions provide clear guidance and support on issues such as:

- **EHC needs assessments** and how to request one
- **Problems at school related to SEN** (with or without an EHCP)
- **Appeals**, including refusals to assess, refusals to issue a plan, and issues with plan contents or placement
- **Preparing for Tribunal** and gathering evidence of need
- **Issues with provision in an EHCP**, including non-delivery or placement breakdown
- **Annual reviews, statutory timescales, and LA compliance**
- **Health and social care needs linked to EHCPs**
- **Disability discrimination in education**
- **Rights of young people aged 16+** (with capacity) regarding their EHCP

To book your 30 minute advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk




Autism Advice Clinic

10:30am, Tuesday 10th March

About the Clinic

Book a **private, 10 minute virtual appointment** to speak with a clinician about any questions or concerns related to autism, pre or post diagnosis.

The clinic is lead by clinicians from the **Southampton Autism Assessment Service.**



To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk






Southampton Parent Carer Forum invites you to...

SEND Family Fun Day 2026

Tuesday 31st March - 10am to 2pm

For Children and Young People:
Bouncy Castles, face painters
Unicorn, bubbles and lots more ...



For Parent Carers:

Range of **Local offer Service providers** for
advice, ideas and support

Refreshments for all (drinks, fruit, biscuits and ice
cream are all free, there will be a food van with
food for sale)



Southampton Parent
Carer Forum CIC

To register



Oasis Academy Mayfield, Ashley Crescent,
SO19 9NA - Free Parking



For more information
follow us on Facebook



Dates for the Year



SPRING TERM 2026

9 th – 13 th March	:	Assessment Week
18 th – 23 rd March	:	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday, 19 th March	:	Y3 & Y4 joint Ancient Egypt Outcome Afternoon from 2:15pm – 3pm
Tuesday, 24 th March	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 7:00pm not 5T)
Wednesday, 25 th March	:	Parents Evening (3:30pm – 5:00pm)
Friday, 27 th March	:	'Break the Rules' Non-Uniform Day
	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday, 13 th April	:	Summer Term begins
Wednesday, 22 nd April	:	Y6 SATS Parents Evening Event (6:00pm)
Thursday, 23 rd April	:	Spanish Language Day
Friday, 24 th April	:	Disco (5:30pm - 7pm)
Thursday, 30 th April	:	Y3 Hilliers Trip
Monday, 4 th May	:	Bank Holiday
11 th – 14 th May	:	SATs Week (Y6)
Friday, 22 nd May	:	Y6 Careers Fair (pm)
	:	'Break the Rules' Non-Uniform Day
25 th – 29 th May	:	Half Term
Friday, 5 th June	:	Disco (5:30pm – 7pm)
Friday, 19 th June	:	INSET Day
22 nd – 26 th June	:	Assessment Week (Y3 –5)
Monday, 29 th June	:	Year 2 Parents Evening (5:30pm)
Wednesday, 1 st July	:	Transfer Day
Thursday, 2 nd July	:	Y3 & Y4 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day
Friday, 3 rd July	:	Y5 & Y6 (9am – 11:30am) Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day: Mon 6 th July)
Friday, 10 th July	:	Y4 Itchen Valley Teambuilding Day
Friday, 17 th July	:	Year 6 Leavers Prom (6.30pm – 8:30pm)
Monday, 20 th July	:	Y6 Leavers Celebration Event (6:00pm)
Wednesday, 22 nd July	:	End of Term: (3.15pm)

