

# TOWN END JUNIOR SCHOOL



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY  
2026

## Welcome to our January newsletter!



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and have enjoyed time together with family and friends. Thank you again for your support last term. It was incredibly busy and we appreciate your patience and support with all of the events we planned for the children.

We are having a big push, reminding children of our expectations in school linked to school rules, which are:

- We listen and do as we are told the first time.
- We will keep hands and feet to ourselves.
- We speak kindly and politely.
- We walk sensibly and quietly around school.
- We respect school and all belongings.

We will be exploring what this looks like and using our rewards to celebrate those who are always showing our TIBSHELF Values.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any worries, please do not hesitate to contact us either on the gate or via the school office.

Best wishes,

Mr Weston  
(Head of School)



**HAPPY  
2026  
NEW YEAR**

## Reminder: Nut-free school



Please can we remind our families that we are a nut free school. Please can we ask that any snacks and food brought into school does not include any nuts due to pupils in school having severe allergies to these.

Children can bring in a healthy snack for breaktimes (fruit, healthy nut-free bars etc.). We also offer a fruit tuck shop at break - all fruit is sold for 20p.

Thank you for your support.



## Morning Snack

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack into school (fruit, cereal bars, bread sticks etc.) but we ask that all snacks are nut free please. If children do bring in snacks which contain nuts, they will be asked to put them away due to severe allergies.

We also run a fruit tuck shop each morning break - all fruit is 20p. If you would prefer your child to pay for the whole week, they can also pay £1 on a Monday and this will be noted at the tuck shop.

## Mobile Phones



We understand that there may be times your child will need to bring in a mobile phone to school (if walking home etc.) While we strongly encourage children not to, if your child does need to bring their phone into school, this must be handed in and switched off at the start of the school day to their class teacher. They will be locked away and handed out at the end of the day. If your child is bringing in their phone please complete the consent form, which you can get from the office .

As a school, we unfortunately cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones, as school insurance will not cover these items.

## Emotional School Based Avoidance (ESBA) Coffee Morning

Thursday 15th January 2026 9am @ Town End

We are delighted to welcome our Derbyshire inclusion officer, Kelly Turner for a parents/carers coffee morning across the Federation.



Kelly will be discussing way for parents/carers to support children struggling to attend school due to emotional distress or anxiety. If you would like to come please book on via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZTGqfBNAsp>

## Christmas Fayre - Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who visited and supported us during the Christmas Fayre. We were blown away by the enterprise projects created by each class - we certainly have some budding business owners of the future across the school.

The School Council and class projects altogether raised £1665.49 - this is another great boost for the Feel Good Day planned by School Council for the summer term!

## Year 3 and 4 Update

We had such a busy term in both our learning and using up all our creative skills for the run up to Christmas! Last term, we started reading a beloved classic 'The BFG' which we will continue to read in January. This will help us to create our own fictional narratives.

We have explored the use of electricity in the modern age, and have had great fun creating circuits with lightbulbs and buzzers. Under careful guidance, we developed our basic gymnastic skills to explore the skills needed for 'Parkour' where we jumped from different heights, balanced upon different objects, and even moved our bodies around the giant wall bars in the hall.

Our main focus last term was of course 'Camel-ama-ding-dong' where we enjoyed learning more about the nativity in a new, fun way. We hoped you enjoyed the performance as much as we did!

## Year 5 and 6 Update

Last term was a very busy and productive term in Years 5 and 6, and the pupils should feel very proud of the sustained effort that they have put into their work since starting back in September. Over the course of the term, we had been studying the topic 'Britain Since the 1930s', particularly focussing on life in Britain during World War 2. To complement our work on this topic, we read the book 'Goodnight Mr. Tom', based on the experiences of an evacuee named William Beech. It has been great to see the pupils really engaging with the story, with many extending their knowledge by watching the film or reading the book in their own time!

The pupils also deserve praise for their effort levels in the end of term assessments that we completed at the start of December. Many excellent results were achieved, showing just what good progress many of the Year 5 and 6 pupils have made since the start of the school year.

Towards the end of the term, it was lovely to enjoy a number of extra-curricular events, including our P.E. trip to the EIS, the Christmas enterprise fayre and our carol concert in church. Thank you to all that supported our Christmas events; the pupils really benefit from your engagement in such events.

This term, we look forward to starting our new topic, in which we will be focussing on South and Central America, whilst also studying the beliefs, culture and achievements of the ancient Maya civilization.

Thank you again for all of the support that you have given to your child(ren) over the past term. We hope you all a great Christmas and a want to wish you all a happy New Year!

## Rotary Young Writers Competition

The Rotary Club have been in touch with the Junior School to see if any children would like to take part in a writing competition. This is at a local level and winning entries then have the chance to take part in district and then a National final. The task is to produce a handwritten or typed story in prose or poem entitled "Happiness in Nature". This can be interpreted as broadly as the pupil wishes and children are encouraged to use their creativity to show what this theme means to them. It can be non-fiction or fiction and needs to be submitted by mid-February.

Please note:

- Prose entries should be up to a maximum of 550 words
- Poetry entries should be up to a maximum of 40 lines
- No pictures and/or drawings are to be part of the entry
- Entries will not be returned unless specifically requested

If your child would like to get involved, please contact the local rotary club at [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org) or if you have any questions, please email the competitions team at [cometitions@rotarygbi.org](mailto:cometitions@rotarygbi.org)



## PE and Forest School

On PE days, children should come in their PE kit - trainers, black shorts and t shirt that is their house colour (green, red or blue). In colder weather, children may wear black joggers and a plain black hoody.

On Forest School days, children should come in their PE kit, with a suitable pair of shoes and weather appropriate clothes in a bag please.

Days for Forest School and PE are as follows:

Class	PE Day	Forest School Day
Mr Smith	Thursday	Wednesday
Mrs Crabtree/ Miss Birch	Friday	Wednesday
Mrs Hoskyns/ Mr Austin	Friday	Wednesday
Mrs Barett	Monday	Tuesday
Mrs Taylor/ Mr Dovey	Monday	Tuesday
Mr Batchford	Monday	Tuesday



## PE and Forest School

Congratulations to all the children who took part in any sporting events this last term, both in and out of school. Already this year, we have qualified for 2 different district finals. Currently we have had over 40 different children represent Town End at events, where each and everyone of them has shown not only our Tibshelf Values, but the 'School Games' values, in which we still hold the highest level of 'platinum' for. Highlights include children taking part in the dodgeball event, an event allowing children to have a go at boccia and archery, the Y3/4 Sportshall Athletics showcased our (including the staff's) competitive side and the highly popular cross country event where many of our teams have qualified to the next stage.

Within school, congratulations to those Y6s who completed both Level 1 and Level 2 of their Bikeability training. We received excellent reports from the instructors - again representing our school brilliantly.

This term also included our 'Winter Sports Day' held at the EIS Sheffield - well done to all the children who attended in completing not only a sprint down the track, but throwing a javelin across the hall, jumping into a sand pit and for completing the long distance. Special mention to Mr Smith's and Mrs Barrett's class for winning their year group competition.

We look forward to the brighter and warmer days where more events can start to take place.

## Clubs



	Lunch Clubs (No cost for these clubs)	After School Clubs (Paid via School Gateway)
Monday	Glee Club with Mrs Hoskyns (from 12:30) Puzzle Club with Mrs Taylor (from 12:30)	Fitness and Wellbeing Club with Owen (until 4:15) (Starts from 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026)
Tuesday	German Club with Mrs Boswell (from 12:30) Y3/4 Book Worm with Mrs Hodson (from 12:30)	Girls' Football with Owen (until 4:15) (Starts from 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026)
Wednesday	Y5/6 Book Worm with Mrs Hodson (from 12:30) Dance Festival Club with Mrs Barrett (from 12:30)	Cross Country with Mrs Hodson and Mr Smith (until 4:15) (Starts from 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026)
Thursday	Guitar Club with Mr Austin (Class TBC)	Boys' Football with Owen until 4:15 (Starts from 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026)
Friday	Book Swap Shop (Morning break with Mrs Hodson)	No club

## What will my child be learning?

	Maths	English	History/ Geography	Science	RE/ PSHE
Year 3 and 4	We will be learning about multiplication and division and using this to solve area and perimeter problems.	<p>We will be reading The BFG by Roald Dahl and writing newspaper reports.</p> <p>We are also reading: The Poet's dog by Patricia MacLachlan in Guided Reading.</p>	We will begin a new unit learning all about life in Britain during Anglo Saxon and Viking times.	We will be learning about electricity, circuits and electrical safety, before starting our new unit all about Plants.	<p>PSHE: Dreams and Goals.</p> <p>RE: We will explore different festivals.</p>
Year 5 and 6	We will be exploring ratio, algebra and decimals.	<p>We will be reading The Jaguar Stone (Middleworld) by J&amp;P Voelkel</p> <p>We will create diaries and explanation texts.</p> <p>In Guided Reading, we will continue to explore reading strategies in our daily lessons.</p>	We are beginning our new unit exploring what life was like for the Ancient Maya.	We are exploring living things and their habitats as well as exploring ways living things are classified. We will then move on to explore properties of materials.	<p>PSHE: Dreams and Goals.</p> <p>RE: Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?</p>

We have also uploaded long term plans onto the school website, where you will be able to see your child's learning during their time here at Town End.

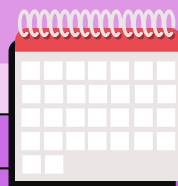
To access this, please follow [this link](#).





# Upcoming Dates and Events

DATES IN RED ARE DATES WHERE PARENTS ARE INVITED INTO SCHOOL.



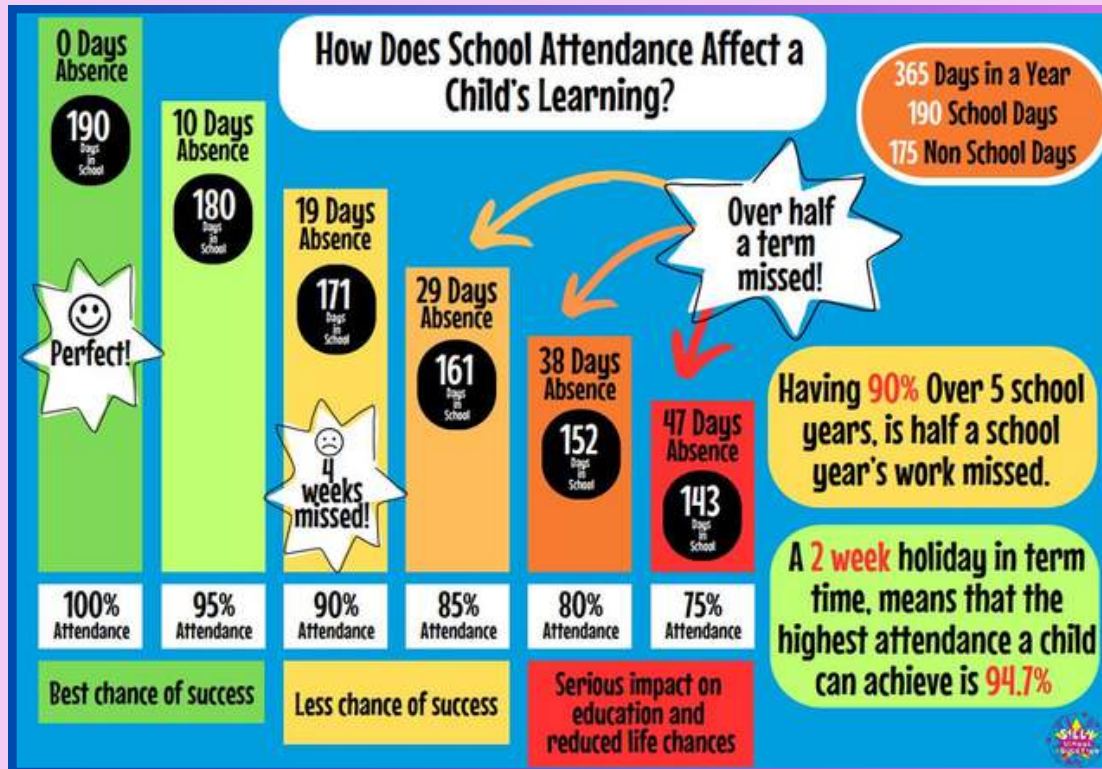
Date	Event
<b>Spring Term 1 2026</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Children back to school.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5 Start Find Your 60 Programme with Sports PARTnership.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent Coffee Morning - Emotional school Based Avoidance with Derbyshire Inclusion Team
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Mr Smith's Class Parent/Carer Dinner
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Glee Club to Perform at Warm Bank
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics (info to follow for those involved)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	SMILERS Ambassadors Training
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term at 3:15
<b>Spring Term 2 2026</b>	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children back to school
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Cross Country County Finals (info to follow for those involved)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/6 Indoor Rowing Competition (info to follow for those involved)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	INSET Day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs Barrett's Class Parent/Carer Dinner
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter at 3:15
<b>Summer Term 1 2026</b>	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Children back to school.
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parent Coffee Morning - Sensory Processing with Derbyshire Inclusion Team
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS Assessment Week
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs Taylor and Mr Dovey's Class Parent/Carer Dinner
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET Day and Break up for half term.
<b>Summer Term 2 2026</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	INSET Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children back to school
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent Coffee Morning - Anxiety and Transitions with the Early Help Team
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Mr Batchford's Class Parent/Carer Dinner
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Transition Days at Tibshelf Community School
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Feel Good Day
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day (to be confirmed closer to the time) and Summer Fair (at Infants)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (time TBC)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break up for Summer at 3:15



## Attendance



The gates are open from 8:35-8:45 each morning. Children go straight into class and begin their learning. Late arrivals can cause worries and anxiety for children when entering the classroom when their friends and classmates are already learning. If you need any support with this, please speak to Mrs Hodson, Mr Weston or the School Office.



## Safeguarding



Safeguarding is given the highest priority at Tibshelf Schools Federation.

During term time, you can speak to a member of our safeguarding team by calling the office or speaking to us at drop off or collection. You can also email us on [safeguarding@townend.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@townend.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Our Safeguarding Team is: Mr Weston, Mrs Boswell, Mrs Hodson, Mrs Crabtree or Chris.

If you have any concerns out of school hours, you can contact Derbyshire County Council's Child Protection department on 01629 533190 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

### What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half a billion children in the USA play it. Roblox offers a huge amount of freedom to its players to create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games which can then be shared with other players. Roblox is a 'sandbox' game, meaning that players can think and enjoy a typical 'sandbox' game.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including in group chat facilities). This could expose children to chat with strangers, online predators, harassment, griefing and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect. Players can still send harmful messages to others – such as sexual, racist or abusive – and predators can teach out to children directly.
- PUBLIC SERVERS**  
Roblox has private or VIP servers with no chat, but any user can join these servers. These servers are often used by public servers that anyone can join. Players can have fun, but there is a risk of contact with strangers, harassment, and predators. Roblox also has a 'Report' button, but this is not always used, and it can be difficult to get a response.
- ONLINE DATING**  
Roblox is also called 'Roblox' and is often used as a dating site. Roblox is an online game where you can meet other players and chat with them. Roblox is a social game, and it's easy to meet other players. Roblox is a social game, and it's easy to meet other players. Roblox is a social game, and it's easy to meet other players.
- IN-APP PURCHASES**  
Roblox is a game where you can buy and sell virtual items. Roblox is a game where you can buy and sell virtual items. Roblox is a game where you can buy and sell virtual items. Roblox is a game where you can buy and sell virtual items.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

- SET PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Roblox has several parental control options, which are explained in the game's help page. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as this will determine what features are available to them. Roblox also has a 'Report' button, but this is not always used, and it can be difficult to get a response.
- DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING**  
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – predators, scammers, and more. The game allows you to disable private messaging from anyone who isn't a friend on your child's account.
- PRIVATE SERVERS**  
If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox with, they can create a private server. This is a good way to ensure that your child is only playing with people they know and trust. Roblox is a social game, and it's easy to meet other players.
- MONITOR SPENDING**  
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a significant amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.
- DEALING WITH STRANGERS**  
At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are harassing them or asking inappropriate questions. Talking to them about what a 'OK to discuss' and what they should never tell a stranger online – and help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Chris Goshall is a former police officer and worked on an urban and rural team in the gaming industry. He has been working with schools and parents on gaming safety for many years. He is the author of 'Gaming Safety' and 'Gaming Safety'.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety