

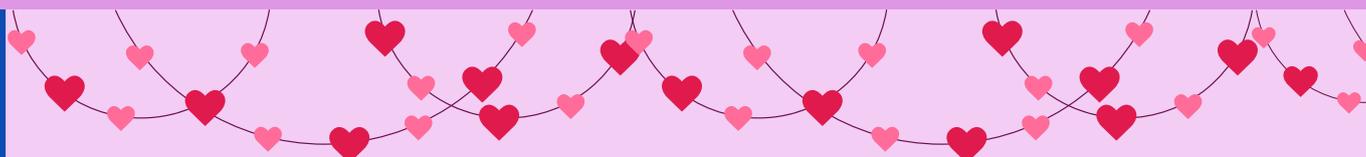
# TOWN END JUNIOR SCHOOL



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY  
2026

## Welcome to our February newsletter!



Another half term has flown by. The children have been brilliant and we have been impressed with the progress they have been making across the curriculum. I have been particularly impressed with the fantastic examples of writing that have been shown to me!

As you may already know, I will be going on Parental Leave from the end of this half term, and will be back just before the Summer Break. Mr Smith will be taking on additional responsibilities at Town End, and Mrs Boswell will also be spending a little more time here too in my absence. Thank you for the well wishes - it is really appreciated.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Mr Austin and his partner, on the birth of their little boy, Freddie! He has been out of school on leave, spending time with his family, and will be back as normal after the half term break

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. Have a wonderful, restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, at 8:35.

Best wishes,

Mr Weston  
(Head of School)



## 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.



We continue to have some children who bring in snacks and spreads which include nut products which causes potential significant health issues for the children with allergies in school.

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 in School

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 switched off and handed in 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.

## PE and Forest School Days



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 Barrett	Monday	Tuesday
Mrs Taylor/ Mr Dovey	Monday	Tuesday
Mr Batchford	Monday	Tuesday



## Year 3 and 4 Update

In our Art lessons this half term, we have been creating our own pieces of jewellery and sculptures out of clay. We used different tools and moulding techniques to create our own creations - they turned out great.

In English, we have been reading the BFG. We have explored the characters and created our own versions of the story in the fantasy setting. We treated the whole year group to the film version too at the end of term as a treat for the children's hard work. We will begin exploring the story Friendleswylde, where we will explore the stories and create our own.

The children have loved finding out about life in Saxon and Viking Britain. We have made comparisons between the different periods in history and found out all about the struggle for power between these groups of people.

Well done everyone for their hard work this term - we are so proud of you all and we look forward to our new learning after the half term break.

## Year 5 and 6 Update



It has been a busy term again in Years 5 and 6, with the pupils immersing themselves in the 'Ancient Maya' topic and enjoying the novel *The Jaguar Stones: Middleworld*, a book based on the adventures of Max, the son of two archaeologists, who finds himself having to solve some of the mysteries of the Ancient Maya whilst searching for his parents in the forests of Central America. There is still lots to look forward to next term, as we will continue reading the book and studying the Ancient Maya until Easter. The pupils have also been busy in other areas of the curriculum, with many enjoying the Design and Technology 'Bridges' unit at the end of the term. It was great to see pupils supporting each other in their work, and the children all took on board a good understanding of the level of precision and accuracy that needs to be shown in such construction projects, with some incredible outcomes! Finally, it has been really pleasing this term to see many pupils putting extra work in at home to build on their learning in Maths and English. With the SATs tests not far away now for the Year 6s, every bit of revision that is done at home has a really positive impact on the outcomes of the pupils, so well done for those taking responsibility for their learning and putting this extra time in. Have a lovely half term break, and we look forward to starting again in the new term.

## PE Update



This term our Year 5/6 athletics team put on a fantastic display at the annual Sports Hall Athletics Tournament. Competing in a range of track and field events—including obstacle relays, speed bounce, chest push, and long jump—the team showed brilliant determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event. Their hard work paid off as they secured a spot in the County Final! This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the effort they put into training. We're incredibly proud of every athlete who represented the school, encompassing all of our school values - we can't wait to cheer them on in the next round. Also this half-term, some of our year 5 pupils took part in the Find Your 60 initiative run by BDASN, encouraging children to achieve 60 minutes of physical activity each day and make healthier choices. The initiative ended with a make-your-own smoothie session! Pupils blended together fruit, juice, and plenty of enthusiasm to create colourful, healthy drinks. The remainder of year 5 will be taking part in Find Your 60 after half term!



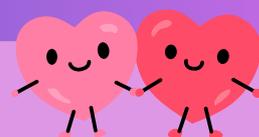
## Forest School

In Forest School, we have continued our work to develop the outdoor area. We have been gifted different materials to help develop a sensory area. Thank you to Bolsover District Council for donating wood chip as part of this.

We have also recently secured a shed to use as part of our Forest School provision. Thank you to Allie and Ami and their families for giving up their time to put it together.

We have also been donated a fantastic Mud Kitchen for the children to use from a local resident. The children are already very eager to get using it! If you have any spare pots and pans for this, they will be greatly received! Thank you!

## Feel Good Day Fundraising Update



School Council have been working hard with Mrs Hodson to raise money for our whole school Feel Good Day. They have run another successful event - our Valentine's Day Shop. The children have loved selecting a special present for their families. Thank you once again for all of your support - every penny we raise will go towards amazing experiences for all of our children.

Mrs Hodson will be sending out a School Council Newsletter shortly with an update on upcoming events and the total raised so far.



## Clubs

	Lunch Clubs (No cost for these clubs)	After School Clubs (Paid via School Gateway)
Monday	Origami Club with Mr Batchford (from 12:30)	Fitness and Wellbeing Club with Owen (until 4:15)
Tuesday	Y3/4 Book Worm with Mrs Hodson (from 12:30)	Girls' Football with Owen (until 4:15)
Wednesday	Y5/6 Book Worm with Mrs Hodson (from 12:30) Cross Stitch with Miss Birch (from 12:30)	Cross Country with Mrs Hodson and Mr Smith (until 4:15)
Thursday	Guitar Club with Mr Austin (Class TBC) German Club with Mrs Boswell (from 12:30)	Boys' Football with Owen until 4:15
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 fractions and decimals.	We will be reading Frindleswylde by Natalia and Lauren O'Hara  We are also reading: Earth Shattering Events by Robin Jacobs.	We will begin a new unit learning all about Mountains, how they are formed and locations in the UK and around the world.	We will be learning about animals including humans.	PSHE: Healthy Me.  RE: Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
Year 5 and 6	We will be exploring shape, statistics and area.	We will be reading The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein  We will create biographies and recounts.  In Guided Reading, we will continue to explore reading strategies in our daily lessons.	We are beginning our new unit exploring and making comparison between the UK and South America.	We will explore properties of materials.	PSHE: Healthy Me  RE: Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?

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.

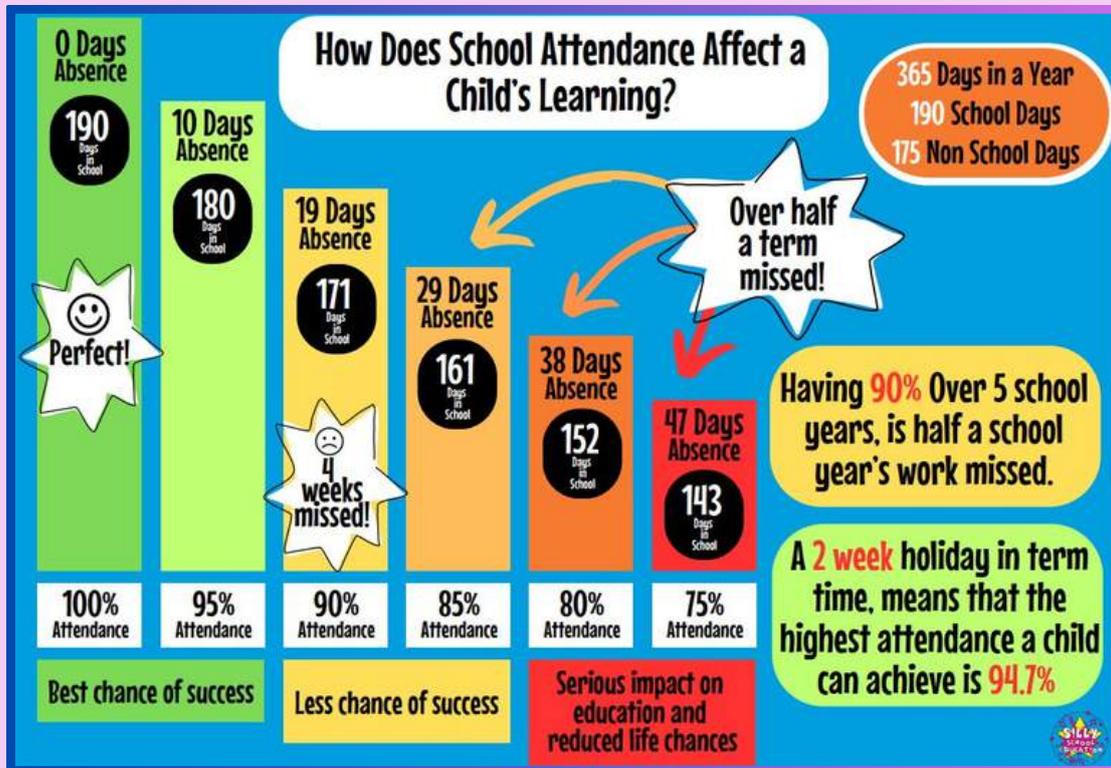


Date	Event
<b>Spring Term 1 2026</b>	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term at 3:15
<b>Spring Term 2 2026</b>	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children back to school
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Cross Country County Finals (info to follow for those involved)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/6 Indoor Rowing Competition (info to follow for those involved)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	INSET Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 Bowling Event (info to follow for those involved)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Dance Festival (info to follow for those involved)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	School Council to Blackwell Primary for network event.
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 Tag Rugby (info to follow for those involved)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Performance at 2:00 (for those families with children having lessons)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3/4 Tag Rugby (info to follow for those involved)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs Barrett's Class Parent/Carer Dinner
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Swimming Gala (info to follow for those involved)
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 Smith 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

Our Safeguarding Team is: Mrs Boswell, Mr Smith, Mrs Hodson, Mrs Crabtree and 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.

## ONLINE CONTENT

### 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**  
Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**  
Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- CHECK AGE-RATINGS**  
Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.
- CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- SPEND TIME ON THE APP**  
Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**  
Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**  
Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**  
Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**  
If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**  
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.