

Town Junior School

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Dear Parents / Carers

Our World Book Day celebrations were a great success with children looking at a wide selection of 'Classics' from William Wordsworth's 'Daffodils' poem through to Aesop's Fable of the Hare and the Tortoise. A large part of the day was spent reading through and gaining pleasure from them.

Our new Reading Challenges link in with this and have been received with great excitement in school. We have spent some time with the children answering all their questions so that they are clear on how to achieve their reading awards. The following points have been highlighted:

- Only 1 book can be used to record each target – therefore at least 20 books need to be read for each Challenge.
- The name of the book needs to be recorded on the Challenge Card against each activity.
- Parents are being asked to support this by signing the Challenge Card as each book is read.
- The children do not need to read the whole book whilst completing the activity i.e. if the challenge is to read a book during a meal then this would take place during one meal and then the rest of the book can be read 'normally'.
- The books the children are reading for the activities all need to be of a similar standard and level of challenge.
- When the children bring their Challenge Cards to the office to receive their awards they will need to be able to discuss the books they have read.
- The Reading Challenge Cards need to be brought into school once a week on a day decided by each class teacher.

If you have any further queries, then please speak to the Class Teacher. We look forward to hearing about the books your children are reading.

Kind Regards



Mrs A Smith
Headteacher

Fond Farewell to Miss Chelsea Eccleston

Miss Eccleston who has worked at Town School since October 2017. She has worked as a Lunchtime Supervisor and as a Support Worker in Year 5. We thank her for her hard work and wish her every success for the future.

Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust - Uniform Grant Form

The school has now received the Uniform Grant forms; if you are a resident of Sutton Coldfield in one of the following wards: New Hall, Vesey, Trinity or Four Oaks and are in receipt of one of the following benefits: Income support, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, State Pension Credit or Employment & Support Allowance please ask in the office for an Application Form.



Upcoming Events

13th March

Y4 Synagogue visit

14th March

Y6 Mosque Visit

15th March

Red Nose Day – wear something red

25th & 26th March

Mystery Book Hunt

27th March

Y5 Space Centre visit
Y3 visit to Baptist Church

1st April

Y4 Mother's Day Workshop & Lunch

2nd April

Y3 Mother's Day Workshop & Lunch

3rd April

Y5 Mother's Day Workshop & Lunch – **note change of date**

4th April

Y6 Mother's Day workshop & Lunch

4th April

3.30 SATS Parents Meeting

11th April

9.05 Spring Festival – Beavers, Swallows, Meteors

11th April

Draw for Spring Raffle

11th April

3.25 children finish for Easter Holiday

12th April

Teacher Training Day

29th April

School resumes for children and staff.

New supplier Town Junior uniform

We are happy to inform you that there is another store where parents can purchase Town Junior School uniform, Trutex a store which is based in Erdington. They now have our uniform in stock.

There is 10% off your first order valid until 31/3/19 using the attached poster.

The Great Mystery Book Hunt

Please see attached flyer. The children will need to bring in £2.50 in a named envelope to the office to participate in the hunt which is being held on 25th & 26th March. All money raised is for School fund.



Y4 synagogue trip – Wednesday 13th March

There will be 2 visits; Swallows will go at 9.15am and return in time for lunch and Martins will go at 12.15 (after an early lunch) and return in time for normal collection. The children need to have their heads covered when entering the Synagogue. School will provide scarfs for the girls and we request that the boys bring in a baseball type cap. Please ensure you have returned the consent and medical forms and paid for the trip via your ParentPay account.

Y6 trip to Ghamkol Sharif Mosque – 14th March

The children will leave school at 9.30am and will return in time for normal collection. Please ensure you have returned the consent and medical forms sent out on 14th January and paid £5 per child on to your ParentPay account to cover the cost of the travel. The children need to have their heads covered when entering the Mosque. School will provide scarfs for the girls and we request that the boys bring in a baseball type cap. The children will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Red Nose day

This year Red Nose day is on Friday 15th March. Please send your child in wearing something red and £1 donation to this worthwhile charity.



Y5 space centre - Wednesday 27th March

The children will be leaving school at 8.50am and will arrive back in school for the end of the school day. Please ensure you have returned your consent and medical form and paid £14 via Parent Pay.

Girls football tournament

Seven children from Years 4, 5 & 6 have been invited to compete at Erdington Academy on Tuesday 19th March. Letters have been sent home. Girls that have successfully secured a place have been notified.

Toast Money

Please be aware that the cost of toast and crumpets in the canteen has increased from 20p to 30p effective from 11th March. Also, the cost of the cuplets of orange juice have increased to 40p and the larger cartons to 50p.

Spring Festival – 11th April

Children from Beavers, Swallows and Meteors will be taking part. I would like to invite as many parents, carers and family members from these classes to attend as possible. The theme for this year is Spring as a Time for Change and Development and we are supporting the Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue Centre in Four Oaks by asking for a donation of a tin of dog or cat food.

MAGIC MOMENTS

Stardust Dance Assembly

Every Tuesday morning children in Town School have Dance Classes in the hall with Beccy. They learn new dances every half term and show the dances to the school in assembly. The children come in their own clothes and get dressed for school afterwards. Boys and girls can join from Years 3 – 6. We really want people to join the classes to have the opportunity of learning a new skill. Beccy also does a Gymnastics Class after school which children can join in with and really enjoy. By Jacey & Emilia Y5

World Book Day

For World Book Day each class had a different topic to focus on. Y3 Beavers had the Hare and the Tortoise by Aesop. Each class did some art and some writing. In art we used ink and pens to draw pictures of Hares and Tortoises. We did beautiful designs. In English we wrote a story relating to the book. After we finished our work we did an assembly to show all our work to the rest of the school. People from different classes showed some of their artwork. By Molly, May & Ruby Y3



Mother's Day Lunches

All Mother's, Aunties and Grans are invited to our Mother's Day Lunches; these will be held week commencing 1st April for the following year groups.



Y4 on Monday 1st April - 10.45 workshop - 12.00 lunch

Y3 on Tuesday 2nd April - 10.45 workshop - 12.00 lunch

Y5 on Wednesday 3rd April – 10.45 workshop – 12.00 lunch – changed date due to high demand

Y6 on Thursday 4th April - 10.45 workshop - 12.00 lunch

Please look out for the letter, which will be coming home soon, to book your place.

Please note due to Y5 Mother's Day lunch being held on Wednesday, we have moved Pizza day to Friday therefore the kitchen will sell pizza instead of hotdogs.

Plantsbrook School Admission's Policy

For 2020 Year 7 admissions, Plantsbrook School have made the decision to change the criteria. This will mean that parents of Town School children that choose Plantsbrook School as a first choice will secure a place at Plantsbrook School even if they live outside Plantsbrook School catchment area

World Book Day

On World Book Day everybody in school dressed up as a classic, well known book character; including some of the teachers. There was a teacher dressed as Mary Poppins. I (Mary-Kay) dressed up as Tracy Beaker a book by Jacqueline Wilson and Emily dressed up as Little Miss Sunshine by Roger Hargreaves. Our teacher Miss Evans was Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. In the morning Miss Evans revealed our classic book to focus on was The Hobbit. Then we went outside for a picture. We watched a video of The Hobbit's house and garden. We then wrote an amazing setting description about it. Just before lunch we did some guided reading about when the hobbit was on a cliff with the Goblins. After lunch Miss Evans set up for an art lesson. We looked at some pictures of the Hobbits house again for inspiration. When we were doing our pictures, we sketched it all out first and then we shaded it with chalks. We did the house very well. After Art we went into an assembly about what everyone else had done, and we sang a World Book Day song.

By Mary-Kay and Emily Y5

Safeguarding Article

Extremism and Radicalisation of young people

Radicalisation is a process when an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.



Spotting signs and getting help

Radicalisation can be really difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem or be victims of bullying or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.

MAGIC MOMENTS

Boldmere Football Match

During our away match against Boldmere School we were the better side. We had many chances in the first half but unfortunately, we didn't score. Around 10 minutes in they scored a lucky goal. This was the goal that won them the match. We thrived through the second half but upsettingly didn't score. The full-time score was Town 0 - Boldmere 1.
By Jack & Joab

McDonald's SATS Reward Trip

Some of the Year 6 children went to McDonalds. The children had to attend 12 out of 15 sessions. The reward was a breakfast trip to McDonalds. 31 of us really enjoyed it!
By Alex Y6

Word of the Month

Isaac from Y3 wrote the following sentence containing the word of the month which was 'ferocious'
'Last night a ferocious, life threatening tropical storm named storm Eric battered the coast of England.
Well Done Isaac!



However, these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong. If you notice any change in a child's behaviour and you're worried, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5000

Talking about terrorism: tips for parents

Children are exposed to news in many ways, and what they see can worry them. Our advice can help you have a conversation with your child:

- listen carefully to a child's fears and worries
- offer reassurance and comfort
- avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- help them find advice and support to understand distressing events and feelings
- children can always contact Childline free and confidentially on the phone and online.
- **This advice was taken from the NSPCC website. For further information and video clips please click on the following links.**
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>
- <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world>

School Improvements in the last fortnight

During the last two weeks, the following activities have been undertaken:

School Improvements

- Mrs Gilmour met with Ms Orchard (PBS) to discuss safeguarding across the Trust.
- Mrs Smith & Mrs Gilmour have undertaken monitoring in Y5 & Y4 looking at challenge for more able pupils along with the use of vocabulary to extent learning.
- Mr Penhall & Miss Powis attended a tag rugby training session led by Kingsbury Sports Partnership.
- Mrs Thomson undertook a Science book look focusing on scientific vocabulary being used by the children in their work & how the more able children are being challenged.
- Mrs Smith, Mr McNab & Mr Miles (Governor) attended the PLT Health & Safety meeting.
- A fire drill for the whole school & then Kingfishers was carried out successfully.
- All teachers attended the annual asthma & allergies medical training update.
- Mrs Smith attended the Sutton Head Teacher briefing looking at the termly update of all new developments connected to the DfE, OFSTED, SATs and safeguarding.
- Mrs Smith & Mrs Gilmour met with Mrs Bradford & Mrs Budden to discuss a range of topics which are pertinent to both schools.
- Mrs Smith met with Mr McNab to discuss health & safety along with general repairs & maintenance of the site.
- Mrs Gilmour met with Mrs Watkiss (Governor) for their termly Safeguarding meeting.
- Seven members of staff undertook a diabetes medical training update.
- Mrs Smith & Mrs Gilmour undertook a Personal, Health, Social Education (PHSE) book look focusing on the vocabulary being used by the children in their work & how more able children are being challenged.
- All teachers visited Holland House to discuss curriculum overviews across both schools.
- Mrs Thomson & Mr Penhall joined with Little Sutton staff to access Maths Mastery training led by Helen Hackett, from the Birmingham Maths Hub.
- Mrs Dovey attended her SENCo course at Birmingham University.
- Miss Rodgers & Helen Hackett undertook a whole school review of Maths Mastery. They visited each class to observe the teaching & learning whilst speaking to the children. They finished by looking at a selection of books from each class.
- Mrs Smith, Mrs Gilmour & Miss Rodgers attended the Local Governing Body meeting. Mrs Millidge led an open session for Governors focusing on the strategies the school is putting in place to promote reading.
- Mrs Smith met with the supervisors from Wolverhampton City Council, who have taken over the cleaning contract for the Trust, to discuss the quality of the service.