

GEORGE TOMLINSON NEWS

Dear parents and carers,

We've had a great week at GT and much has been achieved!

On Tuesday we held a PTFA meeting in the hall which was well attended. If you would like to help support the school with fundraising and make connections with other families in to the bargain then please come along! Even if you can't offer much time, just spreading the word amongst the community would be greatly appreciated.

On Thursday evening we welcomed you to our vision launch night. It was wonderful to see so many of you here to help us celebrate our vision and this new chapter in the life of the school community. Our vision was created by canvassing the views of pupils, staff, governors and parents so that all stakeholders had a say in our direction. Thank you to the PTFA for organising the drinks and snacks! Huge thanks to Iris, Ben, Rachel and Jayda-Lee who created their own vision video for us! Also thanks to Mr Green for composing the vision song and to Eilidh, Kiarnah, Finegan and Emmanuel for performing it! Also well done to Aneurin and Sam who introduced the evening so professionally!

We are very excited about the future of our school and what we can achieve together as a community.

This week we have started 'Philosophy 4 Children' in classes. The half hour slot will take place in class assembly slot and is an opportunity to develop children's higher level thinking skills and questioning. We encourage you to ask your children about this at home.

We saw some fantastic history teaching this week in year 6 where 6AC were learning about the causes of the First World War. Hearing children discussing imperialism, militarism and other very high quality historical language was a real joy and alongside their learning of First World War poetry, it looks to be a fantastic topic.

We have seen some superb home school projects which were completed over the school holiday this week. We saw a video on Greek mythology produced by Sana in Y5 which we shared at the KS2 assembly. It was brilliantly written and very informative. I think the children who watched it were inspired and we will put this on our school website. We've also seen some excellent Tudor houses being brought in! Well done to all children. We have responded to parents' requests to have structured homework by sending home a leaflet which explains our expectations for each year group. All leaflets and letters can be requested from the office should you not have received one.

If your child would like to take our rabbits or guinea pigs home for a weekend please ask the office who will book you in. All food and straw is provided.

Our GTTV sports update will be on our website today for you to review also.

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your families!

Verity Carter

Headteacher



Verity Carter
Headteacher



Matthew Laban
Associate Head



Chloe Alder
Deputy Headteacher

Weekly Events

Whole school star of the week assembly –
Every Friday at 9am

Head Teacher Drop in – Every Wednesday
9:15am-11am

Upcoming dates

Wednesday 18th January – School Nurse
Drop-In 9am – 10am

Thursday 19th January – Nursery Family
Parent Reading Workshop: Times stated in
letter from Nursery

Thursday 19th January – Reading
Workshop for Reception Parents 3:30pm –
4pm (crèche provided)

Writers of the week & Reading Rocket Winners & Sports Stars!

Congratulations and well done to this week's WRITER'S OF THE WEEK.

Ruqayya 3MP, Maja 6AK, Khalil 1JK, Omolara 1CH, Alex 2AK, Rachel 6AC, Billy 3AC, Jashn 4JT, Abdullah 3MJ, Liam 5SK & Nafio 4DN

Congratulations and well done to this week's READING ROCKET WINNERS.

Jack 3MP, Mariam 1JK, Joseph 1CH, Louis 2AK, Ahnaf 6AC, Sarah 3AC, Anas 4JT. Andreja 3MJ & Haajira 4DN

Congratulations and well done to this week's SPORTS STARS OF THE WEEK

Phase 1

Alissa 1JK & Fred 1GB

Phase 2

Alfie 4DN & Scarlett 6AK

EYFS

Amand RLS & Vanessa RJM

Stars of the Week!

Congratulations and well done to this week's STARS OF THE WEEK!



Mobeen, Avant, Ben 6AS, Jack 6AK, Bigos 6AC, Rio 2NV, Mahek 2AK, Nicole 2GB, Audrey 4PC, Andrei 4DN, Tomas 3MP

Class Corner – 4DN

The start of 2017 has been filled with lots of different and exciting new things at school! We have begun to do our Daily Mile which is a 15 minute walk around the playground every day. After only a week, we can already feel a difference in our recovery times and we have noticed that we can complete more laps of the playground than ever before. Who knows, by the end of term we might even be able to run our Daily Mile like Mo Farrah!

We all brought back our Anglo Saxon homework projects after the holiday and each gave the class a presentation about which project we chose to do, what type of work was involved and how interesting it was to complete. As we are such a creative class, our projects ranged from writing short stories to creating information texts, designing board games to inventing forest games, making models of swords and shields and creating roundhouses and huts. Some children even tried some Anglo Saxon cake and biscuit baking. (Apparently the food was fun to make but not very nice to eat!)

Here are some of our projects:



We are looking forward to the rest of Spring term!

Miss Nicholas

Notices



Attendance Awards

Well done to the following classes for fabulous attendance this week!

1st Place 2AK & 6AC 100%

2nd Place 3AC 97.5%

3rd Place 2GB 96.8%



Punctuality Award

Well done to **3MJ** for exceptional punctuality this week and all children arriving on time for school!

Attendance

As a school community we need to focus on our pupils' attendance and punctuality. Children who repeatedly miss days suffer academically and socially in school. We understand that if children are genuinely unwell they need to stay at home but are concerned about the persistent absence and punctuality of some children.

Holiday requests

George Tomlinson Primary School operates the DfE zero tolerance approach to extended holidays and notifies parents/carers of this so that they can make informed decision about removing children from school for this reason.

We refer children with unauthorised extended holiday absence to the local authority who arranges for fixed penalty fines to be issued. Currently the fine is £120 per child for each parent. If this is paid within 14 days the fine is reduced by 50%. Our intention in issuing fines is to emphasise the importance and negative impact on children's progress and achievement caused by extended periods of absence.

Lateness

The morning bell rings at 8.45am to indicate that lesson time is beginning. Pupils should be on the playground at least 5 minutes before bell time so that they can enter school calmly with their class and organise themselves ready for the first lesson. All lateness is recorded and lateness after the registers close is marked as absence. If a pupil regularly arrives late for school we monitor and offer support to develop strategies to improve their punctuality.

Daily Mile - Update from Year 6:

"Year 6 are really enjoying the daily mile. It is helping to build their stamina and the children have said it is helping them to focus more in the afternoon. They look forward to it everyday and it is a great tool to help them challenge themselves!" - Ms Shah 6AS

Year 6 are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to take part in the Daily Mile, all children are participating well and are finding that they are energized and ready for their afternoon lessons! - Ms Chambers 6AC

Sports news

We have had an action packed sport filled week with our Spring 1 clubs starting and the daily mile. Over the coming weeks we have a number of sports events and competitions which we look forward to; Netball, Tag Rugby, Gymnastics, football finals.

We wish our girls and boys football team lots of luck for their football finals.

Sports Team



E-Safety & Monitoring at home

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you to express my concern about our pupils' use of social media applications such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, usually on their mobile phones. As an example, it has been brought to my attention that some children are experiencing bullying and receiving abusive messages on WhatsApp. As a school we cannot police how children use their phones or computers at home.

I want to request that you speak to your children about the seriousness of sending unpleasant messages online and the effect that it can have on others. I'd also urge you to be aware of what is on your child's phone and make sure that they tell you if they receive anything that makes them feel upset.

At our school, we teach children about the importance of being safe online so that they will have the tools to know what is and isn't acceptable. The way that children use social media is changing quickly and we need to work together with parents to protect them.

As a school we take bullying incredibly seriously and want all children to feel safe and happy. My hope is that we can work together on this to make sure that social media is only used in a positive way and brings benefits to our pupils.

Please see below link for a recent Facebook page for Parents providing information on cyber bullying.

<https://www.facebook.com/safety/bullying/parents>

We would to thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

Kind regards,

Verity Carter
Headteacher