

# Totley Times



## EaStEr

FEATURE

### Spotlight on Science!



British Science Week provides us with an annual opportunity to shine the spotlight on science and do all that we can to bring the subject to life! This year, we worked alongside a fantastic external partner, Sparkling STEM, who ran a host of biology workshops in school to enhance our science curriculum. Children of all ages experienced carefully tailored sessions which allowed them to get 'hands on' in their learning. Our Y1 children, for example, made close observations by carefully using magnifying glasses, field lenses and microscopes to examine the microhabitats in pond water and moss. Our Y6 children, meanwhile, considered the adaptations of different animals, including a live corn snake!

There is currently a much needed national and international drive to support more women and girls to take up STEM subjects and careers. With this in mind, we organised for our Y6 girls to take part in a physics workshop at St Anselm's School in Bakewell. Working in teams alongside St Anselm's students, they had the opportunity to learn about, design, make and race rocket powered cars. The fastest vehicle reached an impressive speed of 71 kph and reassured us that the future of automotive engineering is in safe hands!



DIARY DATES

#### March Dates

**Fri 10th** - Y4/Y6 trip to Halle Orchestra

**Mon 13th** - Y6 Dance Event—Winding Wheel

**Fri 17th** - Red Nose Day

**Tue 21st** - FS2 trip to Ecclesall Woods

**Wed 22nd** - Y5D Handball trip—Graves

**We 22nd / Thu 23rd / Tue 28th** - Spring parent / carer consultation meetings

**Thu 23rd** - Y6 Gym squad competition / Y5 trip to Longshaw Estate - river study

**Fri 24th** - Fundraising club bake sale after school

**Sat 25th** - Cross Country Squad relays - Castle Dyke

**Mon 27th** - Y6 watch KES production of Matilda

**Tue 30th** - Climbing squad in city finals

**Fri 31st** - Easter assemblies in church (sorry, no room for visitors).

**April 3rd - 14th: EASTER BREAK**

**Thu 20th** - Learn to Ride cycle sessions

**Fri 28th - Sun 30th** - Y4 Kingswood Trip Peak Venture, Penistone





# SPORTS AND CLUBS



## Climbing squad hit new heights!

Congratulations to our Y5 and Y6 climbing team, who performed brilliantly in the heats of this year's Sheffield School's competition to make it into the top 10 out of almost 40 participating schools. The top 6 of our climbers have been invited to the city finals, which will take place at the Climbing Works towards the end of March. We wish them all the best!

## Healthy competition

You will see that the diary continues to be busy with opportunities for children to compete against other schools in a range of different sports and physical activities. While it is important that we have an inclusive approach wherever possible, we also value the role of healthy competition in children's appreciation of how to win and lose in the right way and in developing resilience, fair play and team spirit.

### Goodbye and Thank you Miss Smith!



Miss Smith, whose main role in school is to provide Teaching Assistant support in Y2F, will sadly be leaving at Easter, to

pursue an exciting career in social care. We have been lucky to have had Miss Smith for as part

of our staff team on and off for the past 7 years, during which time she completed her degree. We know she will be fantastic in her new role but we will really miss her as she has been a brilliant member of our team. Good luck and thank you for all of your dedication and hard work!



### Change of Chair - Totley Primary Governing Body

Alex Munro, who has been our Chair of Governor's for the past 5 years, will shortly step down from this role, although I am very glad to say that he will remain on the board as a Parent Governor for the time being.

Mr Munro has led a dynamic and hardworking team of governors throughout his time as chair, who have provided extremely high standards of challenge and support for school leaders. Personally, I feel incredibly lucky to have had Mr Munro by my side as I took on the substantive headship of the school in 2018. Moreover, the positive support that he provided for me and the staff team during the COVID pandemic was amazing and certainly something I won't ever forget. An enormous thank for your immense commitment, good humour and loyalty to the school!



### Red Nose Day

A reminder that the 17th March is Red Nose Day. £1 donations via ParentPay are invited for children to dress as superheroes (either in costume or dressing down in disguise!). Miss Dewsbury and the Curbar House Captains are doing a great job of putting together a rib-tickling book of jokes submitted by the children. Again, this can be purchased via ParentPay for 50p.

### Chess Success

Our Monday morning KS2 chess club remains very popular and is resulting in players developing high levels of skill! The Totle Chess Tournament is now at the semi-final stage and is being closely fought. Special congratulations to Freddie in Y4, who has been selected to play for Yorkshire!

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Cross Country Season Finale

Thank you to all of the children who have been part of this season's cross country squad and to Mr Anderson for leading our efforts again this year. Best of luck to the children as they head into the final race of the season at Castle Dyke on the 25th March!

### Student Placement

Thank you to Miss Hunt, who is working very hard this term to complete a successful teaching placement in Y2B. We wish her all the best as she leaves us to complete her final placement next term at another school.



### Message from Mr Paxman

The last few weeks of the Spring term and the build up to Easter time is always a highlight of the school year. The flowers around the school grounds (and now the newly planted raised beds of our Green Team!) remind us that the coldest months are behind us (despite the recent icy blast) and that Spring has truly Sprung. This is reinforced by the celebrated Totle traditions of our annual decorated egg and egg rolling competitions, along with the PTA's Easter Egg Hunt! The ongoing support of our fantastic PTA continues to offer constant benefits to our children - the latest example being the funding of the transport for our Y4 / Y6 Halle Orchestra trip.

The staff and children have worked extremely hard this term and it has been very rewarding to see children flourishing academically and in their personal development. They will certainly be ready for a break in the first half of April and I wish you all the best for a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break!