

Totley Times



MARCH

FEATURE

Building a Reading Culture



World Book Day 2022 certainly feels like a very special event in school, having missed out on the experience in 2021 due to the Winter lockdown. However, while dressing up days can be great fun, they are only a tiny part of one of our most important missions as a school: teaching children to read fluently as quickly as possible and developing in them a love of books and literature.

Daily story time, when adults read high quality texts aloud to children of all ages, is a cornerstone of our curriculum and allows children to experience the wonder of the best fiction texts, whilst hearing the rhythms and cadences of the English language and being exposed to new language and vocabulary.

Miss Coupe, Mrs Corrin and Mrs Croft all play key reading roles in school. Miss Coupe is our 'Reader Leader' and leads on ensuring that children are taught high quality phonics lessons from their very first day in school until they develop reading fluency. Mrs Corrin is our English subject leader and takes charge of making sure that children experience an exceptional reading curriculum through which they are introduced to a wide variety of texts and are taught a carefully sequenced progression of reading skills and knowledge. She also had the inspiration for our fabulous reading shelter, which stands proudly at the front of the school and offers a beautiful environment in which our Y6 reader leaders can support younger children in enjoying books at break times. Mrs Croft, meanwhile, looks after our school library. She has done an amazing job over the past couple of years to completely reorganise the school library and categorise every book into age-grouped themes. With support from a cracking team of Y5 library leaders, the library is used by children across school each and every day, as well as being loved and looked after. Mrs Croft is also our Accelerated Reader guru—this is an online platform which fluent readers can access to practise and develop their reading comprehension skills at just the right level of challenge. Recent competitions have seen levels of engagement higher than ever, with lots of children getting stuck into this at home!

Your support as parents and carers in encouraging children to read is invaluable as we know that reading unlocks the door to many other areas of the curriculum and beyond. In the words of the great American social reformer, Frederick Douglass, **'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.'**

DIARY DATES

Tues 1st—Y1P trip to Graves Sports Centre
Thu 3rd—World Book Day
Mon 14th—Governing Body Meeting
Fri 18th—Red Nose Day
Fri 18th—Y4 Cadbury World Trip
Sun 20th—PTA Easter Egg Hunt
Wed 23rd—FS2 trip to Ecclesall Woods

Wed 23rd / Thu 24th / Tues 29th—Parent's Evenings

Mon 28th—Wed 30th—Decorated egg competition entries into school

Thu 31st—Egg rolling competition heats

Fri 1st April—Egg rolling final!

Fri 1st April—break up for Easter

Return to school on Tuesday 19th April



PTA Update

I am delighted that the legendary PTA Easter Egg Hunt will be making a very welcome return this year.

Make sure that you have Sunday 20th March in your diaries and look out for further information coming soon!

In memory of Tom Collier

We were so saddened to learn of the tragic death of Tom Collier last month at the age of just 24. Tom was a much loved former pupil, who attended the school, along with his brother Joe and sister Evie.

We send our love to all of Tom's family and friends at this difficult time.

BULLETIN BOARD

Parents Evenings

Our Spring parents evenings will take place on Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th and Tuesday 29th March.

We are intending to hold these via a secure video link this time and will be sending out further information on booking appointments shortly.

Student Placements

We will be saying goodbye and thank you to Miss Sultana and Miss Kirby shortly, as their placements in Y1M and Y2F come to an end.

We look forward to welcoming back Miss Padfield, who will be returning later in the month to start preparations for her final teaching placement in Y3K.



Message from Mr Paxman

It has been a strange start to the half term. On one hand, the significant improvement in the COVID situation and the return to high rates of school attendance have been very encouraging indeed. On the other, the deepening crisis in Ukraine continues to be hugely concerning and is something we will do our utmost to support the children in dealing with and understanding.

Easter at Totley has always been a special time of year and the sight of the beautiful daffodils and crocuses peeping out in the school grounds are a heart warming reminder that we have made it through the dark days of winter and Spring is about to be sprung.

Our decorated egg and egg rolling competitions are great Totley traditions which I hope will bring comfort and a welcome distraction for the children as we head towards the Easter break—their creativity and imagination never fail to amaze!