

Totley Times



December

FEATURE

After a year like no other, I would like to offer some heartfelt words of thanks to reflect the incredible spirit of support shown by the Totley Primary School community throughout 2020.

Working in education throughout a pandemic has certainly been uncharted territory for school staff everywhere and I would like to take a moment to thank all of the Totley team for their immense dedication, hard work and resilience during this period of great anxiety and uncertainty. I certainly couldn't have asked for any more and will be forever grateful to our staff for their amazing efforts.

Seeing the children returning to school in September was quite remarkable and the positivity and energy they brought with them has carried us right through this long and, at times, challenging Autumn term. As well as showing a great desire to re-engage with face to face learning, the re-connecting of friendships after so many months apart has continued to be an enormous credit to them and a delight to see.

I would like to finally thank all of our parents and carers for bearing with us through all of this, for supporting our safety planning, engaging in remote learning and for helping children and staff to share a positive school experience. Although there may be a few twist and turns yet to come, it feels that there is now some light at the end of the tunnel so let's stick together and keep going!

Thank You!

#goodfriendssticktogether



DIARY DATES

Wed 9th - Christmas Performance filming day!!

Don't forget those costumes!

Mon 14th - Y3 parties

Tue 15th - deadline for purchasing DVDs to secure a pre-Christmas delivery

Wed 16th - FS2 / Y1 / Y2 parties.

Christmas jumper day.

Christmas lunch

Thu 17th - Y4 / Y5 / Y6 parties

(Please be assured that all parties are held within bubbles only).

Fri 18th - Last day of term

Mon 4th Jan - Return to School.





SPORTS AND CLUBS



Our PE partners at Qualitas have been incredibly supportive in this work and it has been great to welcome specialist teacher, Mr Andy Glossop, every Tuesday to work alongside teachers in the delivery of high quality, high energy PE lessons. We had hoped that after school clubs might be a possibility in January but we are clearly not yet in a position to move forward with this any time soon. One positive development is that we have met with a Forest School provider to look at running after school clubs later in 2021 separately for infants and juniors. This would make the most of our school grounds and have the significant advantage of being outdoors!!



KEEP CALM
AS IT'S TIME TO
SAY THANK YOU AND GOODBYE

At the end of term, we will be saying fond farewells to two very special members of our staff team, who have put in an amazing 32 years of service between them!



Mrs Booth joined our office team in 1997, having also experienced school as a mum with her daughters, Jennifer and Natalie, being pupils here. Mrs Booth's organisational talents are the stuff of legends and the day to day running of school throughout her time has been made so much easier by her meticulous systems, spreadsheets and rotas. One thing we will remember especially about Mrs Booth is her willingness to go above and beyond to make those special memory-making Totley events run smoothly. She has overseen countless Easter egg rolling competitions, Sports Days and Dream Mile races, to name but a few examples and any former pupils we talk to are delighted that these traditions still take place. We wish her and her husband, Chris, all the best for a very happy retirement and look forward to seeing her incredible collection of festive jumpers one last time!

Mrs Holmes has worked at TPS for about 8 years now and has provided brilliant TA and HLTA support across a whole range of different classes and age groups from FS2 all the way up to KS2. She always puts the children first and her care and nurture with children and staff have been very much appreciated over the years. We wish her and her husband, Paul, well for a happy retirement, with lots of new adventures and opportunities to look forward to in the future!



The opportunities for fundraising throughout 2020 have been very limited for our PTA but it is great that they have continued to use their creative wiles to innovate with events such as the recent virtual balloon race, online raffle and the Amazon Smile initiative. A huge thank you to the team for their ongoing hard work and dedication to the school; it was great to see the committee re-elected at the recent AGM as follows for 2020-21:

Co-chairs: Adam Bond / Mark Johnson

Vice chair: Jayne Mills

Treasurer: Richard Crossland

Secretary: Rachel Nunn

It was also lovely to see some new faces at the meeting - the next one will be taking place (virtually) on Wednesday 13th January at 7.30pm so keep an eye out for the link if you wish to join us!



Christmas Jumper Day!

On Wednesday 16th December, we are inviting children and staff to pay a voluntary contribution of £1 (via ParentPay) to come to school wearing Christmas jumpers. Money raised will go to Save the Children.

This is also a special day because our wonderful school kitchen team will be preparing Christmas Dinner!

Christmas Cards

Unfortunately we won't be able to allow children to bring cards into school to share and distribute amongst their friends this year in line with safety guidance. Please be assured that there will be lots of other festive activities going on to make up for this!

BIG PTA Raffle!!!

Take the chance to join in with seasonal raffle fun via our amazing new online fundraiser!

You have the opportunity to win £5,000 everyday for 12 days starting 7th December. The total prize fund is £60,000!!

Simply click on the link below to purchase your ticket, support Totley Primary PTA and be in with a shot of winning big!!

<https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/totley-primary-school-s17>

BULLETIN BOARD

Staffing update

In addition to the news of Mrs Booth and Mrs Holmes' upcoming retirements, we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Fulcher back to the staff team in January following her return from maternity leave. She will be joining Miss Ellis to job-share in Y3W.

I am also delighted to confirm that Mr Beard and Miss Grant will be with us for the remainder of the year to provide PPA cover and support pupil catch up, while Miss Smith will continue to provide TA support in Y2B.

Wintry Weather

If we have to take the decision that we cannot open due to adverse weather, a text will be sent to all parents. A message will also be sent to BBC Sheffield early and they will list the school closures. Please make sure we have an up to date mobile contact so that any messages can be received. It will be colder in school this winter due to the need for us to ventilate the classrooms. Please make sure children are wearing plenty of layers on cold days so that they do not become uncomfortable.



Message from Mr Paxman

I am so proud that staff and children are throwing themselves into Christmas preparations with such enthusiasm—what better way to kick back against the challenges of 2020 than with a tinselly torrent of festive fun and frolics, all be it with a socially distanced twist! With performances and parties to look forward to, it promises to be a very special time in school but also a very poignant one as I'm sure many of us will be reflecting back on an extremely difficult year. I would like to wish you all the very best for a peaceful and safe Christmas time with your families. Here's hoping that 2021 brings brighter skies and that this time next year we will be back to our usual extravaganza of live shows, panto trips and merry mingling!

OPEN HOUSE

PICTURES

A message from Open House Pictures

Dear Parents!,

It's fantastic to see your school is putting on brilliant Christmas performances this year!! And we're over the moon to be able to capture all those special moments for you to enjoy in years to come!

As we're preparing for the filming of the show, we'd just like to reach out to everyone and remind you that your DVDs are now available to pre-order online. Whether a present for Christmas day or a treat for a relative further afield don't miss out!

If you'd like to buy your DVD then simply go to the link below and purchase either a standard or customised copy. <https://www.openhousepictures.co.uk/totley-primary-school-nativity-dvds>

You have up until the 15th of December to purchase your DVD in time for a Santa delivery! Otherwise, all purchases after this date will arrive in the New Year. We can't wait to film your school's Christmas performances soon and send them out to you all.

Merry Christmas from all of us!
Open House Pictures