

# Town Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers

What a lovely Harvest Festival we enjoyed this morning. The children, as always, performed beautifully sitting amidst our fabulous Harvest display. Donald Campbell spoke about the work of the Food Bank at Sutton Baptist Church, which is gratefully receiving all your food contributions. The theme today was Friendship, including what a good friend is. I finished the assembly with a quote 'A friend is one of the nicest things you can have and one of the best things you can be'. A sentiment that will carry the children through life.



Best Wishes

Head Teacher



## Parent Code of Conduct

I have attached the PLT Parent Code of Conduct which applies to all parents and families at both Town Junior and Plantsbrook School. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the section regarding social media sites. It has come to my attention that we have some parents and wider family members who are writing derogatory posts about the school and members of staff on Facebook. Warning letters will be issued to those families who have taken part in these posts. Unfortunately, this does lead to a breakdown in the relationship between school and families which can sometimes have a detrimental impact on the children. If you have any concerns about your child please contact the class teacher in the first instance, followed by Miss Rodgers, Phase Leader Y5/Y6 or Mrs Page, Phase Leader Y3/Y4, then Mrs Gilmour or myself rather than using Social Media.

## Relax Kids

We have been approached by Hayley Beards who is an Emotional Resilience Coach with Relax Kids Sutton Coldfield, as she has been given a grant to work in a school in Sutton. We have been chosen and Hayley will be coming into school for 6 weeks on a Wednesday starting on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The children in Y5/Y6 will take part in 45 min sessions developing their techniques for dealing with self-esteem, achieving and believing, relaxing and de-stressing. Families and staff have also identified some children across the school who would benefit from an additional session and we will inform parents about this.



**Additionally, Hayley has agreed that we can do family sessions from 2.30pm in which parents can learn about the techniques used in order to support their children to develop their emotional resilience. Please contact the School Office if you would like a place on this course.**

## Upcoming Events

### 17<sup>th</sup> October

9.30 Open day at Holland House  
10.30 Open Day at Town  
1.15 Open Day at Town  
2.00 Open Day at Holland House

### 19<sup>th</sup> October

Children break up for half term

### 20<sup>th</sup> October

School closed for Inset Day

### 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Half Term

### 30<sup>th</sup> October

School resumes

### 31<sup>st</sup> October

Y4 Parental meeting for Ingestre Hall

### 6<sup>th</sup> November

11.00 Y3 Grandparent reading workshop + Lunch

### 7<sup>th</sup> November

11.00 Y4 Grandparent reading workshop + Lunch

### 8<sup>th</sup> November

11.00 Y5 & Y6 Grandparent reading workshop + Lunch

### 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November

Y4 Ingestre Hall Residential

### 9<sup>th</sup> November

Film Festival trip to Empire to see Lego Ninjago

### 16<sup>th</sup> November

5.30 – 7.00pm PTA Disco

### 17<sup>th</sup> November

Children in Need Mufti day

### 24<sup>th</sup> November

1.30 Awful Auntie Theatre visit at Alexandra Theatre

### 28<sup>th</sup> November

Chocolate Mufti Day

### 5<sup>th</sup> December

Bottle Mufti Day  
Fayre

## A message from the Chair of Governors

A very belated welcome back to school after the Summer holidays. A special warm welcome from the Governors to those of you who are new to Town Junior School. I hope that you all had lovely holidays and that the weather was kind to you.

I seem to have been into school so many times since the start of the new term. I had the privilege of doing a learning walk with Mrs Smith during the first two weeks of term. The pupils were all engaged in their "Shakespearean" topic. They were all on task and thoroughly enjoying their work, their written work was of such a high standard.

As Governors, we have met as a Standards' Committee, and as a Local Governing Board. Last night, Mrs Smith, Mr Caldwell and I represented the Town Governors at the meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Plantsbrook Learning Trust.

It was also lovely to see so many of you at the Harvest Festival this morning. The pupils, as ever, did us proud and thanks are due to Mrs Gilmour for all her hard work in organising this.

As Governors, we were also involved in the Ofsted Inspection in September. Mrs Bryant (the Vice Chair) and I were interviewed by the Lead Inspector. We were asked MANY challenging questions, including ones about the outcomes for pupils and how we as Governors hold the Senior Leadership team to account for school improvement.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at events at school over the coming weeks. After half term, it is indeed back to the "run up to Christmas" again and all that that brings! How time flies!! Best wishes to you all

Diane Clapcott

## Volunteer Readers

We are looking to recruit more volunteer readers to support some of our children with their reading. We understand that a whole afternoon is a big commitment and wondered if any parents, grandparents or siblings would be willing to come to school at 3pm, once a week to hear readers, until the end of the school day? Please let the Office know if you may be able to help us.



## Condover Hall Residential Y6

Y6 children have the opportunity to visit Condover Hall from 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July. This is a wonderful experience for your child and a lovely way to finish their time at Town Junior School. Condover Hall offers excellent facilities and activities set in extensive grounds. The children are accommodated in high quality dormitories. The food which is provided is superb and evening activities are also included in the package. Details of Condover Hall are available on the school website. The cost of the trip will be £165.00 this will cover the cost of travel, accommodation, food, insurance and all the activities. We will require a £35.00 non-refundable deposit to be paid via ParentPay no later than **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**. Please be aware you will be liable for a percentage of the total cost should you cancel at any time. If you are having problems regarding covering the costs please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

## Ingestre Hall Y4 Residential

Please can parents ensure they are up to date with their instalments for the Y4 Residential trip to Ingestre Hall? Please note the final payment is due by 20<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 3.30pm to discuss the visit and for parents to ask any questions they may have.

## Bikeability – for Year 6

The Bikeability sessions for the children that have signed up will start w/c 16<sup>th</sup> October. Girls may want to wear trousers or jogging bottoms. This course is an important one for those children who have not achieved their Level 2. Children will need to bring their bikes and helmets, if they have them, into school on Monday. Children that have already achieved Level 1 can go on to achieve Level 2. If your child does not have access to a bike the school can provide one for them.



## Upcoming Events

Continued...

**12<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30 Christmas Production  
1.30 Christmas Production

**13<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30 Christmas Production  
1.30 Christmas Production

**19<sup>th</sup> December**

Y5/Y6 Christmas Party

**20<sup>th</sup> December**

Y3/Y4 Christmas Party

**22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Finish

## Magic Moments

### Fire Brigade Visit

The Firemen told us how fast fire spreads. They also told us where smoke alarms should be in the house. In addition, they showed us where some fire exits were. They told us that when you leave your house in a fire you must not go back in for anything. They also showed us how to be safe on the roads; you need to find a safe place to cross the road, and when in a car you shouldn't distract the driver. You should always wear a seat belt – it only takes seconds to put on.

By Flynn & Harriet Y4



## National Film Festival – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Miss Gwinnett has worked really hard to get tickets for Y3, Y5 & Y6 to watch 'Lego Ninjago' at the Empire Cinema on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The children will walk up to the cinema for the 10.30 start and return in time for lunch. Unfortunately the dates of the festival coincided with the Y4 visit to Ingestre so they will be doing other exciting activities during this time.

I am treating this visit to the cinema as a reward for the good behaviour that is demonstrated by the vast majority of the children. If your child is not following our Behaviour Code and there is a risk they may not receive this award then a member of staff will let you know.



## Junior Jam

As you will know from the children Junior Jam staff teach in school each Thursday. The children will have been undertaking two of the three following sessions this half term. ICT – iJam – an introduction to basic songwriting skills using the 'Garage Band' App. PE – Football skills.

French – Greetings, numbers, cultural diversity and animals.

Next term the subjects will stay the same but different modules will be undertaken.

Y3 – ICT/PE

Y4 – ICT/French

Y5 – ICT/French

Y6 – PE/ICT

## Healthy Eating

This appears to be a topic currently in the media and whilst I do not plan to enforce strict measures over food eaten at lunch I would urge you to think about using some of the tips I provided in the last newsletter. Children will be asked to eat crisps with their lunch rather than as a break time snack. We are currently looking at how we can provide subsidised fruit snacks that children will be able to buy. I will let you know how we plan to implement this as soon as possible. We have also noticed that not all children in Y3/Y4 are eating all their lunch so we are currently monitoring how many slices of toast are being consumed at breaktime!



## Damage to School Trees & Plants

Please can I ask that parents are carefully watching any younger siblings who are waiting at the beginning and end of the day. Staff are concerned that there is a lot of running around, pulling on the trees and playing in the garden at the front. Unfortunately, some of our trees and plants have been damaged as a result.

## Friends of Libraries

Please see attached flyer for a Free Family workshop with author and illustrator Steve Smallman on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October in our Sutton Coldfield Library.



## YouTube - 5 Top Tips for Parents



There is no denying it children love YouTube. They can spend hours searching and watching their favourite videos, researching a school topic or creating their own videos and uploading them to share with family and friends. Unfortunately, not everything on YouTube is child friendly, and young people can come across

## Magic Moments continued...

### Town Junior v Walmley

Town Junior played Walmley in a tight 0 - 0 draw thanks to the keepers amazing saves. Daniel, our captain, as mentioned in the last newsletter, led us really well. We had some good and some close saves though all of our attacking and defending didn't pay off.

We played Walmley again on Monday evening at our home ground, we were determined to put it right, Walmley put up a good fight and managed to pull off some good shots early in the game. Ryan had a great shot heading towards the net, but it was well saved by their goal keeper. We let in 2 unlucky goals and evidently we lost 2-0!  
By Ryan & Daniel Y6



### Football Tournament

For the football tournament we were split into 2 teams called Town A and Town B. We took turns playing on the football pitch. Town A scored 10 goals in total and Town B scored 6 goals.

some very inappropriate content including violence, sexual videos, bad language and even bullying and trolls. So we've put together some top tips for parents to help make YouTube that bit safer.

**Create an account in Google that is used by the whole family.** When you make a shared Google account you can see exactly what videos your children are watching, uploading and sharing.

Once you have signed in to Youtube via the Family Google Account, the next thing to do is **switch on restricted mode**. If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the YouTube page you will see an option to turn on restricted mode. This will help keep out some, but not all, of the inappropriate stuff you don't want your kids to see. Remember that you have to save this option and you have to set it up for every browser that you use.

So if you have multiple computers then you will have to do this on each one.

**Sit down with your kids and go through the things that they like to watch.** Most content they like will be attached to a channel. If you are happy with the content of the channel then ask your children to subscribe to it, this will then promote content to their feed when they log in. It also lets them know when new videos are available and hopefully this will stop some of the searching which may lead them into content they don't want to see.

If your children are into creating videos then make sure they are signed into the Family Account when they upload, and make sure they **upload privately**. When they click the upload button they can choose to upload as Public, Private or Unlisted. Private means that only people you choose can view the video. If you choose Unlisted then the video can only be viewed by a link generated within the video and this means that only people that you send the link to can view the video.

The last thing to do is **disable the comments**. By disabling this it stops people from making inappropriate comments on any video uploaded by them.

YouTube is an amazing resource for knowledge and entertainment, as well as a great way for children to explore their creativity when making videos. By following these 5 tips you will make it a safer place, but remember you can't make it 100% safe, so keep having regular chats with your kids about what they are doing and take time to sit down with them and use YouTube together and have some fun as a family. Lastly don't forget that YouTube's own terms and conditions mean that it should not be used by anyone under 13 years of age.

If your children are under 13 years of age then YouTube has created an App available on Google Play and Apple's App store especially for them called 'YouTube for Kids'. Created especially by Youtube using stronger filtering algorithms to keep kids safe. Remember though nothing is 100% safe so maintain an interest in what they are doing and keep having those important safety chats.



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## School improvements

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

- Fire Safety talk in Y4 led by West Midlands Fire Service.
- Meet the Teacher – settling in sessions.
- Mrs Page led whole staff Guided Reading training session.
- Sofia Hussain, Education Psychologist, met for a planning meeting with Mrs Hill.
- Claire McDermott, our new school nurse met with Mrs Smith to discuss service provision.
- Miss Powis, Miss Evans and Mr Penhall attended a training course at Little Sutton School.
- Flu Vaccines have been administered to Y3/Y4 pupils.
- Mrs Hill attended the city SENCO Network meeting.
- Mrs Smith undertook learning walks at Whitehouse Common School in partnership with Headteachers from Learning Trust for Excellence.
- Mrs Smith attended the Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Mrs Potter attended a physical disabilities course at Wilson Stuart School.
- Harvest Festival, involving Otters, Martins and Meteors was enjoyed by parents and carers with many generous donations made by Sutton Baptist Church Food Bank.