

**Toddington St George CE School**  
**Newsletter No. 9 –12<sup>th</sup> February 2016**



Dear Parents and Carers,

**Thank you** to all who attended Parent Consultations this week and to the PTA for providing refreshments again. We were delighted to have such strong attendance with 96% of Parents/Carers attending. As we have chicken pox going round in Reception class we knew a few parents couldn't make their appointments and we look forward to seeing them after half term. We will contact those who could not attend with another appointment date accordingly.

There is some exciting news about **building work** that begins on site over the half term holiday at school. This will improve our teaching facilities and give us two new smart classroom spaces. **Please read the information sheet and look at the plan attached** so you know all about what is happening and how it will affect you as you drop off and pick up at school.

**Jane Spencer, Headteacher**

**Learning experiences for the children**

**Ducklings: Nursery** have been busy digging in sand to find dinosaur bones as part of their theme and they loved being Palaeontologists. They have celebrated Chinese New Year this week too.

**Year R: Year R** have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and have performed a wonderful dragon dance, made super Chinese lanterns as well as practising Chinese writing.

**Year 1 Church visit:** The Year 1 children went to visit the church on Thursday. They learnt all about the building as a place of worship. Reverend Anne led the children and they came back very well informed and chatting about the stained glass windows, the font, the pews, the tombs and the altar.

**Year 2 banquets:** Year 2 had a wonderful celebration of their Turrets and Tiaras theme and the medieval banquet was a happy afternoon full of fun, dancing, games, music and food. Thank you for the wonderful food sent in to help them celebrate. They also enjoyed their visit from Sir Teachalot.

**Year 3: Creative Prayer** visitor Jo Ann Gaunt. Jo Ann and her team led an afternoon of Creative prayer at the church. The children wrote prayers on a range of themes (the world, their families, their homes). Some prayers were on flowers that floated, some attached to sparkly trees and some prayers with a peaceful reflective time and globe to help the children think and reflect on other's needs.

**Year 4:** As part of their Food Glorious Food theme the children were fascinated to hear all about how coffee is grown and produced. Thanks to Mr Hydes for coming in – our resident expert – now known as Mr Costa Coffee!

**Conger Hill trip:** On the village website you may have seen that the children went to Conger Hill to see if they could hear the witch under the hill making her pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Thanks to Mr Buckingham who organised the trip for us. The local Country Life Magazine hopes to add an article about this in their next edition.

**Collective Worship:** We have had a busy week with Year 1-4 learning about Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Thanks to Reverend Anne for leading Collective Worship and for 'ashing' the children and staff to show the importance of the start of Lent. We are three days in to the 40 Acts of Kindness for Lent - how are you getting on?

**KS1 Athletics:** KS1 Athletics was a great opportunity for Sophie Cooley, Amber Cole, Aydin Khan, Ewan Phelan, James Angus, Sam Tillin, Finley Chalmers, Aaron Frost-Bryant, Benjamin Bates, Harry Randlesome, Emilia Fowler and Charlotte Dow. The children represented the school exceptionally well and gained over 500 points while enjoying various ball, balance, running and bean bag skills. Well done to you all.

**Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers** are back so please collect them for **TSG** so we can purchase sports and cooking equipment. This year every time you shop in store, you'll receive all your vouchers on one piece of paper. You will still get one voucher for every £10 you spend in store but they'll all be printed on one piece of paper. Sainsburys are issuing vouchers until the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We have a collection box in the Reception area.



### Healthy Heart and Mind Day – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February “Wear dots..... Raise lots”!



Thank you again for supporting this day with the dotty/spotty biscuits we received, the donations sent in and for listening and talking to your child about what they have learnt today. The children now understand how important it is for us to support the RNIB in producing more talking books for children, and have a greater awareness of the needs of blind and visually impaired children.

In addition one of our Governors (**and Dad to Alex Keith in Year 4**) is running the **London Marathon for VICTA**. You may have seen John out running around the village in fluorescent lycra training for his first marathon in April, having only taken up running 2 years ago. He is raising funds for VICTA (Visual Impaired Children Taking Action) which is a national charity based in Milton Keynes. They work with blind and partially sighted children and their families, in particular with teenagers helping them to become independent. Their entire fundraising comes from London Marathon runners. John has a just giving page if you wish to support him. <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/johnkeith>

#### Parent Talk: *Parenting under 12s - a survival guide!*

**An evening of humour and advice for those who would like some encouragement as they parent.** Rob Parson and Katherine Hill present Parent Talk at Milton Keynes on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. (one of 6 venues nationwide). This event is described as a ‘sit back relax and enjoy - Care for the Family’ event. (No group work involved!) Tickets cost £6 for one person /, £4 for a partner to attend with that person or £5 if four or more go together and £7 on the door. Venue: The Ridgeway Centre, Milton Keynes MK12 5 TH (doors open 6.45 Event 7.30-10pm). Tel: 029 2081 0800 [www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parentaltour](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parentaltour).

#### REMINDER:

Children in the Reception are released from class at 3.15, KS1 children at 3.20 and KS2 at 3.25.

#### Some Key Dates to Easter

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 Swimming Festival
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Luton Town Football After School Club restarts – letters in foyer
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	KS2 Choir Assembly to rest of school and parents at 2.45 Thank You Secret Shop for Mothers Day ‘Little Treasures’ Photographers after school – a few slots remaining
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	2 x Year 4 children to HUS for Bake Off Competition
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 3 Visit to Verulamium in St. Albans / ‘Little Treasures’ Photographers after school – appointments still available
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day / Year 2 to The Grove Theatre
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	TSG Big Tidy Up ‘Clean for the Queen’
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	New Nursery Intake Visit for children at 1.15pm
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Travelling Book Fair arrives (can use £1.00 World Book Day token)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	New Nursery Intake Meeting for parents at 6.00
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Big Tidy Up ‘Clean for the Queen’ / Toddington Spring Festival – Indoor Market in Village Hall
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 3 Easter Performance to parents at 2.00 pm
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 3 Learning Futures pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Learning Futures Assembly to Parents at 9.15 am Easter Assembly / End of Spring Term
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	School closed - Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Children back to school for Summer Term

**We hope you have a great half term - See you on Monday 22nd February**