

Toner Avenue Newsletter May 2026

Year 6 - Big well done to everyone involved in SATs this year. The children were amazing and really tried their best in the tests. Results will be out later in July but we are all so proud with how they managed the process and enjoyed their celebration day out at the end. The leavers' hoodies look amazing!!

Brain development

Teaching is a complex job which has many parts. Making sure children are safe, feel relaxed in school, belong to the community etc is a main part of the role we play in order for children to be ready to learn. For children to be successful learners they need to be in the correct place to be able to process and store information, make links between new information and information they have already stored, and recall quickly when information is needed. The Institute of Child Psychology produced an interesting diagram to show how we can all support brain development and the type of activities we can do to build it. Interestingly screen time (Youtube, flashing toys, fast paced cartoons etc) is shown again to disrupt vital brain development so I urge all parents to restrict access to this type of activity, especially during the school week.



Parent questionnaires

You will be receiving a link via text after half term to complete a short questionnaire about Toner Avenue. This is a yearly questionnaire which we send out to ensure we gather your thoughts and views on how to make the school a better place. Overwhelmingly, the responses were very positive, with some helpful suggestions to improve. As always, your feedback is very useful to help set the direction of the school moving forward. Your suggestions are then added to the school improvement plan so we can work on them across the year ahead. Working together is always the preferred way to get the best for your children. Some comments from last year were...

Parents responses/areas to improve	Actions planned or completed
Streamline the communication methods used by school.	Our office staff have worked hard to streamline communication but we will continue to work in this area. We have amended and updated the website and will be streamlining the process in September for updating contact information and consents for trips and photos.
Car parking and issues with traffic and congestion around school	Unfortunately this is one area which is difficult to impact on or control and is an issue in a lot of schools due to where they have been built. Recently I have been in contact with South Tyneside council about the possibility of another pedestrian access to the site. I will keep you all updated with the progress I make. I would ask everyone to try and consider parking away from the immediate school vicinity. If we all try to walk that tiny bit extra it will hopefully help us and make the local roads safer for everyone at drop off and pick up times.
After school clubs changing regularly	This year we have maintained a consistent Tuesday club to try and support parents with some childcare. This has been a huge success and will continue next year.

Please watch out for the link - it will take seconds to complete and I personally read every response we receive.

Our Friday assembly is truly one of celebration. It is one of my favourite times of the week where we recognise children for the amazing things they do within school, as well as outside of school. We have star of the week linked to

our Toner values, best class/year group attendance, progress panda for a child making great progress in learning, golden welly award for amazing lunchtimes, golden merit awards for following our rules, lunchtime awards for manners, kindness chameleon and reading plus awards for reading at school and at home. If children have any individual or team achievements from outside of school, then please encourage them to bring medals/trophies/certificates etc into assembly on a Friday, or send in your photographs, so we can ensure they are recognised by our Toner family.

Uniform

Please ensure your children come into school in the correct uniform, including on PE days. There is a page on the website which provides details of what is expected. If you have any issues with uniform then please speak to Emma who will be happy to provide recycled items and new shoes donated through 'shoes aid' charity. If your child comes into school wearing an incorrect uniform we will ask them to change into items we have in school. I appreciate your support with this matter.



Treat Tuesday at the Starlight Lounge

This year our 'Treat Tuesday' sessions have been really popular for celebrating the children in school who are always doing the right thing, setting a great example to others, and showing how we 'live' our school values every day. 20 pupils attend



this each week with myself and Mrs McKenna - some children returning more than once. The menu has changed from hot chocolate to ice cream this term and the children love it. This will continue next year with some new additions, new menu and a new wall of fame for the children to sign.



Wednesday Welcome

This term we introduced a 'Wednesday Welcome' over Wednesday lunchtime in the hall. We have had several performers so far and are hoping to add to our list of musical volunteers to play to the children while they are eating lunch. This further



supplements the lunchtime experience our pupils have with the amazing OPAL provision and outdoor lunches. If you know of any musical talents who could spare an hour one Wednesday then please get in touch. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences and range of genres.

Key Dates Below are some reminders of the key dates for the next term (which I shared with you earlier this year). Awards ceremonies were a huge success last year so we will be having them again. Parents/carers are invited to attend these events in the main hall. Each year group will prepare a song/poem to share with you all as part of the event. We will then give a certificate to each child to celebrate an element of their learning over the year. There will also be a range of individual awards for each class chosen by the school staff and presented to the individuals during the ceremony. We hope you will be able to join us.

25th May - 29th May 26	School closed	Half term - school reopens Tues 2nd June
1st June 26	INSET day	School reopens 2nd June
Week beginning 2nd June 26	Y4 multiplication check	Times table test (check) for all year 4 children

Week beginning 8th June 25	Y1 phonics check	Phonics test (check) for all year 1 pupils
22nd - 26th June 26	STEM week	Parents will be invited to choose a day to come into school to see our approach to STEM and careers
29th June 2.15pm	Y5 Awards assembly	Parents invited to attend to see presentation
30th June 9.15am	Reception Awards assembly	Parents invited to attend to see presentation
30th June 2.15pm	Y4 Awards assembly	Parents invited to attend to see presentation
1st July 9.15am	Y3 Awards assembly	Parents invited to attend to see presentation
1st July 2.15pm	Y1 Awards assembly	Parents invited to attend to see presentation
2nd July 9.15am	Y2 Awards assembly	Parents invited to attend to see presentation
10th July 26	Reports to parents/carers	Class teachers send your reports out
Monday 13th July 2pm and Wednesday 15th July 5.30 pm	Y6 leavers assembly	Parents invited to attend to see performance and presentation
Tuesday 14th July	Whole school sports day at Monkton Stadium	All children from Reception to Year 6. Parents will be invited

		for the day
Wednesday 15th July 2.15pm	Mrs Hunter's Nursery Graduation	Parents invited to attend to see performance and presentation
Thursday 16th July 2.15pm	Mrs Corkill's Nursery Graduation	Parents invited to attend to see performance and presentation
20th July - 31st August 26	School closed	6 weeks holidays

Energy support for parents

We now have a team of staff working in South Tyneside Council trying to reduce costs of everyday living for parents and schools. They send out regular information which we will share. This one is looking at energy cost savings.

<p><i>Warm Homes North East</i></p>	<p>North East Warm Homes is available to homes across South Tyneside to help reduce energy bills and provide free and impartial advice on installing energy saving home improvements.</p> <p>To find out more information, call for free on 0808 175 9345 or visit: northeast-warmhomes.co.uk</p>	 <p>energy saving trust NE North East Combined Authority</p> <p>How much could you save on your energy bills? Find out today</p>
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Donations - any donations of toys, games, digging tools, old pots and pans would be greatly appreciated for our OPAL playtimes.

Kindness and Care

As a school our staff work hard to show kindness and care to the children we work with. It would be appreciated if parents remember the same approach in their communication with each other, and the staff in school. Please refrain

from passing on information on platforms such as Whatsapp and Facebook as this is not always factual and can result in pupils and staff having to deal with issues that have not actually occurred - wasting valuable time when staff could be carrying out their work with children. Mental health of staff is always my priority and I expect parents to be respectful and considerate when dealing with staff in person, on the telephone, or via written communication. We are receiving some AI generated emails which often quote government documents incorrectly, and can be abrupt and demanding, which is not how I expect us to work with one another. I have had to take legal advice around some emails sent to me personally which can appear threatening and unkind. Just remember we are all trying to do the same thing here at Toner :- create an amazing, caring learning environment for all children and staff, where we all feel safe and respected. The school is a transformed environment to the one I became head of 4 years ago and this is due to the hard work and dedication of the school community.

Have a great half term. Take care.

Mrs Fullard.

