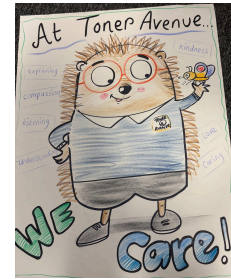


Toner Avenue Newsletter February 2026

Values This term we have welcomed Liz Million (author and illustrator) once again into our school. Liz spent time with the children across the full school. She supported us with our theme of 'kindness' and our value of 'care' and all pupils from Nursery to Y6 created their own character.



We are using these characters to create T shirts and stories on world book day. T shirts have been funded by school with some support from local businesses so there is no cost to families. We have some amazing artists in school who blew us all away with their talents!!! We are lucky to be able to welcome visitors to school to further supplement the curriculum we offer.

Attendance competition

As you will know we have a huge focus on attendance in school as children need to be in school to access the curriculum as well as create friendships and social skills. **This half term we will be launching our new 100% competition. The competition will run after half term (2nd March - 27th March) and for every full week (100%) your child is in school they will get a ticket to enter a prize draw for a £10 Asda voucher (one per class).** If your child is in school every day they will have 4 tickets in the draw. We obviously acknowledge that children can be unwell and need to be absent but we are always happy to support you where we can by giving access to pain medication during the day - with your permission - should it just be a mild illness.

Interventions and additional support As a school we are always looking at ways to support pupils to regulate and develop. We have received significant praise from the local authority for the inclusive nature of the school and the support we offer our pupils every day - this is not always replicated in all schools. Children can dip in and out of support when times are tricky so we give the right support when it is needed. Our offer includes the sensory room and sensory circuits (bridge), Trifle lunchtime club, Counselling, Emotional support (ELSA), forest school for small groups. Staff work hard to make sure all children have the correct support to enable them to access the curriculum and learn

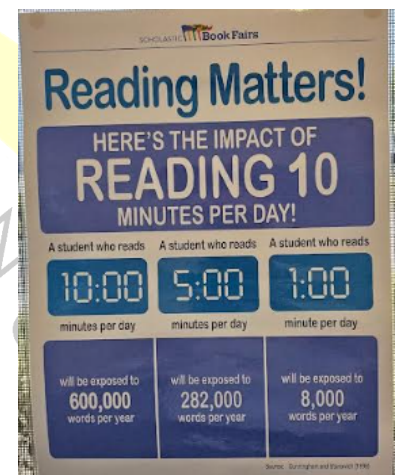
successfully, developing the whole child and creating well rounded adults for the future.

SEN coffee afternoon

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our SEND coffee afternoon. It was our biggest turn out to date! A huge thank you to everybody who came and to those parents who offered friendly support and advice to others. We are also very grateful to the wonderful Toby Henserson Trust who came to talk about how they can support families.

Reading matters!

Please continue to support school by reading with and to your children at home. Reading opens doors to all other subjects and areas of interest and is always a high priority for us in school. Reading just 10 minutes every day can really improve outcomes in all areas of school, as well as developing vocabulary and wider understanding of the world.



Questionnaires 'you said, we did'

Each year we send out questionnaires around May/June and the feedback you send helps us create priorities for the year ahead. I have added many of the positive comments (of which there were many) onto the school website to celebrate the work of the school and allow prospective parents to hear from you about the great things we offer. Some of the things you love about Toner from June 25 were:- improved communication, approachable, supportive staff, enhancements to the learning (clubs, visits, OPAL, outdoor lunch), support for all children, warm and friendly atmosphere at the school, promoting independence of the children, positive praise for all, children playing across year groups, our school values, and we endeavor to continue with these areas.

Comments like 'I love the way staff always seem happy and always have time to talk to you, even if it is just a morning greeting it's always a lovely atmosphere, I really made a good choice sending my children to Toner Avenue and they love it too', 'Opal is fantastic! I think the opportunities for children outside surpass any other schools', 'Just a really big thank you for the difference the school has

made to us as a family! Keep up the good work!', 'The school is run very well and gives the children a lot of opportunities ' and 'I always feel well informed', all help keep us all smiling when times are more challenging.

Some of the recurring areas to improve were:-

Parents responses/areas to improve	Actions planned or completed
Streamline the communication methods used by school.	This does come up every year and, although we have made some improvements I am hopeful that the change to the school main data system (currently being put in place) will further support our commitment to make sure ALL parents know what is happening and when it is happening, in a timely manner, and in one place to avoid things being missed. We have recently added an events page to the website so check that out too.
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. 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. I am also in discussion with local counsellors about a solution to the conjunction (I will keep you all posted on the progress of this)
After school clubs changing regularly	This is another area which has been mentioned in a positive way and as an area to improve. It is difficult as we try to keep costs down and rely on staff volunteering to run many of the clubs. For working parents we do link with Red Roof after school provision who collect children from school. We would be happy to pass on any further information if requested. We have also offered a consistent Tuesday after school club this year and it is very popular and hopefully helping some families with consistency.

Overwhelmingly, the responses were saying 'keep doing what you are doing' which we will do in order to continue to improve and develop our school. Working together is always the preferred way to get the best for your children. I love my job here at Toner and that is because of the amazing staff, pupils and parents I get to work with every day.

Safer Internet Day

This half term, our school joined others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2026, the largest global online safety campaign. This year's theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,' focuses on teaching children and young people the skills to use AI technology safely and responsibly, and highlights available support.

Website

Just a reminder that we have lots of information on our website that we have updated for you so please have a look on if you need any policies, key dates or reminding of any staff etc.

Award for Careers education

We were successful in receiving another award for our careers education 'GOLD!'. Toner is certainly forward thinking in our approach and we are hoping to be a pilot school for a new project linked to careers next term. Well done Miss Almond for championing this so brilliantly.

Shout out

Year 4 did an amazing 'play in a day' to support us with our speaking and listening curriculum. Y4-6 had a great session with Sunderland University about careers. EYFS took part in mini scrubs careers information. Year 3 passed their pedestrian training.

Key Dates Below are some reminders of the key dates for the rest of the year (which I shared with you in July).

23rd - 27th Feb 26	School closed	Half term - school reopens 2nd March
5th March 26	World Book Day	School will provide everything needed for this event
10th - 12th March 26	Parents evening	You will be asked to choose a suitable time after school to speak to your child's class teacher.
3rd April - 17th April 26	School closed	Easter break - school reopens 20th April
Week beginning 11th May 26	Year 6 SAT's tests	Statutory Year 6 assessments
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 - 3rd July 26	Awards assemblies	Dates and times TBC closer to the event
10th July 26	Reports to parents/carers	Class teachers send your reports out
20th July - 31st August 26	School closed	6 weeks holidays

Donations needed If you have any of the following items you are throwing away we would love to take them for our OPAL playtimes:-

- Pots, pans, bowls, utensils, colanders, baking trays, jugs etc.
- Microwaves and kettles.
- Kitchen scales.
- Large dinosaurs, diggers, dump truck type toys.
- Small buckets.
- Small gardening tools.
- Dustpans and brushes.

Just let the office know and drop them in anytime.

Reception and Nursery places

We are currently full in both our Nurseries. We are thrilled with the success of running the 2 provisions and the children are making great progress in school. We are filling up quickly for September 2026 so if you have any children (or know of anyone) who does not have their name down for Toner Nursery or Reception then please use the information below to apply. We have had a lot of interest in places for September and don't want anyone to be disappointed if we are full.

Apply for Nursery here - [Nursery Application Form](#)

Applications for September reception places are now closed, but if you need to speak to someone you can contact admissions on 0191 424 7704 or email school.admissions@southtyneside.gov.uk.

Have a great half term break. Take care, Mrs Fullard.