

What we've been up to!

Friday 25th October 2024

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Harvest Appeal. These were collected by a local charity called Urban Outreach with whom we have long standing links. We had a fantastic array of items, all of which are very much appreciated.

The school photographer visited us recently and proofs will be sent home with your child after half term should you wish to place an order.

We recently held our Parents' Evening which was very well attended by families. Thank you to everyone who came along.

Families should have already received their child's personalised Christmas cards. Orders can still be placed, see reverse of card for information. The commission raised from this project will be put straight back into school. Thank you for your support.



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School Closure due to bad weather

Over recent years, we have extensively reviewed our 'extreme weather' procedures and stress to all our families that I will always make every effort to open school in cases of bad weather but only if I can guarantee it is safe to do so. **"Safe" is not always referring to the ground conditions and often refers to the ratio of adults and children I can offer.** I would ask for everyone's understanding that there MAY be instances when the weather conditions around school do not seem severe at all but, as many staff travel long distances to Edgworth, I may be unable to safely open school due to the number of staff who can make it in. The procedure for informing families remains the same in that, **only if the school is to be closed or delayed start**, we will send a text message and email to all parents, staff, governors and external agencies at 7am and a note will be added to the school website to advise of the plans for the day. Please do not use any other form of communication (e.g. Facebook) or hearsay as a basis for a decision about school opening as this has led to confusion in the past.

It is possible that in extreme weather we may have a delayed start, but this would be communicated in the official 7am message. If the weather takes an extreme turn for the worse during the day, we will contact all parents to arrange collection of children. Children will not be released unless we have made contact with parents.

Please ensure the number we have as your emergency contact is one that can be reached during the day. On occasion, we have tried to ring an emergency number only to find it is to a phone that must be switched off during the working day and so, as such, is not an appropriate emergency contact number. Thank you in advance of your support on this challenging issue.

School Meals

Just a reminder of Mrs. Appleton's famous Bonfire Lunch—Mrs. Appleton and the Catering Team are putting on their spectacular **Bonfire Lunch on Tuesday 5th November—menu attached**. The lunch is open to all children and those already on school meals will automatically receive this. If your child usually brings a packed lunch but would like to join in for one day only, please send an email to Mrs. Page in the school office to book on before 4th November. Thank you so much for all your support. Dinner money for the next half term is £94.50 or £13.50 per week.

PTFA News

PTFA Autumn Fancy Dress Disco—Friday 11th October—well, we have some amazing disco dancers in our children and some truly fabulous fancy dress outfits. We all had a superb time at the disco and we can't wait for the next one. Huge thanks to everyone who came along.

We are thrilled to share that this has enabled us to reach our target of being able to order a second suite of iPads for our children. This will take the total number of class iPads to 32, meaning each class now has enough for one each! Thank you!

Our next big fundraising event will be the Christmas fairs which are held in school during the school day. We'll send more information nearer the time.

If anyone would like to join the PTFA or has a great idea for an event, please send an email to:

edgworthprimaryptfa@gmail.com

General Information/Reminders

Club Attendance— If your child attends an after school club such as Lego Club or Dance Club, please always inform the school office in advance if they are not planning on attending for safeguarding reasons. Thank you

Parking—for the safety of your children, our local residents and parents, please park safely and responsibly. Where possible please park at The Barlow and walk the short distance to school. Please also do not allow your children to run or walk unattended along the residents car park which is behind the row of terraced houses on Bolton Road. Thank you for your co-operation.

Painted nails – If children have had their nails painted over the weekend, please can it be removed before school. Thank you

Attendance— The attendance for this first half term has been the best since I've been headteacher: 97.63% What a brilliant achievement. Please keep it up!

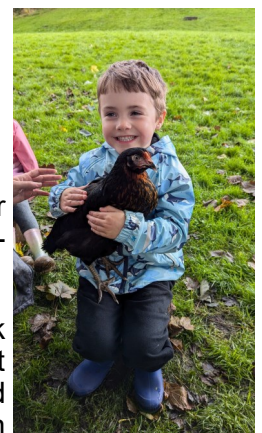
Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale in school from Monday 4th November. Our Year 6 pupils will take the poppies round each class every day until 11th November. We have a selection of stick on poppies or button hole poppies (no pins will be given out) and we recommend a maximum cash donation of 50p for children if they wish to buy one.



Admissions September 2025

Just a reminder that the cut off date for applying to secondary schools is 31st October 2024. Please refer to Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority website for more information: <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/admissions>



PAWS—Protecting Animals with Schools

The chickens are settling in very nicely—huge thanks to Deanna, Courtney and Hannah who are teaching the children how to care for them and other wildlife. The children entered a competition to name the chickens, one for each class and we are pleased to announce the names of the chickens: Reception—Hermione, Year 1 - Dotty, Year 2—Rose, Year 3—Snowy, Year 4—Ginny, Year 5—Marmalade and Year 6—Maple.



Visit to meet Tim Peake!



Year 5 & 6 recently had the amazing opportunity to meet Tim Peake, yes the real Tim Peake! They were captivated by his stories as an astronaut and his journey into space. Huge thanks to Westholme School for inviting us—a truly wonderful trip.



Community News

Turton Young Farmers are hosting their 4th annual Christmas Tractor Run on Sunday 1st December 2024 for charity. This year they are raising money to donate to MIND Lancashire and are encouraging children in the local community to get involved by decorating the Christmas elf (attached to this newsletter). Completed colourings can be sent to turtonyoungfarmersclub@gmail.com by the 3rd November. This is a great family occasion and one to put in your diaries. Please go along to support them—they will have collection buckets out on the night. Thank you

Medieval music workshop

All children had the opportunity to step back in time and experience instruments, music and sounds from long ago!

Medieval folk music was brought to life. We listened to some amazing medieval instruments and even heard old middle English being spoken and sung (it sounds nothing like the English we speak today!).



A huge Thank you to the lovely people at 'Folk at the Barlow' for making today possible.

Consultation about joining a MAT

I wrote to all families this week to share our consultation period regarding Turton and Edgworth CEM Primary School joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT): The Bishop Fraser Trust (TBFT).

The Governors and school leaders believe that joining a MAT can help the school to continue to improve in many ways; predominantly by accessing a highly skilled central team of professionals, increased collaboration and having a greater degree of control over finances. TBFT will continue to support our joint foundation and will TUPE transfer all our existing staff on their current terms and conditions. The financial advantage is predominantly gained through streamlining operational costs, such as the ability to source services, such as HR, payroll, H&S, etc., etc. as part of the general MAT costs rather than through multiple, individual service level agreements. There are also opportunities for stronger procurement and economies of scale that will result in an overall reduced spend, without reducing the quality of the services. The TBFT also has professionals (CISCO, HR, etc.) as a part of their central team enabling them to focus on fewer schools (only the ones within the MAT) and offer expertise in areas such as technology, for example, which we currently have to source through a third-party provider.

There is a page on our website that is dedicated to this consultation and it contains links to all the documents, including a FAQ sheet:

<https://www.turtonandedgworthprimary.co.uk/page/multi-academy-trust-consultation/153535>

There is also a dedicated email address that you can use to share any comments you may have:

mat.engagement@turtonedgworth.blackburn.sch.uk

Your views are important to Governors. The consultation period ends on Friday 8th November, following which, Governors will consider all comments. Thank you.

Calendar of Events

The complete school calendar of events can be found on the school website, under the Parents tab, Term Dates and will be the version that is kept updated. If there are any changes or new additions to the calendar, we will highlight these in amber for your ease. Paper copies can also be collected from the school office.

Fri 25 th Oct	3.30pm	Whole school	Finish for the half term break
Autumn Half Term Break Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024 (inclusive)			
Mon 4 th Nov	08.55am	Whole school	School starts
Tues 5 th Nov	12.00	School Meals	Bonfire Lunch for pupils on school meals
Thurs 7 th Nov	All day	Year 4	08.30am arrival for Class Trip to Eureka!
Thurs 14 th Nov	3.00pm	Year 5	Year 5 Class Assembly - parents invited
Thurs 21 st Nov	3.00pm	Year 4	Year 4 Class Assembly - parents invited
Tues 26 th Nov	AM	Whole school	Trip to the Panto!

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing half term break and we're looking forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 4th November. Don't forget to check out our Facebook page to see more amazing pictures of our school in action! (via the new school website www.turtonandedgworthprimary.co.uk)

Mr. Wheatley