



Tonwell St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Ware Road, Tonwell, Herts, SG12 0HN

Tel: 01920 462894

E-mail: admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman



'CURIOSITY, COURAGE, COMPASSION'

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear parents,



We have had a busy fortnight with many trips and visitors. Paralympic wheelchair tennis player, Louise Hunt, visited us last Friday. She inspired us with a talk about her life and the challenges she has overcome. It was lovely to hear her make links to our school vision and value of courage. Our children showed curiosity as they asked questions and then took part in tennis sessions.

We joined Thundridge School, as well as many others from the Diocese of St Albans taking part in the Bishops' Harvest Festival at the cathedral. The children sang beautifully and enjoyed saying hello to the Bishop of Bedford who was leading the service. It was a great experience to visit the cathedral and join up with so many other children.



Our Oak Class mini police sessions continue to be good fun and also important learning opportunities linked to the safeguarding curriculum. Last week, children got to look inside the police car and used traffic control guns to check the speed of vehicles coming into the village.



Well done to **Elouise, Lucy, Ellis, Eadie, Rhemy, Jack, Flo** who are our new school council members. You will be hearing more from them very soon.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bridgman



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Parent Forum Notes

Thank you to those of you who joined me for Parent Forum. Please see the notes below.

Tuesday 27th September 2022

FOT update

Thank you to parents for supporting the FOT AGM and voting. The committee membership will be confirmed by the end of the week.

There will be termly meetings on the school site which all parents/carers/staff are invited to attend.

There was discussion about how it might be good for FOT to join local public events such as Ware carnival and Christmas tree competition to help market the school.

Ofsted Visit

Report expected to be published either just before or just after half term. Mrs Bridgman shared that the school are very proud of how respectful, polite and hardworking the children were during inspection.

Links with Thundridge

Mrs Bridgman talked about the many planned shared visits with Thundridge (e.g. Bishop of Bedford, Louise Hunt, St Albans Cathedral, netball & football clubs, cross country, shared staff CPD, balancability, residential school journey, shared sports days, shared pantomime trip).

A parent asked if the football/netball clubs would be extended to Y4 and Mrs Bridgman said it would be dependent on numbers and whether there is space.

School Closures

We are no longer using the Everbridge system for notification of school closures. You will now receive messages via Arbor if there are school closures (e.g. due to extreme weather).

Citizens Advice East Herts

Citizens Advice East Herts have advisers ready to take your call and provide you with free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on any issue.

For more information on their services please visit <https://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/>

Becoming a School Governor

Dear Parents,

You may remember when we first federated that we sent out some information about school governance. Being a governor is a voluntary role. If you feel you don't have time for volunteering, being a governor might be easier than you think. Whilst we do have meetings, they are always agreed well in advance, so you can plan for these. The majority of the work you can decide when you do this, by visiting the school and meeting with teachers. This is part of our 'monitoring' role. We monitor the school in a number of ways, supporting the

A partner in the Thundridge and Tonwell St Mary's Church Schools' Federation

'A community learning together in God's love'



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Executive Headteacher and the staff to do the best they can for our children. There is free training that you can access to support you to do the job, and as we work as a team - you are never on your own. Time wise it is about a day a month, so only 12 days a year, sometimes a bit more.

There is other information about Becoming a School Governor on both websites.

If being a school governor sounds a bit too much, there are Associate roles also. It would be great if someone could give us a bit of advice about marketing the schools. Also, we need someone with expertise in applying for grants? If you, or anyone you know can give us a bit of time - it would be great to hear from you.

This autumn we need to recruit two parent governors. If anyone is interested in considering this role (or an Associate role) do contact me - Kathy Dunnett kathy.dunnett@tonwell.herts.sch.uk and we can catch up over coffee - I'm buying!

Kind regards,

Kathy
Chair of Governors, The Thundridge and Tonwell St Mary's Church Federation

Key Dates

Please note that it is possible there may be some changes.

Monday 17 th October	3.30-5.30pm Parent Consultations
24 th -28 th October	HALF TERM
WB 14 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Friday 2 nd December	INSET DAY
Wednesday 21 st December	Last day of term (school closes at 1.15pm)
Tuesday 13 th December	1.30pm Christmas Service at Holy Trinity
Friday 16 th December	Whole School Panto Trip - Hoddesdon
Thursday 21 st December	1.15pm End of Term
Thursday 5 th January	INSET DAY
Friday 6 th January	Children return to school