TWO SCHOOLS, ONE VISION

# Towers Times

Newsletter edition: 31

28st May 2021

Dear families,

As we reach the end of a wonderful half term - the first in a long time that has felt somewhat 'normal' - we would like to thank you for all of your support in making the last six weeks so successful and happy. The children have been just amazing in their positivity and resilience, but mostly just in their joy and love of life and learning! It has also been lovely to see the weather improving over the last few days; the children have enjoyed playing on the field and enjoying the sunshine. Long may it continue!

Well done to all our children who entered the Royal Mail Stamp design competition last week. The brightly coloured stamp designs thanking our key workers were brilliant, we know Mr Ryan found it very difficult to choose the winners.

After half term, we welcome back our Core value slips coming home to you to share in successes displayed by your child. As you know, our BUILD values are encouraged throughout the school day, both in the classroom and in the playground. Each week we will be focusing on a different value, starting with 'Be respectful' on Monday 7th June. On Monday the children will come home with a BUILD letter. When your child showcases that value of being respectful at home, at football, around a relative's house, in the park, or with a neighbour, please complete the letter and ask your child to hand it to their teacher. This letter will be displayed in their classroom, as a reminder of how our values are not just demonstrated in school but in and around our community.

Whilst we understand that holidays and days out have been repeatedly cancelled over the past year, please ensure family holidays are avoided during term time. The children have had a disrupted time over the last fifteen months and need the continuity of school provision to support them in getting back on track over the foreseeable future. Holidays taken in term time we are afraid continue to not be authorised.

There is currently increasing evidence that one of the main impacts of the two periods of partial school closure is on children's language development. One of the most effective and enjoyable ways to extend vocabulary and speaking and listening skills is sharing stories. Bedtime stories are especially beneficial as they provide a calm end to the day and the language shared is more readily absorbed as your child falls asleep. If you don't already have a story time routine at bedtime, try and build some book sharing time in to your evening. Please remember to make use of the local libraries with your children, now that they are re-opening following lockdown.

Please do continue to be mindful of the 'roadmap' lifting of restrictions and keep the school as safe as possible for our community. If you are traveling abroad this half term, please see attached 'travel corridor guidance' advised by government for your information please do pay particular care and attention to quarantine advice given. We are continuing to maintain our high levels of precaution in school, with class bubbles, staggered playtime and lunchtimes and continuing with frequent handwashing, as this seems to have made a real impact on limiting the 'usual' bugs and illnesses in school, and staff will continue to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow tests. If your child or any member of your household has symptoms that could be COVID related, or if your family have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, please inform the school and continue to stay at home and follow NHS and Public Health England guidance.

We hope you have a wonderful half term!

Ms L J Blurton and Mrs C D Hurley,

*Head Teachers of Towers Infant and Junior schools*

**SUMMER RAFFLE:** Do you have your own business? Why not get the word out and raise the profile of your company by donating a prize for the FOTFA summer raffle? The raffle is one the main ways that we raise money for the children at Towers and all donations are hugely appreciated! Please email towersparentsa@yahoo.com if you can help

**SUMMER TRAIL / FAYRE:** Given it is likely that some restrictions will still be in place in summer, it is unlikely we will be able to do a 'normal' summer fayre. But we do want to do something but are going to need your help. We are looking for volunteers who live around the school and near the centre of Hornchurch to do a summer trail / fayre. For the trail, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to stick up a picture or poster in their garden for the children to find. If you can help, please contact us on towersparentsa@yahoo.com

**WE HAVE SOUTHEND / SEALIFE CENTRE TICKETS FOR SALE:** Tickets for Southend are £13 each (online price £20) and £7 for SeaLife Centre. Contact us on towersparentsa@yahoo.com to purchase.

Congratulations to the winners of our Design a Stamp competition.

**Infants**: - William Fu, Janck Han, Isla E, Callie, Rafael, Sam E, Mia, Evie B, Yaquob

**Juniors** – Adityaraj, Oliver P, Hayden, Dhylan, William M, Lily B, Alfie P