



Together Everyone Achieves More

Dear families,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year at Tollgate Community Junior School. I hope that you had a fantastic summer holiday together as families and feel excited for the year ahead. It has been a wonderful, calm first few days back at Tollgate. I have been struck over the past week by how wonderful the children at Tollgate are – from their kindness towards one another to their politeness towards the adults in school, we are very lucky to have such fantastic children. I look forward to getting to know them more over the next few weeks!

A special welcome to our new Year Three children and the families joining Tollgate for the first time; we hope that you will have many happy years as part of our school community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff members to the Tollgate community: Miss Ippaso (3I), Miss Gallini (4G), Miss Lavender (5L) and Miss Brodigan (SENCo). I am sure that you will all make them feel welcome over the coming weeks.

Thank you for the support you have shown in the slight tweaks we have made to the beginning and end of the school day, which are in place to make the start and end of the day a calmer, more settled transition. Please know that the children are always at the heart of any decisions we make in school and have been listened to as part of these changes. We also listen very carefully to any thoughts and feedback from our families, so thank you to those who have approached us with constructive ideas over the past few days.

At the start of a new school year, it is really important to reset our school standards and make sure there is a sense of shared understanding about matters such as uniform and attendance. Thank you for the support in making sure we are all on the same page with these important matters and for understanding our ambition to make Tollgate the very best school for our children. We will always strive to be a happy, nurturing school where the children truly thrive.

Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing more information about some of our priorities for the year ahead to help build on the success of Tollgate and make sure that every child in our school is thriving.

Please do continue to introduce yourselves to both myself and Mr Berhane; we are both fully committed to getting to know our community better and building strong, lasting relationships with you all.

Mr Getty

Head of School





PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Please visit for high-quality Tollgate uniform.
Donations welcome!

Look out for emails to let
you know when we are open!

TOLLGATE PTFA

We are looking to recruit a team of willing volunteers to start a Tollgate PTFA to further enrich the experience of our children and raise important funds for the school.

Initially, we are looking to see who may have the time, skills and interest to support setting this up.

CONTACT THE OFFICE TO EXPRESS INTEREST!



Reading Journals

The children are all receiving a new **Reading Journal** as part of the start of this school year. These are journals for children to write in (and sometimes draw!) as part of their home reading, with tasks being suggested by the staff team.

The Reading Journal is your child's property and they are responsible for keeping it looking neat and tidy as well as **bringing it to school every day** and remembering to record in it when they are at home. Children are welcome to decorate or cover their Reading Journal as long as their name is clearly visible.

The expectation is that children will **write or draw in their journal at least 3 times every week at home** and the same will be done at school. It is their Reading Journal so please do ask before writing any comments in to the journal. Comments written should be about reading and not general comments for the teacher to read as this is not a communication book. If you need to speak to the class teacher, please call the office and the teacher will be in contact with you where necessary.

Some ideas for the reading journals include:

- Write a blurb about what your book is about. Sell it to me – make me want to read it!
- Draw a picture of a character and tell me about them.
- Have you found any difficult or interesting words? Write them down and tell me what they mean or ask me about them. Try putting them into sentences of your own.
- Write a short summary of what's happened in the book so far. What should I know?
- What's good about the book you're reading? What don't you like so much?
- If you were the author, how would you change the story?

The Reading Journal can also be used simply to record what books they have read or which pages, just like the old home-school diaries.

We are encouraging children to have autonomy over their Reading Journal and we hope that the journaling process will encourage them to read more at home.

Thank you for supporting this!

Miss Stubbs

English Curriculum Lead



School Uniform

Thank you to everyone for working hard to follow our [School Uniform Policy](#) at the start of a new school year.

We know that there is nothing worse than not realising that your child is not wearing the standard uniform, so we will always send home a slip as a polite reminder to our families where this happens.

We are aware that lots of children find wearing shirts and top buttons a challenge, and would like to highlight a few alternative uniform providers who have specific ranges to support these difficulties:

- [Easy On Easy Wear - Sensory School Uniform | George at ASDA](#)
- [Girls' 5pk Regular Fit Easy to Iron School Shirts \(2-18 Yrs\) | M&S Collection at M&S](#)

Should you have queries about the uniform at Tollgate, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you!



Attendance Reminders

At Tollgate, we are committed to making school a welcoming, happy place where all children belong. As part of this, we want to work alongside our families to encourage the very best attendance for our children so that we can live out our motto of *Together Everyone Achieves More*.

Children who attend school nearly every day in Year 6 (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time.

Please remember to stay in touch with us about any attendance concerns or matters - we value positive communication and the importance of our partnership with our families.



End of Day Procedures



Thank you for your support in our slight tweaks to the end of the day.

The reason for these tweaks have been the views of the children, who have told us they find it stressful when there are so many adults on the playground and when they felt unsure of where the adults might be.

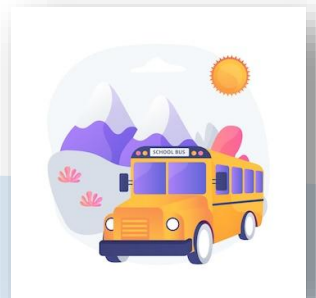
Please can we ask that you continue to support the children to feel safer and more able to spot their collecting adults by standing behind the lines of cones and making sure the spaces where the children are walking/being collected from are clear.

Please note that staff are not able to supervise children's use of any play equipment at the end of the day and therefore this is up to families to take responsibility for. We ask that younger children are not on the play equipment where the Year 3 and 4 children are collected from at the time that the classes arrive outside.

Thank you!

Club Survey

Keep an eye out for QR code at the end of the day later this week to enable you to give feedback on our current club offer, as we look to develop and improve what is available for our children. Your feedback is appreciated!



Year 6 Residential

We are working hard to organise a Year 6 Residential experience for our current Year 6 cohort for the end of this academic year as part of our commitment to enriching our children's school experiences.

We will share more information when we are able to about what we are able to arrange!