



Together Everyone Achieves More

Dear families,

Over the past week, it has been wonderful to see the school filled with excitement, curiosity, and plenty of smiles. One particular highlight was welcoming Chester, our new Therapy Dog, to Tollgate for his first official visit. He spent Monday morning with 6CW, where the children were absolutely delighted to meet him, and then spent the afternoon working 1:1 with pupils. It was clear to see just how calming and motivating his presence was, and we are very much looking forward to him becoming a regular part of our school week.



Our Year 4 and 5 pupils also had an unforgettable experience during their Virtual Reality workshops last week. The sessions were filled with awe, wonder, and lots of enthusiastic questions as the children explored new places and concepts in an immersive and engaging way. Opportunities like this bring learning to life and create memories that last far beyond the classroom.

Another exciting development has been the start of our Skiltek Sports Coaching sessions at lunchtime. The coach has brought fantastic energy to the playground, and the children have thrown themselves into the activities with enthusiasm. It has been brilliant to see so many pupils getting active, trying new skills, and enjoying positive play together.

Additionally, our Pupil Leadership Team also launched their first lunchtime club session this week, running a Board Games Club on Wednesday for children across Years 3 and 4. They have showed great potential as organisers – well done for their efforts so far!

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our PTFA, who have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes in preparation for next week's School Disco. Their dedication and creativity ensure that these events remain such highlights for the children. The PTFA has also launched our brand-new Amazon Wishlist, designed to help families who wish to support the school in a practical way. We are extremely grateful to those who have already made donations—your kindness makes a real difference and is deeply appreciated.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Tollgate remains a vibrant, joyful place to learn and grow because of the combined efforts of our pupils, families, staff, and wider community.

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for our *Family Consultation Evenings* – please do book if you haven't yet.

Best wishes,

Mr Getty

Head of School



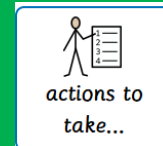
Safeguarding

We recently sent a letter to our Year 5/6 families about an increase of online incidents outside of school, and want to give some further tips on how to manage these when they do occur:

- Encourage your child to speak up immediately if something online makes them feel upset, worried or scared.
- Reassure your child that online abuse is never their fault and they won't be punished for telling you.
- Keep regular, calm conversations going about what they do online.



- Save evidence such as screenshots, messages or usernames before blocking or reporting.
- Block and report abusive users directly on the platform.
- If the behaviour involves inappropriate contact, grooming, or sexualised content, report it to [CEOP](#) immediately.



 **SAFETY OFFICERS** 

 **MR GETTY**  **MR BERHANE**  **MRS ALLEN**  **MISS BRODIGAN**

 **MRS WILLGRASS**

 **MRS WALLER**

 **MISS BROCKMAN**

IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE OR YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE, YOU MUST TELL AN ADULT YOU TRUST

IF YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES, YOU CAN ALWAYS SPEAK TO ANY ADULT IN SCHOOL!

YOU CAN ALSO LEAVE WORRIES IN THE WORRY BOX



Attendance at Tollgate

As a school, we have made a big improvement in our attendance since the start of Term 3, with more children arriving for school on time and more children attending school every day.

Over the final two weeks of this term, please keep working with us to ensure the children attend school every day that they are able to. **For those who have improved or maintained great attendance, they will be entered into the Attendance Raffle below at the end of term!**

Why is attendance so important?

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their potential.

National research shows a clear link between attendance and attainment:

- Children who attend school consistently are more likely to meet age-related expectations in reading, writing and maths
- Good attendance also supports confidence, friendships and positive attitudes to learning



Introductions...



We welcome our Skiltek coach, Stefan, who is leading sports activities across the school three lunchtimes each week.

TOLLGATE WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

We are delighted to announce that this year's whole-school production will be **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, performed at Tollgate on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 15 July – 6:30pm**
- **Thursday 16 July – 2:00pm**
- **Friday 17 July – 6:30pm**

All children in Years 3-6 can be involved, either through choir, main singing roles (groups and soloists) or dance. For Year 6 there will also be opportunities to take on technical, backstage, creative or front-of-house roles. Main singing roles will be allocated through an audition process - there is no audition to join the choir. **Please note: children allocated a main role must be available for *all three performances*.**

To keep participation inclusive, the majority of rehearsals will take place during the school day, with possibly some morning/after-school sessions for children in main roles.

A Performance Interest Letter will be sent home on Monday 2 February, and should be returned by Monday 9 February.



Key Dates:

Week beginning Monday 9 February – Audition materials for main roles sent out

From Monday 23 February – Main-role auditions with roles allocated before Easter; initial choir rehearsals will begin this term

Easter → May – Rehearsals in school (limited early-morning/after-school sessions for main roles)

June → July – More intensive rehearsal schedule

15, 16 & 17 July – Performances (see times above)

We welcome support from volunteers - if you have any skills that could be helpful please get in touch with Mrs Allen or the office.

Eastbourne Schools' Football League

Tollgate played superbly in the league semi-final with an impressive win over West Rise School, winning 4-3 after dominating for the majority of the game. Excellent skill and teamwork were shown by all.

Scorers: Cengiz, Louie (2), Miller. Miller's goal was particularly impressive - A backheeled volley from a corner!

Final v Ocklynge

An exciting match with both teams giving their all, which meant both the Tollgate defence and forwards had to play to the best of their abilities throughout, which they did! Tollgate were unlucky not to score in normal time, with the Ocklynge goalie being kept very busy.

Tollgate went ahead in extra time, with a super goal from Oliver, with Ocklynge drawing a few minutes later. With the game edging towards penalties, Ocklynge scored with, quite literally, the last kick of the game, to win 2-1 (after extra time).

Every player was exceptional, showing both individual skills and a commitment to working hard as a team to demonstrate a high level of football. They were a credit to themselves and the school throughout the morning.



GET READY TO DANCE

DRINK AND SNACK INCLUDED

TOLLGATE PFA

Valentine's
Disco

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

YEARS 3&4 - 4.30-5.30PM
YEARS 5&6 - 6-7PM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT:
WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/TOLLGATECOMMUNITY

PFA

TOLLGATE PFA

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND WISH LIST

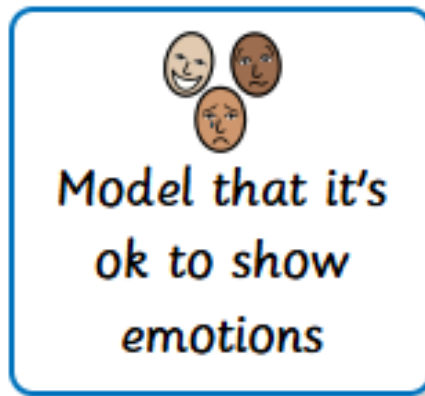
Purchase an item on the list and it will be delivered directly to the school to be used immediately! Click the link below to get started:

AMAZON WISH LIST

Thriving at Tollgate

At Tollgate, the Thrive Approach is well-established and part of our everyday culture and language. The Thrive Approach is central to our school ethos and helps us to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children in our school, as well as providing tools to help them navigate the ups and downs of life.

We want to work together with our families to embed the Thrive Approach as a shared language between home and school. As such, we have come up with a few helpful tips for families to use as a starting point.



We feel it is particularly important that our children experience calm, positive reassurance at home as well as in school. When children's feelings are validated and encouragement given, they are able to manage difficult feelings and challenges in both learning and social situations in a way that is healthy and constructive.

*In order to **thrive**, our children need our rule of 'Be Kind' to be reinforced by all adults in their lives.*

Thank you for your support with this work!