



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM MAY 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

As we reach the end of what has been a wonderfully busy and productive May half-term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community.

This half-term has been packed with significant milestones and memorable events. We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children, who approached their SATs with tremendous effort and resilience. Their hard work has been truly inspiring and it was a joy to see them celebrate a well-deserved day out at Armada Park. They are now looking forward to the exciting transition to secondary school and we will continue to support them every step of the way.

Beyond the SATs, our school has been a hive of activity. We also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our Year 4 parents into school this week for their rainforest project. It was fantastic to see the creativity and collaboration as children and adults worked together to bring their learning to life. These moments of shared experience are so valuable for our school community.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the horizon to mark the start of the holidays! This weekend, the circus is coming to Sherwell, promising a fantastic start to the half-term break for everyone. Following the Half term break, we have lots of exciting events, including sports days, our school production, residentials and trips all to enhance the children's learning experiences. Thank you for your support, have a wonderful half term.

Best wishes  
Cristy Nelson



# OUR RE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

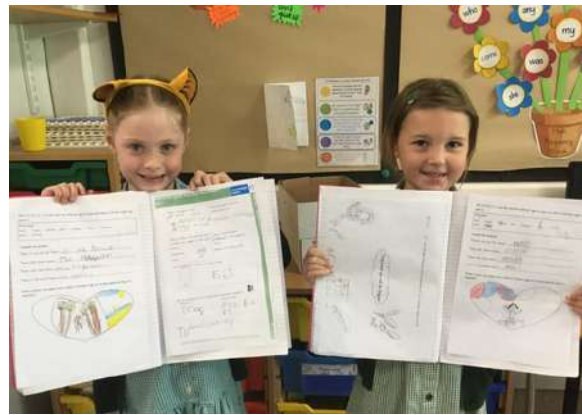
Nursery



Reception



Year 1



Year 2

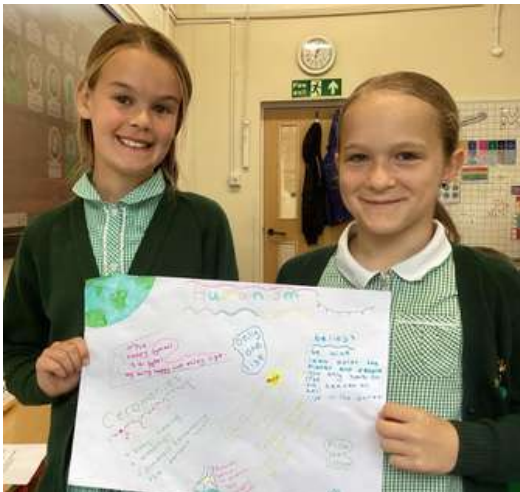
Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

# NOTICE BOARD

## ATTENDANCE

28th March – 16th May

Reception	95.12%
Year 1	96.43%
Year 2	94.70%
Year 3	96.36%
Year 4	96.02%
Year 5	95.52%
Year 6	95.65%

## ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are expected to be in school every day, unless they are absent for a valid reason.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
90%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
95%	18 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
95%	25 Days	4 Weeks	150 Lessons
90%	36 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	12 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	13.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
60%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below  
Drastic effect on  
academic achievement.

95%-90%  
Cause for  
concern.

100%-96%  
Excellent.



Facts:

Total School days= 190

Non-school days= 175

95% attendance= 9 days off school and  
50 missed lessons.

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

The children are busy learning their songs in preparation for our upcoming Music Festival on 18th July.

This exciting event is open to all our families, and we'd love for you to join us. Alongside class performances, we'll also be showcasing talent from our school band, choir and some budding musicians from Torquay Academy.

It promises to be a fantastic celebration of music, and we can't wait to welcome you!

FOSV will also be holding our School Summer Fair on the same day, starting at 3:30pm—so mark your calendars for an afternoon full of fun and entertainment!

Over the past half term, we have been focusing on recycling as part of our Environmental Sustainability Plan. The children have been learning to be more mindful about food waste, ensuring that all fruit and vegetable scraps are composted. You may have noticed the new compost bins placed around the playground to support this effort.

We've also welcomed several visits from SWISCo, who have been working closely with our school. Our Year 6 Environmentalists have taken a leading role, delivering assemblies and serving as excellent ambassadors for sustainability.

## RECYCLING PROJECTS

# NOTICE BOARD

## OUR COMMUNITY DAY

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, a wonderful team of volunteers came to school to further develop our sensory garden. This is such an amazing place which is already being well utilised by many of our children.

This wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful community.

**Thank you**



## SUNNY WEATHER

With the sunny weather upon us, please ensure that children come to school with hats and a water bottle to stay hydrated.

We also kindly ask that all school uniform items are clearly named. As children are removing their cardigans and jumpers in the warmer weather, labeling helps us return lost items to their rightful owners.

Thank you for your support!

## REMINDERS

Our school uniform policy is available on the school website. We request that children wear the correct uniform to school.



These sessions are for 3- to 4-year-olds and aim to allow structured free play and exploration of our woods. They provide an opportunity to meet new friends, learn about the great outdoors, and take part in nature-based activities.

These sessions are free and will run on Fridays for 3 weeks starting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 9:30 - 10:45 with a final 4<sup>th</sup> Session on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Booking is essential. Please contact [svpsnursery@SVPS1.com](mailto:svpsnursery@SVPS1.com) or call 01803 613296

**FOREST TOTS**

# COMMUNITY

*New To You*

FREE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES  
& TOY SWAP

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE | 10AM-12PM  
BAY CHURCH, SANDS ROAD, TQ4 6HA

DONATE ANY PRE-LOVED CHILDREN'S CLOTHES, SHOES,  
TOYS AND BOOKS WITH PLENTY OF LIFE LEFT IN  
THEM AND GO AWAY WITH SOMETHING NEW TO YOU!

REFRESHMENTS AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES PROVIDED



DONATION  
DROP OFF TIMES:  
MONDAY 16TH JUNE  
TUESDAY 17TH JUNE  
WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE  
AT BAY CHURCH  
9AM-5PM



## Learn to Ride

Torbay Council will be running some 'Learn to Ride' sessions at Torbay Velopark in the Summer Half Term Holiday on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May. These are for pupils in Year 3 and above. The cost is £10 plus booking fee, which includes bike and helmet hire if necessary. Spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

Learn to Ride Sessions

**Roll up! Roll up!**  
The circus is coming to  
Sherwell Valley Primary School  
**Saturday 24th May 2025**  
3 fantastic shows to choose from!  
GATES OPEN 10.15am, SHOW STARTS 11am  
GATES OPEN 12.15pm, SHOW STARTS 1pm  
GATES OPEN 2.15pm, SHOW STARTS 3pm  
**Just £7 a ticket or  
family (4 tickets) for £25!**  
PLUS face painter, inflatables, all  
day disco and lots more!!  
Buy your tickets today on  
**Ticket Source**

**MAY HALF TERM  
FOOTBALL**  
FOR PUPILS AT SHERWELL VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

**TORQUAY UNITED  
COMMUNITY SPORTS  
TRUST**

DATE: THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025  
TIME: 09.30 - 15.00  
PRICE: £15.00

Please copy and paste  
the following link to book:  
<https://torquay-united-cst.classforkids.io/info/679>

Icons for social media: X, TikTok, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram

COME AND CHAT WITH STEVE DARLING MP

## Let's Talk About SEND

WHERE? TORQUAY LIBRARY  
WHEN? TUESDAY 27 MAY 2025  
TIME? 10:30 - 11:30

DURING THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR STORY & CRAFT SESSION

Steve will be at Torquay Library to listen to your views and experiences on SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in Torbay.

This is a friendly, informal chance to:

- ✓ Raise concerns
- ✓ Share ideas and experiences
- ✓ Help shape better local SEND support

Families attending the session or dropping in are welcome.

LINE DANCERS ATTENTION!  
**WANTED**  
FOR HAVING TOO MUCH FUN  
IN HER DANCE CLASSES

£6 PER CLASS  
ADULTS ONLY CLASS

**DANCE WITH DANNI**  
\*\*\* REWARD \*\*\*  
1 HOUR OF PURE FUN & FITNESS

JOIN DANNI EVERY THURS AT 6.30PM AT SHERWELL VALLEY SCHOOL, TORQUAY.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.BOOKWHEN.COM/DANCEWITHDANNI](http://WWW.BOOKWHEN.COM/DANCEWITHDANNI)  
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL  
DANNI@DANCEWITHDANNI.CO.UK

**ZUMBA®  
STRUT  
SHAKE  
SHINE**

Sherwell Valley Primary School. 16+  
Tuesday @ 6:30pm - £6.00 per class.  
All welcome.

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can suddenly be exposed to upsetting stories, images and icons. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels overwhelming. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

### 1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content. In the main, both at home and at school. Before discussing your child with teachers, find out what they know already. Ask them what they're interested in, what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.



### 2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is rushing for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.



### 3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try to keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex details. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, be wary of their emotional state.



### 4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find ways of hope, generosity and kindness related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.



### 5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not always say that they're scared, angry, stressed, confused or uncomfortable. Encouraged reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgemental way and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.



### 6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process, adults often have to deal with coping emotions in ourselves or across children, so it's important to recognise our own. These emotions stem from looking on top of how you appear to be managing your emotion so the message is important for supporting your child through worrying times.



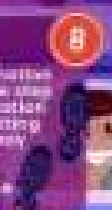
### 7 SET LIMITS

Managing social media and content can be difficult given the current circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods. Set the start of the pandemic, for example, it's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about it, a range of harmful content and enforcing screen time limits.



### 8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

You don't have to overwhelm your child with information all at once. Instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a previously upsetting or scary topic. Changing the tone of your child's memory is often easier than convincing that your child can talk to you about this type of issue in a calm way.



### 9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Denial, troubling images, news, videos and stories are shared widely on digital platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is removed, it's important to encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children often will mention that real conversations can be difficult – you want to be their primary source of information, not their denial.



### 10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous temptation to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications or notify us to read the latest articles or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to look at positive events instead of doomscrolling, and making learning meaningful by best means.



### 11 BUILD RESILIENCE

While this has never been more possible, while our children may be isolated children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're engaged with the world around them. This content is not only more general with your child but emphasize that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel scary.



### 12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's really important that children have adults that support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It's essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr. Kelly, an expert in the area of teenage cyber abuse, offers us a range of advice and is currently the guest expert on our new podcast, *Wake Up Wednesday*, about the ways young people can take responsibility for their online safety in a world that's not just full of bad news but also full of hope.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

# DIARY DATES

May 2025	
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 10am - 2pm	Year 5 and 6 Girls Cricket Competition
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2:15pm - 3:15pm	SEND Parent Drop In Session
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	FOSV Circus event
June 2025	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	INSET Day
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Checker Begins
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Career's Day
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 10am - 2pm	Year 5 and 6 Boys Cricket Competition
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest Tots session
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 swimming top up session
Week Beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 visits to Bay Church
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 4:30pm	Reception 2025 Intake Welcome Meeting
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June - 6pm	Aladdin Jr. Production
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June - 6pm	Aladdin Jr. Production
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest Tots session
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June - 6pm	Aladdin Jr. Production
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 swimming top up session
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 London Residential
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June - 9:15 start	Year 3 / 4 Sports Day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June - 9:15 start	Year 1 and 2 Sports Day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Woodlands trip
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June - 9:15 start	Reception Sports Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest Tots session
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Y2 Torre Poetry Visit
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 RE Exeter Trip
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Peekaboo visiting Reception
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 RE Exeter Trip
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery Sports Day - 9:15 Start
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June - 9:15 start	Year 5 and 6 Sports Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June - 2:45	Y2 Curriculum Sharing Event

# DIARY DATES

July 2025	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 4 RE Exeter Trip
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2:30pm - 3:15	SEND parent Drop In Session
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 5 Activity Day at Torquay Academy
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 transitions to Secondary School
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Meet your new teacher day
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Forest Tots session
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	RNLI to visit Nursery and Reception
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2:45pm	Y5 Curriculum Sharing Event
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Y1 Trip to Paignton Zoo
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5 Residential to Ashbury Manor
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception Trip to Paignton Zoo
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July - 2:45pm	Reception Curriculum Sharing Event
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July - 9:15 start	School Music Festival
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July - 3pm start	FOSV Summer Fair
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 3:25pm	Break up for Summer Holiday
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	School Inset Day (School Closed for Children)



**Proposed Torbay School Term Dates: 2024-25 Academic Year**

	Sep-2024				
Monday	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	03	10	17	24	
Wednesday	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	05	12	19	26	
Friday	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	08	15	22	29	

	Oct-2024				
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		
06	13	20	27		

	Nov-2024				
	04	11	18	25	
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	01	

	Dec-2024				
Monday	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	03	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	05	12	19	26	
Friday	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	08	15	22	29	

	Jan-2025				
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		

	Feb-2025				
	03	10	17	24	
	04	11	18	25	
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	01	
02	09	16	23	02	

	Mar-2025				
Monday	03	10	17	24	31
Tuesday	04	11	18	25	
Wednesday	05	12	19	26	
Thursday	06	13	20	27	
Friday	07	14	21	28	
Saturday	08	15	22	29	
Sunday	09	16	23	30	

	Apr-2025				
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02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24		
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		
06	13	20	27		

	May-2025				
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25	01	

	Jun-2025				
Monday	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	03	10	17	24	
Wednesday	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	05	12	19	26	
Friday	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	08	15	22	29	

	Jul-2025				
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01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		
06	13	20	27		

	Aug-2025				
	04	11	18	25	
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	

Training Days	
School Holidays	
Bank Holidays	
25 Dec 2024 (Christmas)	
26 Dec 2024 (Boxing Day)	
1 Jan 2025 (New Years Day)	
18 Apr 2025 (Good Friday)	
21 Apr 2025 (Easter Monday)	
5 May 2025 (May Day)	
26 May 2025 (Spring Bank Holiday)	
25 Aug 2025 (Summer Bank Holiday)	

Term Lengths		
Sept to Oct half term	39	74
October to Christmas	35	
Jan to Feb half term	30	60
Feb to Easter	30	
Easter to June half term	23	61
June to end of term	38	
	195	
Training Days	-5	
	190	



# SHERWELL VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO



## Proposed Torbay School Term Dates: 2025-26 Academic Year

	Sep-2025				
Monday	01	08	15	22	29
Tuesday	02	09	16	23	30
Wednesday	03	10	17	24	
Thursday	04	11	18	25	
Friday	05	12	19	26	
Saturday	06	13	20	27	
Sunday	07	14	21	28	

	Oct-2025				
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01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		

	Nov-2025				
	03	10	17	24	
	04	11	18	25	
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	Dec-2025				
Monday	01	08	15	22	29
Tuesday	02	09	16	23	30
Wednesday	03	10	17	24	31
Thursday	04	11	18	25	
Friday	05	12	19	26	
Saturday	06	13	20	27	
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	Jan-2026				
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		

	Feb-2026				
	02	09	16	23	
	03	10	17	24	
	04	11	18	25	
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02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24		
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	04	11	18	25	
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03	10	17	24	31	

	Jun-2026				
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04	11	18	25		
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	195	
Training Days	-5	
	190	