Tipton St John Bulletin

BELIEVING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE

Friday 25th September 2026

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Dear Parents

A huge thank you to the whole school community for your response to our Ofsted inspection this week. To the teachers and teaching assistants who put in so many additional hours, for your commitment and dedication, parents for your kind comments and support, and the wider community too—a huge thank you!

As I mentioned in my email earlier in the week, we are unable to share any specific outcomes until the report is published (likely to be just after the half term break). There were no surprises and some great aspects to celebrate.

As a result of the inspection this week, I will write more about events this week—our Theatre production of Alice In Wonderland, and our European Day of languages today.

Finally, a plug again for a couple of different opportunities:

Governing Board: We are looking for people to join the Otter Valley Federation Governing Board. Please do read on to find out how you can be part of this. We welcome applications from parents, grandparents, or members of the local community. Please do consider this as we would value more Tipton representation!

Please note the **PTFA AGM date below** — do get involved—a great way to support the school and connect with our school community. Also reminder about our breakfast and after school club—see final page.

Attendance

Class	Attendance
R	100%
1	98%
2	96.36%
3	96.25%
4	100%
5	98.75%
6	88.82%
Whole School	97.29%

Fund Saver Work Day : We have decided not to run a full day this year, as there are a few specific jobs we need to do but not a long enough list for lots of people to participate at the same time. So if you are able to offer a few hours at some point, please do get in touch. All offers of help/skill/resources gratefully received—more details to follow!

Harvest Festival is Thursday 8th October and we will be collecting for St Petrock's again. All welcome.

Have a lovely weekend! **Pete Button, Head of School**

Dates to Remember :

Tuesday 29th September—PTFA AGM—The Golden Lion, Tipton St John, 6pm

Thursday 8th October—Harvest Festival 9.15am in Church

Friday 23rd October— last day of first half term

Monday 2nd November -First Day back

Heart Values Awards



Oak : — Daisy C — Achievement — Outstanding attitude to learning and great mature role model, working brilliantly with younger children at lunchtimes.

Willow: — Lila — Achievement -Excellent role model for her learning— taking pride in her work and thinking carefully about her answers.

Maple: — Penny — Hope—for amazing resilience and perseverance in her attitude to learning and kindness and care to her classmates.

Hazel — Zuri — Achievement— For learning to write her name, demonstrating our HEART values and vision!

Houses and House Points

We have a House System at Tipton. There are four houses: Lions (Yellow), Tigers (Red), Leopards (Green) and Panthers (Blue). House points are earnt for good work, effort, good behaviour and demonstrating our values in school. There are Y6 House captains for each house who will be counting up the house points earnt each week by children in each class. These will give us a winning house who will be presented with the trophy on a Friday afternoon. We will be giving rewards for the most house points over the weeks and half terms—extra playtime and treats. The children have been working hard to earn housepoints this week and have enjoyed the challenge!

Winners this week were …. Panthers

Points:	85	81	111	89
	Leopards	Lions	Panthers	Tigers
				
Captains:	Daisy and Rex	Seb and Louisa	Maddie and Joe	Wiki and Max



We are happy to speak to any person at any time with regard to the safety of children. If you have any concerns please contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead for Otter Valley Federation: Amanda Fulford, Executive Headteacher

Safeguarding Governor: Mark Humphries

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Pete Button, Head of School

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Richard Hatswell, Teacher

Alternatively you can contact MASH on 0345 155 1071

Your PTFA needs YOU!

Dear parents,

The PTFA are looking for additional committee members to help oversee fundraising for the coming year. It's a wonderful way to meet other families, ensure the kids have a great year, and support the school. If you're interested in being involved, please reach out to us on email, or via the school office – or grab one of us at the school gates!

We're also hosting our annual general meeting on **Tuesday 29 September**. We'll be meeting at **6pm at The Golden Lion**. All welcome! It would be great to see as many families there as possible to help us look ahead to what will hopefully be another great year of supporting the school.

Thanks,
Rachel and the PTFA

Willow Residential Meeting—a reminder in case you missed the note today that parents of Willow class have a short meeting after school on Monday (28th) to share plans about a residential for Willow this year.

Piano Lessons in September!

My name is Helen Alford and I I have been a piano teacher for over 20 years. I have been teaching in Tipton primary school for the past two years, and as my older students are moving on to secondary school, I now have space to accommodate new students in year 3 or above to either begin to learn playing the piano or continue their piano studies. Lessons would occur during the school day, the time and day to be confirmed. Each lesson will last 20 minutes and will cost £11. If your child is interested in starting piano lessons with me, please contact me at helen.alford1@gmail.com.



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

There are two vacancies for a parent governor on our federation's governing board and I am writing to invite nominations to fill this vacancy. Please think about becoming a governor or encouraging others to volunteer. Parent governors can be from either school in the federation.

Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the governor team and play an important role; the governing body works together as a group, meeting at least once every half term as a Full Governing Board, and once a term for training and development. Together they are responsible for the strategic direction of the federation, promoting high standards of educational achievement and ensuring our resources are used to maximum impact. Life as a governor is interesting and varied and we feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training, those new to being a governor are expected to attend governor induction training provided by both Governors Services and the Diocesan Board of Education. The term of office for parent governors is four years. For further information about the role please get in touch with Sarah Walls, Chair of Governors, via email chair@ottervalleyfederation.org or through the school offices, who will be happy to help.

If you would like to stand for election **please complete the online form** no later than 12 noon on **Friday 2nd October 2026** If you wish you can include a few details about yourself and why you would like to become a governor (not exceeding 100 words). This will then be circulated to all parents to help them decided who to vote for if an election is required. You do not have to complete this section, but if you don't you may put yourself at a disadvantage if there is an election. An election, by secret ballot, will be held if more nominations are received than the number of vacancies. If an election is needed details of the procedure will be sent to all parents.

Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the federation on the day that nominations close. The enclosed sheet summarises the disqualification criteria to serve as a governor. Anyone standing for election must certify that he/she is not disqualified for any reason. Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 hours per academic year or more or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections.

Yours sincerely



Jessica Benger

Clerk to Governor and Returning Officer

jess.benger@ottervalleyfederation.org

Disqualification Criteria on the following page:

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Disqualification criteria

A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if he or she:

· fails to attend the governing body meetings – without the consent of the governing body – for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting missed (not applicable to ex officio governors);

· is subject to a bankruptcy restriction order, an interim bankruptcy restriction order, a debt relief order or an interim debt relief order;

· has had his or her estate sequestrated and the sequestration order has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;

· is subject to:

I. a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986

II. a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

III. a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

IV. an order made under Section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under a County Court administration order);

· has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under Section 34 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from participating in the management or control of any body;

· is included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children;

· is disqualified from working with children or subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002;

· is disqualified from registration for childminding or providing day care;

· is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006;

· has received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) in the five years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor;

· has received a prison sentence of two-and-a-half years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;

· has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more;

· has been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the five years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;

· refuses to allow an application to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a DBS check.

Playground Equipment on Lower Site

You may have spotted that the playground equipment is currently out of use. Unfortunately, the flooding at the start of the year, followed by a very dry summer has taken its toll on the timber frames and they need to be repaired. We have a quote for this work and will be arranging the repairs as soon as we can. In the meantime we would appreciate your co-operation in ensuring the children do not use the equipment at the start and end of the school day. We are very grateful to the PTFA who will contribute funds to these works.

School Relocation

Many thanks to all those who attended the public consultation meeting on Thursday 23rd July in the village hall. This term outline planning permission will be submitted to EDDC to relocate our school building to Carter's Farm on the outskirts of Tipton Village and a decision should be made by the end of December. **IF** successful, we understand that planning of the site would commence in January 2027. This would take approx. 12 months and the rebuild itself would take a further 1-2 years. Governors are very hopeful that this project will be able to progress and will keep parents updated. If successful we would plan to update the children and involve them in planning their new school building from January 2027. We have some plans of the location of Carters Field (version used at village hall meeting) and parents are welcome to pop in

Breakfast and After School Club

