



188 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London, SW14 8LF

admissions@thsboys.org.uk secretary@thsboys.org.uk

020 8876 3323 www.thsboys.org.uk

8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

A warm welcome back! We hope you have all had a relaxing and healthy holiday. Many thanks to all the parents for the Christmas cards and gifts that Mrs. McCabe and I received.

Our main topics this term will be 'Minibeasts' and 'Space', though these are fluid and may change in response to the children's interests and current affairs.

## **LITERACY**

### **Speaking and listening**

The children will use language to recreate roles and experiences; use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events; attempt to sustain attentive listening and respond to what they have heard through relevant comments, questions or actions. The children will take part in activities such as roleplay, sharing news, contributing to our topic discussions, as well as listening to each other and stories read by the teacher.

### **Phonics and writing**

The children will continue with the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme. We continually revise the sounds from last term and are now learning digraphs, where two letters together make one sound, e.g. 'sh', 'ee' etc. These digraphs are all in your child's sound book and you will receive a 'Little Wandle' image and explanation of the sound in your child's blue book, each day a sound is introduced. We will continue to practise recognition of sounds and segmenting and blending words in the context of reading and writing.

### **Reading**

The children will be responding to a wide variety of stories, rhymes, poems and non-fiction texts. We will be reinforcing the difference between words and letters and that, in English, writing is read from left to right and top to bottom. We emphasise finger pointing to help make the connection that the spoken words correspond to written words. We will continue to learn to recognise some "tricky" words i.e. commonly used words that are phonically irregular e.g. the, was.

We will continue to collect in Reading Records and Reading books on Tuesday. Reading books and/or word lists will be sent home each Wednesday.

It is very helpful for us to know how your child approaches phonics and reading at home. Please use the Reading Record to inform us of their progress or any difficulties that your child may be experiencing.

### **Mark Making and Writing**

The children will be encouraged to hold a pencil using the tripod grip, to draw pictures and to form recognisable letters. They will be continuing to learn to write letters in the school cursive script, emphasising that all letters start and most finish on the line. We will be encouraging the children to use writing in a variety of contexts and for a range of purposes e.g. letters, cards, messages, list writing etc.



**Opportunities for Every Boy**

Tower House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Tower House School Charitable Foundation. Registered in England. Charity Registration No. 1068844.

Company Registration No. 03345004. Registered address as above.



188 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London, SW14 8LF

admissions@thsboys.org.uk secretary@thsboys.org.uk

020 8876 3323 www.thsboys.org.uk

## **NUMERACY**

### **Numbers and Numerical Patterns**

The children will be saying and using the number names in order up to 20 and beyond, including counting backwards and counting forwards from any given number. They will be doing activities that consolidate their understanding of the value of numbers - ordering them and comparing them. We will be identifying numerals 0-20 and beyond when appropriate, developing the children's understanding of the place value of numbers above 10 e.g. 12 is 10 and 2 more. The children will be consolidating and learning the vocabulary of addition and subtraction, e.g. altogether, one more, one less, take away, count on and count back and developing their understanding of which numbers can combine to make another number e.g. 5 and 3 more is 8, or  $4 + 4 = 8$ . They will play games, board games and use practical apparatus and toys to combine sets and count all the objects, take away and find out how many are left. Later in the term we will also introduce counting in 2's and 10's.

The children will continue to investigate solid and flat shapes. They will build and make objects and patterns with shapes and describe them using mathematical vocabulary. They will be sorting shapes, animals and toys according to different criteria. The children will be using language such as more and less, longer, shorter, heavier, lighter etc. They will be measuring the length, capacity and weight of things in the classroom and around school using a range of non-standard measures e.g. How many bricks long is the window? We will use money and begin to recognise coins.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD**

### **People, Communities and Cultures**

We will learn about other families, customs and routines; and talk about what happens in our homes and families. The children will be made aware of the Christian celebration of Easter.

### **Past and Present**

We will be continuing to explore the school, talking about places we have visited, sequencing our school day and week and using the vocabulary of today, tomorrow and yesterday. We will be talking about different environments, including looking at animals' natural environments and diets etc.

### **The Natural World**

We will continue to explore the natural world, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. We will explore similarities and differences between the natural world and contrasting environments, drawing on children's experiences and what has been read in class. The children will learn about some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Fine Motor Skills and Gross Motor Skills**

The children will develop their skills of cutting, gluing and sticking, practising assembling and joining skills by making models from junk. We will start to learn simple threading and sewing techniques. In the dining hall we will be developing the skill of using knives, forks and spoons independently. The children will continue with weekly PE, swimming and games sessions.



Opportunities for Every Boy

Tower House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Tower House School Charitable Foundation. Registered in England. Charity Registration No. 1068844.

Company Registration No. 03345004. Registered address as above.



188 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London, SW14 8LF

admissions@thsboys.org.uk secretary@thsboys.org.uk

020 8876 3323 www.thsboys.org.uk

## **EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN**

### Creating with Materials

The children will be exploring colour, texture, form and shape. We will be encouraging them to think about the characteristics of objects and how they can represent them through a range of media. We will be experiencing a range of art techniques.

### Being Imaginative and Expressive

The children will be representing their ideas and thoughts through design, art, music, dance and role-play. These will be linked to the topics being covered in class. The children will continue with weekly singing and music sessions.

## **PSED**

The children will follow the objectives set out in the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage. This term we will continue to encourage the children to become increasingly independent and confident. We will continue to emphasise the importance of using good manners and caring for each other and our environment, particularly looking after resources in the classroom and taking turns. We will be trying to describe, understand and manage our feelings e.g. happiness, anger, fright etc.

The children will continue to have weekly circle time sessions, following the JIGSAW PSED program. This term the focus is 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?**

- Ensure that your child can put on and do up their blazer and coat and can dress and undress themselves, including changing into swimming kit independently, fastening their shoes and turning their clothes the correct way round. It is very useful if children know where their name label is on each item of clothing – this helps us enormously!
- Encourage your child to regularly practise their letter formation; ensure they are using the tripod grip and always provide your child with a line. The letters that the children have learnt so far are: l, i, t, h, n, m, r, b, p.
- Play 'I Spy' games, recognise letters and words in books and the environment. Practise reading the following taught tricky words by sight and spotting them in the environment: the, to, l, into, no, go, he, she.
- Regularly talk about the sounds in words, including counting sounds and saying which sounds comes first/last/in the middle etc.
- Play three letter word building games using magnetic letters (cat, pop, tin, mum)
- Practise subitising (recognising small amounts on sight) and counting accurately – include random groups/bundles, touching everything only once, and counting by hearing! Recite numbers backwards from 10-0 and even 20-0. Play games that involve combining groups and taking away quantities, remember to keep it practical.
- Keep sending in WOW cards, this is a way for you to share your child's achievements at home.

Warm wishes,

Miss Clark and Mrs. McCabe



**Opportunities for Every Boy**

Tower House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Tower House School Charitable Foundation. Registered in England. Charity Registration No. 1068844.

Company Registration No. 03345004. Registered address as above.