

Dear parents and carers,

Wow, the first month of school has flown by and we are already looking at winter weather! The children have settled excellently; their learning attitudes are improving every day and they are really understanding the challenges and rewards of their new year groups.

Please ensure that your children are completing their homework. As a school, we provide a small amount of truly focused homework and it's important that children do this to help them achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



We have been informed that there are lots of children playing out after-school and at weekends. As a school, we support this—it is important that children learn to manage a healthy level of risk and that they are active outside.

However, please ensure that you are always aware of your child's location. They need to be supervised to make sure that they are safe, for example from strangers or from road traffic.

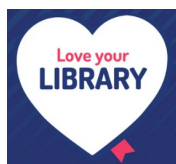


Please ensure that you are being careful around irons. We have had a number of incidents in which children are helping with irons and have caused injury to themselves. Please ensure children help with chores during which they can keep themselves safe.



<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries>

You'll know that we love the library here at Talavera Junior School! We have been sent a link to the most up-to-date courses being offered throughout Hampshire libraries and we recommend you take a look!



Many of these are suitable for children to attend and lots of them are operated at no or low cost to you.

If you need any help booking onto any, please come and let us know.

Please see the guidance that we have been given regarding whooping cough:

There has been a continued increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases at the start of this year, with 553 confirmed in England in January, compared with 858 cases for the whole of last year (2023).



The current increase is coming at a time when there has been a steady decline in uptake of the vaccine in pregnant women and in children. In response to increasing case numbers, the UKHSA is reminding mums-to-be to get protected against whooping cough so that their young baby has protection from birth against this serious disease and to ask their midwife if they are unsure. UKHSA is also urging parents to check that their children are vaccinated against whooping cough, which is offered to all infants at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age (as part of the 6-in-1 combination vaccine) with an additional dose included in the pre-school booster vaccine.

Hampshire Music Service are delighted to be able to continue offering Music Production Online Provision. This course is offered to all Years 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 students across the county that dream of creating music, regardless of abilities and musical background. **What are the benefits of Music Production Online?**

- Make your home a music studio
- Write and record your own music online
- Expert tuition from Hampshire Music Service staff

Students learn how to develop their sequencing, recording and editing skills. Our course is a great insight into the world of creating music for your child to enjoy and to nurture creativity skills. There are 10 sessions per term which are an hour in length each. Further details, as well as a video demo are accessible below.



<https://musicproduction.hantsmusic.org.uk/about/>

The sessions will be £5 each. Sessions will be on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 4pm. Please sign up by using the link below. Please note that places are limited as there are only 15 places on each session and will be offered on a first come first serve basis. [Music Production Online - Autumn Term 2024](#)

Online safety is important for every child and family to understand. However, it can prove an additional challenge for those who are neurodivergent.

Please see below for guidance which is designed specifically to support the families of pupils with SEND.

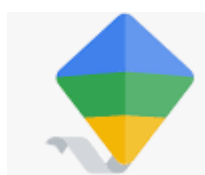
<https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/guidance-for-parents-of-neurodivergent-gamers-internet-matters/full-view.html>

If you would like further support, please make contact with our SENDCo, Mrs Clare Litwin.



We have been recommend Google Family. If you have a Google account, this can allow you to track and limit screen time, ensure children are viewing safe content and generally give you piece of mind.

Take a look and decide if it would work for you as a family.



You will know just how busy Gun Hill and Hospital Hill can get at drop-off and pick-up. Please help us to model road safety by parking in the correct place.

Remember: you can also come to the office to get a Park and Stride permit, allowing you to park in the multi-storey and giving your child some healthy exercise on the way in.



We are so thankful to ShuZu for their ongoing kindness which is ensuring that all of the children in school have appropriate and safe footwear.

We have also recently been gifted some high-quality coats which are ready to be given to whoever needs them.

We always have pre-loved uniform so please come to see us if you need any support at all.

If you would like someone else to collect your child, please ensure you **email** this to the office.

If this is going to be a regular pick-up, we recommend adding this contact to Arbor to save yourself time.

If you would like support in how to do this, pop into the office.

Key Dates

October:

Thursday 3rd: Poetry Day

Friday 4th: Year 4 Wellington trip

W/C 7th: National Library Week

Thursday 10th: Year 6 Chessington trip

Friday 11th: Fijian Day

Tuesday 15th: Happy 60th Birthday, Talavera Junior School!

Wednesday 16th: Year 3 Butser Farm trip

Friday 18th: House event: Cross-country

Friday 25th: Last day of term

November:

Monday 4th: INSET day—no children in school

Tuesday 5th: First day back at school

2024
CALENDAR



It is Walk to School Month this October. You may have seen Basil the Bird out on the streets, bringing some brightness to a dull, grey day!

Walking, scooting or cycling all count as an active mode of transport so please try to do one of these at least once per week this month—more is even better!

If you live further afield, please pop into the office for a Park and Stride permit.

Even this small change can make a big difference to children's mental and physical health, setting them up well for a day of learning.



Please remember that we are a nut-free school.

We have a number of children with serious allergies.

Please help us to keep them safe by ensuring no food with nuts comes into school.

In particular, please carefully check cereal bars.

Thank you for your help!



New attendance rules!

There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

I'm a single parent of one child and I want to go on holiday for 5 days or more.

Let the school know before you book anything and make sure you use the absence request form. A holiday **will not** be authorised. If your child misses at least 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine. This fine is per child, per parent...



1 parent & 1 child = £80 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days

1 parent & 2 children = £160 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £320 if paid between 21 and 28 days

For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



£320 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £640 if paid between 21 and 28 days

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook? Foreign mobile dial tone?
Home visit shows no-one at home? Amazing sun tan?
Children talking about your holiday?



Please don't be offended if we ask these questions or ask for evidence - we're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

NO! If you have a second holiday in a rolling 3-year period you will receive a higher fine of £160 per child per parent. If you have a third holiday in a rolling 3-year period there is an immediate referral for prosecution

2nd TIME

2 parents and...

1 child = £320

2 children = £640

3 children = £960

No discount for early payment!

3rd TIME

A penalty notice fine **will not** be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

*1 parent & 2 children = £5,000
2 parents and 2 children = £10,000*

What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

YES! If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport

Family holidays
Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend, but able to
Poor family organisation
No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW