



Talavera Junior School

Year 3 Newsletter

Autumn 2 - Explorers and Explosions



A Great Start to Year 3

We are so very proud of the way the children have begun their time at Talavera Junior. They have all worked extremely hard during the first half-term and demonstrated a real passion for learning, adapting to a much faster pace of learning and higher level of learning. This half-term is extremely busy and includes both exciting learning opportunities and some Christmas treats too.

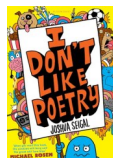
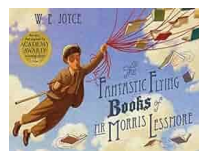
This half-term, we will begin a new topic looking at Mountains and comparing them with Volcanoes. This Geography unit will continue into Spring 1 to give the children a greater opportunity to learn in more depth about volcanoes. To bring this topic to life, we will also be venturing trip to the Natural History Museum in **January** so keep checking your Arbor as this letter will be sent out before Christmas.

English:

Arthur and the Golden Rope and The Polar Express

Class Reader:

Chocolate Cake, I Don't Like Poetry, The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore (due to grouping there will be some variations to this)



Geography - Mountains

Science - Skeletons and movement

Computing - Networking

Music - Voice: Christmas is Coming

Indoor PE - Gymnastics

Outdoor PE - Football

PSHE - I Love Me!

French - Musical Instruments and Numbers

DT - Healthy Living - making a cous cous dish

Key Dates:

Monday 10th November: Rags to Riches clothing collection

W/C Monday 10th November: NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe assembly

Friday 14th November: Parent Vs Kids Football afternoon (sign up required)

Saturday 15th November: Choir singing at Aldershot Christmas light Switch on

W/C Monday 17th November: Book fair at school

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November: Year 3 Parent Evening meetings

Monday 24th November: Individual School Photos

Wednesday 26th November: Year 3 Cinema trip

Wednesday 26th November: TT Rockstars day - dress-up optional

Thursday 4th December: Choir Carol Concert at the Royal Garrison Church

Wednesday 10th December: Lower school Christmas Party (Sign up required)

Friday 12th December: Talavera Treat (selected children)

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day

Friday 19th December: Church service at the Garrison Church

Friday 19th December: Last day - 1:30 finish



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Homework:

Parent support is crucial to a child's education. By working together, we can support your child to make great progress. For this reason, we ask parents to support with the key components which underpin the foundations for children's learning. Although homework set is limited, at Talavera we have the expectation that it is completed regularly and thoroughly.

Please note that, now the expectations have been set, you will receive emails or be spoken to by your child's teacher if they have concerns that homework is not being completed.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Spelling:



We have listened to your feedback and understand that parents would like to be kept informed of their child's spelling scores. This half-term, children will now complete their spelling test in the pink books which they take home each week. This will enable you to see how they got on. As a result, it is vital that your child brings in their spelling practice book on a Monday. If it is not in school, your child will do their test in a different book and the results will not be as easily shared. A weekly set of spellings will continue to be set home weekly this half term. These spellings words are a mixture of High Frequency Words taught at infant school and Year 3 curriculum spellings. These will be given on a Tuesday and tested the following Monday. Spellings will go home on a label and we expect children to practise these in their home spelling books. The spellings for the half-term will also be displayed on your child's class door.

TIMES TABLES



As you know, times tables are a key focus in Year 3. Last half term, children spent time revising their 2, 5 and 10 times tables (all of which they would have learnt in Year 2).

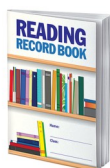


To support your children in making progress in their biweekly quizzes we ask that you continue to regularly practise their times tables with them. To help you understand your child's progress, they will bring home their completed quizzes each Friday. Please remember to ask your children to show these to you so you can celebrate their achievements together.

To further embed the tables and help develop their speed, children are also encouraged to practise online using their TTRockstars account. Throughout the half-term, teachers will be setting up online battles and competitions for the children to participate in.

In addition to this, there will be a TTRockstars day on Wednesday 26th November. Children will be

Reading



A polite reminder that your child should be reading at home **at least 3 times a week and at least once a week to an adult**. This is vital to support your child with their speed and fluency in turn preparing them for more challenging comprehension work in class. Please also ensure this is recorded in their diary so that the school can keep track of their progress. Reading diaries are checked most days by adults but we ask that they are at least in school on a Monday and Friday. As mentioned, we will now begin sending reminder emails to the care givers of those children who are not reading regularly.



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Into Film

On **Wednesday 26th November**, we will be going to the Aldershot Cineworld to watch Sonic the Hedgehog 3. This is part of Into Film's annual film festival designed to encourage children to become excited about stories and is completely free. There will be **an additional letter** sent via Arbor with more information about this trip. **Please note this film is rated at PG.**

Although no consent is required, please ensure you have set your permissions on Arbor to enable your child to watch PG films and walk in the local area. If you have any concerns regarding the trip, please contact your child's teacher. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.



Christmas Service

On Friday 19th December, the whole school will be attending Aldershot Garrison church to mark the end of the Autumn term.

All parents are welcome to come and join us for the service. Although school ends at 1:30, you will be welcome to collect your child early from the Church. Please look out on Arbor for further information nearer the time.



Online Safety: Being smart with screens

As technology evolves, so does the need to help children use it safely and positively. Though our computing curriculum, we teach children about **"Digital Balance"** — understanding how to enjoy technology safely without letting it take over our free time.

At home, you can help by:

- Talking regularly about what your child enjoys online and who they might be chatting to (even in games).
- Using **BBC Own It** and **Childnet** for fun videos and games that teach safe online habits.
- Encouraging "tech-free times" — for example, no devices during dinner or before bed.
- Setting up devices with **child-safe settings** and **age-appropriate content filters**.

For guidance and support, visit:

BBC Own It - Online life advice

Internet Matters - Screen Time Tips

Morning Snack and Packed Lunches

We recommend that your child has a mid-morning snack at break time to ensure they can learn effectively. Without this, children's energy levels can drop noticeably, resulting in reduced concentration.

In-line with our healthy school policy, this snack should be a piece of fruit or vegetable. Cereal bars (that do not contain yogurt or chocolate coating) and healthy oat-based snacks are also allowed. **These snacks and packed lunches must not contain nuts in any form.**

Packed lunches must also be healthy and contain food which will sustain your child through the afternoon. This half-term we will be updating and relaunching our healthy eating policy which will be sent to all parents to guide and support. If you have any questions or queries regarding pack lunches, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or a member of staff in the office.



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Physical Education:

Class	Indoor PE day	Outdoor PE day
Axolotls	Tuesday	Friday
Blue Whales	Monday	Tuesday
Emperor Penguins	Monday	Tuesday
Green Turtles	Monday	Tuesday
Polar Bears	Tuesday	Friday

P.E. is a vital part of our curriculum, a government requirement and a subject our children enjoy. However, to ensure children are able to fully participate, it is vital that children remember their PE kit. Although we understand some children wear their P.E. kit to clubs, their kit should be in school **every day**. Due to the time of year, Children may also wear plain running leggings/ joggers and a plain hoodie/ sweatshirt when outside.

UNIFORM

At Talavera, we continue to have high expectations for school uniform. Please ensure your child is following the correct dress code in line with our uniform policy.

Please see below some key reminders:

- Children are only permitted to wear one pair of earrings **which must be studs**. These **must be removed or covered with tape provided on PE days**.
- Children should be wearing black school trousers/ skirt/ dress daily. **Leggings and jogging bottoms are not permitted**.
 - Children should wear a white polo shirt which is different from their PE top.
 - Nail polish and temporary tattoos must be removed before coming to school.
 - Hair which is shoulder length or longer must be tied up.
- A red cardigan or jumper should be worn in school. **Hoodies are not part of the uniform policy**.
- Your child needs to wear plain, black shoes (not trainers).

Also, a reminder that as a school we do offer access to second-hand uniform. This is available throughout the year on request at the office.

This has been such a valuable resource for many families. However, to keep it a success we need donations. Donations of unneeded or outgrown uniform can be brought into the office or given to Miss Coombs at any point in the year. Please also remember if you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform including providing adequate coats and/or shoes that you speak to your child's class teacher or a member of office staff. We will always do what we can to help.

