



Talavera Junior School

Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn 2 - Let the games begin!



Continuing a good start

Firstly, a big well done to all of our children in settling into Year 4 so well. There have been some changes that they have navigated but they have shown excellent resilience. As we move towards Christmas, there is going to be a lot of exciting learning and activities that the children will experience and we can't wait to get started.

This half term, we will begin a new focus looking at the Ancient Greeks and their legacy on the modern world. This will be our theme in our English writing, our reading, our history lessons and our art lessons. In science we will be focusing on Living things and habitats, exploring the places animals and plants live and how this can impact on other living things in the same ecosystem. Furthermore, we are creating scuttle bugs in DT which involve the children using on their knowledge on electric circuits and using them to power small robotic beetles.

English:
Greek Myths and Legends
Flanimals

Class Reader:
The Wild Robot
Encyclopaedia of Ancient Greece
So you think you've got it bad?
Christmasaurus

Science - Living things and habitats
Computing - PowerPoint
Music - Listen 2 Me music
(African percussion)
DT - Scuttle bugs
French - Ou habites-tu?

PE - Gymnastics/Tag rugby
Art - Drawing and sketching:
Greek columns
PSHE - Our proud army
RE - Holy
History - Ancient Greeks and
their legacy

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 4 Parent Evening meetings

Monday 24th November: Individual School Photos

Tuesday 25th November: Year 4 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



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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

Spelling:



The first homework task consists of a weekly set of spellings which will be given and tested on **Mondays**. Spellings will go home on a label in their spelling books and we expect children to practise these in their home spelling books.

Times tables:



In June, your child will sit a government-marked times table test. This is taken by every child in England to ensure they are prepared for the curriculum challenges in Year 5 and 6.

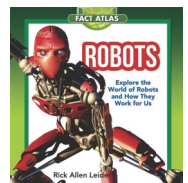
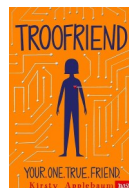
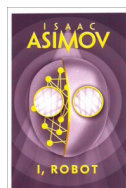
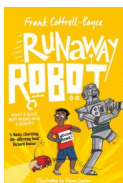
Consequently, to help prepare your child for this, we ask that you continue to practise times tables recall regularly with your children, using their flash cards and TT Rockstars.



We will be setting weekly challenges which is part of the children's weekly homework. Children should have received their log in details within the first two weeks in September.

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 **Tuesday 25th November**, we will be going to the Aldershot Cineworld to watch **The Garfield Movie**. 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.

Although no consent is required, please ensure you have set your permissions on Arbor to enable your child to 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. Through 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:

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**. Children should bring their kit in on Mondays and take them home to be washed on Fridays. Below is a reminder of the P.E. days for Year 4.

<u>Indian Elephants</u>	<u>Bengal Tigers</u>	<u>Mountain Gorillas</u>	<u>Giant Pandas</u>
Wednesday (Indoor) Friday (Outdoor)	Wednesday (Indoor) Friday (Outdoor)	Thursday (Indoor) Wednesday (Outdoor)	Thursday (Indoor) Wednesday (Outdoor)



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.