


At Talavera Junior School, we are always looking for ways to engage and excite our community of learners. It was with this in mind that we were exploring Hidden Figures, the story of black women who were instrumental in the Space Race.

When we finished this work, we realised that tales of courage in the face of adversity or of determination and resilience were speaking to our children. We decided to delve into the greatest achievements of the past year by women



With your partner, give the the examples of these features which you spot.

Headline: Nasa launches spacecraft in first ever mission

Byline: Susan Collins

Key fact: Spacecraft soared into the sky at 40:27 on

Quote: "It is important to our reputation as a world leader in space"

Picture: The Falcon 9 rocket began lift-off

Caption: The Falcon 9 rocket began take-off

Advert: Ferrari

around the world. It was here, reading an article about an enormous array of incredible women, that we found Captain Preet Chandi.

It seemed perfect! Here was a story about not just anyone achieving something amazing – but an army medical officer. Captain Preet Chandi had, on the 3rd


January 2022, become the first woman of colour to complete a solo trip to the South Pole.

We knew that this would capture our children’s imagination and get them talking about the feats of endurance and bravery that they have heard from their parents. It is something we see consistently: our military children are so proud of the military community of which they are a part.

Despite the fact that this was a challenging task, she wanted to prove her point that women coloured women could do the same as non-coloured women. Her goal was to travel 700 miles in just 45 days. Surprisingly, her dream was accomplished in just 33 days. In order to prepare for this treacherous journey, she had to trek through Greenland

We set to planning a news article, which retold the exploits of Captain Chandi. This meant starting with the technical aspects of such formal writing, including creating our own headlines to capture how impressed we were. We explored our language choices and thought about who the public would want to hear from in an article about such an event.

The children were captivated and were so excited to re-tell the story.



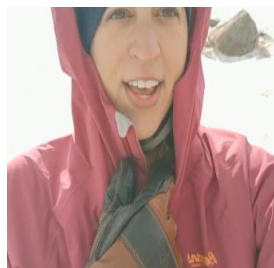
What is the problem with this reported clause?

"I'm proud to have inspired girls to take a risk and dream their dreams," after returning from the expedition.

It hasn't said who said the speech. It should have been 'exclaimed their mum after the expedition.'

However, one child in

particular came to let me know that she had a connection with Captain Chandi. Her mother worked with her and knew her well. This blew our class’ minds! How incredible that we had accidentally stumbled upon this story in the first place – and then that we had a personal connection.



Imagine our surprise as teachers, then, that we then received a video from Polar Preet herself! This parent from our wonderful community had contacted Captain Chandi and told her that we were learning about her expeditions. In return, Chandi recorded herself training for her next mission and sent it through to us.

This inspired our class enormously: they knew that the story was real; they felt proud of the achievements of a member of their community; they felt special that they had received a personal video from someone they so admire.

Headline: Another First for Britain! Polar Preet Crosses Antarctica!

Hour: 10:00

Event: Preet Chandi - Captain (Polar Preet) A woman of colour skiing across South Antarctica

Background: To inspire people of colour I respectational to all people

Background: 32 when joined the army Do the challenge to inspire people Grew up in a Sikh community Her preparation before she left Quotes Break the glass ceiling.

What's next? Bucket List Trek the Sahara Climb Mount Everest Go to the Arctic/South Pole

We loved writing about Captain Chandi and cannot wait to hear what she does next. It really brought home for us as a school that the military community is one which may do incredible things – but which is also close-knit and supportive of one another.

We want to say thank you to Captain Chandi for her determination and strength of spirit which we all found so moving. We also want to give our gratitude to the parent who contacted Polar Preet and made our learning so much more vivid.