



Trafalgar Newsletter

Special Events:

February

- 12th-16th Half term break
19th INSET Day (school closed to the children)
20th Return to school
Year 1 Dinosaur Museum visit (in school)
28th 4-7pm Parent Consultations (Whole School)
29th Let's Get Creative

March

- 6th 3.30-5.30pm Parent Consultations (Whole School)
7th 3.30-5.30pm Parent Consultations (Whole School)
World Book Day
12th 9.15am Maths Workshop in the Hall
18th African Drumming Workshop
19th 9.45am YR Performance to Parent/Carers
20th 9.45am YR Performance to Parent/Carers
21st Spring Term Open Afternoon
25th Navy Class
Woodland Time
26th Sky Class Woodland Time
27th Turquoise Class Woodland Time
29th Mar-12th Apr Easter holidays

April

- 15th Return to school

Pupil Conferencing



Each term, we talk to the children about how they feel about our school, and how we can make it better. Last week, I spoke to some children from each year group about what they were proud of and what helps them when they find things tricky and I wanted to share with you some of their brilliant ideas and comments. As always, they make us super proud of their reflective thoughts and ideas.

"We are learning about not giving up on our goals. Talking to my friends is good as they can give me suggestions about how to get there."

PSHE lesson Year 2

"When it is too easy, I can talk to my teacher and they can make the job harder for me, like making the numbers bigger."

Maths lesson Year 2

"I'm proud of my work, I'm remembering to write all the numbers the right way round. I used to find this hard."

Year 1 Maths lesson

"When I am stuck I have these things on my desk. Numberline, beadstring and counters. If I need more help my teacher helps me by showing me how to get started."

Maths Year 1

"I use a phonics mat. I check my letters are the same."

Reception writing table

"Look at the pictures on the wall, it's the sounds we know."

Reception writing table

"I'm proud of my painting, look at it on the wall."

Reception

"My teacher smiles and gives me a thumbs up. I'm proud of this."

Year 1

Miss Hickie
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

19th January 2024

Assembly Theme

The assembly theme for next week will be:

Road Safety Awareness



Attendance Update

**Highest Class
Attendance for this week
goes to:**

Jade & Lime Green – 98%

**Whole School Attendance is 94.86%
(National Expectation is 96% or better)**

The attendance rate (proportion of possible sessions attended) was 91.6% across all schools in the **week commencing 11 December 2023**. The absence rate was, therefore, 8.4% across all schools.

Year 1 – Visit from Horsham Museum



Thank you to those Year 1 families who have now contributed £3.00 towards the visit of Horsham Museum to Trafalgar to launch our Dinosaur Topic. We have now received **83%** of the monies required for this event to take place... we are so nearly there! If you have not already done so, it's not too late and your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Chinese New Year 2024

Chinese New Year begins on **Saturday, 10th February 2024**. This is a festival that most children like to learn about because it is colourful and fun. **2024 is the year of the Dragon.**



Here is some information that you may like to share with your child:

- The origin of the Chinese New Year is centuries old.
- It is recognised as the Spring Festival and celebrations last for 15 days.
- Like the Western calendar, the Chinese Lunar Calendar is a yearly one, with the start of the lunar year being based on the cycles of the moon. Because of this cycle of dating, the beginning of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February.
- The Chinese lunar calendar names each of the twelve years after an animal.
- Legend has it that the Lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from earth. Only twelve came to say farewell and as a reward he named a year after each one in the order they arrived.

It will help us if your child knows which year he/she was born and what the animal sign is. All the twelve animals are identified below for your interest.

Year	Chinese New Year Day	Animal Sign
2013	10/02/2013	Snake
2014	31/01/2014	Horse
2015	19/02/2015	Goat
2016	08/02/2016	Monkey
2017	28/01/2017	Rooster
2018	16/02/2018	Dog
2019	05/02/2019	Pig
2020	25/01/2020	Rat
2021	12/02/2021	Ox
2022	01/02/2022	Tiger
2023	22/01/2023	Rabbit
2024	10/02/2024	Dragon

New Age Kurling (NAK) Event

On Wednesday, 17th January Mr Hallett and Mrs Senneck took two teams of four, from Year 2, to a New Age Kurling event being held at Millais school.

They had a lovely afternoon and made us very proud. The teams rotated around a small carousel of activity stations and played friendly scored matches in the official NAK format. Children received a participation certificate and the sports leaders scored the spirit of the games awards. Jay and Sara were awarded the magic moment award for our teams.



Term Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term:

1 Sept - 15 Dec 2023

- Half Term 23 - 27 Oct
- Christmas break 18 Dec - 1 Jan 2024

Spring Term:

2 Jan - 28 March 2024

- Half Term 12 - 16 Feb
- Easter break 29 March - 12 April

Summer Term:

15 April - 23 July 2024

- Half Term 27 - 31 May

INSET Days

- Friday, 1st Sept 2023
- Monday, 4th Sept 2023
- Monday, 30th Oct 2023
- Monday, 19th Feb 2024
- Monday, 3rd June 2024

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Message from Keith Warbis, Parent Governor



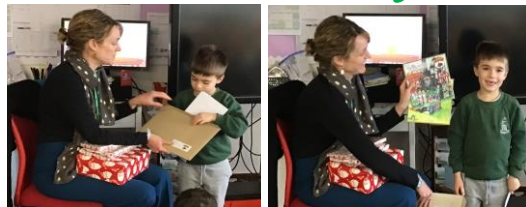
Despite the Christmas holidays feeling like a distant memory, from a governor perspective, it was wonderful to see the school community coming together to celebrate such important events in the school Calendar. It was marvellous to see the fantastic Year 2 children sing and read so admirably at Holy Trinity Church over consecutive nights and the Year 1 children were brilliant in their performance of 'A Magical Christmas Journey'. A huge well done to all of the staff, parents and volunteers who came together to make these events so special and enjoyable at the end of term.

As a governing board, it has been a very busy time over December and January with several visits taking place to look at key areas of the curriculum and school procedures. These visits are an essential part of the role and allow the governors to see how the school is implementing their policies, curriculum and improvement plans. The visits also provided an opportunity to talk with pupils, staff and some parents to gather their views, celebrate successes and feedback to the governing board. It is an exceptionally exciting time for the school with some excellent new additions being made to the governing board that will help the school to go from strength to strength.

On behalf of the governing board, I would like to wish every member of our community the very best for 2024 and we look forward to seeing all of the children at the school continue to grow, to be happy and to excel in their learning.

Keith Warbis

Well done Stanley!



Stanley, in Year 2, was so inspired by the Victoria Torton Tales books that he made his own version and we decided to send it to the author Wendy Wakelin. She was so impressed she sent a letter back to Stanley and donated some of her books to the school.



Did you know....?

"As far back as the 1970s, evidence was emerging suggesting that *reading for pleasure* had a powerful influence on children's *cognitive development*, especially in terms of their vocabulary. It therefore seems that it is not just that the academically able children read more but that they have become academically more able through the reading they have done."

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1050849/Reading_framework_Teaching_the_foundations_of_literacy_-_July_2021_Jan_22_update.pdf

Challenge(s) of the week...

- **Play a game of 'charades'** based on children's books and stories. What actions can you come up with together to show that the story is...a picture book/chapter book/ a poetry book/ non-fiction/also a film/ also a TV show, etc?
- **Play a game of 'pictionary'** based on children's books and stories. Can you guess the story that they are drawing? How quickly?