



Trafalgar Newsletter

Special Events:

Spring Term 2025

January 2025

6th Spring Term begins
15th Otter Class-Woodland Time
23rd Squirrel Class-Woodland Time

29th Mouse Class-Woodland Class

February

5th Mole Class-Woodland Time
11th Safer Internet Day 2025
12th Rabbit Class-Woodland Time
17th-21st Half Term break
27th Fox Class-Woodland Time
24th INSET Day (school closed to the children)

March

5th Deer Class-Woodland Time
13th Badger Class-Woodland Time
19th Mole Class-Woodland Time
26th Rabbit Class-Woodland Time

April

7th-21st Easter holidays
22nd Summer term begins

Attendance Figures and Arriving at School on Time



A polite reminder please, that children arrive to school on time, so that they have a smooth and calm start to their day.

The school day starts at 8.50am with activities starting from this moment on, even before the register has been taken. It is very disruptive for the class if children arrive late. It is also important that the children do not miss these vital learning opportunities!

Did you know that we have our pupil attendance and lateness figures checked by the Local Authority and the DFE (Department for Education) and that any children who regularly arrive late/are absent are identified and actions then have to be implemented to improve their attendance and punctuality? If your child is even 5 minutes late, this equates to 25 minutes learning time being missed each week, which has a huge impact on your child's progress and attainment. The children get to work first thing, so please do ensure that they arrive on time, and come to school each day!

Please help the children maximise their learning by getting them into school on time and please do not remove your child from school unless it is really necessary and remember to complete the Leave from Learning request form (available from the School Office) if you do need to request absence.

The National expectation for each child's attendance is 96% or better. We are currently at a Whole School attendance figure of **95.85%**. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the whole school if all parents/carers try to ensure that their own child/ren's attendance figure remains healthy, so that learning is maximised!

Miss Hickie
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

10th January 2025

Assembly Theme

The assembly theme for next week is:

What are our British Values?



Attendance Update

Highest Class

Attendance for this week goes to:

Otter Class – 97.78%

Whole School Attendance is 95.85%

(National Expectation is 96% or better)

The attendance rate (proportion of possible sessions attended) was 90.5% across all schools in the **week commencing 16 December 2024**. The absence rate was, therefore, 9.5% across all schools.

Daily Communication with Teachers

A reminder that unless it is essential first thing, please speak to your child's teacher after school, as they do need to be back in the classroom with the children once they have all arrived.

Alternatively, come and speak to the Office staff or email any messages to office@trafalgarinfant.com and these will be passed on during the day.

Football Interventions



Thank you to Mr Bolton

A big thank you to Rob Bolton of RB Coaching who came into school at the end of last term to work with some of the children across years 1 and 2. Rob normally works with individuals and groups of children in other schools but offered to volunteer his time at Trafalgar.

He worked alongside Mrs Bolton and Mrs Edgal to deliver small group football sessions to children with a focus on boosting their self-confidence and teamwork skills.



What is Pupil Premium?

At Trafalgar Community Infant School all of our children are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. However, if you apply for 'benefits-related free school meals' and are eligible there is additional funding for your child at school. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium Funding'. This additional funding allows us to provide an even better education for your child through the purchase of additional resources or staff to support learning across the school. Pupil Premium funding is available for all children known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) either currently or within the last 6 years (Ever 6), children from service families (SC) and for those who are looked after (LAC).

What your child receives if they are eligible for Pupil Premium

- No charge for school trips and visitors to school
- No charge for one school club per term
- Free set of school uniform once a year

We also use the Pupil Premium Grant to fund a wide range of additional support in school. This may involve small group work or one-to-one tuition for your child and priority for enrichment activities such as sporting events.

You are eligible for 'pupil premium funding' if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for

Registration is strictly confidential and this does not affect any other benefits you may already be claiming.

Please find an application form [here](#) or telephone West Sussex County Council on 0330 222 5555 or email fsm@westsussex.gov.uk. Please note the application is for 'free school meals'. Even though you already have the universal free school offer, this is the form you need to compete to enable us to give your child the additional support/funding. Applications can be made at any time during the year. We are happy to help you complete the forms - please speak to someone in the office in confidence.

Year 1 Woodland Time

Year 1 will be having Woodland Time sessions with Mrs Cotton over the next three weeks. We will go out whatever the weather (unless there are thunderstorms) so please make sure children are wrapped up warm! Please can you also make sure long hair is tied back and no scarves are worn to make sure we are safe if using tools.

Otter Class Wednesday, 15th January

Squirrel Class Thursday, 23rd January

Mouse Class Wednesday, 29th January

Clothing...

On their Woodland Time day please send your child in school uniform as usual. Please make sure your child has wellies, a warm waterproof coat or overalls (even if it looks sunny) and gloves and a warm hat if it is cold. You may also like to bring waterproof trousers or an old pair of trousers/tracksuit bottoms that they can change into. Please bring all items in to school in a named carrier bag.

Parent Consultations – February/March 2025



From **08.00am on Saturday, 1st February** you will be able to sign up for an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher on either Wednesday, 5th March, Tuesday, 11th or Wednesday, 12th March via the on-line booking system at <https://trafalgarschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Parent Consultations will take place in your child's classroom. If you are visiting a classroom in the main building, please come through the main door and go straight to the relevant room. If you are going to the huts, you do not need to come into the main building. If you can avoid bringing children on this occasion, you will probably find the meeting more beneficial.

At our parent consultation meetings next half term, teachers will be trying hard to stick to the allocated times, and as a result, teachers may have an alarm in their room to indicate when it is getting to the end of the session. Please do not be offended if they draw the conversation to a close at this point in your meeting, but it is important that each parent/carer gets their fair allocation of time to discuss their child with their teacher. Of course, if you or your child's teacher needs more time to continue the consultation with you, then you will be able to liaise directly with them as usual to arrange a suitable time.

Your child's learning will be available for you to look through before or after your appointment, and please do write any comments about this, on the post it notes available, for your child to read and enjoy.

Can we remind you that our SENCO, Mrs Edgal, will also be available. Should you wish to discuss anything regarding your child with her, please send us an email in advance.

You may also see our governors around the school (wearing their ID lanyard), so please do speak to them about what you think the school is doing well at present, and to make any suggestions.

Do remember to make your appointment at <https://trafalgarschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term:

2nd Sept - 20th Dec 2024

- Half Term 28th Oct - 1st Nov
- Christmas break 23rd Dec 2024 - 3rd Jan 2025

Spring Term:

6th Jan - 4th April 2025

- Half Term 17th - 21st Feb
- Easter break 7th April - 21st April

Summer Term:

22nd April - 22nd July 2025

- Half Term 26th - 30th May

Inset Days

- Monday, 2nd Sept 2024
- Tuesday, 3rd Sept 2024
- Monday, 24th Feb 2025
- Monday, 2nd June 2025
- Tuesday, 22nd July 2025

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Health & Safety in the Playground



Please remember that you and your children must dismount bikes or scooters when coming into the school grounds. All bikes and scooters must be parked carefully in the bike shelter. This is to prevent unnecessary incidents as many parents have toddlers, babies and buggies.

Please also note that no children are to be left unattended in the playground before school without a responsible adult and we would ask that you do not arrive too early on the playground for the start of your child's school day, as the staggered starts are to reduce the risks of spreading germs.

For those of you who have a dog, please do not tie him or her to the school gates or railings. May we respectfully remind you that dogs, including those being carried in arms, are not to be brought onto the school site. Whilst we can see this is a dilemma, we all know that some dogs are not always predictable and the procedure at Trafalgar is that it is better to be safe than sorry.

A final reminder that, in accordance with the signs up around our premises, smoking is not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time. This includes e-cigarettes and vapourisers. Please also avoid smoking near the school gates and staff car park.



Did you know....?

“Children who are good at reading do more of it: they learn more, about all sorts of things, and their expanded vocabulary, gained from their reading, increases their ease of access to more reading.

Conversely, those for whom reading is difficult fall behind, not just in their reading but in all subjects and a vicious circle develops.

This is why the national curriculum says, ‘*It is essential that, by the end of their primary education, all pupils are able to read fluently, and with confidence, in any subject.*’”

(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...

Use modern technology to make story time even more magical!

If your family/family friends outside of your household have video calling software (Skype/Whatsapp/Microsoft Teams/Zoom etc.), why not use this as a tool to help everyone join in at story time?!

Could someone in your family ‘call’ to read a story to your child? Is there a story you all know and love, that you could take turns reading chapters of?

This can help build a ‘culture of reading’ around your child, as well as showing them different ways of storytelling.