



# Trafalgar Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Special Events:

Spring Term 2026  
January 2026

5<sup>th</sup> Spring Term begins

February

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Half Term break

23<sup>rd</sup> INSET Day. School closed to the children.

24<sup>th</sup> Return to school

March

10<sup>th</sup> Horsham Museum to visit Y1

20<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

30<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Apr Easter holidays

Summer Term 2026

April 2026

13<sup>th</sup> First day Summer Term 2026

May 2026

15<sup>th</sup> JP Photographic - Class Group photographs

25-29<sup>th</sup> Half Term break

June 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Return to school

July 2026

20<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term

21<sup>st</sup> INSET Day. School closed to the children.

22<sup>nd</sup> INSET Day. School closed to the children.

## 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 **95.42%**. 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

## Assembly Theme

The assembly theme for next week will be:

Our School Core Values - these are displayed on our Trafalgar Ship. We will look at the value 'we keep safe'



## Attendance Update

### Highest Class

*Attendance for this week goes to:*

**Mouse Class – 96.71%**

**Whole School Attendance is 95.42%**

*(National Expectation is 96% or better)*

The attendance rate (proportion of possible sessions attended) was 91.03% across all schools in the week commencing 15 December 2025. The absence rate was, therefore, 8.97% across all schools.

## Transferring to Junior School in September 2026



A reminder that **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January** is the **National closing date for starting school and transfer to junior school applications**. It is your responsibility as a parent/carer to ensure your application is received by the Pupil Admissions Team on time. In case of technical issues we strongly recommend you apply online. Please visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions) if you haven't already done so.

## *Keeping Warm in School*

Our school playground looked like a winter wonderland on Monday morning.

As the cold weather continues this winter, please remember to send children into school with named warm coats, hats and gloves so that they are able to enjoy going outside at break times and stay warm. Thank you for helping us keep everyone snug and safe.



## *Harvest Festival Donation 'Thanks'*



***We donated enough food with our Harvest Festival donations to make 325 meals for those in need.***

## *Please Keep Off The Grass*



Please can we ask that in this cold and wet weather parents/carers and children keep to the paths and do not run across the grass, even when arriving late.

Soggy feet and socks don't make for a comfortable day and the effect of very muddy shoes is not an attractive addition to the school carpets! Heavy pedestrian traffic across the grass also damages it. We would greatly appreciate your co-operation.

## *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](mailto: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.

## Term Dates 2025/2026

### Autumn Term:

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept - 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

- Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> Oct - 31<sup>st</sup> Oct
- Christmas break 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2025 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2026

### Spring Term:

5<sup>th</sup> Jan - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

- Half Term 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Easter break 30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer Term:

13<sup>th</sup> April - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

- Half Term 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May

## INSET Days 2025/2026

- Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2025
- Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2025
- Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2026
- Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026
- Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

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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.

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](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.