



# Trafalgar Newsletter

## Special Events:

### February

28<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm Parent Consultations (excl. Turquoise & Poppy)  
29<sup>th</sup> Let's Get Creative

### March

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

### April

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



A reminder that next Thursday is World Book Day and we hope you will join us as we come together to encourage every child in the school to be a reader and love books.

To celebrate World Book Day, we are:

- Inviting the children to come into school on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, dressed up as their favourite book character for a £1.00 voluntary donation (which can be cash via the classroom or by card at the School Office). You can find lots of creative ideas at <https://www.worldbookday.com/celebrate-world-book-day/dressing-up>.
- The FTS will be running a second-hand book sale.
- Inviting the children to bring in a (named) book from home to share with a friend/their class.
- Inviting families and caregivers to share a photograph of someone in the family reading a favourite story that we can display in our Library.

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day with you and please look out for the World Book Day token that will have come home with your child/ren this week.

Miss Hickie

Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## Assembly Theme

The assembly theme for next week will be:

**Assembly with  
Pastor Jon White**



## Attendance Update

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

**Ruby Red – 98.52%**

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

The attendance rate (proportion of possible sessions attended) was 91.9% across all schools in the week commencing 5 February 2024. The absence rate was, therefore, 8.1% across all schools.

## Parent/Carer Maths Workshop



Please remember the parent/carer Maths Workshop, to be led by Mrs Brown our Maths Co-ordinator, will be taking place on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 9.15am in the School Hall. Please email ([office@trafalgarinfant.com](mailto:office@trafalgarinfant.com)) or call the School Office (tel: 01403 254925) if you would like to attend this workshop.

## Reception Year 'Toy Workshops'



In Reception this week Navy and Sky class children have been learning about toys from the past. Miss Hickie shared with the children her collection of old toys. She had a teddy bear which was 75 years old and stuffed with horse hair as well as a clockwork robot, some old dolls and a heavy metal truck. The children explored how the old toys felt and what materials they were made from. The children also looked at photographs of dolls which had been made using wooden spoons and pegs then had a go at making their own peg doll. Turquoise class will be learning about toys from the past next week.

Here are some of the children's comments:

*"This one is new, it is made of plastic."*

*"The old bear's fur is scratchy, the new bear is soft."*

*"The metal truck is heavy."*

*"If you have no money left you can make a toy from a spoon."*

*"A wooden doll is hard, I like cuddly toys."*

*"New toys have batteries."*

*"My favourite is the robot with the key." "You wind it up."*



## Let's Get Creative

This term our Let's Get Creative morning was linked to an author who produces her own artwork - Emily Gravett. Classes chose an Emily Gravett book to base their activities on. She uses a mixture of art techniques in her books, including collage, photographs/images of real objects layered with her own drawings and paintings. The children and staff really enjoyed the day and produced some great art work that we are hoping to display in our school. A big thank you to those parents/carers who came into school and volunteered their time to work with the children.



## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2023
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023
- Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023
- Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024
- Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

Trafalgar CI School  
Victory Road  
Horsham  
West Sussex  
RH12 2JF

**Phone:**  
01403 254925

**E-Mail:**  
[office@trafalgarinfant.com](mailto:office@trafalgarinfant.com)  
[Facebook](#)

## Message from Sam Picknell, Governing Body



As we come out of the February half term it always feels a turning point in the school year - moving from all the newness of joining the school or moving year groups, and into a settled few months ahead with the promises of warmer weather and outdoor activities.

The Governors have also been busy holding subject reviews and working with the school on its recent Ofsted visit too. We continue to support the strategy of the school and making sure that we continue to uphold all the very high standards across the curriculum, health and safety, wellbeing and financial management.

As the Assets and Resources Committee chair I have also been working with Miss Hickie and Ms Dendy and as a committee we review a range of things - including monthly financial position and reviewing three year and next year budget preparation. This is not an easy set of activities for any school at the moment given challenges with government and council funding uncertainties. I have been impressed though, with the diligence applied to all areas of the school funds and continually seeking additional ways to maximise value from all the resources we have. The work from the Friends of Trafalgar School and contributions to the school donation fund are very much appreciated too.

It's also important that we maximise our school intake this coming September - this sets our West Sussex funding levels. With a general decline in the local area of the four year old population it's more important than ever to share the great opportunities that joining Trafalgar Infant School can offer both families and our children - please pass on the good word! (our internet site has lots of good info for prospective new infants - [Trafalgar Community Infant School - Home \(eschools.co.uk\)](https://www.eschools.co.uk))

Sam Picknell  
Chair, Assets and Resources Committee



### Did you know....?

"When children start learning to read, the number of words they can decode accurately is too limited to broaden their vocabulary. Their understanding of language should therefore be developed through their *listening and speaking*, while they are taught to decode through *phonics*."

([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...

**Share a new word and its meaning with your child, every day.**

You could come up with your own list from your own reading; you could use this playlist of 'words of the day' <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0Ow3RL4I8y1XDen2mjWlHlVSpVpcyEI>, or sign up to a 'word of the day' email/website, or download a vocabulary extending app (e.g. 'Vocab Ninja - Word of the Day').

Try to use the new words regularly and praise your child when they use one of the new words themselves.

Keep a list of the 'words of the day' of the week. Once a week, ask your child to make a poster of one of the words from that week showing the word, and a picture to show it's meaning, and display it somewhere in your home.