

Talavera Junior School



Aspiration

Integrity

Resilience

Tuesday 10th January

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you had a restful break and managed to have some family time over Christmas. As ever, the next half term is incredibly busy and we have lots of lovely events planned. Please look carefully at the overviews that have been sent home.

Next week is our Readathon. Please look out for further information.

Amanda Webb



This half term we will be celebrating **Nepali day** within our school community on **Friday 3rd February**. On this day, children will learn about the Nepali culture and children from Talavera Junior have been learning traditional songs and dances to showcase in a whole school assembly.

Please look out for a letter on **Arbor** which will detail how parents can be a part of Nepali day and how they may be able to contribute to the day if they would like to!

If you would like your child to take part in the food tasting, please ensure that they have been given permission on Arbor.

JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 INSET day	4	5	6	7
8 Extra-curricular clubs begin	9 Talavera's Got Talent auditions (year 4,5,6)	10 Talavera's Got Talent auditions (year 4,5,6)	11	12 Upper school Bronze, Silver, Gold assembly (no parents)	13 Talavera's Got Talent performance (year 4,5,6)	14
15 READATHON WEEK!	16	17	18 Year 4 maths parent workshop (invite only)	19	20	21
22 Resilience week-whole school	23 Year 3 local visit to Buddhist temple	24	25	26 Lower school Bronze, Silver, Gold assembly (no parents)	27 House Event-Cross Country PE kits needed	28
29 IEP drop ins- letters will be sent out via Arbor	30	31	1	2	3	4

Here are some of our key dates for January.

Additional letters for key events highlighted in yellow will also be sent to parents with more information detailing the events.

If you have any questions about any events, please talk to your child's class teacher. You can also always ask for more information from our Office team by calling us on 01252 322 156 or emailing office@talaverajunior.co.uk.

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Next week, Talavera is entering its first ever **readathon!** This competition is all about reading for as much time as possible whilst having fun! There will be competitions running all week such as, **'Best Extreme Reading'** (please see the photos below for some fun ideas of where your children may want to read), **'Most Minutes Read'**, **'Most Improved Reader'** and **'Best Book Review'**.



There will also be a book swap shop running at lunchtimes so that any finished books from home can be exchanged with another child's recommended read. Your children will also have the opportunity to win a brand new book with our raffle ticket draw - free of charge!

Your children will be taking home a sponsorship form as we would like to use this opportunity to raise money for a local charity for young people; the school council will vote for the charity and our chosen charity will be posted on our Facebook page by the end of this week! We will be sure to let your children know about the chosen charity as soon as the votes have been counted. Please encourage your children to set a challenging target for the amount of minutes they try to read this week.

We look forward to seeing your entries and

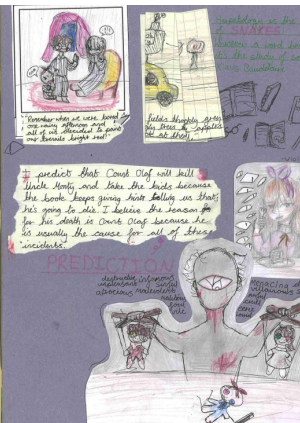
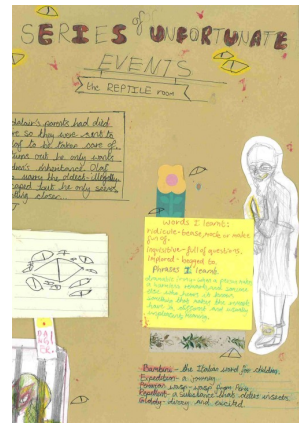
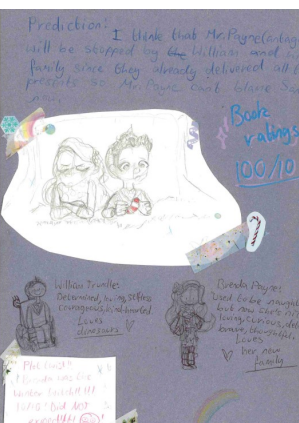
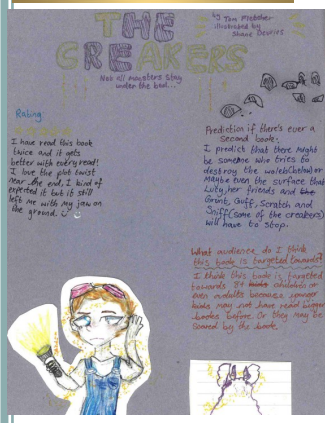
Throughout the week, you will be given plenty of opportunity to read in school. For example, you might hear your teacher say, **"DEAR!"** which stands for **Drop Everything And Read.**

This means that no matter what you are doing, you need to stop and pick up your reading book!



HALL OF FAME

Below are some of the amazing reading scrap books from children in year 5 and 6! The work that they have produced is absolutely incredible and we're so proud of their home learning!



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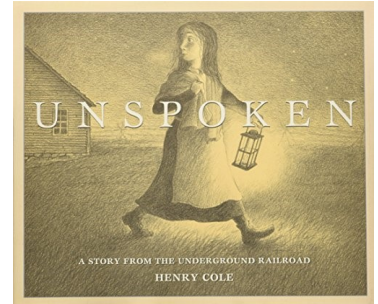
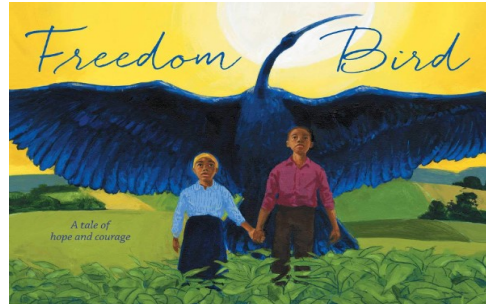
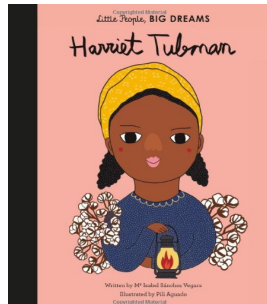
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Within the **Spring** term, we are going to be looking at the book 'The Unspoken' and 'Freedom Bird' for our whole school writing unit. This book will teach the children about the **Underground Railroad** and therefore, may raise some questions regarding race and the Transatlantic slave trade. We will be teaching it very sensitively but please be aware that your children may wish to discuss this further with you.

One text which we will be using alongside our teaching units is, 'Little People, Big Dreams: Harriet Tubman'. Harriet Tubman was an escaped enslaved woman who became a "conductor" on the **Underground Railroad**, leading enslaved people to freedom before the Civil War, all while carrying a bounty on her head. But she was also a nurse, a Union spy and a women's suffrage supporter. Tubman is one of the most recognised icons in American history and her legacy has inspired countless people from every race and background.

If you would like any support with this, please let us know.



Online safety parent questionnaire!

Thank you to those who responded to our latest parent questionnaire on your understanding of your child's safety online. Please be aware that many apps and websites do have age-restrictions and it is your responsibility as a parent to guide your child on the appropriateness of their online use.

We would just like to remind you that if your child reports any incidences of online bullying, there are a series of steps you need to follow: Take a screen shot of any incidences, delete the app or block/report the person, talk to your child about what has happen, complete an offline activity with your child, and inform the school of any incidences you feel they should be aware of.



Launch of our **BRAND NEW** online Library. **Sora** is a Hampshire run online library where children will have free access to hundreds of best selling novels, a range of different texts including popular magazines and comics and audio books which are all **FREE** to borrow! This service automatically returns books after the loan period is up so children do not have to worry about late fees either!

This week, your children will be coming home with a **google login** (this is the same email address as used during lockdown) and a password for their account.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you are having difficulty

accessing the app or logging in to the website. Sora can be accessed as a website or can be downloaded as an app.

Online Safety & Gaming



Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.



Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support

