

# Talavera Junior School



**Aspiration**

**Integrity**

**Resilience**

Tuesday 4th July

Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the school year; this term has flown by. We do have many more exciting events taking place over the next couple of weeks so please read Arbor carefully so you know exactly what is going on! We have had such a wonderful year with your children and it has been a pleasure to teach them.



It has been absolutely wonderful to have so much parent support and engagement with our events and celebrations. I have never seen so many people on the field during Sports Day. We look forward to seeing many of you at the church on the last day of term where we celebrate the end of the school year.

## JULY 2023

Dates  
for your Diary



**Wednesday 5th July**- Teacher strikes (please check separate letters to see whether your child's class is closed)

**Thursday 6th July** - Year 6 Wavell, Alderwood and Fernhill transition day

**Thursday 6th July** - Move Up morning

**Friday 7th July** - Teacher strikes (please check separate letters to see whether your child's class is closed)

**Monday 10th July** - DT day year 3

**Wednesday 12th** - Thursday 13th July- Year 6 residential

**Friday 14th July** - Camo Day - Camouflage or green and brown clothing for £1.00 donation

**Friday 14th July** - SATs results (parents/carers to collect from school)

**Monday 17th July** - Year 4 Runways End (half of the year group)

**Monday 17th July** - Year 6 dress rehearsal Matilda

**Tuesday 18th July** - Year 4 Runways End (half of the year group)

**Tuesday 18th July** - Year 6 Production (afternoon performance)

**Wednesday 19th July** - Year 6 Production (evening performance)

**Thursday 20th July** - Mufti Day (old school uniform donation)

**Thursday 20th July** - Class parties

**Friday 21st July** - Church leavers assembly for the end of the year- School day finishes at 1:20pm

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](mailto:office@talaverajunior.co.uk).

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At Talavera, we are committed to your child's holistic education. We believe it is our duty to equip them with the skills, strategies and mindset to build enough resilience in order to navigate society as an adult.

We are sure you know that children's mental health is a national concern at the moment. Around 18% of children are struggling with their mental health - 5 in every classroom (NHS 2022).

Excitingly, we are beginning a high-quality programme of workshops and training called '**Mental Health Champions**'. The children will all be taught the essential skills and knowledge they need to support their own and their peers' mental health. Specific 'Mental Health Champions' will then be selected to continue to promote wellbeing across the school.

So far on our fundraising journey, we have already raised almost **£500** as a school. On **15<sup>th</sup>/ 16<sup>th</sup> July**, school staff will be hiking **Pen Y Fan** in Wales to continue to raise funds for this programme. We are so grateful for any help you, your family or friends may be able to give us.

If you would like to sponsor the members of staff who are participating in the fundraising event, please log into Arbor, click on your account and then your payments and you will see a fundraising tab.



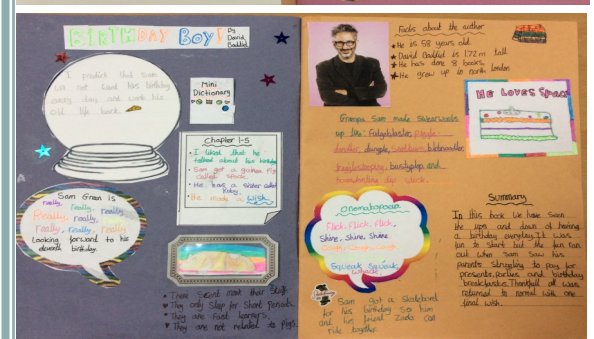
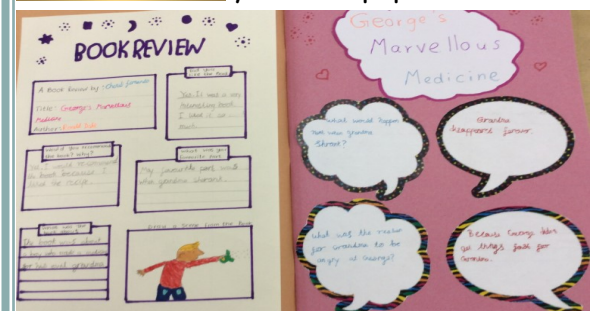
On **Thursday 20th July**, we will be having a whole school mufti day. We will not be asking for a £1 donation from children; instead, we will be asking children to bring in school uniform that they have outgrown this year. This can be branded school jumpers or PE kit as well as unbranded school jumpers, shirts, skirts and trousers. Please ensure this is in good condition and clean.

Over the summer holidays, this will be washed by members of staff and available in September for children to wear in Autumn term. We will send out further information on this in September.

We are aware that this is a big cost for families and we would like to help relieve this burden.

## HALL OF FAME

Some amazing reading scrap books from our year 5/6 pupils.



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Thank you to all of the parents and carers who joined us this year on our Sports Day! Our children had a fantastic day and, yet again, we were overwhelmed with the support received from our fantastic school community.



The children particularly enjoyed watching and participating in the 'Colour Run'. Children, who were selected by their teachers for modelling the school values of aspiration, integrity and resilience, were originally supposed to participate in the 'Colour Run' earlier this year to celebrate the festival of Holi. However, due to the weather conditions, this event was rescheduled for Sports Day.



**INSET DAY**

**Inset Days 2023-24: 1st September 2023, 30th October 2023, 2nd January 2024, 19th February 2024, 28th March 2024.**

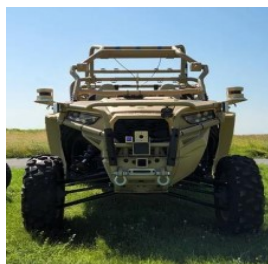
**CAMO DAY**

On Friday 14th July, Camo Day returns to Talavera Juniors- and this year will be our biggest Camo Day yet!

We are incredibly excited to announce that, this year, thanks to the help of our fantastic military community, our children will have the opportunity to test the new remote vehicles the Army are currently testing. Children will also have an opportunity to test out their night vision and participate in a physical obstacle course as well as learning some basic drills. We will also be joined by the Bagpipers for a performance at the beginning of the day.

Every year, pupils relish the opportunity to celebrate their own connections with the military as well as learn about the bravery and sacrifices made by the Armed Forces.

**Children are asked to bring in a donation of £1 to dress in camouflage or green and brown clothes.** The money raised is then donated to SSAFA who work tirelessly to support members of the Armed Forces community (including older veterans and military families) with any challenges they may be facing.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING  
**7+**

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

### GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying; it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

### SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unnerve young ones.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lots of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday