

Dear parents and carers,

A full half-term done! Although the shops would have you believe we're on the countdown to Christmas, there is a lot more to come before that!

Take a close look at the calendar in this newsletter and keep an eye on upcoming communications with you.

We know that Christmas can be a stressful time for families. Please reach out to us if you need any help so that we can ensure that you and your children have the best time that they can.



We are excited to announce that, from 4th December, we will be federated with Wellington Community Primary School and Marlborough County Infant School. We will operate as Bold Futures, reflecting our commitment to phenomenal life chances.

Please rest assured that this simply means that we will be working with other fantastic professionals to ensure we deliver outstanding provision to all.

Well, we were very lucky to have glorious weather after a week of rain for our cross-country event! The children ran in their year groups, showing their values by cheering each other on and spurring themselves to reach their full potential. Well done!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Grub Hub as part of our Harvest collection. Teaching children about the importance of community is vital and we appreciate your kindness. Please remember to reach out if you need any support.



From 1st—18th November, you will be able to visit the Longest Yarn at the Royal Garrison Church.

This 80-meter, 3D depiction of the D-Day Landings is created in wool art, consisting of 80 displays. Aldershot was one of the centres for the build-up of forces for D-Day so it is poignant that the exhibition will be with us over the period of remembrance.



You will know that we held a Diwali celebration on the last day of term. We did this as a fundraiser to support our Nepali community in Kathmandu and the surrounding valleys who experienced devastation from the recent landslides. Thank you for your incredible generosity.



The Vine Centre offer a fantastic community cupboard with food sharing to reduce food waste and tackle food poverty in our community. Their cupboard is FREE for anyone, especially families needing help with food.

Please contact them if you need help : 01252 400 196

Their opening hours are Monday: 10am - 3pm Wednesday:



We know that families look different and want to ensure that every one of them has the support that they need. If you are caring for a child who is not yours biologically (perhaps you are a grandparent or a friend), please do take a look at the following link: <https://kinship.org.uk/>



**For family or friends who step up to raise a child.**

If you feel that this describes you, please make contact with us to ensure that we give you all the support to which you are entitled.

You will know just how busy Gun Hill and Hospital Hill can get at drop-off and pick-up. Please help us to model road safety by parking in the correct place.

Remember: you can also come to the office to get a Park and Stride permit, allowing you to park in the multi-storey and giving your child some healthy exercise on the way in.



Please remember that your child is entitled to a full-time education. Where possible, appointments need to be made outside of school hours.

It is important that your child attends both before and after the appointment, depending on the timing of it.

Thank you your for support in this.

At St Mark's, Upper Hall, GU9 0LT, there is a weekly free clothing giveaway! This is to help reduce waste and, if you love to grab a bargain, it could be the place for you!

There is also a lovely little café where you can grab a hot drink!

If you would like to donate or to shop, pop in on a Monday!



## Key Dates

### November

Monday 4th: INSET day—no children in school

Tuesday 5th: First day back at school

W/C 5th: IEP meetings

Wednesday 6th: Year 6 Height & Weight

Tuesday 12th: Climate Trackers workshop Year 5

Wednesday 13th: Into Film festival visit Year 6

Friday 15th: Parents V. Kids football

Saturday 16th: Christmas Concert—choir

W/C 18th: Parents Evenings

Thursday 21st: Into Film festival visit Year 3 & Pangolins

Friday 22nd: HOUSE EVENT: Spelling Bee

W/C 25th: Speak Out, Stay Safe NSPCC assemblies

Monday 25th: School photos—individuals

Tuesday 26th: Into Film festival visit Year 5

Thursday 28th: Into Film festival visit Year 4

### December:

W/C 2nd: SATs practice Year 6

Friday 6th: Talavera's Got Talent

W/ C9th: NSPCC workshops year 5 & 6

Thursday 12th: We Are Guardians mobile dome Year 6

Friday 13th: Talavera Treat—selected children

Wednesday 18th: Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas lunch

Thursday 19th: Santa Run in school

Friday 20th: Church service

Friday 20th: Half day for last day of term

**Saturday 21st December-Sunday 5th January: Christmas holidays**

### January

Monday 6th: INSET day

Tuesday 7th: Children's first day back in school

2024  
CALENDAR



# Parenting the Anxious Child



To all parents/carers

As the Parent Support Advisor for your school, I will be running a free two-hour workshop 'Supporting and understanding emotions - Anxiety' which offers tips and support around the parent supporting children's worries, fears, anxiety and anxious behaviour.

This workshop will be run at Talavera Junior School, Gun Hill, Aldershot on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The session is 2 hours, starting at 1.00pm and will finish in time for you to collect your children.

Please contact the school directly if you want to attend.

*Linda Perry*  
Senior Parent Support Advisor  
The Wavell Cluster



If you would like someone else to collect your child, please ensure you **email** this to the office.

If this is going to be a regular pick-up, we recommend adding this contact to Arbor to save yourself time.

If you would like support in how to do this, pop into the office.



Please remember that we are a nut-free school. We have a number of children with serious allergies

Please help us to keep them safe by ensuring no food with nuts comes into school.

In particular, please carefully check cereal bars.

Thank you for your help!



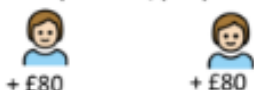


# New attendance rules!

There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

## I'm a single parent of one child and I want to go on holiday for 5 days or more.

Let the school know before you book anything and make sure you use the absence request form. A holiday **will not** be authorised. If your child misses at least 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine. This fine is per child, per parent...



**1 parent & 1 child = £80 if paid within 21 days**

*Increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days*

**1 parent & 2 children = £160 if paid within 21 days**

*Increases to £320 if paid between 21 and 28 days*

## For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



**£320 if paid within 21 days**

*Increases to £640 if paid between 21 and 28 days*

## What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook? Foreign mobile dial tone?  
Home visit shows no-one at home? Amazing sun tan?  
Children talking about your holiday?



Please don't be offended if we ask these questions or ask for evidence - we're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

## What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

**NO!** If you have a second holiday in a rolling 3-year period you will receive a higher fine of £160 per child per parent. If you have a third holiday in a rolling 3-year period there is an immediate referral for prosecution

### 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME

**2 parents and...**  
1 child = £320  
2 children = £640  
3 children = £960

*No discount for early payment!*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> TIME

A penalty notice fine **will not** be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

*1 parent & 2 children = £5,000  
2 parents and 2 children = £10,000*

## What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

**YES!** If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

## What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

### Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday  
Shopping for uniforms  
Inadequate clothing for school  
Child being used as a carer  
Problems with transport

Family holidays  
Sickness of parent or sibling  
Sibling's school closed  
Refusing to attend, but able to  
Poor family organisation  
No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



**EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

# Christmas Toy Drive

Donate new & unwrapped toys  
for children this Christmas

Deadline: 1st December

## Talavera Juniors

Gun Hill, Aldershot,  
GU11 1RG

For More Information:

07804880072 or [michaela@spotlightuk.org](mailto:michaela@spotlightuk.org)

[www.spotlightuk.org](http://www.spotlightuk.org)

Charity No. 1129258

