

Talavera Infant School

Newsletter

September 2026



A very special start to a new school year

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our returning families, and an especially warm welcome to those joining the Talavera community for the first time.

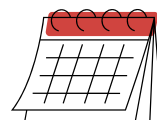
I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some precious time together. It has been lovely to welcome the children through the doors again and see the school full of smiles, chatter and excitement. A new school year always brings with it a sense of possibility, and we are incredibly excited about the year ahead.

For our new families, we hope you very quickly discover what makes Talavera such a special place. We want every child and every family who joins us to feel that they belong, that they are known and valued, and that Talavera is their school.

This year, however, we begin the new term with something particularly special to celebrate...

We are incredibly proud to share our Ofsted report

At the end of last term, Talavera Infant School underwent a full Ofsted inspection under the new inspection framework. We have now received the final report and I am absolutely delighted to be able to share it with you.



Diary Dates

Thursday 1st October

Year R parents Reading Workshop 2.15pm or 6.00pm

Thursday 1st October

Launch Walktober – walk to school month

Wednesday 21st October

3.30- 6.00pm Parents' Evening for all year groups

Thursday 22nd October

Last day of half term

Friday 23rd October

INSET Day – school closed

Half Term

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November

School Closed – INSET Day

Wednesday 4th November

3.30- 6.00pm Parents' Evening for all year groups

Friday 18th December

Last day of Term

Monday 4th January

School Closed – INSET Day

Tuesday 5th January

Back to school



Our school was judged:

- EXCEPTIONAL – Inclusion
- EXCEPTIONAL – Leadership and Governance
- and
- STRONG STANDARD – Achievement
- STRONG STANDARD – Attendance and Behaviour
- STRONG STANDARD – Curriculum and Teaching
- STRONG STANDARD – Early Years
- STRONG STANDARD – Personal Development and Wellbeing

Our safeguarding standards were also confirmed as met.

Under Ofsted's new framework, Exceptional means that practice is “**of the highest standard nationally**” and is practice that other schools can learn from.

That is an achievement of which our whole community can be enormously proud.

There are so many parts of the report that made us proud, but perhaps nothing captures Talavera better than this statement shared with inspectors:

“This school is a beacon of inclusivity.”

Inspectors recognised that our approach to inclusion is “**impressive**”, that we go to extraordinary lengths to ensure children and families develop a sense of belonging, and described our pastoral offer as “**far reaching and transformational.**”

They also recognised something that matters enormously to us: the relationships we build with you, our families.

The report says that relationship building is embedded throughout school life and that our partnership with parents and carers shapes the way we work. Inspectors recognised the highly personalised support offered to families and the positive impact this has across our community.

That makes this very much your achievement too.



Thank you to our incredible staff...

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank our extraordinary staff team. An Ofsted report can only ever capture a snapshot of a school, but behind these words are years of hard work.

They represent teachers, teaching assistants, our SEND team, pastoral staff, office team, lunchtime staff, site team and leaders who come into school every day determined to make a difference.



They represent the person who notices that a child is unusually quiet in the morning; the adult who finds another way to help a child understand; the teacher who adapts a lesson; the member of staff who listens to a worried parent; and the countless little things that happen every day because our staff know and care about our children. I was particularly proud that inspectors described Talavera as having a **“happy and motivated staff team”** with a culture of purposeful collaboration and shared high ambition.



Thank you to our wonderful children...

The part of the report that perhaps made us smile the most was Ofsted's description of what it is actually like to be a child at Talavera:

“This is a school where happy pupils flourish and thrive.”

Inspectors found that our children behave extremely well, are kind and helpful to one another, take pride in their work and feel safe and happy in school. They described breaktimes and lunchtimes as having a **“happy and harmonious atmosphere.”**

They also found that our youngest children get off to a **“fantastic start”** to their education, making impressive progress while being cared for by kind and nurturing staff.

We couldn't be prouder of them.



Thank you to our families...

Finally, thank you to all of you.

Thank you for trusting us with your children.

Thank you for working alongside us, talking to us, attending our events, supporting learning at home and helping us when things are difficult.

Thank you to the families who spoke to inspectors and shared their experiences so openly.

And thank you for helping us create a community in which families from so many different backgrounds, cultures and experiences come together and belong.

Ofsted recognised that our work with families and our wider community has an impact reaching far beyond Talavera, describing aspects of our work as having **“national and international reach”** and being **“worthy of sharing.”**

That is something we should all celebrate.

A copy of our full inspection report is attached to this email. Please do take the time to read it.

Growing our Provision- Introducing Oak and Cherry

We also begin this year with something that we have been incredibly excited about throughout the summer – the opening of our two new permanent provision classrooms, Oak and Cherry.

Supporting children with SEND is not new to Talavera. For many years, our staff have worked hard to adapt our environment, curriculum and teaching so that children with a wide range of additional needs can learn, flourish and be fully included in our school community.

What is new is that, for the first time, we are able to give this provision a permanent home.

Oak and Cherry are not separate from Talavera – they are part of Talavera. They are two carefully designed classrooms providing children with the specialist environment, support and opportunities they need, while ensuring that they remain very much part of their classes, friendships and our wider school community.

This feels particularly special as we share our Ofsted report. Inspectors recognised the care and precision with which children's individual needs are identified and supported, noting that staff adapt the curriculum and their teaching skilfully and that pupils with SEND make impressive progress from their starting points.

Cherry and Oak Class





Moving Forward

Perhaps the thing we are most proud of is that, while this Ofsted report celebrates what Talavera has become, we know our story isn't finished.

We will continue to learn. We will continue to listen. We will continue to develop our teaching and provision. And we will continue to ask ourselves what more we can do for our children and families.

The opening of Oak and Cherry is one example of that commitment.

And so it feels particularly fitting that, as we begin this next chapter, we introduce our refreshed school vision:

BELONG • THRIVE • ACHIEVE

These aren't simply three words on a page. They describe what we want childhood at Talavera to feel like.

BELONG – to know I am welcome here. I am known. I matter.

THRIVE – to feel safe, happy and supported to grow into the person I can be.

ACHIEVE – to be challenged, encouraged and given every opportunity to succeed.



Whether a child has been with us since their very first day of Reception, joins us part-way through their journey, speaks little English when they arrive, is part of one of our service families, has additional needs, learns within Oak or Cherry, or simply needs us to understand them a little differently:

They belong here.

And that, more than any judgement or inspection outcome, is what we want Talavera to stand for.

Welcome back to our Talavera family.

We have a very exciting year ahead.

Mrs Deborah Cook
Headteacher