

Parent Bulletin



19th December 2025

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin – the final edition of 2025! As we come to the end of term and prepare for the Christmas break, it has been a positive and festive final week at Trafalgar.

Our Year 7 students enjoyed the traditional pantomime trip to the Portsmouth Guildhall (*oh no they didn't!*) It was a fun and memorable experience for our newest students and a great way to round off their first term at Trafalgar.

A huge well done to all of our 12 Days of Christmas attendance winners — we hope you enjoy your well-deserved prizes. Everyone's commitment to attendance has been fantastic to see and is something we are very proud of.

We also rounded off the term with our end-of-term celebration at the Mountbatten Centre. It is always great to be all together at this venue as a school community, and the event provided a fitting way to recognise students' achievements and celebrate the end of term together as a whole school community.

As a reminder, Monday 5th January is an INSET Day, and the school will be closed to students. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday 6th January.

Thank you for your continued support throughout 2025. We wish all our students and families a restful and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar



Key Dates

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January - INSET Day (school closed to students)

Tuesday 6th January - Students start back

Monday 19th January - Trust Annual Conference (school closed to students)

Uniform & Equipment

Please ensure your children have the correct uniform & equipment with them each day. If you require any support, contact your child's form tutor. Please ensure students have a bag. You can find full details of what they need [here](https://www.trafalgarschool.org.uk).



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Year 7's Pantomime Adventure and Christmas Cheer!



On Thursday, our Year 7 students had a fantastic time at the pantomime! With singing, dancing, and audience participation, it was a magical experience that had everyone smiling from ear to ear. The atmosphere in the theatre was electric, making it a show to remember.

Earlier in the week, the festive spirit was kick started with the Year 7 Concert and our Christmas Concert.

Our talented students wowed the audience with beautiful performances of carols and holiday tunes, showcasing their hard work and holiday cheer.

A massive thank you to the Kings Theatre for hosting us for the pantomime, and to everyone who made both our Christmas Concerts such a wonderful celebration!



Health and Social Care Students Visit Portsmouth University

Eight Health and Social Care students were selected to attend an exciting and informative morning at Portsmouth University's Dentistry School. During the visit, students learned about the different educational routes into dentistry, explored a range of career pathways, and gained insight into the day-to-day roles within a dental setting.



Following a professional demonstration, students were given the opportunity to practise filling, shaping and setting white fillings themselves. They approached the task with great focus and skill, showing real pride in their work and representing Trafalgar exceptionally well.

The students were a real credit to the school, and the experience has already inspired several of them to consider pursuing a future career in dentistry.



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End of Term Awards

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term filled with loads of achievements and our fantastic community have been embodying our core values and smashing expectations every day!

Here is a list of some of our students who have received awards in our end of term celebration, in recognition of their successes.



Top Boy is Ramin



Top Girl is Inayah

HOH Star Students

Temeraire: Oscar H

Britannia: Spencer W

Sovereign: Fearne H

Victory: Vinnie H



Well done to every student who received an award! Have a great Christmas and we'll see you in 2026!

Book Buzz 2025

This week saw the annual giving of the BookBuzz books to all our Year 7 students!

Back in September, Year 7 students were given a selection of 16 books to choose one from to read and keep.

On Monday morning, all our Year 7 students received their chosen book, wrapped up as a Christmas gift from all of us at Trafalgar.



We hope they enjoy reading their books over the Christmas holiday!



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



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