



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 39

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of the academic year, my first year as Headteacher of Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School, I feel an enormous sense of pride and happiness. Every week has felt like the most incredible roller-coaster ride with children throughout the school learning so much in lessons, whilst also having the opportunity to develop their "skills for life" through active participation in amazing extra-curricular activities. What a year it has been!

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to so many people.

Firstly, thank you to all of the **incredible staff** who work at Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School. The **children** have made outstanding academic and personal progress and this would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our **Teachers, Teaching Assistants** and **Support Staff**. A huge thank you to our entire staff team for your endless effort. Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School is a fantastic place to be and I feel incredibly privileged to be Headteacher of this wonderful school.

A massive **THANK YOU** to our **hard-working PTA** who have supported the school so magnificently this year. In particular, Mrs Lomas, Mrs Martin, Mrs Bowley, Mrs Ellery and Mr Ellery. However, there are so many others (sorry I can't name everyone here) who have organised a range of fun events and contributed to so many of our School Improvement Projects. Thank you to all the **Class Representatives** who also raised an amazing amount of money for each class and the many parents who generously donated a variety of learning resources from Amazon Wish List!

A huge thank you to all of our incredible **volunteers** who give up your time, free of charge to support the children. From "Stop and Drop" in the morning to hearing readers throughout the school, every smile and interaction really does make a difference to the children we aim to support.

Thank to our incredible **Governors** who support the school by giving wise advice and always are ready with a listening ear and probing question. Thank you to all parents and families for everything you do to support the children and the school as a whole. Your help and support throughout the year are much appreciated.

Finally ... thank you to all of our **children**. You are a real credit to our school and to your parents and carers. You really are quite simply OUTSTANDING.

At the end of this term, we will be sadly saying **farewell** and 'Good Luck' to **Miss Bennett** and **Mrs Smith** as well as a small number of children including our current **Year 6**. We wish the very best for all our children and hope that our Year 6 will remain happy as they continue their learning journey at their Secondary Schools. We do hope that you keep in touch with us and let us know how you are doing. It has been great pleasure having you at WSL! We would like to thank all the parents of Year 6. some of you will be joining the ranks of ex-Waltham St Lawrence parents, (although we still hope to see you at future school events!) for your partnership and huge support over the years!

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I wish you all a relaxing, happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing everybody invigorated and ready for the next Academic Year 2026-27.

For those returning, school will be closed for **staff training on Tuesday 1st September 2026** and **will re-open for pupils on Wednesday 2nd September 2026**. Please remember school gates will open at 8.30am and the morning register will be taken promptly at 8.40am when the bell goes.

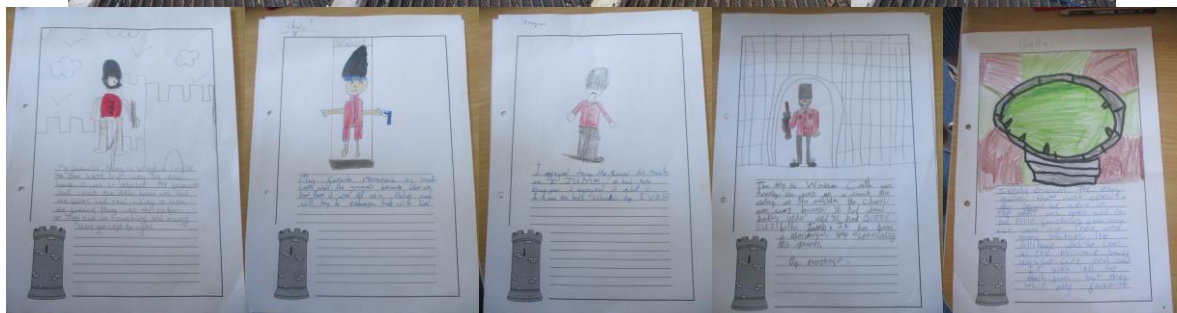
Thank you all again for a successful and memorable year.

Have an enjoyable weekend and very happy and safe Summer Holiday!

Mr. D. Errington
Headteacher

The last few days.... In no particular order....

Whole School Trip to Windsor Castle



Camp Out – A message from the PTA

Thank you to everyone who generously lent us equipment and supplies, from fridges and bunting to all the countless bits and pieces that helped the event run so smoothly. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help with the set-up on Friday and the clear-up on Saturday – many hands really did make light work.

A **special thank you** also goes to the **WSL children** for creating poster art work, Masuma for fridge space donation, Sarah for her gorgeous wedding bunting, Carlsberg for kindly donating beer, to Keri for all of the amazing food throughout the event, Robert for generously donating the gas cooker that allowed us to cook breakfast for everyone, Dan for providing music throughout the event, to Sophie and Joseph Errington for manning the bar, Mervyn for donating hay bales, Duncan at 'Main Unit Location Services toilets' for donating the toilets, Ben for the beautiful tree lighting, and the WSL village committee for the bunting poles and tug of war rope.

Your support and generosity made a huge difference in how much we were able to raise from the event, and we are incredibly grateful. We managed to raise an amazing £2,500 after all expenses.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer and looking forward to more fun events in the new school year!

And a note from me...

Last Friday, families came together for an evening filled with laughter, connection, and plenty of fun with our annual Camp Out. The grounds buzzed with energy as children enjoyed exciting activities, while adults joined in the fun, including a lively tug of war that brought out everyone's competitive spirit! From delicious food and a welcoming bar to the cozy bedtime story session around the camp fire, the evening had something special for all ages. The atmosphere was relaxed and joyful, and it was heartwarming to see our community come together and make the most of the evening.



A huge thank you to...

Dan and Tash Ellery

Juanita Tarn

Keri and Mark Alvarez

Vicky and Oli Lomas

Nicole Jahanshahi

Robert and Agota Kovacs-Biro

Ben and Anna-Li Lacey

Dan and Tash Ellery

Alex and James Mason

Phillipa Pitt

Marie Françoise and Johnny Martin

Sophie and Joseph Errington

Olivia and Craig Bowley

Sarah and Adam Irwin

.....and everyone who helped.

Graduation Assembly

On Monday morning this week, we celebrated a heartwarming **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony**, joined by proud parents, grandparents, and families. The hall was filled with smiles, laughter, and a few tears as the children shared their memories, special moments, friendships, milestones, and achievements from their time at WSL Primary School.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, confident, kind, and resilient individuals who are now equipped with strong values that will guide them through an ever-changing and sometimes uncertain world. Their growth and spirit give us every reason to be hopeful for the future. It was a joyful and emotional send-off, marking the end of one chapter and the exciting beginning of the next



Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday of this week, we had our annual awards ceremony in the School Hall. This special ceremony celebrates not only individual achievements, but also teamwork in the form of the House Cup and Attendance Bear. Congratulations to all children who received a certificate or award. Also, many thanks to Polly Pollecutt from the Ralph Newberry Reading prize trust who awarded seven hard working readers a £20 book voucher as well as donating £200 to the school for new books. I would like to say a huge Thank You to Polly for coming along to the assembly to present the awards and also the generous donation for the School library.



We also said a sad goodbye and good luck to Mrs Smith and Miss Bennet



Star Pupils of Term 6

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been a good role model demonstrating and promoting our School values: having positive attitude to learning, doing their best, working hard, being respectful and showing good manners.

EYFS:	Gracie M	Leo M
Year 1:	Baneen J	Eleanor B
Year 2:	Phoebe P	Jay E
Year 3:	Emily M	William L
Year 4:	Rafe S	Sienna O-D
Year 5:	Lawrence G	Lowry J
Year 6:	Cody R	Ajooni T



Attendance for the Year

Excellent attendance and punctuality maximise potential! *Every day and every lesson counts!*

Best Class Attendance this Year

03-09-25 to 22-07-25

Owls Class – EYFS – 97.5%



Star Pupils of the Year

An enormous WELL DONE to all of the children below who were chosen by their Class Teacher to be star pupil of the year. An incredible achievement.

EYFS:	Ezra E	Ivy D
Year 1:	Bethan U	Emily V
Year 2:	Lily E	Sebastian W
Year 3:	Olivia M	Csenge K-B
Year 4:	Alice A	Samuel W
Year 5:	Imogen H	Dorothy M
Year 6:	Oscar B-C	Matilda P



Newbury Reading Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following children who were each presented with a £20 book voucher having been nominated by their teachers as making outstanding progress in reading.

EYFS:	Dominic W
Year 1:	Rose B
Year 2:	Abdullah J
Year 3:	Finley A
Year 4:	Bailey H
Year 5:	Kaden K
Year 6:	Lottie L

Values Gems

Our **Values Nominations** encourage our children to put the School values into action in everything they do and say in daily life. This is the one award where the children are nominated by their class mates which makes it even more important. Congratulations to all of our winners

Owls:	Summer W	Ottillie C
Nightingales:	Roman R	Emily V
Robins:	Poppy L-W	Jay E
Skylarks	Oliver B	Maisie B
Red Kites	Eva S	Bailey H
Kestrels	Arthur M-P	Ajooni T

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	366	2621
Galileo (Green)	249	1969
Redgrave (Red)	278	2077
Yeats (Yellow)	299	2778

The Winning House for this term is **Yeats**

Habit of the Month

In July, the habit of the month will be:

“To Embrace Change”

- **Be open-minded** – Try new ideas and experiences with a positive attitude.
- **Be adaptable** – Understand that change is a normal part of learning and growing.
- **Be confident** – Believe in yourself when facing something new or different.
- **Be positive** – Look for the opportunities that change can bring.

Please continue to support us by having high expectations for your children and help them to form good habits.

After School Clubs for 2026-27

There will be after school clubs planned for 2026-27. Clubs run by external professionals will start in w/c 7th September 2026. We will send the club letter in September. If you require child care after school, please use our **Woodpeckers Club**. You must book a slot in advance directly via SCOPAY. Thank you.

Our Wonderful PTA

Many thanks to our amazing PTA, Mrs Lomas, Mrs Martin, Mrs Bowley, Mrs Ellery and Mr. Ellery. Here are just a selection of the outstanding events that the children have enjoyed throughout the year.

Halloween Disco	Tea Towels	Panto
Christmas Fair	Wreath Making	Quiz Night
Easter Bonnet	Power up	Smarties
Village Fete	Party in the Parish	Camp Out

Amazon Sport Wish List

Please check out our new Amazon Sport Wish List containing lots of wonderful new resources for PE and the Playground.

If you would like to purchase something for the school, please click the link https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/ZK98E8KNOSZQ?ref=wl_share

Contact Details Update

If you have changed your home address, email address or phone numbers recently, please make sure that you inform the School Office ASAP, so we can make any changes we need to ensure the data we collect is accurate and up to date.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns for your child or for any other pupils from the school during the summer holiday, please email MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk. Please remind your children to keep safe when they are in or beside water during the summer holidays and to not play near railway lines.

Summer Reading Challenge

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is back at all RBWM Libraries from **Saturday 11 July**. It's a brilliant way to keep children motivated, engaged, and excited about reading during the summer holidays.

This year's theme is **"Read to the Beat"**, and there are plenty of fun activities and **lots of prizes** for everyone who takes part.

Reading, Reading, Reading

Daily reading is vital in supporting our learners to become fluent readers who develop a love of books. Reading is the most crucial skill any child will learn. It is our school's clear expectation that every child reads every night without any distraction. Please support us by ensuring that there is a time set aside every evening to ensure your child can read and, ideally, to be read to by an adult. Happy Reading during the Summer Break.

Our mission is to provide inspiration and opportunities for all children to achieve their potential and become confident, independent individuals with key skills for lifelong learning

School Values: Truth Love Peace Responsibility Community

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr David Errington (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Giovanna Brancato (KS1 Team Leader) / Mrs Jo Waite (KS2 Team Leader)

Inclusion Coordinator: Miss Chelsea Painter

Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Fiona Edwards (Parent Governor)

Contact the Governing Board: clerk@wslprimary.org

Staff and Governors of Waltham St Lawrence Primary School are committed to the safeguarding of children

Summer Holiday: Thursday 23rd July 2026 – Monday 31st August 2026

The Academic Year 2026-2027

Term 1 (39 days)

September	Tuesday 1 st	Staff Inset Day	All Day
	Wednesday 2 nd	Start of Pupil Term	08.30
October	Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd	Year 5 / Year 6 Residential Trip	
	Friday 23 rd	End of Pupil Term	15.10
October Holiday: Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026			

Term 2 (35 days)

November	Monday 2 nd	Staff Inset Day	All Day
	Tuesday 3 rd	Start of Pupil Term	08.30
December	Friday 18 th	End of Pupil Term	13.00
Christmas Holiday: Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January 2027			

Term 3 (30 days)

January	Monday 4 th	Staff Inset Day	All Day
	Tuesday 5 th	Staff Inset Day	All Day
	Wednesday 6 th	Start of Pupil Term	08.30
February	Friday 12 th	End of Pupil Term	15.10
February Holiday: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027			

Term 4 (24 days)

February	Monday 22 nd	Start of Pupil Term	08.30
March	Thursday 25 th	End of Pupil Term	13.00
Spring Holiday: Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027 (Good Friday 26th March 2027; Easter Monday 29th March 2027)			

Term 5 (34 days)

April	Monday 12 th	Start of Pupil Term	08.30
May	Monday 3 rd	May Day Bank Holiday	All Day
	Friday 28 th	End of Pupil Term	15.10
May Holiday: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027			

Term 6 (33 days)

June	Monday 7 th	Staff Inset Day	All Day
	Tuesday 8 th	Start of Pupil Term	08.30
July	Wednesday 21 st	End of Pupil Term	13.00
Summer Holiday: Thursday 22nd July to Tuesday 31st August 2027			

Please do not book family holidays during term time. Dates are on the school website <https://wslprimary.com>

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”