



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 01

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year to everyone – and a special welcome to all the children and families who have joined us for the first time. We wish them all happiness and success during their time with us at WSL. I am glad to say that we have had a very busy start to the new academic year. The children have returned to school happily, they are smartly dressed, polite, positive and eager to learn. As I write, the school is buzzing with excited learners! In our first Whole School Assembly on Wednesday this week, we shared our high expectations with the children. At WSL, our School Values underpin everything we do, we promote a simple message: **Only our best will do!** Democracy is an integral part of the school life. This week we also had Class and House Assemblies, children have had their voices heard and elected New School Council and New House Captains following their well-prepared speeches, various class monitors were nominated, too. Children in Year 6 have gone through the recruitment process by completing the Peer Mediator Application / Nomination Form. 10 children were selected and received Peer Mediation Training on Thursday this week. They are all excited to be able to provide such service to their peers and want to do their best to help others and make a difference. All children are encouraged to have ownership of their learning and take on responsibilities within the school. Please read on to see the various roles and jobs Year 6 children have in their final year at WSL. They all enjoy these responsibilities as they appreciate being treated as mature and responsible young people.

Summer School Improvement Projects

Over the summer holidays, the school has again been a hive of activity as contractors, engineers, electricians and our premise staff as well as teaching staff have been busy...

- Replacing the oil tank with a brand new air source heat pump as part of the government funded Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for schools. This project has been managed by RBWM Building Services and the whole project will be completed by the end of September 2023, ready for the cold winter months
- Installing a new fence to secure the new heat pump on the ground
- Installing brand new radiators in Owls and Robins Classrooms with higher capacity units, achieving the required heating capacity
- Deep cleaning and polishing floor in the Dining Room
- Deep cleaning the kitchen by a professional company
- Topping up the Adventure Playground with fresh safe play bark
- Mowing the lawns, trimming hedges etc

Our indoor and outdoor learning environment definitely looks even smarter, ready for the new term. Children can enjoy exploring, learning and playing in a tidy, calm, spacious and stimulating environment and strive to do better!



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teaching staff for their incredible hard work over the summer making your child's start to the school year as smooth and productive as it has been. I know that you know how much goes on behind the scenes, but it's always worth reiterating the amount of time, effort, commitment and passion that the Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Support Staff at the school put in to make Waltham St Lawrence the great place it is.

As we are at the start of the new academic year, I have communicated with you via letters or emails regarding our high expectations for the children. Please refer to the letter sent home for details. Here are some reminders:

- It is very important that your child attends school every day when they are fit and well. This year we have a school attendance target of **97%** for pupils. Pupils with attendance of less than 90% are regarded by the Government as having Persistent Absence and pupils with attendance in danger of falling to this level will be invited into school for support and an action plan.
- No pupils should be in school before 8.30am for supervision reasons, except for those who attend Breakfast Club starting at 7.45am.
- School Gates open at 8:30am. Pupils arriving after 8.40am are LATE and their parents need to report to the School Office and sign in the 'Late Arrival Book'.
- **Please label everything** e.g. School Uniform, PE Kit, Reading Bags and Water bottles and remember NO pencil cases are required, we will provide all necessary stationery for children etc.
- Children must have their PE kit in school every day, not just PE days. They also need to ensure that they have adequate long sleeve tops and tracksuits once the weather turns colder. Please use a **drawstring bag** for their PE kit. **NO rucksacks** are allowed.
- Please provide your child with **healthy snacks** e.g. fruit or vegetables and fresh water. If your child chooses to have packed lunch, we encourage parents to make healthy packed lunches. Fizzy drinks, sweets or sticky fruit winders should not be included (fresh or dry fruit only.)
- As from September 2023, School meal will cost £2.36. Please remember to **order school lunch for your child via Scopay before midnight!** If you forget to order your child a meal you will need to bring in a packed lunch.
- It is really important to **read daily with your child and discuss the book with them.** Please write quality feedback or any comments and sign the Reading Record or Homework Diary to let us know how that is going.
- If someone other than yourself or your nominated person(s) will be collecting your child, please tell a member of staff. We cannot release your child to anyone who has not been authorised.
- September is the time of year where we update our school records. It is essential that we have accurate records of all of the children in the school including addresses and contact numbers and emails in case of emergency, so please can you inform the School Office of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.

May I also remind you that we operate an 'Open Door' policy and as such parents are most welcome to come and discuss any concerns with a member of staff or myself. However, at busy times, it may be necessary to make an appointment via the School Office. Similarly, if you have any comments to make regarding the school, please do let me know as I am on the playground at the end of the school day or at the Drop Off time and I am available to talk to parents or see me by making an appointment through the School Office.

Key Dates and events are listed in the 'Dates for Your Diary' on the last page of this Newsletter. In case you are reading one of these newsletters for the first time, a reminder that it is produced every Friday and contains all the up to date information about the school, including events. Newsletters can be accessed via a link sent to your email address each week or you can view them on the school website www.wslprimary.org



At WSL we use **The Big Think SMSC Values Programme** to deliver RSHE Curriculum. The Value for this term is **Peace**.

We will focus on one related value each week: **Belonging, Solitude, Play, Growth, Resilience** and **Joy**.

Next week we will be looking at the value of **Belonging**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on "Do you feel you belong in many places?" Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren – 'What makes you feel belong? Why is it important to feel you belong? You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote '*Not belonging is a terrible feeling. It feels awkward and it hurts, as if you were wearing someone else's shoes.*' – Phoebe Stone, author (1947- present)

Welcome and Meet the Teacher Information Meetings for Parents will be taking place in your child's classroom on **Wednesday 13th September**. Each class teacher will run two sessions: **3.20 – 4.00pm with a repeat at 4.05-4.45pm**. This should enable parents/carers with children in different year groups to meet their child's Class Teacher. A Crèche will be provided in the School Hall for parents who may need such service.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

House Captains 2023-24

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on being elected House Captains:

Brunel (Blue):	James Roylance	Khloe Watts
Galileo (Green):	Jenson Edwards	Ariella Bolt
Redgrave (Red):	Kimble Roberts	Robyn Wynn
Yeats (Yellow):	Esther Buekers	Alfie-Ray Marshal-Pullin

School Council 2023-24

Welcome to this year's School Council. New members of School Council were elected this week. They are:

Year 2:	Oscar Priddy	Riley Wilder
Year 3:	Hermoine Hewitt	William Dziedzic
Year 4:	Harlow Levett	Oscar Butler-Cook
Year 5:	Alexandra Gleave	Chloe Newman
Year 6:	Lilly Taylor	Ethan Barry

Peer Mediators 2023-24

10 of our current Year 6 children who were selected to be Peer Mediators had successfully completed Peer Mediation Training on Thursday this week. They will be responsible for helping to resolve minor friendship problems, disagreement or conflict at lunchtimes. The Peer Mediators are:

Esther Buekers	Kimble Roberts
Leo Howard	Margot Tancorre
Robyn Wynn	James Roylance
Theo Collin	Ariella Bolt
Khloe Watts	Jenson Edwards

Playground Leaders 2023-24

All Year 6 children are Playground Leaders this year. They will be responsible for organising and leading games and activities on a rota basis during lunch break when everything is back to normal.

Gifts

All staff and I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone for the thoughtful gifts and cards we received at the end of last term. We were all very touched by your kind words and generosity. Thank you so much!

Habit of the Month

In **September**, children will be focusing on **Presentation of Their Work - Only My Best Will Do!** This is part of daily routines, please continue to support us by having high expectations for your child/ren and helping them all form good habits. Thank you.

Helpers needed for Stop and Drop Zone

If you can spare 10-15 minutes once or twice every 4 weeks to help keep the Zone running and our pupils safe, please let the School Office know. Your help and support are greatly appreciated.

Termly Curriculum Overview

Termly Curriculum Overview for each Year group will be uploaded on the School Website by Friday 15th September. You will be able to access the overview via <http://wslprimary.com/curriculum/> These give you a broad overview of the learning that takes place in Term 1 & 2 for your children. It is a useful starting point for you to do some research, support homework or just have a conversation with your child about what they are learning at school.

After School Extra-Curricular Clubs

All clubs led by external professionals will start next week. Children are expected to commit to a whole course, except for illness or other valid reasons and follow the School Golden Rules at all times. Please notify the teacher or School Office as soon as possible if your child cannot attend a session.

Voluntary One Way System and Parking

For those new to our school, we would like to inform and remind you that there is a voluntary one-way system in operation at the beginning and end of the school day to avoid congestion during the rush hour. Please approach the school from the direction of Sill Bridge, and **leave by turning left into Brook Lane as Plough Lane is currently closed due to some water pipe work being done.**

Please do not park on the Double Yellow Lines at all times.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 2 Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for Year 2 will be on Thursday every week, starting 14th September. The last session will be on 7th December 2023 in Term 2. Children will be back on time for school hot meal, there is no need for packed lunch unless your child choose to have packed lunch for that day. Please can you make the payment via sQuid if you have not done so. Please refer to the letter sent home dated 17th July 2023 for details.

Nut /Dairy/Food Allergy

Please could we remind all parents to keep us informed about any food allergies or food intolerances that your children may have. We do have children and adults in school who have nut allergies, so please could we remind you that we are a nut free school and ask all parents to continue to be vigilant and not bring any nuts or nut products on to the school site. **Children are not allowed to share food with each other to avoid any incidents.** Thank you for your support.

Medicine in School

Please could all parents note that only prescribed medication should be brought into school and handed in to the School Office. If your child requires a **prescribed medicine** FOUR times a day, and a dose has to be administered at lunchtime, then **parents must complete a Request Form for Administration of Medicine. Without this we are unable to administer medicine.** These forms are available from the School Office. The medicine must be in the original labelled bottle/container.

If your child requires a **prescribed medicine** THREE times a day then there is normally no need for them to be given that medicine at school. The medicine can be given before school, after school when the child returns home and in the evening.

Asthma: Even if your child has not been diagnosed with asthma but has been given an inhaler (for any reason) then please inform the School Office. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Secondary School Application

Secondary applications for September 2024 open today. Applications must be submitted no later than the deadline 31st October 2023. Please refer to the letter sent home.

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

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

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Li-Juan Ellerton (Head Teacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr David Errington (Deputy Head Teacher)

Safeguarding Governor: Mr David Hooper (Parent Governor)

Dates for Your Diary

The Academic Year 2023-2024

Term 1 (35 days)

September	Mon 4 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 5 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Wed 6 th	Start of Pupil Term	8.30am
	Mon 11 th	After School Extra Curricula Clubs start this week	
	Wed 13 th	Welcome and Meet the Teacher Information Meeting	3.20pm & 4.05pm
	Thurs 14 th	Welcome NEW Parents Coffee/Tea Morning with Headteacher & PTA	8.40am
		Swimming Lessons start for Robins Class	
	W/C 18 th	Baseline Assessment for children in Owls Class	
	Wed 20 th	KS2 Reading Workshop for KS2 parents	3.20pm & 6.00pm
	Mon 25 th	School Photograph – Individual and Siblings	8.30am
	Tues 26 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Wed 27 th	My First Class Photo by Maidenhead Advertiser	9.30am
	Thurs 28 th	Year 4 Bikeability Training Level 1 – Detail to follow	All day
		PTA Meeting at Shurlock Inn	7.30pm
October	Fri 29 th	School Dinner Tasting Session for Parents	2.30pm
	Thurs 6 th	Autumn Schol Census Day	
	Fri 6 th	Harvest Service in WSL Church – detail to follow	2.00pm
		School Census Day & National Poetry Day	
	Wed 11 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Mon 16 th	Parents Evening for KS2 Classes ONLY	3.30-5.30pm
	Tues 17 th	Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	5.00-7.00pm
	Wed 18 th	Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	3.30-5.30pm
		Flu Immunisation Vaccination for all children in school	8.30 – 10.30am
	Thurs 19 th	PTA Halloween Disco / Movie	5.00-7.00pm
Fri 20 th	End of Term 1	3.10pm	

October Holiday Monday 23rd October 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023

Term 2 (35 days)

October	Mon 30 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 31 st	Start of Pupil Term	
November	1 st – 3 rd	Year 6 Bikeability Training - detail to follow	
	Tues 8 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	10 th -14 th	Diwali Festival	
	Sat 11 th	Armistice Day	
	Sun 12 th	Remembrance Sunday	
	13 th -17 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme ‘Make A Noise About Bullying’	
	21 st -27 th	Scholastic Book Fair Week in School	3.10-4.00pm
	Mon 27 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am

Monday 18th December 2023 to Tuesday 2nd January 2024 Christmas Holiday

Please do not book family holidays during term time. Please note that Staff Inset Days are subject to change.

Dates /times added/changed will be highlighted

All dates to the end of the year can also be found on the school website www.wslprimary.org

Information / Letters sent home or can be accessed on the school website last & this week:

Thank you Letter to all	RAAC Letter to all
Welcome to the New Academic Year Letter to all	Club Letters to all
sQuid & Scopay Introductory / Registration Letter to Owls	uSports Club Leaflet to all
Bayeux Tapestry Virtual Interactive Workshop Letter to Year 3 /4	Enchanted Dance Leaflet to all
Transfer to Secondary/ Middle/Upper School for September 2024 Letter to Year 6	
Cookham and Maidenhead Arts Trial leaflet to all	Families Magazine to all