



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

School Road, West End, Berkshire RG10 0NU | Telephone: 0118 9343248 | Email: office@wslprimary.org | Headteacher: Mrs L-J Ellerton

Weekly Newsletter Number 09

Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another busy week. Once again, the **Open Morning** on Wednesday this week went really well. We had quite a few prospective parents coming to see the school in action. They were very impressed with children's learning behaviour and we have received some very positive feedback / comments from our visitors.

Through our PSHE/Values Curriculum and School Improvement Plan (SIP), we continue our focus on developing children's understanding of our School Values **Love, Truth, Peace, Responsibility** and **Community** and linking these to **Habit of the Month** and the wider **British Values** we teach at school. We also provide a variety of opportunities and experiences for children to develop their **CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE** and **INDEPENDENCE**. We are embedding the children's use of these terms in everyday conversation and our learners are finding how many aspects of our school learning values transcend into lots of aspects of life, not just academic learning. We appreciate your support in continuing to embed these values with your children and would ask that, where applicable, you discuss these when talking to them at home.

This year one of our focused curriculum areas has been on **improving children's writing skills through reading**. We cannot emphasise enough how important it is for your child/ren to read and be read to every day. It is our expectation that every child reads every evening without any distraction for 10-30 minutes as age appropriate as part of their home learning. Please support us by ensuring that there is a time set aside every evening for your child/ren to read, read for pleasure/ information and discuss what they have read. To be a good writer, children need to be a good reader who can read easily, fluently and with good understanding; develop the habit of reading widely and acquire a wide vocabulary etc. We use reading as a bridge to improve children's writing. In school we teach children to **'read as a writer'** and ask them to think about how the writer has created that effect and what techniques they can learn and apply. Working together, we can help children enjoy reading, writing and become good writers. Thank you for your continued support.

You learn to write better by reading.
You learn to read better by writing.
Reading and writing work together to improve your ability to think!



Next week from 13th to 17th November is National Anti-Bullying Week. The theme for Anti-Bullying Week is **'Make a NOISE about Bullying**. We will plan different activities to help children understand the definition of bullying, what we mean by 'banter' and think about the difference between 'banter' and bullying. We will urge everyone to think about the role 'banter' plays in bullying and how we can tackle it. We are encouraging everyone to be mindful of how, sometimes, these banter/ jokes may not be received as they were intended.

Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying. **Anti-Bullying Week** is a great opportunity for us all to get involved and raise awareness of how our school protect children from bullying. As parents/carers, teachers and governors, we each have a unique and important role to play. It's important that we all work together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying and create safe environment for our children to thrive.



Friday 17th November is BBC Children in Need Day. This national event supports hundreds of charities that help children in a myriad of different ways. This year, in exchange for a **donation of £1** towards the Children in Need Charity appeal, children can come to school dressed in their normal School Uniform with yellow or 'SPOTtacular' accessories for this special occasion. All the money raised will be gratefully received to help change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK

What have we been learning in school?

As part of their **Art** topic work, children in Skylarks Class were inspired by the work of William Morris, a famous British textile designer. They designed and created their own printing stamps to produce repeating patterns.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



Next week we will focus on the value of **Pride**. Children will be exploring the differences and similarities and how unique they all are, by the end of the week through stories or debate and role plays they will gain confidence about their changing bodies and appearances and learn to be proud of what their body can do. Perhaps you can have a discussion at home and spend some time with your child exploring the meaning of the quote: *'A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us.'* Jane Austen, English Novelist, *Pride and Prejudice* (1775 – 1817) What might the author mean?



PTA Notice

PTA AGM will take place on **Tuesday 14th November 2023, 6.00pm - 7.00pm in school**, covering financial report, events planned for the year. Some updates will be presented by representative of the Governing Board and the school. At the AGM, nominations are very welcome for Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Ordinary member roles. Please contact Phillippa (07484 766059) if this is something you would like to consider doing now or in the future and would like to know more about the roles.



Christmas Fair will be taking place on Thursday 14th December, 3:30-6pm at school. Tickets to see Santa are now live on PTA-Events: www.pta-events.co.uk/wslpta/ Come and enjoy a visit to Santa, stalls, games, music, hot snacks, s'mores and mulled wine around the fire pits. £1 entry on the day.

If you have a business and would like to run a stall, please let the PTA Committee members know. PTA will be collecting for the toy and bottle tombola at the beginning of December.

The raffle is a huge fundraiser for the event. If you are able to offer a prize/voucher that would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Laura on 07903 274711.

We are in need of helpers - even just an hour on the day would be a huge help.....please get in touch with Phillippa if you can help (07484 766059).

School Tea Towels

The perfect Christmas gift....available on PTA-events now (£5 for 1, £9 for 2 and £12 for 3).

www.pta-events.co.uk/wslpta/

Children have been busy drawing themselves this week!

WSL Summer Festival 22nd June 2024

If you would like to get involved to help organise the event, the next planning meeting is 21st November at 8.00pm.



Writing
is only
reading
turned
inside out.

-- John Updike

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

Sunshine Book

Congratulations to all the children for demonstrating the School Values, following the School Golden Rules and going above and beyond with their learning throughout this week.

Owls	Noah Giauna-Miller	Poppy Lambert-Webb	
Nightingales	Dolly Palmer	Eduardo Harrison	
Robins	Sienna Oldacre-Digby	Charlie Mason	
Skylarks	Ajoooni Thiara	Darcy Edwards	Felix Lavers
Red Kites	Monty Whitehead	Rhys Joel	
Kestrels	Hector Hewitt	Theo Collin	

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	234	1623
Galileo (Green)	280	2171
Redgrave (Red)	241	2010
Yeats (Yellow)	354	2375

The Winning House for this week is **Yeats**. Well done.

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 06-11-23 to 10-11-23

Owls 93.2% Skylarks 93.3%

Nightingales 92.5% **Red Kites 96.6%**

Robins 92.3% Kestrels 93.9%

Whole School 93.9%



Habit of the Month

In November, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Responding to Instructions**, which means that children should listen actively to the whole message, use positive body language and ask questions if needed to clarify any points that they don't understand. We expect children to follow instructions straightaway. 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.

Reading

Practice Reading! **T**WI – read **T**o, read **W**ith and have your child read **I**ndependently every evening. Daily practice is a key factor for fluency and comprehension. Daily practice also gives children exposure to new vocabulary and more complex sentence structure that help with their speaking and writing skills. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Fair

We are very excited to inform you that we shall be running a **Scholastic Book Fair from Tuesday 21st to Monday 27th November after school every day in the Dining Hall from 3.10pm to 4.00pm**. Please look out for a letter next week for details. If any parents can help man the store, please contact the School Office.

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING

There is a lot of lost property left behind every day **WITHOUT NAMES!** In order to reduce the amount of property your child misplaces in school, we ask parents to ensure that **all children's belongings are clearly NAMED** so that lost property can be returned to their owners easily.

New Parent Governor Election

The Governing Board are looking for a new Parent Governor who has the right skills, expertise, time, energy and will commit to help strengthen the team and support the school. We have two strong candidates applied for the Vacancy of Parent Governor. Thank you to those who have returned their ballot paper. **The deadline is on Monday 13th November 12.00noon**. The result will be announced on Tuesday 14th November 2023 next week. Thank you all for your interest and support.

School Lunch Order

School Lunch Order must be completed by midnight each day and paid for using SCOPAY. This ensures that the catering team is able to produce the correct number of meals, to speed up service and avoid causing stress in children due to lunch not being ordered for them that day. **If your order is not completed on time, then please bring a packed lunch for your child that day.**

Commitment to and Expectations for Attendance

As a school, we encourage parents to ensure that all children achieve maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are identified and acted on promptly. Regular school attendance at WSL Primary School will set pupils up for positive attendance throughout their school life. Please click on the following link to read guidance from the NHS regarding pupil illness: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please be aware that if holidays are taken without approval, this information will be passed to RBWM Education Welfare Officer. A Penalty Notice may be issued without further warning. Payment of a Penalty Notice within 21 Days is £60, between 22 and 28 days is £120. Penalty Notices are issued to each parent, per child. However, if a penalty notice is not paid then the Parents may be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.

Poppy Appeal



Thank you so much for your amazing support for The Royal British Legion **Poppy Appeal**. The following items have been sold in school: **Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, rulers, Rubbers, Reflectors, Wristband, and Zip Pull**. A lot of money has been raised. This will continue till Thursday next week.

PTA Notice – Sponsorship Offer for Christmas

The PTA have secured a **Sponsorship Offer** for the Christmas Fair from an independent estate agency **Wixenford**. For every board displayed they will give the PTA £10! Instead of 'For Sale', the following wording will be displayed on each board:

Waltham St Lawrence Primary School Christmas Fair Thursday 14th December 2023 3.30-6.00pm

If you are able to have one of these boards outside your home from approximately **13th November to 15th December**, please contact Keri on 07725616181.

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 2 (35 days)

November	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	
	Tues 14 th	PTA AGM	6.00-7.00pm
	13 th -17 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme ‘Make A Noise About Bullying’	
	Fri 17 th	School Dinner Tasting Session	2.30-4.00pm
	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
	December	Mon 4 th	Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal to Whole School
Wed 6 th		Nativity Play to Parents	2.00pm
Thurs 7 th		Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class	
Fri 8 th		Nativity Play to Parents	2.00pm
Tues 12 th		All children are dropped off at WSL Church for Christingle Rehearsal	8.30am
Wed 13 th		Whole School Christingle Service in WSL Church – detail to follow	2.00pm
Thurs 14 th		Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day	12.00pm
		PTA Christmas Fair	3.30-6.00pm
Fri 15 th		End of Term 2	1.00pm

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

Term 3 (28 days)

January 2024 Wed 3rd Staff Inset Day

Thurs 4th Start of Pupil Term

February Fri 9th End of Pupil Term

Monday 12th February 2024 to Friday 16th February 2024 February Holiday

Term 4 (29 days)

February Mon 19th Start of Pupil Term

March Thurs 28th End of Pupil Term

Friday 29th March 2024 to Friday 12th April 2024 Spring Holiday
(Good Friday is 29th March 2024 and Easter Monday is 1st April 2024)

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:

Parent Governor Ballot Form and Letter to all

Is My Child too Ill for School? - NHS Guidance for Pupil Illness to all

Families Thames Valley West Magazine to all