



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 08

Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable October Holiday filled with lots of fun, family time and, of course, reading. It was lovely to see the children return so positively to school on Tuesday, looking refreshed and ready for another eventful term in the run up to Christmas. We have arranged a wide variety of learning experiences for the children this term, these include Anti-Bullying Week, Dance lessons with a specialist dance teacher for Skylarks and Red Kites Classes and the annual Christmas festivities in December. I am very much looking forward to welcoming you back into school for our traditional events and celebrating this magical time of year with everyone in our school community. Please look out for the letters inviting you to Nativity, Christingle Service and other Christmas events.

As we start a new term, here are some reminders:

- In order to **develop self-help skills and independence** of all children, we would ask parents / all children to use Stop and Drop Service and encourage children to take responsibility to look after their own belongings, carry their own bags and lunchboxes etc. Please support us and let them do things that they can do themselves.
- 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 as the weather turns colder. Please ensure items are **clearly labelled with your child's name and class**.
- **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.**
- **Winter Uniform** - As we are now entering the colder months that children are now expected to be in winter uniform. The uniform guideline is available via the School Website.
- **There is still 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. We thank you for your help in this matter.**
- **When sleep is abundant, minds flourish**. We often notice some of our children are just so tired...The impact that poor sleeping patterns can have on a child's (and adult's) ability to concentrate and learn is remarkable. Please make sure your child goes to bed at an appropriate time. If you are having difficulties establishing these good patterns of sleeping with your child, please come to see us.

On the **Inset Day** on Monday teachers and teaching assistants spent time together to discuss our School Improvement Plan focusing on our ethos of educating the 'Whole Child' and the importance of instilling in children the values which will prepare them for life in Modern Britain. We discussed the make-up of our school and how we can all work together and adopt a solution-focused approach to cater for the needs of all children and achieve the best outcomes for each and every child at WSL.

Staff discussed and agreed actions we need to take to achieve the objectives as set in our **School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2023-24**. Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) is driven by our School Mission Statement which reflects what we believe and do and what we aspire to achieve and also based on School Self Evaluation, Performance Data and external views etc. The aim of this plan is to not only maintain our Outstanding standard in all areas but also to build upon it and improve the school further. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) Priorities Summary has been published on the School Website and can be accessed via the link here: <https://wslprimary.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SIP-2023-24-Summary.pdf>

Bikeability Training - Children in Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their 3-day Bikeability Cycle Training at Level 2/3 this week. They all followed instructions carefully and practised some basic skills on the playground and learned more about how to ride their bikes safely by keeping some distance. They then cycled out on the roads around the village and learned all about how to cycle safely on the roads. For some children this was a completely new and slightly daunting experience. Nevertheless, they have overcome their anxiety and are now better prepared to cycle. They have become more confident and are reminded to remember the key safety rule – See and BE Seen. The instructors were very impressed with the children's energy and enthusiasm and how polite and sensible all children are despite the wet weather! Well done, children! Thank you, parents, for giving permission for the children to come on the course. We would like to offer our thanks to John and Taran and RBWM for kindly providing this invaluable training.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



What have we been learning in school?

This week has been Halloween Week in **Owls Class**! The children have been scarily busy this week, working on a range of skills! They have been practising their fine motor and segmenting skills using spaghetti worms, working on their number recognition by pulling numbers out in a spider web, practising reading pumpkin CVC words and matching to the correct picture and they have been representing numbers by sorting potion bottles into cauldrons. The children have enjoyed dressing up, learning a Halloween song, making spider webs out of playdough and straws and making potions in the garden! Here are some photos for you to enjoy.



In Term 2, we will be focusing on our Core Value of **TRUTH** and the related Value of **Understanding Others/Empathy, Commitment, Pride, Justice, Aspiration and Freedom**. This week the children looked at **'Understanding Others/Empathy'** and explored how we all can try to see things from other people's point of view. We also discussed this quote *'You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view'* - Harper Lee, American Author (1926-2016).

Next week we will be focusing on **Commitment**. Children will discuss the meaning of **'Commitment'** and will be exploring how we can show commitment to something or someone. Perhaps you can have a discussion at home and spend some time with your child exploring the meaning of the quote: *'Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality.'* - Abraham Lincoln, American President (1861 - 1865). What might this quote mean?



PTA Notice

The PTA have secured a **Sponsorship Offer** for the Christmas Fair from an independent estate agency **Wixenford**. For every board displayed in front of your house they will give the PTA £10! There is a WhatsApp message circulating with a picture of their board with the following advert, instead of 'For Sale', it will say:

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.

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	Abdullah Jaffri	Lily Shuttleworth
Nightingales	Maisie Ball	William Lomas
Robins	Riley Wilder	Cooper Gray
Skylarks	Imogen Howe	Hermione Hewitt
Red Kites	Ava Williams	Alex Souto-Long
Kestrels	Axel Mordt	Ariella Bolt

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	196	1389
Galileo (Green)	186	1831
Redgrave (Red)	187	1769
Yeats (Yellow)	229	2021

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: 30-10-23 to 03-11-23

Owls 96.6% Skylarks 94.2%

Nightingales 91.3% Red Kites 99.6%

Robins 98.8% Kestrels 100%

Whole School 96.9%



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.

PTA AGM

PTA AGM will take place on **Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 6.00pm in school**, covering financial report, events planned for the year. Some updates will be presented by representative of the Governing Board and the school.

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 are pleased to say that there has been a good response and we have more than one candidate applied for the Vacancy of Parent Governor. This means we must now hold a ballot. Please look out for a letter and a ballot paper for you to vote one of the candidates next week. Thank you all for your interest and support.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations - Thank You From NHS

We received a 'Thank You' Poster from NHS indicating the percentage vaccinated in relation to our cohort. Our school has achieved a low uptake, 71.6% compared to national uptake 75%. We would welcome any feedback

from you so that we can work together in the future to improve this.

School Uniform

Due to the change in weather please can we remind all parent/carers that children should be bringing a coat into school every day. We also request that long hair is tied back and only plain/blue hair accessories are worn if necessary. The only jewellery that is allowed in school are small plain earring studs and they must be removed for PE and games lessons. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings it would be advisable for them not to be worn to school on PE days.

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.

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 be aware that if holidays are taken without approval, this information will be passed to RBWM Education Welfare Officer. Taking an unauthorised holiday is a Criminal Offence and may result, depending on the circumstances of each case, in either a Penalty Notice being issued or Prosecution in the Magistrates Court. 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. In some cases, a Penalty Notice will not be offered at all and the matter referred immediately for Prosecution. In the Court the penalty is a fine of up to £1000 and a Criminal Record.

Poppy Appeal



This year we continue to support The Royal British Legion **Poppy Appeal** by selling the following items in school: **Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, rulers, Rubbers, Reflectors, Wristband, and Zip Pull** next week. Price for each item is only suggested donation, ranging from **50p to £1.50, you can donate more if you wish**. Please remind your child to bring some small change to support the work of the Royal British Legion in asking the nation to *Rethink Remembrance* by recognising the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community, past and present and support those suffering from social isolation and those facing challenges.

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents Year R Sept 2024

Our next Open Morning will take place from 9.45-10.45am on **Wednesday 8th November 2023**

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)

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	
	Tues 11 th	PTA AGM with Governors attending	6.00pm
	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	2.00pm
	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 3 rd	Staff Inset Day
	Thurs 4 th	Start of Pupil Term
February	Fri 9 th	End of Pupil Term

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

Term 4 (29 days)

February	Mon 19 th	Start of Pupil Term
March	Thurs 28 th	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:

Balanceability Letter to Owls

School Lunch Order Reminder to all