



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 14

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What wonderfully busy Christmas weeks we have had at WSL! On Monday this week, children in Owls Class put on a very special **Christmas Concert** for their parents. Our young stars took the stage to enchant their parents with festive tunes and Christmas songs which created a joyous atmosphere. It is heartwarming to see our children's singing spreading warmth and cheer to all in attendance. Parents were also treated to a delightful display of their children's creative endeavours, featuring an array of charming art work and lovely letters to Santa. It was wonderful to see parents and their children enjoy looking at children's books together, appreciating the growth and progress of our youngest group at WSL. The children made us all very proud. Thank you, parents for coming and we hope you enjoyed the concert as much as we did. Thanks also go to Miss Painter, Mrs Whyte and TAs for their amazing support.



On Wednesday this week, the children impressed us all, leading our **Christingle Service** with brilliant storytelling, poetry recitation and fantastic singing - What a wonderful way to tell the story of Christmas! They all spoke with clarity and confidence, they were all full of energy and enthusiasm. The glow of the Christingle candles created such a special atmosphere! The children were absolutely fabulous! This whole school gathering is a celebration of love and spirit of togetherness that defines this festive season, linking very well with our School Values. We hope you all enjoyed this wonderful service.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

Christmas Lunch on Thursday went down a treat – the children enjoyed a full roast dinner with all the trimmings (and crackers!). Children in Owls Class were very excited about their first Christmas Lunch at WSL whilst Year 6 children enjoyed their last Christmas with us at the TOP Table! Thank you to Clare and Nikoletta, Chef and Assistant and all the staff who helped on the day, ensuring the smooth running of this memorable event.



What a spectacular **Christmas Fair** we had yesterday! I would like to extend a massive **THANK YOU** to our dedicated PTA, in particular, Mrs Pitt, Mrs Alvarez who organised the event and transformed our Playground into a Winter Wonderland with families gathered around the cosy campfire and marshmallow roasting, stalls offering unique gifts, crafts and treats, also turning our Outdoor Learning Area into an amazing Santa's Grotto! Our whimsical sleigh, creatively constructed and adorned with festive decorations by Mrs Alvarez, added an extra touch of Christmas magic. It was wonderful to see children, with gleaming smiles, hopped aboard the sleigh, complete with its own unique registration number '**W'SL 31GH**', and were transported through a winter wonderland, under twinkling lights to share their wishes with Santa, creating memories that will be cherished for years to come.



Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes and on the day! Thank you to many parents who manned stalls and Teachers who manned the Games Stall for the children, and those parents and other community members for packing away and tidying up after the events. I cannot mention everyone by name but please know that your support is hugely appreciated. We are lucky to have such a great community. Thanks to the incredible support of our school community, the PTA raised a substantial amount of money yesterday, we will share the final total once it is confirmed. This success is testament to the generosity and enthusiasm of our parents, staff and friends who came together to make a difference for our school. THANK YOU!

I have been and remain incredibly proud of our entire school community for living up to our motto "Together We Inspire and Achieve. As we reach the end of Term 2, I just want to thank you all, the children, Governors and parents, for the positive and enthusiastic support that you have given to the school. I am sure that you would like to join me in thanking our strong staff team for their hard work and effort for a successful term.

This time of year, brings everyone together and that is never more evident than in the events we have had in December. It underlines the spirit of Christmas since all of these events focus on giving to others and welcoming everyone in.

On behalf of all the staff, I would also like to say a big THANK YOU to you, Class Representatives and children for the many generous and thoughtful gifts you gave to us for Christmas and all your kind words. They are very much appreciated.

Finally, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from all of us at WSL!

The children will return to school for the start of Term 3 **Thursday 4th January 2024**. Staff Inset Day will be on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Have a happy and restful Christmas Holiday and May 2024 bring you happiness and success!

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher



Star Pupils of Term 2

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. Their photographs are displayed on the Star Pupils Board in the School Hall.

EYFS: Sebastian Whitehead

Year 1: Jemima Kennedy

Year 2: Cooper Gray

Year 3: Lawrence Gleave

Year 4: Arthur Marshall-Pullin

Year 5: Chloe Newman

Year 6: James Roylance



Values Gems

We continue with our **Values Nominations** and encourage children to put our values into action in everything they do and say in daily life. Those children who get most nominations will be our **Values Gems**. This Term our

Values Gems are:

Freya Hemmings	Joshua Howe
Oliver Barry	Ava-Grace Allan
Samuel Waller	Riley Wilder
Grace O'Hara	William Dziedzic
Ayrton Atkinson	Chloe Newman
Leo Howard	Alexandra Gleave

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	177	3227
Galileo (Green)	110	3661
Redgrave (Red)	178	3631
Yeats (Yellow)	176	4152

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

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 04-12-23 to 08-12-23

Owls 90.9% **Skylarks 98.8%**

Nightingales 98.1% Red Kites 96.6%

Robins 89.9% Kestrels 92.1%

Whole School 94.6%



Thank You...

To all the parents and community members who give up their time to help and support the children in class or school in so many different ways throughout Term 2, such as hearing children read, donating learning resources and help at Stop and Drop. Thank you!

Christmas Jumpers Day

Children looked fabulous in their Christmas Jumpers as part of our celebration of **Christmas jumpers Day**. Thank you for your support, we have raised about **£80** in support of the local **Daisy's Dream** charity. Thank you!

School Admissions for September 2023

The **closing date** for receipt of online applications for a school place for **September 2024 is on 15 January 2024**. Please refer to RMBW website for details.

Our next **Open Morning will be on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 9.45am**.

Christmas Trees

Last year many villagers and parents visited the site for their Christmas Trees. If you need a Christmas tree and are interested, please visit the farm. The address and opening hours are as below:

Woodend Baldassarre Farm

Shurlock Row, RG10 0QR

Opening hours: Monday – Friday 3.00pm -8.00pm

Saturday -Sunday 10.00am-8.00pm



Clubs for Term 3 & 4

If you would like your children to attend After School Clubs, please sign up with payment via **SCOPAY**. There are limited numbers for each club, places are offered on a first come, first serve basis. All booking must be completed via Scopay by Friday 5th January 2024.

All Clubs will start in the week beginning 8th January 2024, unless otherwise indicated.

After School Care Club and Breakfast Club will start on Thursday 4th January 2024, please complete and submit the Booking Form for After School Care Club directly to Progressive Sports. Please plan your childcare accordingly. Thank you.

Outstanding Payment

As we are approaching the end of Term 2, we would ask parents/carers please can you check your sQuid Account and SCOPAY and clear all the outstanding dues for Breakfast Club and School Dinners on an urgent basis. Your cooperation and understanding are desired for the smooth functioning of the school. Thank you.

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. **Reading is one of the greatest gifts you can give children!**

Key Text Books for Term 3

We would appreciate if Parents in KS2 Classes could purchase the book for your child as these story books will be used as the key text which children will be studying in their English lessons in Term 3. Thank you for your support.

Skylarks Class - My Friend Walter by Michael Morpurgo

Red Kites Class - White Bird by R.J. Palacio

Kestrels Class - Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

Owls Balanceability Programme

The Balanceability Programme for children in Owls Class will restart in week 2 w/c commencing Monday 15th January 2024 in Term 3.

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)

December Fri 15th 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

Tues 9th Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.45-10.45am

Wed 17th Skylarks Class Assembly 2.30pm

Wed 24th Red Kites Class Assembly 2.30pm

Wed 31st Kestrels Class Assembly 2.30pm

February Tues 6th Safer internet Day

Fri 9th End of Pupil Term

Sat 10th Chinese New Year of the Dragon

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

Term 4 (29 days)

February Mon 19th Start of Pupil Term

Wed 7th Dance Festival (Red Kites Taking Part) – Details to follow All day

Wed 28th Robins Class Assembly 2.30pm

March Thurs 7th World Book Day

Wed 13th Nightingales Class Assembly 2.30pm

Wed 13th Road Safety Show for Year 3/4 13.15

Tues 19th Parents Evening for KS2 Classes 3.30-5.30pm

Wed 20th Owls Class Assembly 2.30pm

Wed 20th Parents Evening for All Classes 5.00-7.00pm

Thurs 21st Parents Evenings for All Classes 3.30-5.30pm

Wed 27th PTA Easter Fundraiser and School Easter Egg Hunt

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)

Term 5 (29 days)

April Mon 15th Start of Pupil Term

May Mon 6th May Day Bank Holiday

9th -12th KS2 SATs

Fri 24th End of Pupil Term

May Holiday: Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024

Term 6 (39 days)

June Mon 3rd Staff Inset Day

Tues 4th Start of Pupil Term

July Thurs 25th End of Pupil Term

Summer Holiday: Friday 26th July 2024 – Friday 30th August 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.wsprimary.org

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

Dance Festival Ticket Letter to Red Kites only

Club Letter to all

Club Timetable to all