



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 13

Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are fast approaching the end of Term 2, **Teacher Assessment** has been going on this week. Class Teachers have assessed where the children are in Reading, Writing and Maths. This is an important part of teaching and learning at WSL and it enables teachers to identify gaps in children's knowledge and understanding and put in place any intervention programmes to enable them to make further progress. It also helps teachers gather evidence and examples to moderate pupil work. There are some highlighted areas where children need more work on. It is evident that **attendance is crucial to children making progress!** Please encourage your child/ren to keep learning the basic number facts, spellings and daily reading and encourage the children to apply their learning in real life problem solving situations at home. Remember, as with all learning, **little and often** is what gets results. In practice, this means that ten minutes a day is better than one hour once a week. The support and encouragement you give your children in school and with homework is invaluable. We appreciate your ongoing support, working together we can ensure all our children will make substantial progress and achieve their true potential.

The children have enjoyed a variety of learning opportunities offered to them during the week, please read on...

The performance of **KS1 Nativity 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings'** was truly the highlight of this week, filled with joy, talent and the festive spirit. Our young stars shone brightly as they sang and acted with incredible brilliance, showcasing not only their confidence but also their musical talents. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by the children throughout the play were truly heartwarming, leaving everyone in awe. We were very **proud** of all of our children – Well done! Thank you to KS1 staff team for nurturing and guiding the children to deliver such high quality performance. A big 'thank you' to all your continued support! We hope you have all enjoyed it! It is such a delight to see the joy that these performances bring to our families. We had a lot of positive feedback from parents and friends. Thank you for your generous donations, which will be used to cover the costs associated with the production, including licencing fees, music, costumes and props. We will have a photo display of children's performances, you are welcome to come in and have a look.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



Fire Fighters from Bracknell Fire Station came to visit us on Wednesday. They gave a talk on **Fire Safety** to children in Year 5. The children learned how to prevent fire at home and some simple safety techniques to extinguish fire on the body and clothing. They also learned the importance of closing doors and windows to stop the smoke and airflow. The fire fighters kindly agreed to spend some time to talk to children in other year groups and showed the children around their fire engine and the children got to see all the important tools that they use in their job. They have all enjoyed the experience and learned a lot!



We were delighted that a few parents including a grandparent were able to come to the **Chinese Club** to watch their children singing a song called 'Thank You' in Mandarin. The children sang with pure joy, capturing the essence of the song's message. Parents beamed with pride as they witnessed the blossoming confidence of their children. Well done children for their hard work and enchanting performance, expressing their gratitude to their parents through song. Thank you to Miss Zhang for teaching the children this term. What a fitting way to end the term. This 'Thank You' song resonates with our value and universal language of gratitude, in particular at this time of the year. 'Thank You' to parents for your ongoing support.

What have we been learning in school?

Many practical activities have been taking place in the classrooms including some very creative and exciting **DT** projects carried out by children in **Skylarks Class**, such as creating hats using wool and weaving techniques, making snowmen out of socks. The children also made pop-up cards showing a snowy night scene. The children were all engaged and have developed a range of skills of designing, cutting, shaping, joining and evaluating. Children in classes also created Christmas decorations.



As part of their **DT** Project, the children in **Red Kites Class** were tasked with designing food packaging. Their designs were to appeal to their target audience, be practical and have a Christmas theme. Using a computer programme, the children created a net and then constructed the box, which will hold their homemade cakes, which the children are looking forward to baking next week. The children did a fantastic job of creating individual and well-designed boxes, meeting all the set criteria. They have also designed lanterns using tissue paper as part of the Christmas art and craft activities. Here are a few photos to show the process of designing and making and their amazing end product.



Reminder and Notice

- ✚ Children in Owls Class will put on a **Christmas Concert** for their parents on **Monday 11th December at 2.45pm** in the School Hall. Parents in Owls Class are invited to watch a Special Christmas Concert on Monday 11th December at 2.45pm in the School Hall. We are all looking forward to welcoming to this event and hope you can all make it.
- ✚ **On Monday 11th December and Tuesday 12th December** Children will be making Christingles on these two days in school, please can you **make sure your child brings in a large orange**. Thank you.
- ✚ **On Tuesday 12th December** we will have a **Christingle Rehearsal** in the WSL Church. Please remember to drop off your child/ren at the WSL Church at 8.30am. **No School Bags on Tuesday 12th December please.** After the rehearsal, children will walk back to school. This only applies to children in KS1 and KS2 only. **Children in Owls Class will start their day in school as usual, so please drop off your child to school on that day.**
- ✚ **Christingle Service will take place on Wednesday 13th December.** After lunch at 1.10pm, children in KS1 and KS2 will walk to the Church for the service. We would be grateful to any **parents in Owls who are able to take your child/ren to the Church by car in the afternoon at 1.30pm. Please enter the Church as advised by the Church Warden at the entrance of the church. This year all parents will be sitting in the pews in the centre of the church. No School Bags on Wednesday 14th December please.** Please refer to the letter sent home last week for more details regarding parking.
- ✚ **Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 14th December 2023**
The children will have a Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall. To add to the festive atmosphere, we would invite all children to wear their festive knitwear, **Christmas Jumpers with their School Uniform on the day.** This fits really well with the good cause that our school will be supporting this year, **Christmas Jumper Day**, to raise money for the local charity **Daisy's Dream**. in return children are asked to bring a **£1 donation to the school or more if you wish.** Please refer to the separate letter regarding this in due course.
- ✚ After Christmas lunch on Thursday 14th December, children in their class or key stage will be **watching a movie** related to Christmas. Class teachers will select a suitable movie for their class as age appropriate. Movies rated as PG may require parental consent, if we do not hear from you by Thursday, we assume you give permission for your child to watch. Thank you for your support.
- ✚ **Christmas Fair will be taking place on Thursday 14th December, 3:30-6pm at school.** 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. 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.



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	Sienna Chapman	Freddie Norman
Nightingales	All of the children for their amazing effort in preparing for & performing the Nativity.	
Robins		
Skylarks	Toby Lavers	Keira Tilley Zamin Mahdi
Red Kites	Jorgie Gray	Ellie Tate
Kestrels	Esther Buekers	Ethan Barry

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	274	3050
Galileo (Green)	298	3551
Redgrave (Red)	361	3453
Yeats (Yellow)	316	3976

The Winning House for this week is **Redgrave**. 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 92.0% **Skylarks 99.2%**
Nightingales 96.9% Red Kites 99.1%
Robins 98.8% Kestrels 97.2%
Whole School 97.4%



Habit of the Month

In **December**, children will be focusing on 'Showing gratitude by saying Thank You spontaneously without being prompted'. These are all part of daily routines, please continue to support us and help all of our children form good habits. Thank you.

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

Reminder - After School Clubs

Please make a note of the date of final sessions for After School Extracurricular Clubs for this term.

Forest Fun Club ends on Tuesday 12th December.

Football Club (Yr1-4) ends on Tuesday 12th December.

LEGO Club ends on Wednesday 6th December.

Dance Club ends on Wednesday 13th December.

Chinese Club ends on Thursday 7th December.

Football Club (Yr5-6) ends on Thursday 7th December.

Multi-Sports Club ends on Thursday 7th December.

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.

Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Post Box can be found outside the Kestrels class next to the Christmas Tree. The Christmas Elves are to deliver children's cards daily and the last delivery day is Wednesday 13^h December. If your children would like to send a card to other children or members of staff, all they need to do is write their first names and surnames and the name of the Class on the envelopes. The Postal Elves can only deliver to pupils and staff at WLS Primary School.



Christmas Raffle Tickets

The WSL PTA Christmas Raffle is one of our biggest fundraisers, so we would appreciate if you can sell as many tickets as you can to friends and family. We thank you in advance for your support. Please send any named sold ticket stubs (ideally folded in 4) and unsold tickets back asap, along with the money in an envelope labelled "RAFFLE" and ask your child/ren to give the envelope to their Class Teacher, or drop in to the School Office or the Letter Box outside the school entrance. If you would like more tickets, please contact the School Office. The raffle will be drawn on **THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023** during the Christmas Fair, 3:30-6.00pm.



Christingle Service

Christingle Service will take place in Waltham St Lawrence Church on Wednesday 13th December at 2:00pm. After lunch at 1.10pm, children in Year 1-6 will walk to the Church for the service. We would be grateful to any parents in Owls who are able to take your child/ren to the Church by car in the afternoon at 1.30pm. Please make sure your child's hair is tied back for safety reasons. please refer to the letter sent home today for details.



No School Bags on the day please.

Christmas Jumpers Day on Thursday 14th December

Children are invited to wear **Christmas Jumpers with their School Uniform on Thursday 14th December** as part of our celebration of Christmas; in return, we would like children to bring in **£1 donation** to school or more in support of the local **Daisy's Dream** charity. Thank you.

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	Mon 4 th	Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal to Whole School	2.00pm
	Wed 6 th	Nativity Play to Parents	2.00pm
		Fire Safety Talk to Year 5	11.00am
	Thurs 7 th	Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class	
	Fri 8 th	Nativity Play to Parents	2.00pm
	Mon 11 th	Owls Class Christmas Concert to Parents	2.45pm
	Tues 12 th	KS1 & KS2 children drop off at WSL Church for Christingle Rehearsal	8.30am
	Wed 13 th	Whole School Christingle Service in WSL Church	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	
	Wed 7 th	Dance Festival in Braywick Leisure Centre (Red Kites Taking Part)	All day
March	Thurs 7 th	World Book Day	
	Wed 13 th	Road Safety Show for Year 3/4	13.15
	Wed 27 th	PTA Easter Fundraiser and School Easter Egg Hunt	
	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)

Term 5 (29 days)

April	Mon 15 th	Start of Pupil Term
May	Mon 6 th	May Day Bank Holiday
	9 th -12 th	KS2 SATs
	Fri 24 th	End of Pupil Term
May Holiday: Monday 27 th May 2024 to Friday 31 st May 2024		

Term 6 (39 days)

June	Mon 3 rd	Staff Inset Day
	Tues 4 th	Start of Pupil Term
July	Thurs 25 th	End of Pupil Term
Summer Holiday: Friday 26 th July 2024 – Friday 30 th 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:

- Toilet Refurbishment Letter to all
- Christmas Party Food Letter to Nightingales
- Head Lice Letter and NHS Leaflet to Red Kites
- Dance Festival Ticket Letter to Red Kites