



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 15

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is lovely to see everyone back at school looking refreshed. We have had a very busy first full week back at school and the children are full of enthusiasm and making such a positive start to the year.

At Assembly, the children have taken the opportunity of the New Year to think about the new beginnings and make resolutions and fulfil commitment. We reviewed our **School Golden Rules** and also shared our **Habit of the Month**. Our learners discussed how we can all follow the Golden Rules, form good habits over time and work at our resolutions and be the best we can. We hope you also had a chat with your child/ren about their hopes and dreams or targets and goals as well as supporting us and children with the focused habit each month. In January we focus on **Only Our Best Will Do – Showing Respect for School Property**.

This week we have had quite a few prospective parents who came to our Open Morning on Tuesday and Friday, we have some very positive feedback from them: *'Great School! Very informative tour. Fabulous atmosphere and lovely ground! Wonderful school ethos focusing on the Whole Child and very impressed with the curriculum offered.'* They all commented on how engaged our children are with their learning in all classes and how well organised our school is - so lovely to hear! Once again, Hector and Robyn, our Year 6 pupils, in their articulate and passionate presentations, provided an in-depth look into the distinctive qualities that make our school a nurturing and inspiring place for learning. They skilfully conveyed the school's commitment to academic excellence, personal development, creativity and a supportive community. Huge Well Done and Thank You to Hector and Robyn. They made us so proud.

Spring Terms are traditionally a period of significant progress in all schools, building on the work completed at the start of the academic year. In our commitment to securing the best for every child and following our ongoing assessments of our learners, we have continued to challenge as well as support children in small group sessions as appropriate with a clear focus on Reading, Writing including handwriting, spelling, vocabulary development and Maths alongside social and emotional support for those who need it the most. The needs of your children will always be at the forefront of our school planning and I have been resolute in my commitment to providing enough high quality resources to support our learners in meeting their full potential. In Term 4, there will be another opportunity for you to formally come into school and meet with your child's Class Teachers about the progress your child/ren is/are making and how we can continue to work in partnership to provide the best for our (and your) most important asset – our amazing children.

Spring Terms are usually short and there is a lot to fit in! We have very busy and exciting terms ahead including a few Curriculum Workshops for Parents, Celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Dragon, World Book Day Activities, Parents Evenings and other occasions such as Class Assemblies to be resumed in Term 3 and 4 when you will be invited into school. A list of dates for Term 3 and 4 can be found on the last page of this Newsletter; further dates will be notified as and when they are known.

Just to keep you updated of our **School Improvement Project** - Our toilet refurbishment project has been completed. We now have two brand new separate cubicles tailored specifically for our school children. These new cubicles feature child-friendly amenities, suitable size, appropriate height to ensure a comfortable and safe environment for our children. It has indeed enhanced the facilities at our school and improved the overall experience for our children. Here are some photos to show Now and Then and also what children say about the new toilets in the Dining Hall building:

BRFOTRE



NOW



'It is brilliant, clean and fresh. We don't have to wait for long to use them when needed' – Hermoine

'It's amazing to have two new toilets now, it is clean and fresh, I like the colour' – Margot

'It is really good, it smells fresh. I like the soap dispenser and hand dryer. It saves paper' – Ayrtan

'The water temperature is just right, warm and soothing' – Khloe

'Children are respectful and more children are using the toilets as they are very convenient. I like everything, it's clean, fresh and bright' – Year 6 children.

What have we been learning in school?

The children in **Nightingales Class** have been working on **Place Value in Maths**, understanding numbers from 10 to 20. They have used different representations for each number including numbers in words. They have used manipulatives to partition each number into tens and ones and use Part Whole Model to represent the two digit numbers. The children have been reminded not to reverse the digits.



In **Art**, the children have started a new topic on Art and Design Skills. This week, they have learned to print with paint using everyday items such as LEGO to create patterns and pictures. They are encouraged to explain the choices they made. They have really enjoyed learning new skills.



This term we will be focusing on the Core Value of **LOVE**. During the week we have introduced the first related value, **Inner Happiness**. We shared stories and discussed what makes us happy inside. Children talked a lot about their families and friends and respectful relationships which make them happy. Through discussion, sharing their thoughts and feelings, children realise that true happiness does not come from material things, it comes from within us. To keep it alive we need to tend to it every day. Perhaps you can continue to explore this topic with your children at home.



Next week, we will focus on the related values of **Caring about Nature**. Children will think about questions such as 'Do you choose to play outside in nature?' 'What did you play?' 'How did it make you feel?' or 'Do you take the time to appreciate nature?' as age appropriate. *'With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea. No matter where on Earth you live.'* - Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer (1935 -) What might this quote mean to you?



Reminder:

School Census Day on Thursday 18th January next week – To ensure we will get the **FULL Funding** from the government; we will swap the menu for Thursday and Friday and have **Fish and Chips on Thursday** next week instead to increase the take up rate. We will order all lunches for children in EYFS and KS1 as they are all entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Thank you for your support.



Skylarks Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 17th January at 14.30 in the School Hall**. Family and friends of children in Skylarks Class are welcome to join us.

The staff, Governors and I value and thank you for your support for our school in all kinds of ways and look forward to working with you all throughout this term.

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	Mia Martin	Constantine Meyer
Nightingales	Oakley Taylor	Ridley Jahanshahi
Robins	Isabella Webb	Alice Alvarez
Skylarks	Harry Mills	Preston Marshall
Red Kites	Cody Rapley	Ayrton Atkinson
Kestrels	Ardan Murray	Alfie-Ray Marshal-Pullin

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	248	
Galileo (Green)	277	
Redgrave (Red)	241	
Yeats (Yellow)	245	

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

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 08-01-24 to 12-01-24

Owls 95.9% Skylarks 96.3%

Nightingales 95.4% **Red Kites 96.8%**

Robins 96.2% Kestrels 96.6%

Whole School 96.2%



Poppy Appeal – THANK YOU



A Massive THANK YOU for supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November last term. We have received a Thank you note from the organiser to '*Thank Waltham St Lawrence Primary School very much for their outstandingly generous contribution to the sale of Poppies this year.* Our school raised **£243.50**, which almost exactly matched the magnificent effort last year of £246.19. The raised money will be used to support the work of the Royal British Legion. Very well done to everyone and THANK YOU!

Habit of the Month

In **January**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do - Showing respect for school property!** 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.

Termly Curriculum Overview

Termly Curriculum Overview for each Year group have been uploaded on the School Website and can be accessed 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.

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. Children come into school in their PE Kit every Monday.

Class Assembly



Red Kites Class Assembly will take place on Wednesday **24th January at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Red Kites Class are welcome to join us.

Outstanding Payment

As we are in the final transition period from sQuid to Tucasi/ SCOPAY, we would ask parents/carers please can you check your sQuid Account and clear all the outstanding dues for Breakfast Club on an urgent basis. We will terminate our contract with sQuid on 20th January 2024. Your cooperation and understanding are desired for the smooth functioning of the school. Thank you.

Clubs for Term 3 & 4

All Clubs have started this week. All clubs finish at 4.10pm or otherwise indicated. There will be no teacher led clubs during the week when we have Parents Evenings in Term 4. Please refer to the Clubs Timetable which can be accessed on the Website. Please ensure that you have firm collection arrangements in place for your child/ren as it can become very unsettling, if they are not collected on time.

After School Care Club and Breakfast Club will run as usual throughout the term, please do take advantage of this wonderful extended school service we offer at WSL and plan your childcare and book sessions accordingly by submitting the Booking Form for After School Care Club directly to Progressive Sports. Thank you.

Healthy Snacks and Water only in Water Bottles

As a Healthy School, please can we remind parents that snacks for break times should be **a piece of fruit or vegetable only**. We request that no crisps, cereal or chocolate bars or sweets (including Smarties, chocolate buttons etc.) are allowed during break time. Please make sure **only water** should be in filled in your child's water bottle, no fizzy drinks. Thank you

The Big Ambition Survey

Dame Rachel De Souza, the children's commissioner has launched a nationwide survey for all children to take part in. This is for the children to share their views of what they would like in their future. This is a chance for children to have a voice shared directly with the policy makers ahead of the General Election. This is the final push before **the survey closes next Thursday 19th January 2024**. To help make sure that every child in England has an opportunity to share their views. This survey is open to children from 0-18. Children and parents or carers can complete the survey using the link here at home:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Maths Workshop for Year 1 Parents

Maths Workshop for Year 1 Parents will be held on **Friday 26th January at 2.30pm** in **Nightingales Classroom**.

Spare Clothing Requests

Please can parents return all the spare clothing items to Owls Class. We would appreciate it if you would donate any unwanted clothing to school for children to use when they have an accident. Thank you.

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 (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr David Errington (Deputy Headteacher)

Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Harmit Kaur Thiara (Parent Governor)

Dates for Your Diary

The Academic Year 2023-2024

Term 3 (28 days)

January 2024	Tues 9 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Wed 17 th	Skylarks Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Tues 23 rd	KS2 SATS Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents	3.30pm/6.00pm
	Wed 24 th	Red Kites Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Wed 26 th	Maths Workshop for Year 1 Parents	2.30-3.10pm
	Wed 31 st	Kestrels Class Assembly	2.30pm
February	1 st -2 nd	Sister School from China Visiting WSL	
	Tues 6 th	Safer internet Day	
	Wed 7 th	Dance Festival (Red Kites Taking Part) – Details to follow	All day
	Fri 9 th	End of Pupil Term	
	Sat 10 th	Chinese New Year of the Dragon	

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

Term 4 (29 days)

February	Mon 19 th	Start of Pupil Term	
	Fri 23 rd	KS1 End of Year Assessment Information Meeting for Year 2 Parents	2.25pm
	Wed 28 th	Robins Class Assembly	2.30pm
March	23/02 to 8/03	Maidenhead Big Read Events – detail to follow	
	Thurs 7 th	World Book Day	
	Fri 8 th	Year 1 Phonics Information Meeting for Parents in Nightingales	2.30pm
	Wed 13 th	Nightingales Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Wed 13 th	Road Safety Show for Year 3/4	13.15
	Tues 19 th	Parents Evening for KS2 Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	Wed 20 th	Owls Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Wed 20 th	Parents Evening for All Classes	5.00-7.00pm
	Thurs 21 st	Parents Evenings for All Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	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	
	13 th -16 th	KS2 SATS	
	Fri 24 th	End of Pupil Term	

May Holiday: Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st 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 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.wslprimary.org

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

Homework Letter to Kestrels	Termly Curriculum Overview for all to access on School Website
Amber Weather Alert Information to All	Reminder to clear any outstanding payment via sQuid to all
National Child Measuring Programme Letter to Owls	Tech Holiday Camp Leaflet to KS1 and KS2
School Term Dates for 2024-25 on School Website	