



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 19

Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an incredible week of learning and enriching experience it has been for all the children at WSL!

This week is our **Assessment Week**. Class Teachers have assessed where the children are in Reading, Writing, SPaG, Maths and other aspects of the curriculum. This is an important part of teaching and learning at WSL and it enables teachers to identify gaps in children's knowledge and understanding so that teachers can plan forward to address any misconceptions and gaps and put in place any intervention programs to enable them to make further progress. At the end of Term 4, in late March, there will be another opportunity for you to formally come into school and speak to 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 all of our learners!



On Tuesday **Safer Internet Day**, the children in their class groups learned about online safety through stories and activities based around the theme '**Inspiring Change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online,**' focusing on using the internet to make a change for the better; the changes young people want to see online and the things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline. The children had the opportunity to explore the responsibility they have to help keep themselves safe, attended BBC

Live Lesson on Safer Internet Day and designed their own posters. It is so important that you take the time to have a conversation with your children about what they are doing and stay engaged with your children's digital lives. It is our duty and care to keep reminding our learners about the importance of staying safe online. Please refer to the posters sent home for more tips on how to keep children safe online. You can access more tips, advice, guide and resources for parents via the link here <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> Please read on for more links to online safety on Page 3 of this Newsletter.

As part of Internet Safety Day and Transition for Year 6, we are delighted that PC Lorraine Holmes will come in and give a presentation to Year 6 children this afternoon **at 1.40pm**. Parents/carers are welcome to see the police and ask any questions you may have regarding online safety, bullying, crimes and consequences, following the talk to Year 6 children at the end of day, 3.10pm.



Primary Dance Festival 2023 'A Splash of Paint' - A HUGE THANK YOU & WELL DONE to all the staff involved and children in Red Kites who delivered such an incredible performance on Wednesday this week – the confidence, joy and enthusiasm radiating from each child on stage were palpable - What a great show! They have done our school and parents proud! It was a long day, but the children were very well behaved, sensible throughout the day and showed patience and resilience. Thank you to Mrs Ablewhite, Mrs Macaulay-Brown and Mrs Kemp for supervising them all day and anyone involved who have in their different roles, organised, supported & prepared the dance, in particular, Mrs Macaulay-Brown who has been instrumental in this annual event, taught the dance movements, sourced and prepared costumes, for always willing to go the extra mile; Mr Errington and Mrs Howe who helped with all of the logistics & ticketing arrangements. Thank you to parents for your great support and transporting your child/ren to and from the event. It has been a great achievement and an amazing memorable, enriching experience for our children and all involved! Well done, children!



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



We have received and appreciate some positive comments from parents:

*Wow!! What a wonderful performance the children gave this afternoon at the Dance Festival. It was very clear that a great deal of time and effort has been invested in not only coming up with such creative and impactful choreography, but also in the quality and attention to detail of the children's performance. Even the costumes and the CD props were brilliant! It's always an uplifting event to attend with all schools contributing and coming together but WSL really stood out as particularly impressive...as many people (not from WSL) sitting near to me commented 😊
Monty had such a great time taking part and has got so much from the experience.
Many thanks to all those involved. - Mr & Mrs Whitehead (Monty)*

*It was an absolute pleasure and joy to watch the children today at the dance festival. I know so much time and effort has been put into practising, choreographing and the outfits and it really showed in the performance....
As teachers, you have obviously instilled an inner confidence in her to not only get through the dance, but enjoy it and have fun too.
Thank you again for your hard work, such a special experience for the children that wouldn't have been possible without your passion and drive. - Mrs Egby*



As part of the celebration of **The Chinese New Year of the Dragon**, we organised **Dragon Dance Workshops** this week. A burst of vibrant colours and rhythmic drumbeats filled our School Hall as the children, including pupils from our Sister School, delved into the art of the Dragon Dance. Under the guidance of the skilled instructors, the children embarked on the captivating journey, learning the intricates of this traditional Chinese Dance that dates back centuries. At each workshop, before the dance began, the instructor shared some insightful background information about the significance of the Chinese Dragon, emphasising its symbolic importance in Chinese culture. The children listened with rapt attention, gaining a deeper understanding of the rich traditions woven into every graceful movement of the dragon. Children in each group eagerly took their positions, following the mesmerising drumbeat that set the pace for the dance. It was such a joy to experience a sense of unity and harmony pervaded the atmosphere as the dragon gracefully snaked its way through the School Hall. The children from both our school and Sister School moved in unison, their smiles reflecting the joy of cultural exchange. They were all engaged throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the colourful, exciting Dragon Dance. The Dragon Dance not only showcased the children's newfound skills but also became a celebration of shared experiences and cross-cultural connections. We hope you too have enjoyed watching our children performing the Dragon Dance with Hulutang team on the school playground. What a way to start the celebration of the New Year and fitting farewell to the delegation from our Sister School. Read on to find out more about what the children say about Dalton School visit and the Dragon Dance ...



I liked the dragon's decoration. - Mia



I liked the Zig-Zag movements. - Masie

I liked the patterns on the dragon. - Emilie



I liked how the dragon moved. - Dixie





The dragon dance workshop was fantastic, it was really fun and I liked how they included everyone.- Sophie

I did not know about all the different types of Dragons. – Oliver I liked the dragons circling the grown-ups. - Fergus
I did not know that there were different types of Dragons, for example the South West Breathes fire. - Ridley
I liked it when they went round so fast in the playground. - Riley I liked it when the drums went really loud. - Rupert
I liked how it changed quickly what it was doing. – Wilf The man was good at helping us to do the dragon dance. Cooper
The Dragon dance was fantastic, it looked like a real dragon. - Florentina
I liked the dragon dance because it was cool and scary. – Arthur I thought the dragon dance was very impressive. - Ajooni
What I liked about the dragon dance is that we got to control the dragon. - Darcy
I loved learning about the history of the Chinese dragon and the Western dragon. We even got to control the dragon in the dragon dance – Monty
I found it interesting that drums were used in the dragon dance. The drums were really loud and extreme. - Ava





During the three-day exchange visit with our Sister School, our children exemplified outstanding values and left a lasting impression on everyone involved. Their behaviour and actions made us proud as they showcased qualities such as respect, kindness, friendship and cultural awareness. The exchange visits not only strengthened the bond between the two schools but also highlighted the positive impact of fostering global connections and understanding. Overall, it was a rewarding experience that reinforced the values we strive to instil in our children, leaving everyone with cherished memories. I would like to thank you for your support, too.

I want to say thank you to them for showing us all their talents in the playground and in the hall. - Riley
I really liked the boy's singing. – Eshal *I like that they have been supporting us. - Monty*
I'm really happy that we got to see them in person. – Riley *I liked that they were funny and helpful. - Arthur*
I liked them because they were helping us with our Maths. - Bailey
I thought they were really good at nearly everything! - Sam
I found the people from Dalton kind and always happy. - Florentina
I think that having the Dalton people at school, it was a very nice experience to make friends, and to learn about the Chinese culture. - Sophie
I liked the people from Dalton they were good at drawing and were funny and kind. - Ajooni
What I liked about Dalton people is that they were all nice, good and fantastic at drawing. - Darcy
I enjoyed the assembly we shared with our Sister School. I loved watching all of their talents, but my favourite was the traditional Chinese dance. - Lottie and Kiera
To have the visitors from our Sister School actually come to visit our school was amazing. We loved sharing our classroom with them and we were inspired by their Maths skills! - Chloe
The visitors from Dalton were very kind and helpful. I loved learning Maths with them. - Calyn

It's hard to believe that we are now at the end of Term 3! We cannot emphasise how important it is for the children to **read EVERY DAY!** Please continue to do so during the holiday. Together we will help our children to achieve their potential. Maidenhead Big Read is to inspire the love of reading and we will also celebrate the World Book Day in Term 4. Please look out for more information regarding how we are going to celebrate the World Book Day here at WSL.

The Chinese New Year of the Dragon will start on Saturday 10th February and will last for 15 days finishing off on the Fifteenth day with Lantern Festival on 24th February 2024. The children have had opportunities to learn about different aspects of the Chinese New Year in their Mandarin lessons and After School Chinese Club. I am sure there will be many exciting celebrations of the Chinese New Year during the February Holiday, which you may want to take your children to experience and enjoy.

I wish you all 新年好! Xīnnián hǎo Happy New Year of the Dragon and a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **MONDAY 19th February 2024** for the start of Term 4.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

Star Pupils of Term 3

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: Harper Robinson
Year 1: Maisie Ball
Year 2: Riley Wilder
Year 3: Imogen Howe
Year 4: Elina Thakrar
Year 5: Thomas Edwards
Year 6: Charlie Turnbull



House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	202	1268
Galileo (Green)	225	1435
Redgrave (Red)	249	1277
Yeats (Yellow)	268	1427

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: 05-02-24 to 09-02-24

Owls 96.6% **Skylarks 97.9%**
Nightingales 90.0% Red Kites 94.4%
Robins 96.6% Kestrels 95.8%
Whole School 95.4%



Maths Workshop for Parents in Owls

Thank you to parents who attended the Maths Workshop held yesterday in **Owls Classroom**. We hope you have learned some strategies on how you can best support your child/ren at home using **'Number Sense / Subitising**.

Football News



This week our School Football Team played 2 matches with other school teams. We are delighted that the children worked extremely hard and won 1-0 against All Saints Junior, drew 0-0 against Oldfield Primary. Well Done to the team! Thanks to Mr Errington for organising these events and parents for transporting children to and from the school. Your continued and enthusiastic support is much appreciated.

Class Assembly

Robins Class Assembly will take place on Wednesday **28th February at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Robins Class are welcome to join us.



KS1 End of Year Assessment Information Meeting

KS1 End of Year Assessment Information Meeting will take place on **Friday 23rd February at 2.25pm** in Robins Classroom.

Open Sessions for Parents

You are invited to come to your child's Open Session to see teaching and learning in action. The Open Session will start **from 9.00am to 10.00am** on the following date for each class. Date for Owls Class Open Session will be confirmed. Please save the dates.

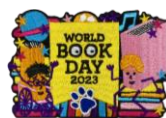
- Nightingales Friday 1st March
- Robins Tuesday 5th March
- Skylarks Wednesday 28th February
- Red kites Thursday 29th February
- Kestrels Tuesday 27th February

E- Safety and Resources

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we are committed to teaching our pupils about. Here are some resources which you may find helpful in supporting your children online:

- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the [UK Safer Internet Centre \(saferinternet.org.uk/parents\)](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents)
- Advice for parents and carers from [Childnet \(childnet.com/parents-and-carers\)](https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from [Common Sense Media \(commonsense.org\)](https://www.common Sense Media (commonsense.org))
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from [Internet Matters \(internetmatters.org/controls\)](https://www.internetmatters.org/controls)
- Information and reporting of online grooming or sexual abuse from [CEOP \(ceop.police.uk\)](https://www.ceop.police.uk)

World Book Day & Maidenhead Big Read



Celebrating **World Book Day** is one of the highlights of the School Year at WSL.

To mark the **World Book Day on Thursday 7th March** this year, we will

have a Non-Uniform Day when children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas or onesies to further promote bedtime reading and a love of reading. There will be a lot of reading activities / events planned for that week, more details to follow.

The Maidenhead Big Read Event will take place between 23rd February and 8th March 2024 in and around Maidenhead. We will be taking part in this event as part of the celebration of World Book Day on 3rd March as usual this year. **More details to follow.** Please refer to the flyer for more details.

FREE Parenting Courses

The following online parenting courses have been recommended by Early Help. They cover a range of parenting areas/concerns for families with children from birth to 18. The courses are free and can be accessed at a pace to suit parents. Here is the link and password:

www.inourplace.co.uk

Password: parenting

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)

February	Fri 9 th	Nightingales Fundraiser Cake Sale	3.10pm
		End of Pupil Term	3.10pm
	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	PTA Movie Night as part of book Day Celebration – details to follow	3.30-5.00pm
	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
	Friday 22 nd	Owls Fundraiser	3.10pm
	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	
	Fri 19 th	PTA Quiz Night - Details to follow	
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	
	Fri 14 th	PTA Father's Day Craft Activity in School – Details to follow	
	Sat 15 th	Village Summer Festival	
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:

After School Care Club Information Letter to all

Parent Guide to Online Safety – Think Before You Send Poster to all

Sids Top Tips Poster to all

Robins Half Term Home Learning Letter to Robins

Primary Dance Festival DVD / USB Order Link to Red Kites

NHS Guidance – 'Is my child too ill for school' information to all