



# 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 21

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an amazing week packed with ample learning opportunities for all at WSL!

Throughout the year we organise **Curriculum Workshops and Open Sessions** for parents to help keep you up to date with the current teaching methodology and strategies that we use at WSL. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week, we were delighted to see so many enthusiastic parents giving up their time to attend the Open Sessions, with a specific focus on Writing, as the key priority for this year's SIP. Teachers in Skylarks, Red Kites and Nightingales Class demonstrated the writing process using **Talk for Writing** approach in their lessons. As you have observed that this approach moves from dependence towards independence, with the teacher using shared and guided teaching to develop the ability in children to write creatively and powerfully. The key phases of Talk for Writing process enable children to imitate orally the language they need for a particular topic, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version, as featured in each class: Shape Poem in Skylarks, Explanatory Text in Red Kites, Sentence and Letter Writing in Nightingales Class.

Well done to the children who actively collaborated with their partners and showed to their parents the writing stages and techniques they have learned in class. Thank you for being involved with your child in the process. We hope you found these open sessions informative and useful. You can now apply some of the strategies and support your children at home. Remember **every good writer must first be a great reader. It is impossible to be one without the other.** If we want our children to write well, they must immerse themselves in reading. Wide reading will help the children to absorb a great deal about the craft of writing. Let's continue to work in partnership to help all our children to be great readers and successful writers!



We constantly look for ways to improve further and also help you keep up to date with our teaching methodology. We would appreciate it greatly if you could share your thoughts and comments about our Open Sessions. Thank you for the feedback we have received so far. You can send in your feedback to the School Office via emails. We look forward to welcoming parents to attend Open Session for Robins Class on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Kestrels Class on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March next week.

*What a stimulating and exciting class! I loved the collaboration and sharing of ideas. We've got some really promising marketing stars in the making – Mrs Watson*

*Thank you so much for inviting us this morning. Absolutely loved seeing how the lessons are taught, you could see that the children were so enthusiastic and inspired – Mrs Atkinson*

*It's beautiful to see the close relationship between Mrs Ramsay and Josh. She really knows how to bring out the best in him – Mrs McIntosh*



A huge WELL DONE and THANK YOU to all the children in **Robins Class** for an AMAZING Class Assembly on Wednesday this week. It is an absolute pleasure to witness the joy and confidence every single child had in sharing their learning across a variety of subjects in Term 3 and 4. We were all impressed with their hard work and effort they put into this assembly. Each and every child remembered their lines and spoke with confidence and clarity. They sang songs beautifully in both English and Mandarin. The children have truly showcased their acquired skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas e.g. Maths, Art, Geography, Music, Reading and Writing and many more. A special Thank You to Robins Team for their guidance and encouragement to the children. Thank you to parents and friends for coming and we hope you all enjoyed watching this fabulous assembly!



### What have we been learning in school?

In **Science**, Year 3 and Year 4 have been learning about teeth and how to care for them. A fun experiment was conducted to investigate the effect of different liquids on teeth. Since egg shells are made of a similar substance to teeth, the children used boiled eggs to conduct their experiment. An egg was placed into a jar containing either water, milk, orange juice, Coca-Cola or vinegar. The eggs were observed to see if any changes had happened to the shells. After one week, the children observed the results: the water and milk did not damage the egg shells but the egg in the cola turned a dark brown. The shell of the egg in the orange juice was partially dissolved and the egg shell in the vinegar was completely dissolved away. From this experiment, the children have furthered their understanding and learned that milk and water being the healthiest for your teeth.



Next week we are focusing on **Teamwork** and children will explore the meaning of the word and discuss 'Do you like being part of the team? Do you value your teammates? Perhaps you could discuss with your children whether they have ever achieved something because they were part of a team. Here is a quote: *'Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.'* – Ryunosuke Satoro, Japanese Writer (1892-1927). What might this quote mean?

### PTA / School Upcoming Events - Dates for Your diary:

- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 3.30-5.00pm Movie Night** in school (£6 tickets available on PTA Events now. **Please book by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**)
- **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** deadline for **Wonka Inspired Chocolate Bar Wrapper Design**
- **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024** Easter Hat Parade in school
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024** Father's Day Craft Activity in School – details to follow
- **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024** Village Summer Festival
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024** Class of 2024 Camp Out



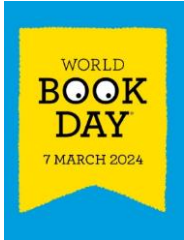
**Reminder:**

**Open Sessions for Parents** next week from 9.00 to 10.00 on the following date:

- + Robins Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- + Kestrels Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Please come along and see how children are taught to write at WSL, how they develop their writing skills and how you can take the opportunity to learn some strategies to support your child's reading and writing at home.

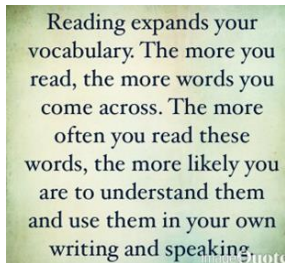
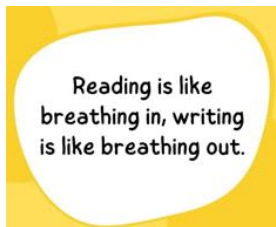
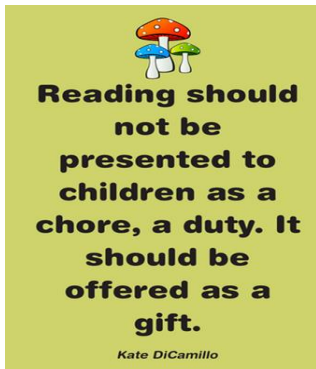
**Football Matches** will take place next week on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at Court House Junior School and on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Cookham Rise Primary School from 3.30 to 4.30pm. We wish our team good luck. Thank you for helping with the transport.



As part of the **World Book Day Celebration**, we have organised the following events:

- **On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, the children's author Kate Cunningham will come into school to lead two workshops: **The Mary Rose Workshop for KS2** and **The Great Fire of London Workshop** for KS1
- **Book Swap on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** during the day in the playground. This will require children to bring in a book that they no longer want (this needs to be in good condition) in order to swap their book for another! Please help your children to get involved.
- **Non-Uniform Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** when children are invited to come to school dressed in pyjamas or onesies in keeping with our focus on encouraging bedtime reading.

Please refer to the leaflets sent home last week for **Maidenhead Big Read Weekend Programme** as below and also a timetable of the events. The weekend event is taking place in Maidenhead Library on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. All sessions and activities are free of charge and there are some brilliant authors lined up for the children to meet.



Saturday 2 March	Sunday 3 March
<b>Riverview</b> 10:45am Rob Lloyd Jones - Ancient Egypt 11:45am Martin Brown - Horrible Histories 12:45pm Rob Lloyd Jones - Victorians 1:45pm Iszi Lawrence - ATA WW2 2:45pm Paul Seddon - Cookham dig	<b>Riverview</b> 11:00am Josh Lacey - Vikings & Romans 12:00pm Kate Poels - WW2 1:00pm Josh Lacey - Vikings & Romans 2:00pm Martin Brown - Horrible Histories
<b>Children's Corner</b> 10:30am Library volunteers - Storytelling 11:30am Ruth Burgess - Dinosaurs 12:30pm Rhian Lynette - Storytelling 1:30pm Simon Mole - Dinosaurs 2:30pm Patrice Lawrence - Windrush	<b>Children's Corner</b> 10:45am Library volunteers - Storytelling 11:45am Martin Brown - Nell and the Cave Bear 12:45pm Ruth Burgess - Dinosaurs 1:45pm Rhian Lynette - Storytelling
<b>Once Upon a Bus</b> <b>Saturday storytelling sessions</b> 10:00am - 10:30am 11:00am - 11:30am 12:00pm - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 2:00pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm 3:15pm - 3:45pm	<b>Once Upon a Bus</b> <b>Sunday storytelling sessions</b> 10:30am - 11:00am 11:30am - 12:00pm 12:30pm - 1:00pm 1:40pm - 2:10pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm

Last but not least, a **MASSIVE THANK YOU** from children and staff:



Last November we organised a **Scholastic Book Fair** for you to purchase some high quality books for your children or as Christmas presents. We want to say a big **THANK YOU** for supporting the school as every book you bought from our Book Fair has helped our school get money towards purchasing new books for the children. Together we raised an incredible **£462.49** and we have purchased 50 more books for our children! Thank you for your amazing support! Here is a photo of some of the books we bought. Our next Book Fair will take place in May this year. More details to follow.



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.

<b>Owls</b>	Poppy Lambert-Webb	
<b>Nightingales</b>	William Lomas	Ava-Grace Allan
<b>Robins</b>	Forrest Dawe	Rupert Marshall-Pullin
<b>Skylarks</b>	Toby Lavers	Ethan Chang
<b>Red Kites</b>	Ben Tilley	Tilly Maddox
<b>Kestrels</b>	Oscar Stagg	Margot Tancorre

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	358	1925
Galileo (Green)	337	2093
Redgrave (Red)	365	1902
Yeats (Yellow)	<b>366</b>	2126

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:** 26-02-24 to 01-03-24

Owls	94.3%	Skylarks	95.0%
Nightingales	92.1%	<b>Red Kites</b>	<b>97.4%</b>
Robins	91.5%	Kestrels	96.3%
Whole School	94.7%		





## Habit of the Month

In **March** children will focus on **Only My Best Will Do - Being an active learner and going extra mile with their own learning.** Children are expected to be always actively involved in their learning in class as well as at home, giving their all and staying focused at all times. Please continue to support us and help all of our children form good habits. Thank you.

## 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.

 Robins	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
 Kestrels	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March

## Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting

The Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting for Year 1 Parents will be held on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in Nightingales Classroom.**

## Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will take place on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** for KS2 classes, **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** for all classes. The online booking system will be used and will go live on 11<sup>th</sup> March for you to reserve your slot(s). Look out for the emails.

## Labelling All Items!

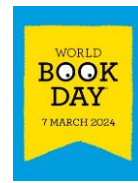
Please can you spend some time to check and make sure **every item of clothing, water bottle and lunch box are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.** Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Amazon Wish List

We regularly update our **Amazon Wish List** and would appreciate your continued support. If you would like to purchase something for the school, please click the link [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/ZK98E8KNOSZO?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/ZK98E8KNOSZO?ref=wl_share)

Thank you for your continued assistance and generosity.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> March** this year, we will have a **BOOK Swap** on the day, a Non-Uniform Day on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** 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, please refer to the letter sent home last week.

**The Maidenhead Big Read Event** will take place between 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in and around Maidenhead. Here is the link to Maidenhead's Big Read Newsletter. It has details of the Weekdays and Weekend MBR events: [Maidenhead's Big Read Newsletter mailchi.mp](#)

## Nightingales Class Assembly



Nightingale Class Assembly will take place on Wednesday **13<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Robins Class are welcome to join us.

## Alexander Devine's Big Chick Knit Campaign

Every year knitters from across our local community make hundreds of adorable, knitted chicks and bunnies, each with a chocolate egg inside, to help raise the vital funds needed for our children's hospice service. Please support us in our efforts and make a huge difference to local children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions this Spring. Chicks will be available to buy online from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Please click the link here:

[The Big Chick Knit | Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service](#)

## Gentle Reminder - No Toys from Home

For Parents in Owls Class - **Please help us by encouraging your child to leave their toys at home as our classroom space is limited.** This will help prevent any potential distractions during the lesson time and ensure we have a focused and conducive learning environment for every child. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## A Vacancy for a Parent Governor

A vacancy has arisen for a Community Governor on the School's Governing Board. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Community Governor, please contact the School Office.

## A Vacancy for After School CARE Club Assistant

We are currently recruiting for an After School CARE Club Assistant, starting 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Monday to Thursday 3.10pm-6.00pm. If you know anyone who may be interested in this job, please contact the School Office.

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 4 (29 days)

<b>March</b>	23/02 to 8/03	Maidenhead Big Read Events	
	<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Open Session for Parents in Nightingales Class</b>	<b>9.00-10.00am</b>
	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Mary Rose Workshop for KS2	9.30am
		The Great Fire of London Workshop for KS1	10.50am
	<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Open Session for Parents in Robins Class</b>	<b>9.00-10.00am</b>
	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day	
	<b>Thurs 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Open Session for Parents in Kestrels Class</b>	<b>9.00-10.00am</b>
	<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTA Movie Night as part of book Day Celebration</b>	<b>3.10-5.30pm</b>
	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Nightingales Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Road Safety Show for Year 3/4	13.15
	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Information Meeting for Parents in Nightingales	2.30pm
	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening for KS2 Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Owls Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening for All Classes	5.00-7.00pm
	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents Evenings for All Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Easter Fundraiser and School Easter Egg Hunt	
	Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	Owls Fundraiser	1.00pm
		End of Pupil Term	1.00pm
	<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Spring Holiday</b>		
	<b>(Good Friday is 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and Easter Monday is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>		

#### Term 5 (29 days)

<b>April</b>	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
<b>May</b>	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday	
	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 SATs	
	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	
	<b>May Holiday: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b>		

#### Term 6 (39 days)

<b>June</b>	<b>Mon 3<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>Staff Inset Day</b>	
	Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
	<b>Fri 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTA Father's Day Craft Activity in School – Details to follow</b>	
	<b>Sat 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Village Summer Festival</b>	
	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day – Details to follow	1.00-3.10pm
<b>July</b>	Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	
	<b>Summer Holiday: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>		

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.wsjprimary.org](http://www.wsjprimary.org)

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

National Offer Day Information to Year 6

Gardening Club Information to Breakfast Club Parents

Sports and Activity Camp at BCA Leaflet to KS2

Football Cancellation information to Football Club