



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 02

Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for attending the **Welcome and Year Ahead Information Meetings** for Parents on Tuesday. We hope you have found these meetings useful and informative. We were so pleased to see so many of you and happy that these meetings provided an important opportunity for you to come and meet your child/ren's Class Teacher, see their learning environment and also learn more about our whole school and class focuses including individual class routines and information about the curriculum. We have not introduced anything new in terms of systems or high expectations underpinned by our School Values and Ethos, the Whole Child Education and Growth Mindset. We simply want to ensure that the systems we use truly help us to implement what we believe is right for our learners. We seek to engage our parents in the promotion of developing good habits and effective learning behaviours for all the children. At the meetings each Class Teacher emphasised our high expectations and shared our School Values and Golden Rules. Here are some key points from the meeting:

- The importance of developing good habits in children through our daily routines and our **Habit of the Month**
- Focus on developing children's **metacognitive learning strategies** e.g. learn to learn by activating their prior knowledge, building long term memories and acquire positive learning behavior's e.g. independence, reflection, application etc.
- Home Learning in support of the above, focusing on: Reading and practice of key age-appropriate skills, basic facts e.g. number bonds, times table etc. in order to increase the **fluency** of learners' **application** of these skills in their learning; Aid rapid retrieval to support learners' **automaticity** when applying key, age appropriate skills and knowledge; **Preparation** for learning in class by ensuring all children have a solid understanding of key knowledge and skills.
- Supporting your child's daily reading and checking their understanding. Reading at KS2 - there is a **key text** or **class book** which children will be studying in depth to develop their literacy skills, reading strategies and comprehension etc. which will help them with their writing skills.
- In our school we promote **Growth Mindset** and embrace failure/mistakes and see this as essential for learning. Learning is a journey of discovery and the progression of skills and knowledge and developing mastery in these. Good learning is hard work and mistakes or failure are part of learning. Ensuring our children have the resilience and tenacity to learn from these mistakes and be successful is vital. We encourage risk taking, celebrating mistakes, praise effort and inspire our all children to always Do their Best and Be the Best.

We would appreciate your full support of our school procedures, policies and your partnership as outlined in Home School Agreement. Without that partnership it will not be possible for our learners to fulfil their potential. Quite simply, we want the best for your child in exactly the same way you do. Together we can achieve that goal! For those who were unable to attend the meeting, please can you read and sign the Home School Agreement and return a signed copy to school next week. Thank you.



Peer Mediation I am pleased to inform you that our Peer Mediation Service will start next week. The aim of Peer Mediation is for 'peers' to help resolve low-level conflict within the school playground using mediation. Over the past few years, we have seen Peer Mediation having had a huge impact on the school, not just in the development of skills the children have in being able to deal with conflict but also in building their confidence and capacity to take those skills and use them throughout life. Peer Mediation Training took place on Wednesday this week. Children in Year 6 have gone through the recruitment process by completing the Peer Mediator Application / Nomination Form. 10



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

children were selected and received training. They are all excited to be able to provide such service to their peers and want to do their best to help others and make a difference. Support is always at hand for our Peer Mediators. They will have regular meetings with Mrs Clark to discuss any areas with which our Peer Mediators require some support. If you would like to know more about this service we provide at WSL, please come to see me.

This Wednesday, **Team GB Paralympian Ben Fox** visited our school to inspire and motivate the children. Ben, a Paralympic basketball player born without his right leg, first spoke to the children in Skylarks Class before addressing the whole school in a heartwarming assembly. The children were captivated as Ben shared his personal journey, from overcoming challenges related to his disability to celebrating his recent triumph of winning a Silver Medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. His story of resilience, teamwork and perseverance deeply touched and inspired all the children. Ben also emphasised the powerful message of **Equal Play** as part of Equal Play Campaign, reinforcing the importance of inclusivity in sports and life, regardless of physical limitations. He encouraged the children to pursue their dreams, just as he and his team continue to chase their ultimate goal of winning gold in future Paralympic Games. Both children and staff were eager to ask questions, all of which Ben answered thoughtfully. His visit left a lasting impression, reminding us all of the importance of determination, equality, and the pursuit of excellence. Ben is truly an inspiration to everyone who had the privilege of hearing him speak. We have already invited Ben to come back to see us again in the future and he has agreed! Thank you goes to Mrs Wiseman who arranged this visit. Here are some children's comments and photos for you to enjoy.



I learnt a lot about Ben and it's amazing what he can do – Sienna
It was my first time meeting him and I was very happy – Penny
I learnt a lot about the rules of wheelchair basketball – Sam
It was very interesting to hear about his disability – Rupert
I didn't know there was part of the Eiffel Tower with medals – Hector

I learnt how to do the 'Equal Play' sign – William
I learnt how quickly the mechanic can change a wheel – Wilfred
It was really exciting meeting him. – Cooper
It was incredible to hold a real paralympic medal. Ben is so good as he never gives up - Riley



Thank you to parents who attended the **Tea/Coffee Morning** yesterday and a special thanks to Mrs Pitt and Mrs Priddy for introducing the role of the PTA and the forthcoming election of the New Committee in November. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet, get to know each other and learn more about the ways in which the PTA supports the school. I briefly explained how schools are funded by the government based on pupil numbers, underscoring the importance of additional funding efforts to provide extra resources for the children. Currently, the PTA are raising money for an additional outdoor learning space to enrich the educational experience for all children.

Throughout the year, the PTA organises a variety of fundraising events which play a vital role in enhancing school facilities and opportunities for the children. Even the smallest contributions can have a big impact. Your support is invaluable, so please help whenever and however you can. Together, we can make a difference for our school community! Once you have confirmed the **Class Representatives for each class**. Please let the School Office know.



What have we been learning in school?

This week, children across the school have been engaged in a variety of exciting learning experiences. Our **EYFS** children are settling in wonderfully, exploring their new surroundings and developing early skills in reading, counting and making models. Children in **Year 1 and Year 2** have been working hard on their phonics and writing, while also getting creative in art. **Year 3 and 4** children have been delving into new topics in Science and History, as well as improving their reading comprehension and SPaG skills. **Year 5 and 6** children have been honing their Maths and writing skills, while also getting active enjoying PE and other subjects. It has been a productive and enriching week for everyone from EYFS to Year 6. Here are some photos for you





Next week we will be looking at the value of **Perseverance**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on “Do you persevere when things get tough?” Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren: Have they ever had to persevere at something that didn’t come easily? What did it feel like? Did they manage to succeed? You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote **‘Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.’** – Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, anti-apartheid revolutionary (1918 - 2013)



Happy's Circus is coming to WSL Primary School on **Saturday 28th September 2024** (Gates open 11:30am, Big Top opens at 1.00pm and the Show runs 1:30-3:30pm). Please remember to buy your tickets on PTA-Events and share with Friends and Family as this event is open to the community and we have 600 seats in the BIG TOP to fill.

[Waltham St Lawrence PTA \(pta-events.co.uk\)](http://www.pta-events.co.uk)

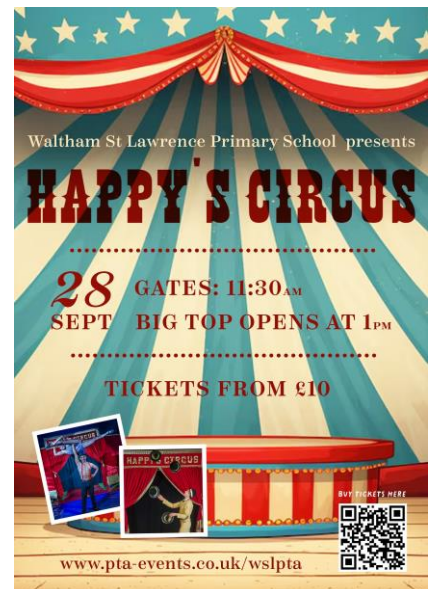
Early bird ticket prices are available until midnight this Sunday 8th September 2024.

Tickets will also be on sale in the playground every Friday until 27th September.

This is a huge fundraising opportunity for our school and we are hoping that with this event we will hit our fundraising goals to enable us to **build the outdoor learning space**, which will be an incredible new resource for the children.

Please support if you can:

- **Helpers wanted:** Set-up on Friday 27th September, 3.00-5.00pm or Saturday 28th September, 8.00-11.00am, or to help during the event, please contact Phillippa (07484 766059).
- **Toy and Bottle Tombola:** Bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and new/great condition used toys will be collected at morning Stop and Drop every Friday prior to the event. Please donate if you are able to.



The first **PTA Meeting** will take place on **Wednesday 18th September at 7.30pm at the Shurlock Inn**, focusing on sharing ideas for fundraising events for this year and discussing the forthcoming event - Halloween Disco Night. Looking forward to seeing you then.

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	All children in Owls for a brilliant start	
Nightingales	Phoebe P	Sebastian W
Robins	Maisie B	Mia P
Skylarks	Riley W	Beatrice K
Red Kites	Zamin M	Dorothy M
Kestrels	Charlotte L	William C

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	173	199
Galileo (Green)	117	139
Redgrave (Red)	158	185
Yeats (Yellow)	169	198

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

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 09-09-24 to 13-09-24

Owls 97.7% Skylarks 96.6%

Nightingales 98.9% **Red Kites 100%**

Robins 98.5% Kestrels 97.41%

Whole School 98.1%



Habit of the Month

In **September**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Looking after my belongings and 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.

Helpers needed for Stop and Drop Zone

If you can spare 10-15 minutes once or twice every 4 weeks to help keep the Zone running and our pupils safe, please let the School Office know. Your help and support are greatly appreciated.

Termly Curriculum Overview

Termly Curriculum Overview for each Year group will be uploaded on the School Website by Friday 13th September. You will be able to access the overview via <http://wsprimary.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.

After School Extra-Curricular Clubs

All clubs led by teachers will start next week. Please note Chinese Club will start on Thursday 5th October. Children are expected to commit to a whole course, except for illness or other valid reasons and follow the School Golden Rules at all times. Please notify the teacher or School Office as soon as possible if your child cannot attend a session.

My First Class Photo

For parents in Reception Owls Class - My First Class photo will be taken by professional photographer from Maidenhead Advertiser on Wednesday 25th September at 10.00am. No names will be mentioned. Please inform us if you do not want your child to be photographed. The photo will then be published in the Maidenhead Advertiser Newspaper in October, date to be confirmed. Please make sure your child looks smart for the photo.

Nut /Dairy/Food Allergy

Please could we remind all parents to keep us informed about any food allergies or food intolerances that your children may have. We do have children and adults in school who have nut allergies, so please could we remind you that we are a nut free school and ask all parents to continue to be vigilant and not bring any nuts or nut products on to the school site. **Children are not allowed to share food with each other to avoid any incidents.** Thank you for your support.

School Photograph



The photographer will be visiting the school to take **individual and siblings photographs** including pre-school children on **Monday 23rd September from 8.30am**. Sibling photos will be taken first followed by individual ones. You may wish to ensure your child/ren are looking particularly smart for the occasion.

Bag2School Collection

Bags of old clothes etc. will be collected at 9.00am on Friday 4th **October 2024** – more details to follow.

Phoenix RFC Fireflies

In September, Phoenix RFC Fireflies commence a new season. Children of all shapes, sizes and abilities are invited to join this fantastic community rugby club in Taplow. Our age groups start from Under 5 (reception) and go all the way up to Under 12's (year 7). We offer age-appropriate rugby sessions every week Throughout September 2024, training will be running on **Sunday mornings, 10.30am until midday at The Sports Ground, Institute Road, Taplow, SL6 ONS.**

We have the lowest subscriptions in the area (**£50 per season**). If you would like more information, then please do not hesitate to contact **Dave Harris (Chairman) on 07976 314 260** or email4daveharris@gmail.com or alternatively, just turn up on Sundays to be welcomed by the club members throughout September.

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents Year R Sept 2025

If you have a child due to start school next September, or you know anybody who does, please note that we are holding four Open Mornings when parents/carers can come and look around the school and ask any questions they may have. These will take place from 9.45-10.45am on

Tuesday 24th September 2024
Thursday 17th October 2024
Wednesday 6th November 2024
Monday 25th November 2024
Tuesday 9th January 2025

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: Mr Hamit Thiara (Parent Governor)

Dates for Your Diary

The Academic Year 2024-2025

Term 1 (39 days)

September	Tues 10 th	Welcome and Year Ahead Information Meeting for Parents	3.15pm & 4.00pm
	Thurs 12 th	Welcome NEW Parents Coffee/Tea Morning with Headteacher & PTA	8:40am
		Swimming Lessons start for Robins Class	
	W/C 23 rd	Baseline Assessment for Reception Children in Owls Class	
	Wed 18 th	Robins Class Visit to Waltham Place	8.45am-2.00pm
	Fri 20 th	PGL Residential Trip Final Arrangements Meeting for Year 5/6 Parents	3.15pm
	Mon 23 rd	School Photograph – Individual and Siblings	8.30am
	Tues 24 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
October	Wed 25 th	Drama 4 All Workshop for EYFS and KS1	10.20am-12.00pm
		My First Class Photo by Maidenhead Advertiser	9.30am
	Sat 28 th	Happy's Circus at School Playing Field – Gates: 11.30 / Show Starts	1.00pm
	Thurs 3 rd	Autumn Schol Census Day	
	Fri 4 th	Bag2School Collection	9.00am
	Thurs 10 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Fri 11 th	Harvest Service in WSL Church – detail to follow	2.00pm
	Mon 21 st	Parents Evening for KS2 Classes ONLY	3.30-5.30pm
	Tues 22 nd	Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	5.00-7.00pm
	Wed 23 rd	Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	Flu Immunisation Vaccination for all children in school	8.30 – 10.30am	
Thurs 24 th	PTA Halloween Disco / Movie	5.00-7.00pm	
Fri 25 th	End of Pupil Term		

October Holiday: Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Term 2 (35 days)

November	Mon 4 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 5 th	Start of Pupil Term	
	11 th -15 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme 'Choose Respect'	
	Thurs 17 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Sun 12 th	Remembrance Sunday	
	19 th -25 th	Scholastic Book Fair Week in School	3.10-4.00pm
	Mon 25 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
December	Fri 20 th	End of Pupil Term	

Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Term 3 (30 days)

January	Mon 6 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 7 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Wed 8 th	Start of Pupil Term	
February	Fri 14 th	End of Pupil Term	

February Holiday: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

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:

Home School Agreement to all

Class Visit to Waltham Place Letter to Robins

PGL Residential Payment Reminder to all

School Lunch change of lunch menu reminder to all