



# 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 01

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year to everyone – and a special welcome to all the children and families who have joined us for the first time. We wish them all happiness and success during their time with us at WSL. I am glad to say that we have had a very busy start to the new academic year. The children have returned to school happily, they are smartly dressed, polite, positive and eager to learn. As I write, the school is buzzing with excited learners! In our first Whole School Assembly on Wednesday last week, we shared our high expectations with the children. At WSL, our School Values underpin everything we do, we promote a simple message: **Only our best will do!** Democracy is an integral part of the school life. This week we also had Class and House Assemblies, children have had their voices heard and elected New School Council and New House Captains following their well-prepared speeches, various class monitors were nominated, too. Children in Year 6 have gone through the recruitment process by completing the Peer Mediator Application / Nomination Form. 10 children were selected and will receive Peer Mediation Training on Thursday next week. 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. All children are encouraged to have ownership of their learning and take on responsibilities within the school. Please read on to see the various roles and jobs Year 6 children have in their final year at WSL. They all enjoy these responsibilities as they appreciate being treated as mature and responsible young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teaching staff for their incredible hard work over the summer making your child's start to the school year as smooth and productive as it has been. I know that you know how much goes on behind the scenes but it's always worth reiterating the amount of time, effort, commitment and passion that the Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Support Staff at the school put in to make Waltham St Lawrence the great place it is.

As we are at the start of the new academic year, I have communicated with you via letters or emails regarding our high expectations for the children. Please refer to the welcome letter sent home this week for details. Here are some reminders:

- It is very important that your child attends school every day when they are fit and well. This year we have a school attendance target of **97%** for pupils. Pupils with attendance of less than 90% are regarded by the Government as having Persistent Absence and pupils with attendance in danger of falling to this level will be invited into school for support and an action plan.
- No pupils should be in school before 8.30am for supervision reasons, except for those who attend Breakfast Club starting at 7.45am.
- School Gates open at 8:30am. Pupils arriving after 8.40am are LATE and their parents need to report to the School Office and sign in the 'Late Arrival Book'.
- **Please label everything** e.g. School Uniform, PE Kit, Reading Bags and Water bottles and remember **NO pencil cases** are required, we will provide all necessary stationery for children etc.
- Children must have their PE kit in school every day, not just PE days. They also need to ensure that they have adequate long sleeve tops and tracksuits once the weather turns colder. Please use a **drawstring bag** for their PE kit. **NO rucksacks** are allowed.
- We provide children in EYFS and KS1 with daily fruit and vegetables snacks. Please ensure your child in KS2 brings **healthy snacks** e.g. fruit or vegetables and fresh water. If your child chooses to have packed lunch, we encourage parents to make healthy packed lunches. Fizzy drinks, sweets or sticky fruit winders should not be included (fresh or dry fruit only).
- Due to many children having allergies, we kindly ask that **no sweets are brought to school for children's birthdays**. Thank you for your understanding and support.
- **School meal will cost £2.69**. Please remember to **order school lunch for your child via Scopay before midnight!** If you forget to order your child a meal you will need to bring in a packed lunch.
- It is really important to **read daily with your child and discuss the book with them**. Please write quality feedback or any comments and sign the Reading Record or Homework Diary to let us know how that is going.
- If someone other than yourself or your nominated person(s) will be collecting your child, please tell a member of staff. We cannot release your child to anyone who has not been authorised.
- September is the time of year where we update our school records. It is essential that we have accurate records of all of the children in the school including addresses and contact numbers and emails in case of emergency, so please can you inform the School Office of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

May I also remind you that we operate an 'Open Door' policy and as such parents are most welcome to come and discuss any concerns with a member of staff or myself. However, at busy times, it may be necessary to make an appointment via the School Office. Similarly, if you have any comments to make regarding the school, please do let me know as I am on the playground at the end of the school day or at the Drop Off time and I am available to talk to parents or see me by making an appointment through the School Office.

**Key Dates and events are listed in the 'Dates for Your Diary' on the last page of this Newsletter.** In case you are reading one of these newsletters for the first time, a reminder that it is produced every Friday and contains all the up to date information about the school, including events. Newsletters can be accessed via a link sent to your email address each week or you can view them on the school website [www.wslprimary.org](http://www.wslprimary.org)



At WSL we use **The Big Think SMSC Values Programme** to deliver RSHE Curriculum. The Value for this term is **Peace**. We will focus on one related value each week: **Patience, Perseverance, Happiness, Understanding Self, Contentment and Self-Esteem**. Next week we will be looking at the value of **Patience**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on "Are you patient when learning a new skill?" or "Can you respond with patience when under pressure? Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren what they want to be when they grow up and what new skills will they need patience to learn or ask the older children whether they have ever used patience to solve a problem or improve a situation. You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote 'Have patience. All things are difficult before they become easy.' – Saadi, Medieval Persian Poet (1210 - 1292)



GEMS will be running a free virtual coffee morning covering **Eating and Food on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 10.00am to 11:15am**. This informal discussion will cover the following areas:

- What works for you and your family?
- What are problematic areas around eating?
- How do you support your child with eating?

This online coffee morning is available for parents/carers who reside or their GP is based in East Berkshire (Slough, Windsor, Maidenhead or Bracknell) with a child who has Autism and or ADHD. To reserve your space please email the GEMS Team with the following details.

- Your Full Name:
- Your Phone number:
- Your email address:
- Local authority: Slough/RBWM/Bracknell
- Childs condition: ASD/ADHD/BOTH
- Childs pathway: suspected/waiting assessment/diagnosed.



**Happy's Circus** is coming to WSL Primary School on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

**Tickets will also be on sale in the playground on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September this week.**

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 27<sup>th</sup> September, 3.00-5.00pm or Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Welcome and Year ahead information Meetings for Parents** will be taking place in your child's classroom on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. Each class teacher will run two sessions: **3.15 – 3.55pm with a repeat at 4.00-4.40pm**. This should enable parents/carers with children in different year groups to meet their child's Class Teacher. A Crèche will be provided in the School Hall for parents who may need such service.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Li-Juan Ellerton  
Headteacher

## House Captains 2024-25

---

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on being elected House Captains:

<b>Brunel (Blue):</b>	Monty W	Ellie T
<b>Galileo (Green):</b>	Thomas E	Caitlin C
<b>Redgrave (Red):</b>	Oliver H	Alexandra G
<b>Yeats (Yellow):</b>	Alex S-L	Chloe N

## School Council 2024-25

---

Welcome to this year's School Council. New members of School Council were elected this week. They are:

<b>Year 2:</b>	Ava Grace A	Eduardo H
<b>Year 3:</b>	Samuel W	Eshal J
<b>Year 4:</b>	Grace O	Mason W-P
<b>Year 5:</b>	Charlotte L	Ajoni T
<b>Year 6:</b>	Ellie T	Aaron H

## Peer Mediators 2024-25

---

10 of our current Year 6 children who were selected to be Peer Mediators will receive Peer Mediation Training on Thursday next week. They will be responsible for helping to resolve minor friendship problems, disagreement or conflict at lunchtimes. The Peer Mediators are:

Calyn L	Ava W
William C	Maya B
Tilly M	Zak H
Rayyan J	Cara M
Rhys J	Tejes D

## Playground Leaders 2024-25

---

All Year 6 children are Playground Leaders this year. They will be responsible for organising and leading games and activities on a rota basis during active lunch hour.

## Gifts

---

All staff and I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone for the thoughtful gifts and cards we received at the end of last term. We were all very touched by your kind words and generosity. Thank you so much!

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> September. You will be able to access the overview 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.

## After School Extra-Curricular Clubs

---

All clubs led by external professionals will start next week. 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.

## Voluntary One Way System and Parking

---

For those new to our school, we would like to inform and remind you that there is a voluntary one-way system in operation at the beginning and end of the school day to avoid congestion during the rush hour. Please approach the school from the direction of Sill Bridge, and **leave by turning left into Brook Lane as Plough Lane is currently closed due to some water pipe work being done.**

**Please do not park on the Double Yellow Lines at all times.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Year 2 Swimming Lessons

---

Swimming lessons for Year 2 will be on Thursday every week, starting 12<sup>th</sup> September. The last session will be on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in Term 2. Children will be back on time for school hot meal, there is no need for packed lunch unless your child choose to have packed lunch for that day. Please can you make the payment via SCOPAY if you have not done so. Please refer to the letter sent home dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for details.

## 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.

## Medicine in School

---

Please could all parents note that only prescribed medication should be brought into school and handed in to the School Office. If your child requires a **prescribed medicine** FOUR times a day, and a dose has to be administered at lunchtime, then **parents must complete a Request Form for Administration of Medicine. Without this we are unable to administer medicine.** These forms are available from the School Office. The medicine must be in the original labelled bottle/container.

If your child requires a **prescribed medicine** THREE times a day then there is normally no need for them to be given that medicine at school. The medicine can be given before school, after school when the child returns home and in the evening.

**Asthma:** Even if your child has not been diagnosed with asthma but has been given an inhaler (for any reason) then please inform the School Office. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

## Secondary School Application

---

Secondary applications for September 2025 open today. Applications must be submitted no later than the deadline 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. Please refer to the letter sent home.

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)

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

**October Holiday: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

#### Term 2 (35 days)

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

**Christmas Holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

#### Term 3 (30 days)

<b>January</b>	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Inset Day	
	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
<b>February</b>	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	

**February Holiday: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.wslprimary.org)

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

Welcome to the New Academic Year Letter to all

Club Letters to all

Scopay Introductory / Registration Letter to Owls

Kung Fu Club Leaflet and Booking Form to KS2

GEMS Virtual Coffee Morning -Eating and Food (Autism and/or ADHD) Leaflet to all

Cox Green School Open Evening Invitation Letter to Year 5

Transfer to Secondary/ Middle/Upper School for September 2024 Letter to Year 6