



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

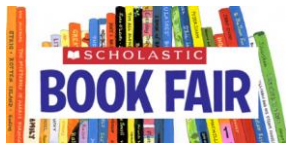
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## Weekly Newsletter Number 11

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are thrilled to announce that the construction of our new learning space officially began last Friday! This exciting project is being undertaken by one of our very own parents, Mr Webb and his talented team from his building company, Stone and Webb. We are amazed by the remarkable progress they have made in such a short time and are incredibly grateful for their expertise and support. The new learning space is planned to be completed by the end of this term in December, and we can't wait to see it come to life. This wonderful addition will provide much needed space to enhance the quality of teaching and learning for our children. Stay tuned for more updates as we watch this exciting development unfold! Here are some photos to show the progress of this project so far...



This week our school was buzzing with excitement as the **Scholastic Book Fair** arrived! It was wonderful to see the children eagerly exploring the shelves, discovering new books, and sharing their enthusiasm for reading. We are delighted to share that a portion of the proceeds will go towards earning free books for our School Library as every purchase made helps expand and enrich our collection, providing even more opportunities for our children to enjoy reading. A huge thank you to all the parents and families who supported the Book Fair. Your encouragement and generosity help inspire a love of reading. Thank you for making the Scholastic Book Fair a success. **The last day for our Book Fair is next Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November after school in the Dining Hall.** If you are unable to come to the Book Fair, you can pay on the website using the QR Code provided. Please refer to the information sent home for details.



## What have we been learning in school?



Since Term 2 children in **Owls Class** started their **Balanceability** lessons! At first, they worked on their core strength, wearing their helmets properly and learning how to handle the balance bikes correctly. They had great fun learning to manoeuvre the bikes. All the children have already showed some pleasing progress and are looking forward to their next lesson already!



This week, our **Year 4 children** explored reflective materials in their **Science** lessons. comparing the reflective properties of a range of materials such as tin foil, mirrors, high visibility fabric and paper to find out which material is most reflective and why. They demonstrated great enthusiasm and diligence as they conducted their experiments and record their results. Their hard work and curiosity were truly commendable. Well done, Year 4! Keep up the fantastic work!

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”





Last Wednesday, as part of their English and topic work on **Rivers**, **Kestrels Class** welcomed Mr Patterson and his colleague Mr Ferey from Thames Water. They delivered an engaging and informative session on the importance of water, sparking curiosity and excitement among the children. The children explored fascinating topics, including:

- The Water Cycle
- How water is treated
- Water shortages around the world

Did you know that, on average, we use 33 buckets of water a day, while in sub-Saharan Africa, people use only six? This stark contrast highlighted the value of conserving water. The children also learned practical tips for saving water and the importance of "Bin it, don't block it!" to help protect our water systems. They were full of curiosity, asking many insightful questions, and were captivated by the "wonderful world of water." Additionally, the children had fun trying on Thames Water helmets and high-visibility jackets, adding a hands-on element to their learning experience. A huge thank you to Mr Patterson and Mr Ferey for such an inspiring visit! A special thanks to Mrs Patterson for coordinating this event.



Next week we will be looking at **Trust** (KS1) and **Integrity** (KS2). Children will be listening to stories, discussing and reflecting on 'How trusting are you?' or 'Have you ever believed in something that was too good to be true? How might you have checked the facts first?' Perhaps you can have a discussion at home and spend some time with your child exploring the meaning of the quote: *"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."* - William Shakespeare, English poet, playwright (1564 - 1616). What might this quote mean? Let us try to live our lives with integrity. Have the patience to build up trust, have the courage to face the truth.



**Reminder:**

- **Year 2 Reading Workshop** will take place **this afternoon at 2.30pm** in Robins Classroom. Mrs Brancato will highlight the National Curriculum expectations in Reading for Year 2 and share some strategies we use at WSL on how to develop children's reading comprehension skills. She will also provide tips on how you can best support your children's reading at home. We encourage all parents to attend and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.
- **NO Pens Day on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** next week - All the children will engage in a variety of speaking and listening activities designed to enhance their communication skills. These activities include Show and Tell, Story Retelling, Group Discussions and Debates. Please refer to the letter sent home last Friday for details.

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	Millie W	Baneen J
Nightingales	Fergus G	Lily S
Robins	Mia P	Nicolas C
Skylarks	Dixie B	Eva S
Red Kites	Oscar B-C	Arthur M-P
Kestrels	Keira E	Zak H

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	374	2529
Galileo (Green)	253	2090
Redgrave (Red)	223	2259
Yeats (Yellow)	325	2400

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:** 18-11-24 to 22-11-24

Owls 100% Skylarks 96.7%

Nightingales 93.6% Red Kites 99.6 %

Robins 96.8% Kestrels 95.5%

Whole School 97%



## Habit of the Month

In **November**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Learning By Myself**. This is part of daily routines, please continue to support us by having high expectations for your child/ren and helping them form good habits. Thank you.

## Curriculum Workshops for Parents in Robins Class

Parents in Robins are invited to attend **Maths Workshop on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, which will start at **2.30pm in Robins Classroom**. Mrs Brancato will share some strategies of how we support children with their Maths problem solving.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is run from **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** after school every day in the Dining Hall from **3.10pm to 4.00pm**. Please refer to the Leaflet and information sent home for details.

## Importance of Sleep

**When sleep is abundant, minds flourish.** We often notice some of our children are just so tired...The impact that poor sleeping patterns can have on a child's (and adult's) ability to concentrate and learn is remarkable. Please make sure your child goes to bed at an appropriate time. If you are having difficulties establishing these good patterns of sleeping with your child, please come to see us.

## Football News



On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December after school our School Football Team will play two matches respectively at Holyport Primary School and Lowbrook Academy. The Children have worked extremely hard and are all looking forward to this event. Let's wish them good luck. Thanks to Mr Errington for coordinating this event and thank you to parents for providing transport.

## E-Safety – Think Before You Send

There is a real and growing concern of how many young people find it ok to share inappropriate images online. It is leading to so many becoming vulnerable to potential exploitation, blackmail and harm from a young age, leaving a lasting digital footprint.

Please see attached informative **Think Before You Send** Poster that serves to reinforce online safety practices and encourages open conversations among parents/carers on this sensitive issue. We also display this poster in the PTA Notice Board and within the school. We hope its presence can serve as a constant visual reminder of the significance of online safety.

## KS1 Nativity Play

The Key Stage 1 Nativity Play 'A Little Bird Told Me' will be staged at the following times:

- **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2:15pm**
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2:15pm**

As space is limited for each performance, we would be very grateful if you would kindly book your seats via SCOPAY which has been set up for you and will go live on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. We are setting a limit of two seats per child over two performances. Small children should sit on knees where possible thus freeing up more seats for adults. Parents with very small children are welcome to join us on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December to watch Dress Rehearsal. Please let the School Office know.

## Panto Cinderella Special Offer

As pupils/families of A&MSSP Member Primary Schools, you will be able to get a discount theatre ticket for this year's Maidenhead panto "Cinderella" at the fabulous Baylis Theatre at Braywick Leisure Centre. Please use this code **AMSSP-2024\_PUPIL** to get **£3 off every ticket for pupils**.

**EARLY BOOKING OFFER expires on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.**  
Discount applies to adult and under 16s tickets only.  
**Valid at 5.00pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 1.00pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024 ONLY**

## PTA Fundraiser – School Tea Towels

School Tea Towels will make a perfect Christmas present for family and friends! The product is 100% cotton and is very high quality. You can now order tea towels via the PTA-events website [www.pta-events.co.uk/wslpta/](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/wslpta/)  
The cost of each single tea towel is £5 with a special price of £9 for 2 and £12 for 3 towels. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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 2 (35 days)

<b>November</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Book Fair Week in School	3.10-4.00pm
	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Maths Workshop for Parents in Owls	2.30pm
	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Reading Workshop for Parents in Robins	2.30pm
	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	No Pens Day	
<b>December</b>	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Whole School	2.15pm
	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity Performance to KS1 Parents	2.15pm
	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity Performance to KS1 Parents	2.15pm
	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Height and Weight Screening Measure Check	9.30am
	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Year 1-6 are dropped off at WSL Church for Rehearsal	8.30am
	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day	
	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Christingle Service at WSL – details to follow	2.00pm
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm	

**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**

##### Term 4 (30 days)

<b>February</b>	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term
<b>March</b>	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term:

**Spring Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025  
 (Good Friday is 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Easter Monday is 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025)**

##### Term 5( 23 days)

<b>April</b>	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Start of Pupil Term
<b>May</b>	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	End of Pupil Term

**May Holiday: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

##### Term 6 (38 days)

<b>June</b>	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Staff Inset Day
	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Start of Pupil Term
<b>July</b>	Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	End of Pupil Term

**Summer Holiday: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 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:**

- Scholastic Book Fair Information and QR Code to all
- Football Matches Letter to Football Club
- Chinese New Year Celebration & Kung Fu Demo Letter to Kung Fu Club
- Pharmacy First Scheme Leaflet to all
- No Parking on Staff Car Park Reminder to all parents
- Families Thames Valley West Magazine