



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 08

Friday 25th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was so good to see so many of you attending the **Parents' Evenings** with your children and contributing to the discussions about your child's learning with their Class Teachers. We believe that working in partnership is key in ensuring your child's success and we are always looking to give you the information that you find most useful to help your child's progress and overall development, such as how we can work together to help children form good habits and acquire basic life skills to become more effective, independent learners. We hope you found the discussions with your child's direct involvement very valuable. If for any reason, you were not able to attend on either of the specified nights, please do speak to your child's Class Teacher to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. If you have any feedback for us, both positive and developmental, please let us know.

Once again children have enjoyed a variety of learning opportunities offered to them this week:

On Wednesday, the **Berkshire Fire Rescue Team** visited our school and delivered an engaging and informative session on **Fire Safety** to the children in Red Kites Class. The children learned how to prevent fire at home and some simple safety techniques to extinguish a fire on the body and clothing. They learned the crucial fire safety technique known as "Stop, Drop, and Roll." This method is used to extinguish flames on the body and is easy to remember:

1. **Stop:** Immediately stop moving to prevent the flames from spreading.
2. **Drop:** Drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands to protect it.
3. **Roll:** Roll back and forth on the ground until the flames are extinguished.

They also understood the importance of closing doors and windows to prevent the spread of smoke and airflow during a fire. The firefighters extended their visit to the children in Skylarks and KS1, where they provided an insightful talk and a tour of their fire engine. The children were thrilled to see all the essential tools and equipment used by the firefighters in their daily duties. Overall, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a wealth of knowledge about fire safety. We are grateful to the Berkshire Fire Rescue Team for their time and dedication in educating our children on such an important topic.

Here are some comments from children in Red Kites and some photos for your to enjoy.



I enjoyed learning about fire safety, how to test smoke alarms and what they use in an emergency. I found it very interesting that they said their cookies and biscuits was the most important part because it kept them going during the night. My favorite parts were when they turned on the siren and lights, my second favourite part was when they got 2 hula hoops down from a tree. -Sophie

I thought it was an amazing experience! If your clothes set on fire you have to stop, drop and roll. It was also fun because they got the hula-hoop off the tree with the hose. I loved it!! The fire officers were amazing. - Florentina

I enjoyed seeing the hula-hoops get out of the tree by the huge hose! I also enjoyed hearing the sirens as the fire fighters drive the fire engine out of the playground. I learned about the smoke alarm and how to get out of your room if there is a fire in it. Tonight I'm going to check my smoke alarms and make sure they work! (thank you fire officers!) - Grace

We learnt what RTC stands for – Road Traffic Collision. They took the hoops off the tree and made everyone cheer. They told us what they do and what their tools are used for. we learned a lot! – Ethan

I think the fireman's trip was educational and fun. Zamin tried the fireman's suit on and it fitted him. - Toby

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

EYFS:	George O	Baneen J
Year 1:	Emillie W	Freddie N
Year 2:	Ava G-A	Dolly P
Year 3:	Annika M	Charlie M
Year 4:	Lowry J	Ethan C
Year 5:	Charlotte L	Ben T
Year 6:	Maya B	Chloe N



It is hard to believe that we are already approaching October Holiday. The first term of this academic year has flown by! It is amazing to see how children have settled well into the term and how resilient and adaptable our children can be, their energy, enthusiasm and desire to learn, infectious to all. They have all made very pleasing and impressive progress from their starting points! Thank you for your support and partnership.

A massive thank you for your amazing support during the Great Athletes sponsorship event! We have raised an incredible **£1925.32** so far. The school will receive **60% of this amount**, which will be used to upgrade and purchase new sports equipment for the children.

Reminder:

- **Parking and Safety** - We kindly ask all parents to avoid parking in restricted Zones i.e. the Zigzag 'Keep Clear' Zone and Stop and Drop Zone in front of the school. These areas are designated to warn motorists that stopping here could endanger children and pedestrians and to ensure there is enough space for vehicles, including the School Bus, to drive in and out safely. Parking in these zones can cause accidents and block other parents from using our Stop and Drop system. We also remind parents to use the designated Stop and Drop zone and not to let your children out of the car in the middle of the road. We have helpers manning the Stop and Drop Zone every day to assist your child safely out of the car. There is no need for parents to get out of the car as our Volunteer Parent Helpers will open the car door and assist your child safely. Let's work together to keep our school environment safe for everyone.
- **Encouraging Independence for Owls Class** - Parents of children in Owls class are reminded to use the Stop and Drop Zone or say goodbye to their children at the main entrance. This practice helps encourage **independence** in our young learners. Thank you all for your cooperation and support!
- The school will be **closed** from **Monday 28th to Friday 1st November** for October Holiday and **also closed on Monday 4th November** for Staff Inset Day. We **re-open** at 8.30 for the start of Term 2 on **Tuesday 5th November 2024**.
- **Year 6 Bikeability Training** will take place during the first week of Term 2, starting on Wednesday 6th November for 3 days. Please refer to the letter sent home for details.
- This year's **Poppy Appeal** launches on Saturday 26th October 2024. We will once again support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling the following items in school: **Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Rubbers, Reflectors, Wristband, and Zip Pull** during the first 2 weeks of Term 2. Price for each item is only suggested donation, ranging from **50p to £1.50, you can donate more if you wish**. Please remind your child to bring some small change to support the work of the Royal British Legion in asking the nation to *Rethink Remembrance* by recognising the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community, past and present and support those suffering from social isolation and those facing challenges.



Wishing you all a happy and safe October Holiday.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

Star Pupils of Term 1

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: Clayton C
Year 1: Betsy M-P
Year 2: Dolly P
Year 3: Isabella W
Year 4: Lowry J
Year 5: Ayrton A
Year 6: Ellie T



House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	192	1678
Galileo (Green)	168	1235
Redgrave (Red)	131	1388
Yeats (Yellow)	195	1595

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: 14-10-24 to 18-10-24

Owls **99.1%** Skylarks 95.7%
Nightingales 98.2% Red Kites 94.8%
Robins 93.7% Kestrels 94.5%
Whole School 95.9%



Habit of the Month

In **October**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Presentation of All My Work**. 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.

Thank You...

To all the parents and community members who give up their time to help and support the children in class or school in so many different ways throughout Term 1, such as hearing children read, donating learning resources and help at Stop and Drop. Thank you!

Target Sheet

At the Parents Evenings, Class Teachers shared with you your child's Targets for your child to work on in order to make further progress. Please support your child's learning at home, working together we will enable your children to achieve their potential.

Curriculum Workshops for Parents in Owls

EYFS Literacy Workshop will take place on **Friday 8th November at 2.30pm** in Owls Classroom. Mrs Whyte will share some strategies on how best to support your children's early stage reading and writing at home.

EYFS Maths Workshop will take place on **Wednesday 20th November at 2.30pm** in Owls Classroom. Miss Painter and Mrs Whyte will share some strategies we teach in school. We hope as many of you can attend as possible.

Understanding Sensory Processing Workshop for Parents

If your child experiences sensory processing challenges, then please join us in this workshop which is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools to support your child's unique sensory needs.

- Understand how sensory processing works and its impact on daily life.
- Learn to recognise signs of sensory processing issues and how they manifest in children.
- Discover effective techniques to help your child manage sensory overload and under-responsiveness.
- Tips on setting up your home to better support your child's sensory needs.
- Engage in hands-on activities that demonstrate sensory strategies and tools.

This workshop will be led by Mrs Whyte, our Inclusion Coordinator. **It will take place on Wednesday 6th November at 2.15pm in the Dining Hall.** It is a great opportunity to connect with other parents, share experiences, and gain valuable insights. Please inform the School Office if you are attending. Thank you.

Reading, Reading, Reading

Daily reading is vital in supporting our learners to become fluent readers who develop a love of books. Reading is the most crucial skill any child will learn. It is our schools clear expectation that every child reads every night without any distraction. Please support us by ensuring that there is a time set aside every evening to ensure your child can read and, ideally, to be read to by an adult.

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING

There is still a lot of lost property left behind every day **WITHOUT NAMES!** In order to reduce the amount of property your child misplaces in school, we ask parents to ensure that **all children's belongings are clearly NAMED** so that lost property can be returned to their owners easily. Your support is greatly appreciated!

PTA AGM

PTA AGM will take place on **Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 6.00pm in school** with the New Committee elected, financial report shared and events planned for the year. **Governors** will also share their roles and responsibilities whilst the **Headteacher** will also share School Performance data and School Improvement Priorities at the meeting. Please save the date and come along to support the school.

Secondary School Application Deadline

Urgent Reminder for parents of Year 6 pupils:

The deadline for secondary school application is **31st October 2024**. Any applications received after 31st October 2024 will be treated as late and will not be considered until after National Offer Day on 3rd March 2025.

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents Year R Sept 2025

Our next Open Morning will take place from 9.45-10.45am on **Wednesday 6th November 2024**

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)

October Fri 25th End of Pupil Term
October Holiday: Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Term 2 (35 days)

November Mon 4th Staff Inset Day
 Tues 5th Start of Pupil Term
 Wed 6th Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.45-10.45am
 11th-15th Anti-Bullying Week – Theme 'Choose Respect'
 Sun 12th Remembrance Sunday
 19th-25th Scholastic Book Fair Week in School 3.10-4.00pm
 Mon 25th Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.45-10.45am
 December Mon 9th KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Whole School 2.15pm
 Wed 11th KS1 Nativity Performance to KS1 Parents 2.15pm
 Thurs 12th KS1 Nativity Performance to KS1 Parents 2.15pm
 Fri 20th End of Pupil Term
Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Term 3 (30 days)

January Mon 6th Staff Inset Day
 Tues 7th Staff Inset Day
 Wed 8th Start of Pupil Term
 February Fri 14th End of Pupil Term
February Holiday: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

Term 4 (30 days)

February Mon 24th Start of Pupil Term
 March Fri 4th End of Pupil Term:
**Spring Holiday: Monday 7th April 2025 to Monday 21st April 2025
 (Good Friday is 18th April 2025, Easter Monday is 21st April 2025)**

Term 5 (23 days)

April Mon 22nd Start of Pupil Term
 May Mon 5th May Day Bank Holiday
 Fri 23rd End of Pupil Term
May Holiday: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Term 6 (38 days)

June Mon 2nd Staff Inset Day
 Tues 3rd Start of Pupil Term
 July Wed 23rd End of Pupil Term
Summer Holiday: Thursday 24th July 2025 – Tuesday 2nd 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

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

Bikeability Training Information Letter and Parents Consent Form to Year 6

Parking Safety & Stop and Drop Zone Information to all

Twyford & District Bonfire and Fireworks Night Leaflet to all

'Now You See Me, Now You Don't' Cyclist Poster to all

October Holiday – Sister Schools Exchange Programme Task Information to all