



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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### Weekly Newsletter Number 09

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable October Holiday filled with lots of fun, family time, and, of course, reading and creating videos as part of our sister school exchange programme. On that note, I would like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who have sent in their children's videos – they are truly impressive! It was wonderful to see the children return to school on Tuesday with such positivity - looking refreshed and ready for another exciting, eventful term in the run up to Christmas. This term, we have organised a wide range of enriching learning experiences for the children, including **Anti-Bullying Week**, Dance lessons with a specialist dance teacher for Skylarks and Red Kites Classes and the much-anticipated Christmas festivities in December. I am very much looking forward to welcoming you into school for our traditional events and celebrating this magical time of year with everyone in our school community. Please look out for letters inviting you to Nativity, Christingle Service and other special Christmas events.

#### As we start a new term, here are some reminders:

- In order to **develop self-help skills and independence** of all children, we would ask parents / all children, including children in Owls Class to use Stop and Drop Service or say goodbye to your children at the main entrance. Helpers at the Stop Drop will assist your child safely out of the car. so that they can walk to their classroom on their own. This practice helps encourage **independence** in our young learners. Children should also take responsibility by looking after their own belongings, carrying their own bags and lunchboxes etc. Please support us and let them do things that they can do themselves.
- 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 as the weather turns colder. Please ensure **ALL items are clearly labelled with your child's name and class**.
- **School Lunch Order must be completed by midnight each day and paid for using SCOPAY**. This ensures that the catering team is able to produce the correct number of meals, to speed up service and avoid causing stress in children due to lunch not being ordered for them that day. **If your order is not completed on time, then please bring a packed lunch for your child that day.**
- **Winter Uniform** - As we are now entering the colder months that children are now expected to be in winter uniform. The uniform guideline is available via the School Website.
- **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. We thank you for your help in this matter.**
- **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.

We have had another busy week. Once again, the **Open Morning** on Wednesday this week went really well. We had a few prospective parents coming to see the school in action. They were very impressed with children's learning behaviour and we have received some very positive feedback / comments from our visitors.

On the **Inset Day**, teachers and teaching assistants spent time together to discuss our **School Improvement Plan** focusing on our ethos of educating the 'Whole Child' and the importance of instilling in children the values which will prepare them for life in Modern Britain. We discussed how we can all work together and adopt a solution-focused approach to cater for the needs of all children and achieve the best outcomes for each and every child at WSL.

Staff discussed and agreed on actions needed to achieve the objectives outlined in our **2024-25 School Improvement Plan (SIP)**. This aim is not only to maintain our Outstanding standard across all areas but also to build upon it and improve the school further. One of the key curriculum priorities this year is to **develop children's oracy and writing skills** and we look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve this and our other goals for the year. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) Priorities Summary has been published on the School Website and can be accessed via the link here: <https://wslprimary.com/key-information/school-improvement-plan/>



Next week marks **National Anti-Bullying Week** and this year's theme is '**Choose Respect.**' **Anti-Bullying Week** is a great opportunity for all of us to come together and raise awareness about the importance of protecting our children from bullying. Let's reflect on what we can do to stop bullying

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

and create a safe environment where our children can thrive. Throughout the week, we have planned various activities to help our children understand what bullying is and how they can stand against it. One of the highlights will be **Odd Socks Day** on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. On this day, both staff and children are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes each of us unique. Let's unite and make a difference together. By **Choosing Respect**, we can take a stand against bullying and ensure a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone.

### What have we been learning in school?

**Bikeability Training** - Children in Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their 3-day Bikeability Cycle Training at Level 2/3 this week. They all followed instructions carefully and practised some basic skills on the playground and learned more about how to ride their bikes safely by keeping some distance. They then cycled out on the roads around the village and learned all about how to cycle safely on the roads. For some children this was a completely new and slightly daunting experience. Nevertheless, they have overcome their anxiety and are now better prepared to cycle. They have become more confident and are reminded to remember the key safety rule – See and BE Seen. The instructors were very impressed with the children's energy and enthusiasm and how polite and sensible all children are! Well done, children! Thank you, parents, for giving permission for the children to come on the course. We would like to offer our thanks to John and Fzeelah and RBWM for kindly providing this invaluable training.



Yesterday, the children in **Red Kites Class** had the incredible opportunity to participate in a live-streamed lesson from the **Royal Ballet**, broadcast directly from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. During this engaging session, they not only learned ballet terminology from Swan Lake, sword-fighting movements from Romeo and Juliet, and contemporary dance steps from a modern ballet called Flight Path, but also had the chance to explore the backstage departments, including costume, scenery, props, lighting, and even the armoury. They saw how these departments collaborate to create stunning ballet performances. Mrs. Macaulay Brown then taught the class the five basic ballet positions, and everyone got a close look at a pair of pointed shoes. It was a fascinating journey into the world of ballet! We are so proud of children's enthusiasm and participation!



In Term 2, we will be focusing on our Core Value of **TRUTH** and the related Value of **Honesty, Curiosity, Hope, Optimism, Trust, Integrity, Truthfulness and Non-Judgement**. This week children looked at '**Honesty**' and explored whether 'honesty is always the best policy'. Next week we will be looking at **Curiosity**. They will be discussing and reflecting 'Has your curiosity ever driven you to fix something old or invent something new? What inspired you? How did it turn out? Perhaps you can have a discussion at home and spend some time with your child exploring the meaning of the quote: *"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."* - Albert Einstein, German physicist (1879 – 1955). What might this quote mean?

### Reminder:

- **EYFS Literacy Workshop** will take place **this afternoon at 2.30pm** in Owls Classroom. Mrs Whyte will share some strategies on how best to support your children's early stage Oracy, Reading and Writing at home. Please come along, we would like to see as many parents as possible.
- We support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling the following items in school: **Poppy Flowers, Pencils, Rulers, Rubbers** and **Wristbands** etc. during this and next week. 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.





## PTA Notice

The PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm**. During the meeting we will cover financial report and discuss the events planned for the upcoming year. Representatives from the Governing Board and the school will also present some updates on School Performance and Priorities. At the AGM, we will be accepting nominations for the new PTA Committee including the roles of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Event Coordinators. If you are interested in contributing to our school community, please consider nominating yourself or someone you know. For nominations, please contact the School Office at 0118 9343248 or Phillippa at 07484 766059. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible. Refreshments will be provided. Thank you for your support!

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	Bethan U	Charlie P
Nightingales	Emilie W	Hunter H
Robins	Theo P	Henry M
Skylarks	Annika M	Eshal J
Red Kites	Cody R	Ethan C
Kestrels	Tejas D	Matilda P

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	234	1912
Galileo (Green)	<b>257</b>	1492
Redgrave (Red)	196	1584
Yeats (Yellow)	231	1826

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

## Attendance for the Week

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

**Class Attendance:** 04-11-24 to 08-11-24

Owls 97.0%

Skylarks 93.3%

Nightingales 98.5%

Red Kites 81.5%

Robins 97.4%

**Kestrels 98.9%**

Whole School 94.1%



## 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

**EYFS Maths Workshop** will take place on Wednesday **20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Curriculum Workshops for Parents in Robins Class

Parents in Robins are invited to attend the following two curriculum workshops: **Reading Comprehension Workshop on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** and **Maths Workshop on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, both sessions start at **2.30pm in Robins Classroom**. Mrs Brancato will share some strategies of how we support children with their reading comprehension and Maths problem solving.

## Expectation for Morning Drop Off 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!

## Lateness

Please try to be on time to school each day. The school gates open at 8:30am and the bell rings at 8:40am. Lessons begin immediately after registration at 8.40am.

## PTA AGM

The PTA AGM will take place on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PTA Notice

The PTA have **open positions for a Co-Chair, and Co-Events Organiser**, if anyone wants to get involved, please contact Philippa Pitt at 07484 766059.

## School Uniform

Due to the change in weather please can we remind all parent/carers that children should be bringing a coat into school every day. We also request that long hair is tied back and only plain/blue hair accessories are worn if necessary. The only jewellery that is allowed in school are small plain earring studs and they must be removed for PE and games lessons. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings it would be advisable for them not to be worn to school on PE days.

## 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!

## Parking, Speed 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. 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. We ask all drivers to **slow down near schools, no speeding**. Speeding in these areas can put children and others at serious risk. Let's work together to keep our school environment safe for everyone. Thank you.

## 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**

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>	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Inset Day		
	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term		
	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am	
	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Literacy Workshop for parents in Owls	2.30pm	
	11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme ‘Choose Respect’		
	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week		
	19 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Book Fair Week in School	3.10-4.00pm	
	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 – Details to follow		
		EYFS Maths Workshop for Parents in Owls	2.30pm	
	<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	
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.wsprimary.org](http://www.wsprimary.org)**

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

Balanceability Letter to Owls

Cinderella Panto Special Offer Ticket to all

Sensory Processing Workshop Reminder to all