



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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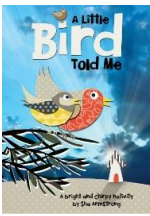
Weekly Newsletter Number 14

Friday 13th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are fast approaching the end of Term 2, **Teacher Assessment** has been going on this week. Class Teachers have assessed where the children are in Reading, Writing and Maths. This is an important part of teaching and learning at WSL and it enables teachers to identify gaps in children's knowledge and understanding and put in place any intervention programmes to enable them to reach fluency level and make further progress. It also helps teachers gather evidence and examples to moderate pupil work. There are some highlighted areas where children need more work on. It is evident that **attendance is crucial to children making progress!** Please encourage your child/ren to keep learning the basic number facts, spellings and daily reading and encourage the children to apply their learning in real life problem solving situations at home. Remember, as with all learning, **little and often** is what gets results. In practice, this means that ten minutes a day is better than one hour once a week. The support and encouragement you give your children in school and with homework is invaluable. We appreciate your ongoing support, working together we can ensure all our children will make substantial progress and achieve their true potential.

What a wonderfully busy week we have had here at WSL! The children have enjoyed a variety of learning opportunities offered to them during the week. Everyone has fully embraced Christmas.



The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the **KS1 Nativity, 'A Little Bird Told Me'**. All the children put on a fabulous show for a hall full of entertained and proud adults. From confidently remembering their lines to singing their hearts out for the audience, they amazed us all with their talent and teamwork. Everyone, including our wonderful narrators, spoke clearly and confidently, making the Nativity such a great success. What an unforgettable performance! We were incredibly **proud** of all our talented children, for their musicality, energy and enthusiasm. Congratulations to the KS1 staff team for nurturing and guiding the children, particularly, Mrs Brancato for directing the play and coaching the children to deliver such high quality performance. It was a fantastic team effort, Well done, everyone! A big 'thank you' to all for your continued support! We hope you have all enjoyed it! There will be a photo display of the children's performances, you are welcome to come in and have a look.



What have we been learning in school?

Many practical activities have been taking place in the classrooms including some very creative and exciting **DT** projects carried out by KS2 children. They were all engaged and have developed a range of skills of designing, cutting, shaping, joining and evaluating. Here are just a few examples: children in Owls have created puppets; children in Year 6 created their impressive Christmas Pop-up Cards using cam mechanisms. Some Christmas Cards designed by children in Term 1, as part of their ART/DT and Cauliflower Christmas Card fundraising efforts, are also included here for you to enjoy. The children used a variety of media for their artwork. Each card is a reflection of the individual child's imagination and personality. We are incredibly proud of the children's efforts and the beautiful cards they have created. All of these amazing results are a testament to the boundless creativity and festive spirit of our young artists - Merry Christmas to all!

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



In Science, the Year 5 children have been learning about the concept of friction. They tested various materials such as carpet, tin foil, bubble wrap and towels to see which one could stop a bicycle wheel the quickest! They recorded their results with stop watches and then compared the results as a class. Well done Year 5!



This week, as part of their English focus on Recounts, the children in Red Kites Class have been busy writing diary recounts from the perspective of an alien visiting Earth for the first time! They have produced some incredible written work, showcasing their creativity and imagination. They have also brought their aliens to life with colourful illustrations! Here is just a couple of pieces for you to enjoy...

Dear Diary,

Hi, it's me, Zabu. I repeat it's me Zabu. Right now I am approaching a weird, blue and green, round, big, mysterious planet, after taking off from planet Milky Way, my home planet.

I don't know what these are, but there's some fluffy, weird shaped, white splodges in the sky that I had to go through and I'm wondering what they are.

I'm scared and worried about my pets, family, friends and relatives. I'm sad that I sadly had to leave my planet because of a big sand storm!

I'm cold because the temperature here on this planet is much colder than the planet Milky Way. For some weird reason, everyone here is either taking pictures of me with big, bulky, cameras or running away from me.

But now that I think about it, I'm currently looking around and all of the animals here aren't made out of sand. I have also realised that my spaceship doesn't look like it is going to be used again.

2 days later, I made a bed out of stones that surprisingly is quite comfortable. I have also been picking sweet red balls which are ok but not my favourite.

A few days later, I decided to go out into the village, it had all sorts of things, like little green hairs coming out of a crumbly brown consistency, but then I realised something.... There was a lady who wasn't scared of me and took me in! I was a bit nervous because I didn't know what to expect but very kindly, she gave me a warm material that was very soft to put around me and a dry doughy circle with chocolate on top! It was good, I enjoyed it.

When I went up to my sleeping room, the bed was a lot comfier than the one I made in the forest. The next bright sunny morning, I went downstairs and breakfast was already made. She didn't seem to care about me being an alien.

I asked the lady (whom I now know that her name is Tabitha), if I could go on a walk, she said yes. I set off and went out of her house. In the forest, I went to my old spaceship and decided to fix it. After a few years of being an alien mechanic, I should know how to fix a spaceship. After hours of finding a piece and hammering it down, I thought I had finished so I said goodbye to the kind lady and got into my ship.

But then I realised something I WAS MISSING THE PIECE THAT CONTROLS THE SHIP!! At this point I was so frustrated with myself, but I had to find the missing piece. The piece was stuck in a massive tree so I used my amazing climbing skills (that aren't that amazing) and got it and finally, I went back home.

By Grace O,

Dear Diary,

Many digits ago, some aliens were gliding smoothly through space. I'm working with Ebing (alien) to tell his Million Year Diary.

TUNTEOUS 107th Magiet

OOF a small orange spaceship crashed. Hello, I am Ebing. I got here in my flying sun. I was going to make it out of the Milky Way but that was a bit too much. I come from planet Xarfag but my people protested. I want to magic some creatures out to be mine but let's see what happens?

UNOI 108th Magiet

'I made them but now I need to tame them.' A few moments later, 'Arrghhh, they are chasing me,' Oh, look, here are some fish, they will like these, here you go, my creatures. I named them dinosaurs. I collected so many of them that back then there were more dinos roaming the earth than there are humans now.

Dear Diary

There was a giant rock heading towards Ebing and the earth, the rock killed everyone except for him. He was alone again. In the end Stone Age people came but none found him and it kept on happening until I came along. I was in my garden and had been in the garden for 3 straight years, he was in my treehouse and when I went in, he hid underneath. I found him five years ago and looked after him, my parents were mad.

Now everyone in my village knows, but I kept it a secret for two entire years. One day my Mum and Dad said that we could let him fly away and we could come with him and learn alien language, now back to Ebing.

GINK 109th Magiet

I couldn't believe my luck. My humans just said that I could go back home with them. We're in my spaceship nearly at planet Xarfag but running low on fuel. It says we're not going to get there. We have to space swim to Xarfag and teach them all how to do it really quick. I am scared!!

Conclusion

'We got there', said Ebing 'Now we've got a long future ahead and lots of awaited adventures. Now let's go to my house to live a long, long, happy life, all of us, oh and I am going to give you a live-forever potion. I don't want you dying anytime soon,' shouted Ebing excitedly.

By Felix L

Dear Diary,

My name is Rover and I have been exploring the galaxy for many years. But I have discovered a strange blue and green planet and it might have living things on it. 'So, let's explore it' I said. So I zoomed into the planet's atmosphere, but then I saw white things below me.

I saw the sun! It might be the right planet to live on so I won't be lonely all the time. I zoomed even quicker than ever to before. Then I hit the ground. When I stepped outside, it was really bright and green. Then I saw trees for the first time. I saw this brown blob in the distance roaring, so I went closer. Then it looked at me, so I went even closer to it. Then it started running at me. So I started running away from it. I kept running but I never saw my spaceship, so I kept running because I didn't want to be lunch for it. I kept running until I was at a dead end and I was pinned to a cliff and the brown thing was about to eat me! I heard a bang, the brown thing dropped to the ground. I was relieved that I wasn't lunch for it. But then I saw a human for the first time. I was too scared to approach it. The human went closer to me and said 'Hello. What are you?'

One year later... 'I love earth!' I said because I have a family. I love my family because they saved my life, and the human food is really yummy as well.



By Alanna T

Building Work Update:

This week has seen significant progress on the site. All the windows and doors have been successfully installed, providing secure and weather-tight structure. Additionally, the electrical wiring has been completed throughout the building, ensuring that all future electrical needs are met. Here are some photos to show the progress of the building. We are on track and excited to see the project moving forward smoothly!



Reminder and Notice

- **The Christmas Fair** will take place this afternoon, **Friday 13th December in the School Hall from 1.00pm to 3.00pm**. There will be a lot of festive fun activities for all the children. We would like to thank Mrs Moor and Mrs Kennedy for stepping up and organising this event, with the support from Mrs Pitt. There will be Tea Towels, Christmas Jumpers and accessories for Sale after school, please support the school and join the festive fun. Thank you. 
- Parents in Owls Class, please note: Children should come to school in their **normal school uniform on Monday 16th December 2024**. The Balanceability Programme will restart in week 2 w/c commencing Monday 17th January 2025 in Term 3.
- Children in Owls Class will put on a **Christmas Concert** for their parents on **Monday 16th December at 2.45pm** in the Owls Classroom. Hope you can all make it.
- **On Monday 16th December and Tuesday 17th December**, children will be making Christingles on these two days in school, please can you **make sure your child brings in a medium sized or large orange**. Thank you. 
- **On Tuesday 17th December** we will have a **Christingle Rehearsal** in the WSL Church. Please remember to drop off your child/ren at the WSL Church at 8.30am. **No School Bags on Tuesday 17th December please**. After the rehearsal, children will walk back to school. This only applies to children in KS1 and KS2 only. **Children in Owls Class will start their day in school as usual, so please drop off your child to school on that day.**
- **Christingle Service will take place on Thursday 19th December**. After lunch at 1.10pm, children in KS1 and KS2 will walk to the Church for the service. We would be grateful to any **parents in Owls who are able to take your child/ren to the Church by car in the afternoon at 1.30pm**. Please enter the Church as advised by the Church Warden at the entrance of the church. **This year all parents will be sitting in the pews in the centre of the church. No School Bags on Thursday 19th December please**. Please refer to the letter sent home this week for more details regarding parking. We look forward to having you joining us on Thursday at the service.
- **Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 18th December 2024**
The children will enjoy a Christmas Dinner in Dining Hall. To add to the festive atmosphere, we invite all children to wear their festive knitwear or **Christmas Jumpers with their School Uniform on the day**. This aligns perfectly with the good cause that our school is supporting this year: **Christmas Jumper Day**, to raise money for the local charity **Daisy's Dream**. You can donate **£1 or more** via the link to the **JustGiving page for Daisy's Dream Christmas Jumper Day 2024** here www.justgiving.com/page/wsl-1732716517840 Thank you.

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	Kai S	Clementine P	
Nightingales	Noah G-M	Betsy M-P	
Robins	All children for the wonderful performance		
Skylarks	Rupert M-P	Forrest D	
Red Kites	Hermione H	Ajooni T	Keira T
Kestrels	Thomas E	Calyn L	

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	303	3436
Galileo (Green)	277	2817
Redgrave (Red)	282	2935
Yeats (Yellow)	280	3246

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: 09-12-24 to 13-12-24

Owls 98.3% Skylarks 93.8%
Nightingales 97.2% Red Kites 97.7%
Robins 97.4% Kestrels 97.4%
Whole School 96.8%



Habit of the Month

In **December**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Speaking with confidence and clarity**. 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.

Five to Thrive Workshop for Parents

This workshop will take place on Thursday 23rd January 2025, at 1.45pm in the School Hall. It will be led by Natalie Evans from the RBWM Psychological Wellbeing Team. The aim of the workshop is to help parents to support children with emotional needs. The training emphasised the importance of building strong relationships, fostering emotional resilience and embedding nurturing practices into daily routines. Please SAVE the date, we would like to see as many parents as possible.

Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale

We are collecting unwanted jumpers for our **Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 18th December**. Parents can drop off any donations of unwanted jumpers, in good condition, during morning drop-off time. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Moor. Thank you for your support!

Owls Class Christmas Concert

Children in Owls Class will put on a Christmas Concert for their parents on **Monday 16th December at 2.45pm** in the Owls Classroom. Hope you can all make it.

Christmas Post Box



The Christmas Post Box is in operation. The Christmas Elves deliver children's cards daily and the last delivery day is Thursday 19th December. If your children would like to send a card to other children or members of staff, all they need to do is write their first names and surnames and the name of the Class on the envelopes. The Postal Elves can only deliver to pupils and staff at WLS Primary School.

Parking on 19th December – Christingle Service

Due to the limited parking available on the road near WSL Church, could we please ask you to ensure that your vehicle is parked legally and considerately at all times and to ensure that emergency access to all roads is not impaired, giving due consideration to our local residents. Please do not park in front of the Church gate. Thank you for your support with this.

Christmas Services at WSL Church

Everyone is invited to attend the Christmas Services:

- **Nativity-** Straw and Order- Sunday 15th December at 10.30am
- **Carol Service-** Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm - traditional service of carols and readings followed by refreshments
- **Christingle** with Impromptu Nativity at 4.00pm Christmas Eve - a service for all children young and old to take part in
- **Christmas Day Family Service** at 10.30pm

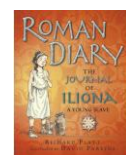
Owls Balanceability Programme

The Balanceability Programme for children in Owls Class will restart in week 2 w/c commencing Monday 17th January 2025 in Term 3.

Key Text Books for Term 3

We would appreciate if Parents in KS2 Classes could purchase the book for your child as these story books will be used as the key text which children will be studying in their English lessons in Term 3. Thank you for your support.

Skylarks Class - 'Roman Diary, The Journal of Iliona, A Young Slave' by Richard Platt



Red Kites Class - "The Last Bear"

by Hannah Gold – Amazon Link:

[The Last Bear: Winner of the Blue Peter Award – 'A dazzling debut' THE TIMES : Gold, Hannah, Pinfold, Levi: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

Kestrels Class – Who Let's God Out by Maz Evans



Parent Survey on EYFS Provision

Please complete the Parent Survey on our EYFS Provision. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve our services and support for your children. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and experiences. The survey will close on **Friday 10th January 2025**. Please refer to the letter for more details. Thank you for your participation!

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)

December	Fri 13 th	Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale	3.10-4.00pm
	Mon 16 th	Owls Class Christmas Concert to Parents in Owls	2.45pm
	Tues 17 th	Children in Year 1-6 are dropped off at WSL Church for Rehearsal	8.30am
	Wed 18 th	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day	
	Thurs 19 th	Whole School Christingle Service at WSL – details to follow	2.00pm
	Fri 20 th	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

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	
	Thurs 9 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45am
	Fri 10 th	Year 3-5 Road Safety Workshops	1.05pm
		Parent Survey on EYFS Provision due today	3.00pm
	w/c 13 th	Clubs led by External Professionals start this week	
	Thurs 23 rd	Five too Thrive Parent Workshop – SAVE the Date	1.45pm
	Wed 29 th	Chinese New Year of the Snake	
February	Sun 9 th	Reading Council Chinese New Year Celebration in Town Hall	
	Thurs 13 th	RBWM Dance Festival – details to follow	
	Fri 14 th	End of Pupil Term	

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

Term 4 (30 days)

February	Mon 24 th	Start of Pupil Term	
March	Fri 4 th	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 22 nd	Start of Pupil Term	
May	Mon 5 th	May Day Bank Holiday	
	Fri 23 rd	End of Pupil Term	
May Holiday: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025			

Term 6 (38 days)

June	Mon 2 nd	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 3 rd	Start of Pupil Term	
July	Wed 23 rd	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.wsprimary.org

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

- Parent Survey on EYFS Provision Letter to all
- Christingle Service Arrangements Letter to all
- Christmas Services at WSL Church Information to all
- Lunch Menu Change for Thursday Information to all