



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 15

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday this week, children in Owls Class put on a very special **Christmas Concert** for their parents. Our young stars took the stage to enchant their parents with festive tunes and Christmas songs which created a joyous atmosphere. It is heartwarming to see our children's singing spreading warmth and cheer to all in attendance. The children made us all very proud. Thank you, parents for coming and we hope you enjoyed the concert as much as we did. Thanks also go to Miss Painter and TAs for their amazing support.



On Thursday this week, the children impressed us all as they led our **Christingle Service** with brilliant storytelling, poetry recitations and fantastic singing. What a wonderful way to tell the story of Christmas! Each child spoke with remarkable clarity and confidence, radiating energy and enthusiasm throughout the event. The warm glow of the Christingle candles added to the special atmosphere, making the experience even more magical! The children were absolutely fabulous! This whole school gathering was a beautiful celebration of love and the spirit of togetherness that defines this festive season, perfectly aligning with our School Values. We hope you all enjoyed this wonderful service.



Christmas Lunch on Wednesday went down a treat – the children enjoyed a delicious full roast dinner with all the trimmings. The excitement was palpable, especially among the Owls Class, who were thrilled to experience their first Christmas Lunch at WSL whilst the Year 6 children cherished their final Christmas meal with us, dining at the prestigious TOP Table! Thank you to the Chef Clare and Assistant Nikoletta, and all the staff who contributed to the smooth running of this memorable event. Your efforts ensured that the day was enjoyable and festive for everyone involved. We have raised **£187** for Daisy's Dream! THANKS!



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

The Christmas Fair



Last Friday, the **PTA Christmas Fair** was a delightful event filled with excitement and joy. The children eagerly visited different stalls, each offering unique activities and treats. From games and crafts to festive surprises, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The atmosphere was buzzing with laughter and festive cheer as the children in their class groups explored the fair, their faces lighting up with each new discovery. It was heartwarming to see them having



so much fun, making memories with their friends. I would like to extend a massive **THANK YOU** to Mrs Moor and Mrs Kennedy for organising this wonderful event and to many parents who helped out on the day and generously donated toys and games etc. We are thrilled to announce that **£450** was raised, which will contribute towards the ongoing building work. This event was a wonderful celebration of community spirit and festive joy, bringing the children together for a magical afternoon.



On Monday this week, the children from the **Kung Fu Club** gave an impressive demonstration to the KS2 classes, showcasing the skills they have learned, including the use of sticks. Their performance highlighted not only their Kung Fu techniques but also the core values of determination, stamina and resilience that they have developed through their training. The children demonstrated remarkable focus and discipline. It was inspiring to see how much they have grown and what they have achieved through their dedication to Kung Fu. Some of the children will join the Hulutang Team to present at the Chinese New Celebrations in Oxford in the New Year. If your child is interested in joining the Kung Fu Club next term, please book a place for your child. It is a fantastic opportunity to build physical and mental strength while having fun and learning valuable life skills. Please refer to the letter regarding the Clubs for Term 3 and 4 for details.



This holiday season, our school has been filled with joy and excitement as our cheerful **Elves** delivered **Christmas cards** to every child and staff member. The Elves with their festive and bright smiles, brought a special touch of magic to the school, spreading festive cheer and warmth. A special thank you goes to our wonderful Year 6 children for taking on this important job. Their dedication and enthusiasm made us all smile and happy.



What have we been learning in school?

This term, the children in Red Kites Class have been making Pop up books as part of their Design and Technology (DT) lessons. They have learned how to make mechanisms such as sliders, pivots and folds to bring their nursery rhymes to life. They then shared them with the children in Owls and Nightingales classes and they went down a treat! Well done Red Kites Class! In addition, over the last few weeks, the children have been working hard to design and sew their Christmas Tree decorations. They have taken great care to learn new sewing stitches and work out their designs. These wonderful decorations are proudly displayed on their class Christmas Tree and they hope you enjoy them at home!



Amazing Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to children's learning, fostering friendships and making consistent progress. We are thrilled to announce that our children have shown outstanding commitment to their education during Term 1 and 2. **The Best Class Attendance Award** goes to **Red Kites Class**, achieving **97.8%**, who have set a fantastic example for the entire school. We are also proud to recognise **23.5% of children who achieved 100%** attendance. Each of these children was presented with a special certificate in recognition of their perfect attendance. Congratulations to all. Let's continue to strive for excellence in the coming terms! Thank you parents for supporting your child/ren and the school.



Building Work Update:

This project is progressing well, and we are excited to see the transformation taking shape! This week, plasterboards have been installed on all walls and the ceiling, providing a smooth surface for the next stages of construction. This crucial step sets the foundation for the finishing touches that will soon follow. We look forward to sharing more updates as the project continues to develop!



I have been and remain incredibly proud of our entire school community for living up to our motto "Together We Inspire and Achieve". As we reach the end of Term 2, I just want to thank you all, the children, Governors and parents, for the positive and enthusiastic support that you have given to the school. I am sure that you would like to join me in thanking our strong staff team for their hard work and effort for a successful term.

This time of year, brings everyone together and that is never more evident than in the events we have had in December. It underlines the spirit of Christmas since all of these events focus on giving to others and welcoming everyone in.

On behalf of all the staff, I would also like to say a big THANK YOU to you, Class Representatives and children for the many generous and thoughtful gifts you gave to us for Christmas and all your kind words. They are very much appreciated.

Finally, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from all of us at WSL!

The children will return to school for the start of Term 3 **Wednesday 8th January 2025**. Staff Inset Day will be on Monday 6th January and Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Have a happy and restful Christmas Holiday and may 2025 bring you happiness and success!

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher



Star Pupils of Term 2

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: Nancy D L P

Year 1: Amber H

Year 2: Ridley J

Year 3: Cooper G

Year 4: William D

Year 5: Elina T

Year 6: Aaron H



Values Gems

We continue with our **Values Nominations** and encourage children to put our values into action in everything they do and say in daily life. Those children who get most nominations will be our **Values Gems**. This Term our **Values Gems are:**

Roman R	Henrietta B
Jay E	Poppy L-W
Oakley T	Jemima K
Riley W	Samuel W
Arthur M-P	Florentina H
Alexandra G	Tejes D

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	107	3538
Galileo (Green)	95	2912
Redgrave (Red)	80	3015
Yeats (Yellow)	110	3356

The Winning House for Term 2 is **Brunel**. Well done.

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 16-12-24 to 20-12-24

Owls 97.7%	Skylarks 95.5%
Nightingales 95.1%	Red Kites 97.6%
Robins 97.0%	Kestrels 96.4%
Whole School 96.5%	



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 2, such as hearing children read, donating learning resources and help at Stop and Drop. Thank you!

School Admissions for September 2025

The **closing date** for receipt of online applications for a school place for **September 2025 is on 15 January 2025**. Please refer to RMBW website for details.

Our next **Open Morning will be on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 9.45am**.

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.

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.

Clubs for Term 3 & 4

If you would like your children to attend After School Clubs, please sign up with payment via **SCOPAY**. There are limited numbers for each club, places are offered on a first come, first serve basis. All booking must be completed via SCOPAY by Thursday 9th January 2025.

All Clubs will start in the week beginning 13th January 2025, unless otherwise indicated.

After School Care Club and Breakfast Club will start on Wednesday 8th January 2025, please complete Booking via SCOPAY. Thank you.

Christmas Services at WSL Church

Everyone is invited to attend the Christmas Services:

- **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

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.

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

Red Kites Class - "The Last Bear" by Hannah Gold

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

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 school's 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.

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 20th End of Pupil Term 2 1.00pm
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
 Thurs 9th Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.45am
 Fri 10th Year 3-5 Road Safety Workshops 1.05pm
 Parent Survey on EYFS Provision due today 3.00pm
 w/c 13th All Clubs start this week
 Wed 22nd Kestrels Class Assembly 2.30pm
 Thurs 23rd Five too Thrive Parent Workshop & School Priorities – SAVE the Date 1.45pm
 Wed 29th Chinese New Year of the Snake
February Wed 5th Skylarks Class Assembly 2.30pm
 Sun 9th Chinese New Year Celebration in Oxford Town Hall
 Thurs 13th RBWM Dance Festival – Red Kites - details to follow
 Fri 14th End of Term 3 3.10pm
February Holiday: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

Term 4 (30 days)

February Mon 24th Start of Pupil Term 4
March Wed 12th Red Kites Class Assembly 2.30pm
 Wed 19th Robins Class Assembly 2.30pm
 w/c 17th Last session /week for Teacher Led Clubs
 Tues 25th Parents Evening for All Classes 3.30-5.30pm
 Wed 26th Parents Evening for All Classes 5.00-7.00pm
 Thurs 27th Parents Evening for KS2 Classes 3.30-5.30pm
April Thurs 3rd Easter Egg Hunt & PTA Easter Hat Competition
 Fri 4th End of Term 4 1.00pm
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:

Clubs for Term 3 and 4 Letter to all

Christmas Jumper Day Donations to Daisy's Dream Reminder to all

Woodpeckers Clubs Arrangement Reminder to all

Christingle Service Reminder to all