



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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### Weekly Newsletter Number 12

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting week of learning, with children taking part in a variety of engaging activities. A highlight was **No Pens Day** on Wednesday, where each class explored different ways of learning without writing, focusing instead on speaking, listening and practical activities. This offered the children the chance to develop their communication skills in a fun and interactive way. Please read on to find out more about what each class have been doing, and enjoying some photos capturing the highlights of the week!

On No Pens Day, **Owls Class** contributed to a Story Circle, where the children went round and each added a line to the story. They ended up with a dragon who ate up Owls Class three times! They then acted out the traditional tale of *The Three Little Pigs*, with different children in each group taking on the roles of the characters and joining in with repeated refrains. In addition, the class engaged in some number work with Numicon, finding out the composition of numbers using part-whole models. They also worked on their memory skills and practised reading CVC words. What a busy and fun-filled day of learning!



The children in **Nightingales Class** took part in a lovely Show and Tell session, where they all brought in items that were special to them. Each child had the chance to share the story behind their chosen items, whether it was a treasured toy or something related to a personal hobby or interest. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about their peers' favourite things and eagerly asked lots of great questions, showing genuine curiosity and interest in one another's stories. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to practise their speaking and listening skills, while building stronger connections with their classmates, too!

The children in **Robins Class** had a fantastic opportunity to put their pens down and engage in a variety of pen-free activities, focusing on talking, listening and active participation. They practised public speaking in front of an audience, rehearsing what to write in an informal letter and had fun while doing it. The children took part in lots of "hand on learning" using Base 10 to explore the concept of subtracting two two-digit numbers. They had to use their speaking and listening skills to track the speakers and expand their knowledge and deepen their understanding. They also presented their chosen task or research, from the homework menu to the rest of the class. It was a day full of creativity, collaboration and skill-building.



In **Skylarks Class**, one of the activities the children did was to listen to a selection of different theme tunes, all written by the same composer – John Williams, and to talk about how each piece made them feel and what it was about the music that made them feel that way. They talked about the volume, the tempo, the melody and the key, analysing how each aspect influenced their reactions. It was very interesting to hear what the tunes made the children think of and how they made them feel – everything from sad to triumphant!



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



This week, during **No Pens Day**, the children in **Red Kites Class** enjoyed learning how to debate! They held three debates on topics such as "All children should be given calculators in their Maths lessons." The children split into teams, arguing "For" and "Against" the statements. Each team debated really well, constructing excellent arguments and demonstrating respect and active listening for the opposing side. Afterwards, the audience got to cast their votes for their chosen side! It was a great opportunity for the children to practice their communication skills and critical thinking.

Another highlight of the day was Arthur's amazing show and tell where he shared a very personal story with the class. A huge well done to Arthur for being so brave, and to the Red Kites class for the support, empathy and appreciation they showed their friend.



For No Pens Day, the children in **Kestrels Class** carried out a wide range of speaking and listening activities. After reciting some tricky tongue twisters, the children planned and performed a Charlie Chaplin style play set to authentic 1920s silent film music. Later in the day the children became the teachers, sharing their talents with each other including ballet, horse riding, Kung Fu and boxing. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to teach as well as learn something new from their friends. It was a wonderful day full of creativity, collaboration and fun!



On Wednesday this week, our **Boys and Girls Football Team** played matches against Holyport Primary School. Whilst the Girls Team faced a tough game and lost 3-1, their effort and determination were commendable. The Boys Team secured an impressive 1-0 victory, showcasing fantastic teamwork and skill. We are incredibly proud of both teams, demonstrating our school values of determination, team work and perseverance. A huge well done and congratulations to everyone for a brilliant start to the season! A special thank you to Mr Errington for organising the fixtures and to our parents for providing transport and cheering the teams with your amazing support!

### What have we been learning in school?

This week in **Science**, the children in **Nightingales Class** took part in an exciting experiment to explore colour diffusion. They carefully arranged Skittles in a circle on a plate and poured warm water over them. As the water dissolved the colourful coating, they were thrilled to observe the vibrant beautiful patterns forming and spreading, creating a rainbow effect. The activity not only sparked their curiosity but also encouraged them to think about how materials dissolve and mix. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought science to life in a colourful and engaging way!



### Building Work Update:

This week, we have seen further progress on the construction project. The builders have been hard at work installing high quality insulation materials on the walls (with insulation work on the ceiling to begin next week) to ensure our additional learning space remain warm and energy - efficient during the cold winter months. This will provide a comfortable environment

where children can focus on their learning. Work has also begun on the roof and the window structures have been fitted, marking another exciting milestone in the project. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming weeks.



Next week we will be looking at **Truthfulness**. Children will be listening to stories, discussing and reflecting on 'When have you made something up that was fun? E.g. playing, stories, inventing. When have you told the truth? E.g. explaining events, telling facts. Which did you prefer and why?' for KS1 or 'Should you always try to seek truth?' for KS2. Perhaps you can have a discussion at home and spend some time with your child exploring the meaning of the quote: '*We learned about honesty and integrity - that the truth matters... that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules... and success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square.*' - Michelle Obama, First Lady United States 2009-2017 (1964 -) What might this quote mean? Let us try to encourage children to be alert to what is pretend and what is the truth and help them understand that seeking truth can be a long journey and requires patience.

#### Reminder:

Parents in Robins are invited to attend **Maths Workshop, taking place this afternoon at 2.30pm in Robins Classroom**. Mrs Brancato will share some strategies of how we support children with their Maths problem solving.

**Kestrels Festive Fundraiser** will take place this afternoon after school, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Don't miss out, get your Christmas Treats!

- Chocolate & sweet filled baubles
- Santa and Gingerbread Man Wristbands
- Snowman Soup
- Elf Hat sweetie cones

Plus an amazing game - "Find Santa's Face" to win a prize! Please come along to show your support and bring some cash.

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	Nancy DLPB	Charlie P
Nightingales	Amber H	Sienna C
Robins	William L	Eila B
Skylarks	Hector G-J	Jenson G
Red Kites	Harlow L	Sophie M
Kestrels	Finn H	Cara M

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	337	2866
Galileo (Green)	246	2338
Redgrave (Red)	220	2479
Yeats (Yellow)	298	2698

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: 25-11-24 to 29-11-24

Owls 99.4% Skylarks 87.5%

Nightingales 96.6% Red Kites 96.8%

Robins 97.8% Kestrels 93.5%

Whole School 94.7%



## 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.

## Scholastic Book Fair - THANK YOU



A big thank you to all the parents and families who visited the Scholastic Book Fair last week. Every book you bought from our Book

Fair will help our school get money towards purchasing new books for the School Library! If you haven't yet made your payment, please do so online at your earliest convenience. Your timely payments ensure we can complete the process smoothly. Thank you once again for your support.

## Year 2 Reading Workshop

Thank you to parents who attended the **Year 2 Reading Workshop** last Friday. We hope you found the session helpful and now have a clear understanding of the National Curriculum expectations for Year 2 Reading. We also hope you have learned some strategies and tips on how to support your child's reading comprehension skill at home.

## Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale

We are collecting unwanted jumpers for our **Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Parents can drop off any donations of unwanted jumpers, in good condition, next week, from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, during morning drop-off time. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Moor. Thank you for your support!

## Football News

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December after school our School



Football Team will play matches at 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.

## Parking Notice

**Please do not park outside the staff car park gate.** The narrow country road can become blocked, preventing access to the school and obstructing emergency vehicles, deliveries, and other essential services. We kindly ask for your cooperation to ensure clear access at all times. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## 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.

## PTA Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair this year will take place on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the School Hall from 1.00pm to 3.00pm**. There will be a lot of festive fun activities for all the children. Please refer to the leaflet and information on the PTA website for more details. We would like to thank Mrs Moor and Mrs Kennedy for stepping up and organising this event, with the support from Mrs Pitt.



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 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
	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale	3.10-4.00pm
	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:**

Maths Workshop PPT to EYFS

Kung Fu Club Chinses New Year Celebration Event Information Letter to Kung Fu Club

Lunch Order Reminder to parents

Parking Reminder to all

Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale Leaflet to all