



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 13

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe it's December already - this term has flown by! However, there is still plenty to do before we break up for Christmas. The festive spirit is in full swing and our corridors are filled with the sound of children's beautiful singing as they prepare for our much anticipated Christmas performances: The Nativity and Christingle Services. Throughout the week I have been lucky to catch snippets of our **KS1 Nativity** rehearsals, and they sound fantastic! We can't wait to see the children shine on stage next week. All parents of KS1 children are warmly invited to attend one of the two performances:

- **Wednesday 11th December at 2.15pm**
- **Thursday 12th December at 2.15pm**

Please make sure you have booked your seats via SCOPAY, if you have not done so.

A huge Thank You to our dedicated teachers and TAs who are working very hard to help the children get ready for these special performances. We look forward to welcoming you all and celebrating the joy of the season together!

Children are the most important people in our fabulous school. As part of our continued commitment to ensure our children receive the best possible education at WSL, we prioritise Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for all of our staff so that we are always equipped to provide the best possible support for our children. This week, during the staff meeting, teachers participated in training on the **Five to Thrive** Strategy, a practical framework designed 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. By integrating these principles into our classrooms, we aim to create a supportive environment where all children can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. We will extend this approach to parents by organising a dedicated workshop in Term 3, January 2025. We aim to help you support your children's emotional and social development. Please look out for the workshop date and further details, which will be shared soon once we have the final confirmation from the RBWM Psychological Wellbeing Team.



Thank you to all the parents who joined the Year 2 Reading and Maths Workshops over the past two Fridays. During these sessions, Mrs Brancato shared the key strategies we use at WSL to teach Reading comprehension and Maths. By using these same approaches at home, you can help ensure consistency and reinforce your child's learning effectively. We greatly value your feedback and are pleased to hear that you found the workshops both informative and helpful. Thank you once again for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. The presentation slides have been sent home for your reference. If you have any questions about how best to support your child at home, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Brancato.



Very informative and helpful to know the strategies taught so that we can teach the same way at home.

Very informative and explained well. Clearer on how to help at home.

Very clear workshop to understand more about teaching Maths.

The Maths session was really helpful and helped me better understand all these new strategies for learning.

Very useful, good to learn more about how the children practise their Maths, thanks.

Really clear explanation of all methods of Maths, thank you.

Reading workshop is very informative and helpful.

The English workshop was really useful and clear where we need to help the children.



On Wednesday this week, our **Girls Football Team** played against Lowbrook Academy and drew 2-2. They performed exceptional well as a team, showing strong defensive skills, excellent goalkeeping and outstanding attacking. Our two goals were scored by Florentina who has now scored 3 goals in total for this season. We are incredibly proud of them. Demonstrating our school values of determination, team work and perseverance. A huge well done and congratulations to the whole team for another exciting and inspirational performance! 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?

As part of their **Science** topic on Air Resistance and Gravity, this week, the children in **Kestrels Class** conducted an exciting experiment to determine which parachute could stay in the air the longest. This hands-on activity allowed the children to explore the principles of physics in a fun and engaging way. The children were given the freedom to design their own parachutes, choosing the shape and the length of the string. They tested various parachutes with different shapes and sizes to see which combination would perform the best. Through their experiments, they discovered that the longer the string and the larger the parachute, the better it performed in terms of staying in the air. Calyn, Ava and Tilley's group designed the best performing parachute and won the trophy! This experiment not only taught them about air resistance and gravity but also encouraged critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The children worked as a team and had a fantastic time learning through this practical experiment. Well done!



Building Work Update:

This week, we are excited to see the cladding go up on the new building and it is already looking fantastic! The progress is really coming together and it is wonderful to see the project taking shape. Here are some photos to show the progress of the building. We can't wait to share the finished result with you!



Next week we will be looking at **Non-Judgement**. Children will be listening to stories, discussing and reflecting on 'Before we say something unkind about someone's appearance or beliefs what should we THINK? Is it true? Is it kind? How would I feel??' (KS1) or 'How do you react to differences between us all?' (KS2). Perhaps you can have a discussion at home and spend some time with your child exploring the meaning of the quote: 'What was it about the differences in others that scared some people so much? —, *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman OBE, British Writer (1962 -) What might this quote mean? **Let's all try to open our mind to new people, stay curious about any differences we find, replace judgment with kindness.**

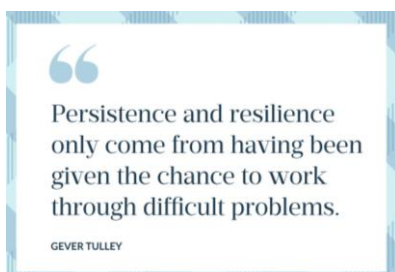
Reminder and Notice

- You can now order **tea towels** via the PTA-events website 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.
- PTA members will be collecting donations for **Toy and Bottle Tombola for Christmas Fair** next week w/c 4th December. They will be at the Stop and Drop Zone to collect them. Please bring in new or pre-loved toys (in very good condition), and a bottle of an alcoholic / non-alcoholic beverage on the day. Thank you.
- Parking** – Please ask you to ensure that your vehicle is parked legally and considerately at all times, in particular when collecting your child from school at the pickup time, giving due consideration to our neighbours and residents. Please do not park in front of their driveways. **Please do not park outside the staff car park gate** to ensure clear access at all times. The narrow country road can become blocked, preventing access to the school and obstructing emergency vehicles, deliveries, and other essential services. Thank you for your cooperation
- Parents in Owls Class, please note that **next week will be the last balanceability session for Term 2**. 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.



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	Isla K	Wren G-J
Nightingales	Sienna C	Joshua H
Robins	Ridley J	Theo P
Skylarks	Penelope W	Isabella T-H
Red Kites	Florentina H	Toby L
Kestrels	Oliver R	Caitlin C

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	267	3133
Galileo (Green)	201	2539
Redgrave (Red)	174	2653
Yeats (Yellow)	268	2966

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: 02-12-24 to 06-12-24

Owls 100% Skylarks 99.2%
Nightingales 95.5% Red Kites 95.8%
Robins 92.1% Kestrels 99.1%
Whole School 97.2%



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.

Reminder - After School Clubs

Please make a note of the date of final sessions for After School Extracurricular Clubs for this term.

Forest Fun Club ends on Monday 9th December.

LEGO Club ends on Tuesday 10th December.

Football Club (Yr1-4) ends on Tuesday 10th December.

Reading Club ends on Wednesday 11th December.

Kung Fu Club ends on Wednesday 11th December.

Chinese Club ends on Thursday 12th December.

Football Club (Yr5-6) ends on Thursday 12th December.

Netball Club ends on Thursday 12th December.

For the rest of the term 2, if you need child care, please book your child for our fantastic Woodpeckers Club running from Monday to Thursday.

Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale

We are collecting unwanted jumpers for our **Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13th 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 will be in operation next Monday 9th December. It can be found outside the Kestrels class next to the Christmas Tree. The Christmas Elves are to 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.

KS1 Nativity Play

The Key Stage 1 Nativity Play 'A Little Bird Told Me' will be staged at the following times:

- **Wednesday 11th December 2:15pm**
- **Thursday 12th December 2:15pm**

As space is limited for each performance, we would be very grateful if you would kindly book your seats via SCOPAY. We are setting a limit of two seats per child over two performances. Parents with very small children are welcome to join us on Monday 9th December to watch Dress Rehearsal. Please let the School Office know.

Christmas Jumpers Day on Wednesday 18th December

Children are invited to wear **Christmas Jumpers with their School Uniform on Wednesday 18th December** as part of our celebration of Christmas; in return, we would like parents to donate **£1 or more** in support of the local **Daisy's Dream** charity via the link to the JustGiving page for Daisy's Dream Christmas Jumper Day 2024 here www.justgiving.com/page/wsl-1732716517840 Thank you.

Christingle Service

Christingle Service will take place in Waltham St Lawrence Church on Thursday 19th December at 2:00pm.



After lunch at 1.10pm, children in Year 1-6 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 make sure your child's

hair is tied back for safety reasons. please refer to the letter sent home today for details.

No School Bags on the day please.

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/

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 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. 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)

December	Mon 9 th	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Whole School	2.15pm
	Wed 11 th	KS1 Nativity Performance to KS1 Parents	2.15pm
	Thurs 12 th	KS1 Nativity Performance to KS1 Parents	2.15pm
	Wed 11 th	Year 6 Height and Weight Screening Measure Check	9.30am
	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
February	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.wslprimary.org

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

- Reading Workshop and Maths Workshop PPT to Year 2
- Christmas Jumpers and Accessory Sale Leaflet to all
- Christmas Lunch Menu and Order Information to all
- Cardboard Boxes Required Info to all
- Parking Reminder to all