



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 16

Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is lovely to see everyone back at school looking refreshed. We have had a very busy first full week back at school and the children are full of enthusiasm and making such a positive start to the year.

At Assembly, the children have taken the opportunity of the New Year to think about the new beginnings and make resolutions and fulfil commitments. We reviewed our **School Golden Rules** and also shared our **Habit of the Month**. Our learners discussed how we can all follow the Golden Rules, make good choices and form good habits over time and work at our resolutions and be the best we can. We hope you also have a chat with your child/ren about their hopes or targets and goals as well as supporting us and children with the focused habit each month. In January we focus on **Only Our Best Will Do – Being patient and giving a verbal response at the right time and in the right manner**.



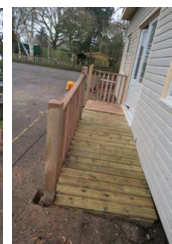
Since the beginning of this term, we have welcomed quite a few prospective parents who attended our Open Morning last Thursday and enjoyed the individual tours and meetings. We have some very positive feedback from them: *'Fantastic School! The tour was very informative. Fabulous learning environment and lovely ground! The school has a wonderful school ethos, focusing on the Whole Child. I'm very impressed with the curriculum offered.'* They all commented on how engaged our children are with their learning in all classes and how well organised our school is - so lovely to hear! Alexandra, Monty and Tejes, our Year 6 pupils, in their articulate and passionate presentations, provided an in-depth look into the distinctive qualities that make our school a nurturing

and inspiring place for learning. They skilfully conveyed the school's commitment to academic excellence, personal development, creativity and a supportive community. The parents asked many intriguing questions and our three Year 6 pupils answered them extremely well, convincing them our school is the best choice for their children. Their impressive presentation and responses made us so proud. Huge Well Done and Thank You to Alexandra, Monty and Tejes.

Spring Term is traditionally a period of significant progress, building on the foundations laid earlier at the start of the academic year. To ensure every child thrives, we continue to challenge and support learners as appropriate through targeted small group sessions with a clear focus on Speaking, Reading, Writing (including handwriting, spelling, vocabulary,) and Maths alongside social and emotional development. The needs of our children are always at the forefront of our school planning and we are committed to providing high quality resources to support our learners in meeting their full potential. In Term 4, you will have another opportunity to formally meet with Class Teachers to discuss your child/ren's progress and how we can continue to work in partnership in supporting their success.

We have very busy and exciting terms ahead including a few Curriculum Workshops for Parents, Celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Snake, World Book Day Activities, Parents Evenings and other occasions such as Class Assemblies to be resumed in Term 3 and 4, when you will be invited to join us in school. A list of key dates for Term 3 and 4 is provided on the final page of this Newsletter, with additional dates to be notified as and when they are known.

Just to keep you updated of our **School Improvement Project** - We are pleased to report significant progress on **building work**. The plastering of the interior walls has been completed, giving the inside of the building a smooth and finished look, ready for the next stage including installing the final fixtures and fittings and painting etc.. Additionally, the platform and ramp to the entrance are almost finished, complete with railings for added safety and support. The steps to the emergency exit have also been completed. We look forward to the continued progress on our facilities. Here are some photos to show the progress so far. **Volunteers Needed** - We would like some volunteers who can spare some time to help paint the interior and exterior walls of this building, please contact the School Office if you could help.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

Thanks to the money raised from the **Great Athletes Event** held in October, Term 1, we have purchased new PE equipment for our children! This equipment is already being put to great use, with some items specifically used for lunchtime activities where children have the freedom to choose from during the **Active Lunch Hour**. The children are thoroughly enjoying the new equipment. It is wonderful to see them having fun, staying active and being happy. These activities not only promote physical health but also encourage teamwork and creativity. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser. Your support is making a significant difference in our children's school experience! Here are some photos for your enjoy.



What have we been learning in school?

This week, our Year 2 children in Robins Class are diving into the world of money! They have been learning to recognise different notes and coins, compare their values and make various amount using a combination of both. They all enjoyed visiting 'Mrs Clark's Bank' where they had the exciting task of selecting the right amounts of money to buy an item from their partner's shop! This hands-on activity not only reinforced their understanding of money but also made learning fun and engaging. We would encourage parents to support this learning at home by involving children in real-life situations, such as counting change, comparing prices and discussing the value of different coins and notes. We all know that we do not use cash as much these days, but it is still important to create opportunities for children to handle real money. This helps them grasp the difficult concept of money and its value in everyday life. Your involvement can make a big difference in reinforcing these important skills.



This term, as part of our Relationships and Health Education Curriculum, we will be focusing on the Core Value of **LOVE**. During the week we have introduced the first related value, **Sharing**. We shared stories and discussed how sharing can make us feel happy inside. Through discussion, sharing their thoughts and feelings, children realise that we should share more with each other and care more for one another. Perhaps you can continue to explore this topic with your children at home. Next week, we will focus on the related values of **Consideration**. Children will think about questions such as 'Do you consider your friends' feelings? How might you show special consideration to your friends in need?' You may want to spend some time to explore the meaning of this quote with your child: *'A little Consideration, a little Thought for Others, makes all the difference.'* - Eeyore in Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne, British Author (1882-1956) What might this quote mean to you?

Reminder:

Kestrels Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 22nd January at 14.30 in the School Hall**. Family and friends of children in Kesrels Class are welcome to join us.



Next Thursday 23rd January, we will run a **'Five to Thrive Workshop for Parents/Carers at 1.45pm in the School Hall**, led by Natalie from RBWM Wellbeing Team. This workshop will explore the Five to Thrive building blocks and describe a sequence of relational activities that build healthy brains in young children and maintain healthy brain function throughout their life. Following this, Mrs Whyte and I will share our School Priorities with a particular focus on key strategies we use in teaching and developing effective and resilient learners. We hope as many of you can attend as possible.

A free online session on **Support Children's Behaviour at Home** is open to all parents and families. This is organised by Behaviour Book Club, will take place on **Thursday 30th January 2025, 20:00 – 21:00**. You can register via the link here <https://www.whentheadultschange.com/events> - Virtual event via Zoom

RWI and Reading Workshop for Year 1 Parents will be held on **Friday 24th January at 2.30pm** in Nightingales Classroom.

The staff, Governors and I value and thank you for your support for our school in all kinds of ways and look forward to working with you all throughout this term.

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	Joseph I	Eleanor B
Nightingales	Lily S	Joshua H
Robins	Finley A	Ava-Grace A
Skylarks	Samuel W	Preston M
Red Kites	Ethan C	Imogen H
Kestrels	Ardan M	Ellie T

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	255	255
Galileo (Green)	198	198
Redgrave (Red)	193	193
Yeats (Yellow)	276	276

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: 13-01-25 to 17-01-25

Owls 98.9% Skylarks 99.2%

Nightingales 95.5% Red Kites 96.3%

Robins 93.5% **Kestrels 99.6%**

Whole School 97.4%



Habit of the Month

In **January**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Being patient and giving a verbal response at the right time and in the right manner**. This is part of daily routines, please continue to support us by having high expectations for your child/ren and helping them all form good habits. Thank you.

KS2 SATs Information Meeting for Parents

Thank you to those parents who attended the KS2 SATs Information on Wednesday this week. We hope you found it informative and helpful. We encourage parents to support your children to do regular reading, practise SATs type of Homework and focus on areas where your child feels less confident. If you have any further questions or need additional advice, please come to speak with Mr Errington. We are here to support you and your child through this important stage.

Termly Curriculum Overview

Termly Curriculum Overview for each Year group have been uploaded on the School Website and can be accessed via <http://wslprimary.com/curriculum/>. These give you a broad overview of the learning that takes place in Term 3 & 4 for your children. It is a useful starting point for you to do some research, support homework or just have a conversation with your child about what they are learning at school.

Owls Balanceability Programme

The Balanceability Programme for children in Owls Class will continue throughout this term. Please make sure that children come into school in their PE Kit every Monday.

Class Assembly



Kestrels Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 22nd January at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Red Kites Class are welcome to join us.

RWI and Reading Workshop for Year 1 Parents

RWI and Reading Workshop for Year 1 Parents will be held on **Friday 24th January at 2.30pm** in **Nightingales Classroom**.

Dance Festival Information for Parents in Red Kites

This year our school performance will be on Thursday 13th February. Tickets for the Primary Dance Festival will be **£8.50 each + booking fee**, payable through the TicketSource website via the link here for THURS 13th FEB- <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ascot-maidenhead-school-sport-partnership/primary-dance-festival-2025/2025-02-13/13:00/t-pqdrmm>

It is initially limited to 1 ticket per child. Due to the large numbers of schools and children taking part (400), this limit allows all families access to at least 1 ticket to see their child. These are general admission tickets only, so not allocated row and seat numbers.

Doors will open at 12.45pm ahead of a 1.00pm performance, and is scheduled for 2.30pm finish.

If the tickets are not initially sold out, then there will be the **option to purchase further tickets from THURS 23rd JANUARY – 12 Noon through the same link**

Please note: Tickets are Non Refundable

Clubs for Term 3 & 4

All Clubs have started this week. All clubs finish at 4.10pm or otherwise indicated. There will be no teacher led clubs during the week when we have Parents Evenings in Term 4. Please refer to the Clubs Timetable which can be accessed on the Website. Please ensure that you have firm collection arrangements in place for your child/ren as it can become very unsettling, if they are not collected on time.

Breakfast Club and Woodpeckers After School Care Club run as usual throughout the term. Please do take advantage of this wonderful extended school service we offer at WSL and plan your childcare and book sessions in advance via SCOPAY, in particular, booking **before the deadline for Woodpeckers Club so that we can make appropriate arrangements for staffing.**

Healthy Snacks and Water only in Water Bottles

As a Healthy School, please can we remind parents that snacks for break times should be **a piece of fruit or vegetable only**. We request that no crisps, cereal or chocolate bars or sweets (including Smarties, chocolate buttons etc.) are allowed during break time. Please make sure **only water** should be in filled in your child's school branded water bottle, no fizzy drinks.

Supporting Children's Behaviour at Home

This free online session is open to all parents and families, on 30 Jan 2025, 20:00 – 21:00. You can register via <https://www.whentheadultschange.com/events>

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: Mrs Harmit Kaur Thiara (Parent Governor)

Dates for Your Diary

The Academic Year 2024-2025

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 10th	Year 3-5 Road Safety Workshops	1.05pm
		Parent Survey on EYFS Provision due today	3.00pm
	w/c 13 th	All Clubs start this week	
	Wed 22 nd	Kestrels Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Thurs 23rd	Five too Thrive Parent Workshop & School Priorities – SAVE the Date	1.45pm
	Fri 24th	RWI and Reading Workshop for Year 1 Parents	2.30pm
February	Wed 29 th	Chinese New Year of the Snake	
	Wed 5 th	Skylarks Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Sun 9 th	Chinese New Year Celebration in Oxford Town Hall	
	Thurs 13 th	RBWM Dance Festival – Red Kites - details to follow	
	Fri 14 th	End of Term 3	3.10pm

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

Term 4 (30 days)

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

Welcome Back and Happy New Year Letter to all	Robins Class Temporary Cover Letter to Robins
Homework Letter to Kestrels	Dance Festival Ticket Sale Information to Red Kites
Dragon Dance Workshop Letter to all	Club Booking Information and Reminder to all
Termly Curriculum Overview on School Website	Parents Survey about EPFS Provision to all
GEMS Courses Leaflet	
Windsor & Maidenhead Symphony Orchestra Spring and Summer Concerts Leaflets to all	

