



# 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 17

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to those parents who took the time to attend the **Five to Thrive Workshop** and **Information Meeting** on Thursday, led by Natalie from the RBWM Wellbeing Team. The workshop explored the *Five to Thrive* building blocks, describing a sequence of relational activities that support healthy brain development in young children and maintain healthy brain function throughout their life. Following this, I shared our school priorities, with a particular focus on *Quality First Teaching (QFT)* and the *Walkthrus* teaching techniques which we use to develop effective, independent and resilient learners. I also explained how the QFT strategy is used to support children with SEND. Additionally, I gave an update on our assessment system, introducing the use of a new code to track children's progress and attainment starting from Term 4. Thank you for your feedback. We were delighted that you found the session formative and useful. While we were pleased to have those parents at the session, we would have appreciated the attendance of even more parents at this important event. If you have any questions or would like further information or handouts, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Thank you to all the children in Kestrels for a fantastic Class Assembly on Wednesday this week. They shared their learning across a range of subjects in Term 3 with clarity and confidence and an impressive awareness of their audience. The children demonstrated excellent oracy skills, speaking clearly and engagingly while explaining fraction calculations in Maths, presenting their Values Poems, formal, informal letters and crafting narratives with rich vocabulary and varied sentence structures. They provide precise step-by-step instructions on how to draw portraits, demonstrating their ability to communicate effectively. Their scientific explanations about the heart were shared with specific vocabulary, reflecting a deep understanding of the topic. The children's 'How to Stay Safe Online' rules demonstrated their strong understanding of responsible internet use. Their Mandarin conversation dialogue was outstanding, delivered with perfect tones and pronunciation. Everyone was impressed with their energetic dance performance, this highlighted not only their creativity but also their understanding of 1960s and 1970s dance styles. It is evident that our learners have been working incredibly hard, with each child putting in tremendous effort and displaying remarkable enthusiasm and dedication. We are especially proud of their ability to present their learning confidently and thoughtfully. WELL DONE, children! Thank you to parents and friends for attending and for your continued support. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



### What have we been learning in school?

In their **Art** lesson, the children in **Nightingales Class** have been focused on experimenting with primary colours and mixing them to create secondary colours. They had fantastic time unleashing their creativity and discovering the magic of colour mixing!



This week in **Science**, **Year 4 children** have been testing the melting point of chocolate using trays of water at different temperatures. They carefully measured the temperature of the water with thermometers and then timed how long it took for the chocolate to melt in each tray. Well done Year 4.



This term, as part of our Relationships and Health Education Curriculum, we will be focusing on the Core Value of **LOVE**. Next week, we will focus on the related values of **Loyalty**. Children will think about questions such as 'Are you a loyal friend? Or 'has your loyalty ever been tested? You may want to spend some time with your child/ren and discuss 'Have you ever chosen to be loyal to a friend? What did you do? How did it make you feel? Or explore the meaning of this quote with your child/ren: 'Where you tend a rose, my lad, a thistle cannot grow.' - *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, novelist (1849 - 1924). What might this quote mean to you? Through sharing our experiences and thoughts, we would like children to understand that - A loyal friend is a faithful, devoted friend, who sticks with you through thick and thin.

### Reminder:

- **Volunteers Needed:** We are seeking enthusiastic parents to help paint the external and internal walls of our new building. If you are interested in lending a hand, please let the School Office know. Thank you for your support!
- **Children in Skylarks and Red Kites Class** took part in the **Road Safety Show** on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please make sure your children return their completed **Safer Steps Booklet** before their certificate can be presented to them. Thank you.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm** in **Nightingales Classroom**.
- **The Chinese New Year of the Snake** (Spring Festival) will start on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will last for 15 days, finishing off on the Fifteenth day with Lantern Festival (Yuan Xiao Festival) on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025. In their Mandarin lessons, children have opportunities to learn about how people celebrate the Spring Festival, acquire new vocabulary and sing songs related to the New Year.

As part of the celebration of **The Chinese New Year of the Snake**, we have organised **Chinese Dragon Dance Workshops on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. Please can you make the payment via SCOPAY ASAP. We would like to invite you to join us at the end of the school day on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, at **3.10pm** when some of our children will showcase their newly acquired Dragon Dance skills and drum rhythms. This special performance will be a highlight of our celebration and we encourage you to witness the joy and enthusiasm the children will bring to this cultural experience. Please refer to the letter sent home last week for details. Thank you.

I wish you all **新年快乐! Xīn nián kuài lè!** Happy New Year of the Snake.

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	Evie T	Nelson B-C
Nightingales	Jay E	Harper R
Robins	Eila B	William J
Skylarks	Monty W	Henry J
Red Kites	Cody R	Carter T-S
Kestrels	All children for an outstanding class assembly	

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	196	451
Galileo (Green)	172	370
Redgrave (Red)	217	415
Yeats (Yellow)	196	472

The Winning House for this week is **Redgrave**. Well done.

## Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 20-01-25 to 24-01-25

Owls 96.6%	Skylarks 73.3%
Nightingales 73.9%	Red Kites 91.2%
Robins 88.8%	<b>Kestrels 99.1%</b>
Whole School 87.1%	



## 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.

## Free Session on Support Children's Behaviour at Home

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## 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.

## Class Assembly



Skylarks Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Skylarks Class are welcome to join us.

## Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting

The Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting for Year 1 Parents will be held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm** in **Nightingales Classroom**.

## KS1 SATs Information Meeting

KS1 SATs Information Meeting will take place on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2.25pm** in **Robins Classroom**. This will give you information about what the optional SATs are, what they contain and how to best prepare the children for them.

## KS2 Year 6 SATs Dates 2025

The dates for this year's Year 6 SATs are **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**. If your child is in Year 6, it is vital that they are in school that week.

## Dance Festival Information for Parents in Red Kites

This is just a **REMINDER** that online ticket sales for the Dance Festival went live last Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 12 Noon. It is **1 ticket per child for the first 7 days**. This 1 ticket limit is to ensure every child (over 400 of them!) get the chance to have a parent / guardian / family member come to watch them. **From 12 Noon on THURS 23<sup>rd</sup> January parents can go onto same link and buy further tickets unlimited**. Here is the link for THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> February - <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ascot-maidenhead-school-sport-partnership/primary-dance-festival-2025/2025-02-13/13:00/t-pqdrmq>

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 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY – 12 Noon through the same link**

**Please note:** Tickets are Non Refundable

## End of Day Collection & Clubs Booking Deadline

The school finishes at 3.10pm and clubs end at 4.10pm. Please ensure that you **collect your child on time** or 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 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**.

## Safer internet Day 2025



Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. **Safer Internet Day 2025** will take place on **11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, with celebrations and learning based around the theme **'Too Good To Be True? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'**. We will take part in this important event and plan activities based on the theme for children to explore and discuss.



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	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Five to Thrive Parent Workshop & School Priorities – SAVE the Date	1.45pm
	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	RWI and Reading Workshop for Year 1 Parents	2.30pm
	Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year of the Snake	
February	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Skylarks Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year Celebration in Oxford Town Hall	
	Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day	
	Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	RBWM Dance Festival – Red Kites - details to follow	
	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term	3.10pm
		Nightingales Class Cake Sale	3.10pm

**February Holiday: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**

#### Term 4 (30 days)

February	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term 4	
	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Optional SATs Information Meeting	2.25pm
March	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting	2.30pm
	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Red Kites Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Robins Class Assembly	2.30pm
	w/c 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last session /week for Teacher Led Clubs	
	Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening for All Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening for All Classes	5.00-7.00pm
	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening for KS2 Classes	3.30-5.30pm
April	Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Easter Egg Hunt & PTA Easter Hat Competition	
	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term 4	1.00pm

**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)

April	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
May	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday	
	12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 SATs Week	
	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)

June	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
July	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:**

The Five to Thrive Workshop and Information Meeting Reminder to all

Dance Festival Ticket Sale Reminder to Red Kites

National Child Measuring Programme Letter to Owls

RWI and Reading Workshop Reminder to Nightingales