



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 18

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very pleased that many parents have attended curriculum workshops or information meetings we offered recently. Parents in Nightingales Class learned more about how we teach children at the **RWI and Reading Workshop** last Friday. Many parents commented on how useful the workshop was and that they have learned a few strategies to help develop their child's ability to decode, segment and blend and check their understanding on the text read.

Thank you to many parents in Year 6 who attended **KS2 SATs Information Meeting** on 15<sup>th</sup> January. We hope you found this meeting useful and learned more about what SATs are, what they contain and how you can best prepare the children for them. Handouts were sent home for those who were unable to attend. If you need more information, please speak to Mr Errington.



As part of the celebration of **The Chinese New Year of the Snake**, this Wednesday, our children had the incredible opportunity to take part in a **Dragon Dance Workshop**, bringing a burst of colour, rhythm, and movement to our school! At each workshop, before the dance began, the instructor shared some insightful background information about the significance of the Chinese Dragon. The children learned about the traditional Chinese Dragon Dance, a vibrant and energetic performance that symbolises strength, wisdom, and good fortune. They attended the workshops in their class groups, working together as a team to bring the dragon to life. The children learned how to move in synchronisation, handle the dragon's long, flowing body, and create dynamic movements to the beat of the drum. The experience not only enhanced their understanding of cultural traditions but also encouraged teamwork, coordination, and creativity. The joy and excitement on the children's faces were clear to see, and the workshop was a fantastic way to promote physical activity while immersing them in a unique and engaging cultural experience. A huge thank you to our Hulutang Team for delivering such an inspiring session! We hope you enjoyed the end-of-day performance on the playground, where the children had the chance to showcase what they had learned, including the two playful lions. What a way to start the celebration of the New Year of the Snake. Read on to find out more about what the children say about the Dragon Dance Workshops.



*It was good. I liked learning about the dragon. The yellow one had a longer body. – Betsy*

*I liked playing with the dragon. It was really squiggly and lots of fun. I liked the music. – Freddie*

*I liked that when we held the dragon and we moved it about. It was fun and I enjoyed it. – Jay*

*The dragon dance was amazing and the drums were as well. The creativity was a mesmerizing and the information about the pearl and the meaning of the colours. I loved the realism and how much we all learnt, the lions were such a good addition to the dance – Jorgie*

*Thank you for the brilliant dragon dance. I really enjoyed it and I loved being the lion with Imogen and learning how to do the dance and I am looking forward to the Oxford performance – Dorothy*

*It was really fun because you got to have control of the dragon, how it moves, how high or low it goes and all of the features a dragon has – James*

*I think the dragon dance workshop was really fun and I learnt a lot, for example how to switch hands while holding the pole of the dragons body. The dance at the end of the day was even better and Imogen, Dorothy and Wilf did really well to be in those really fluffy and cool lion costumes - Grace*

*I liked that we got to hold the dragon. It was heavy, I liked the look of the dragon. – Sienna*

*I got to hold the dragon and wiggle it. It was very good and lots of fun. – Reggie*

*I liked the dragon. It was good to move the dragon around. – Freya*

## What have we been learning in school?

Children in **Owls Class** and our **After School Chinese Club** have been busy learning about the New Year through a variety of engaging activities. One of the highlights was making New Year cards and dragons. We are proud of their enthusiasm and the wonderful work they have produced.



This week, the children in Kestrels Class has been diving into the exciting world of persuasive advertising! Our young learners have been honing their skills in crafting compelling ads, focusing on key features such as catchy slogans, engaging visuals, and persuasive language. The children designed their own advertisements, incorporating these elements to create eye-catching and convincing pieces. Here are a few examples for you to enjoy:



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 **Openness**. Children will think about questions such as 'Are you an open friend? Or 'Are you open to experiencing variety? You may want to spend some time with your child/ren to discuss and explore the meaning of this quote: 'We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.' – Martin Luther King Junior, American Activist (1929 - 1968) What might this quote mean to you? Through sharing our experiences and thoughts, we would like all of us to act upon the value and try to embrace variety as the spice of life that gives it all its flavour.

## Reminder:

- **Children in Skylarks and Red Kites Class** took part in a **Road Safety Show** on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, please can you make sure your child/ren return their booklet before their certificate can be presented to them. Thank you.
- **Skylarks Class Assembly** will take place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February next week at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Skylarks are welcome to join us.



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	Valentina C	Kai S
Nightingales	Hunter H	Sienna C
Robins	Henry M	Reya T
Skylarks	Charlie M	Rupert M-P
Red Kites	Alanna T	Dorothy M
Kestrels	Oliver H	Alex S-L

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	239	690
Galileo (Green)	162	532
Redgrave (Red)	199	614
Yeats (Yellow)	178	650

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:** 27-01-25 to 31-01-25

Owls 97.7%	Skylarks 96.7%
<b>Nightingales 100%</b>	Red Kites 96.3%
Robins 97.5%	Kestrels 97.4%
Whole School 97.5%	



## 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.

## New Homework Task for Red Kites Class

Mastery of times tables is crucial for much of the Maths Curriculum. Starting next week, w/c **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**, the children in Red Kites Class will be receiving a new weekly Maths Homework task focusing on improving times tables recall. Each week, the children will revisit a specific times table and complete a short 5-minute test. The task can be accessed on Purple Mash under the children's 'To Do' section, in the exact same way as their weekly spellings. If you have any problems accessing the task, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Hill.

## 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.

## PTA Copas Turkey Fundraiser

If anyone shops at Copas, please remember to use the code **WSLP24PTA** before checking out. The PTA will be given a small percentage of what is spent in 2025. So far this year the PTA have received **£28.68** from Turkey sales. Please spread the word to family and friends. Thank you.

## 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

The Dance Festival will take place at the Baylis Theatre at **Braywick Leisure Centre on Thursday 13<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.** Doors will open at 12.45pm ahead of a 1.00pm performance, and is scheduled for 2.30pm finish. Please refer to the letter sent home today for more details.

## 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.



## The Lych Gate Magazine

As we have many families who live outside the village, to keep you up to date and possibly involved in any village events, The Lych Gate magazine provides an ideal source of information, **in addition our children's work is regularly published in the magazine.**

Copies are available at **£1.00** each from the school. They are located on the window sill opposite the School Office with an 'Honesty Box' for the £1.00 charge per magazine or 50p for any old issues. All money will be used to cover the cost of printing.

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:**

Dance Festival Final Arrangements Letter to Red Kites

National Child Measuring Programme Letter to Owls

Temporary Cover Letter to Robins

Maths Homework Letter to Red Kites

Payment reminder for Dragon Dance Workshop to all