



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 20

Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an incredible week of learning and enriching experience it has been for all the children at WSL!

This week is our **Assessment Week**. Class Teachers have assessed where the children are in Reading, Writing, SPaG, Maths and other aspects of the curriculum. This is an important part of teaching and learning at WSL and it enables teachers to identify gaps in children's knowledge and understanding so that teachers can plan forward to address any misconceptions and gaps and put in place any intervention programs to enable them to make further progress. At the end of Term 4, in late March, there will be another opportunity for you to formally come into school and speak to your child's Class Teachers about the progress your child/ren is/are making and how we can continue to work in partnership to provide the best for all of our learners!



On Tuesday **Safer Internet Day**, the children in their class groups learned about online safety through stories and activities based around the theme '**Too Good To Be True? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**', to inspire a conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. The children had the opportunity to explore the responsibility they have to help keep themselves safe.

- It is so important that you take the time to have a conversation with your children about what they are doing and stay engaged with your children's digital lives.
- As parents you can use parental controls on devices and apps to restrict access to inappropriate content. Most devices and platforms offer robust parental control settings.
- Parents can always check age ratings on games and programmes. These ratings are there to help you understand the content and whether it is suitable for our child's age group.

It is our duty and care to keep reminding our learners about the importance of staying safe online. Please refer to the posters sent home for more tips on how to keep children safe online. You can access more tips, advice, guide and resources for parents via the link here <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Last Friday at the Celebration Assembly, the **School Council** shared some of the fantastic work they have been doing to make our school an even better place for all of us.

They presented **Road Safety Parking Posters** they designed to ensure everyone's safety when arriving at and leaving school. The poster highlighted key safety tips for drivers and pedestrians, encouraging everyone to follow these guidelines. These will be put up as a reminder for all road users.

They shared feedback they have given to Caterlink about school meal portions. Changes are being made to ensure that meal portions are more satisfying and nutritious for everyone.

The School Council reminded everyone about the importance of proper use of school equipment and taking care of our property during free choice activities at lunch time. They encouraged responsible use of sports gear, classroom supplies, and playground equipment to keep them in good condition for all to enjoy.

The School Council's efforts show their commitment to representing all children and making positive changes in our school. They have been working hard to represent all children and address important issues, demonstrating their leadership and dedication to making our school an even better place. A special thank you to Miss Hill and Miss Bennett for leading the School Council and organising the meetings. Their guidance and support have been invaluable.



Primary Dance Festival 2025 '20' - A HUGE THANK YOU & WELL DONE to all the staff involved and children in Red Kites who delivered such an incredible performance '100 Years of Magic' at Braywick Leisure Centre yesterday – the confidence, joy and enthusiasm radiating from each child on stage were palpable. Dressed in beautiful costumes and performing with carefully crafted props, they showcased wonderful formations and seamless choreography. A special highlight was an impressive 'magic trick' by twins, Felix and Toby, that added an extra touch of wonder to the performance! What a great and unforgettable show! They have done our school and parents proud! It was a long day, but the children were very well behaved, sensible throughout the day and showed patience and resilience. Thank you to Miss Hill, Mrs Macaulay-Brown and Mrs Sinibaldi for supervising them

all day and anyone involved who have in their different roles, organised, supported & prepared the dance, in particular, Mrs Macaulay-Brown who has been instrumental in this annual event, taught the dance movements, sourced and prepared costumes, for always willing to go the extra mile; Miss Howe who helped with all of the logistics & ticketing arrangements. Thank you to parents for your great support and transporting your child/ren to and from the event. It has been a great achievement and an amazing memorable, enriching experience for our children and all involved! Well done, children!

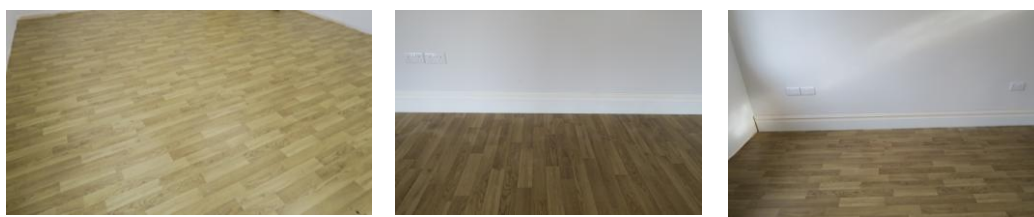


Please note - Primary Dance Festival DVD / USB ORDER Link – Deadline for FREE delivery – 17th MARCH. Local company, Pico Productions, professionally filmed the performances on each day of the Primary Dance Festival & copies of the DVD or USB stick are available to buy now on line. It costs **£12.00 for DVD**, or **£16.00 for USB stick** and **orders received before 17th MARCH will receive FREE DELIVERY**, as these will be delivered to your school to distribute in one go. **Orders received after this time will be charged £2.50 postal and admin fee.** Here is the link <https://www.picoproductions.co.uk/> - scroll to bottom of page and you will see the link for either day.

The School Sport Partnership receives £1.50 from every DVD sold and these funds are really important to help keep the dance programme going in the future.

Building Updates

Over the past two weeks, generous parents have kindly volunteered their time to paint the interior walls and ceiling of the new building, giving the space a fresh, calm feel —thank you! This week, the flooring was completed with a durable rustic oak effect, adding warmth and character. The skirting boards have also been fitted, providing a polished finish. With the groundwork nearly complete, we are now moving on to the exciting stage of furnishing the space. Orders for tables, chairs, bookcases and a rug etc. are underway, bringing us one step closer to completion. Stay tuned for more updates!



What have we been learning in school?

In their **Computing** lessons, the children in **Kestrels Class** have been looking at different styles of on-line quiz questions with clear purpose and audience and were given the brief 'to create their own Fairy-Tale Quiz for a child in Robins.' On Wednesday afternoon, following their previous learning, all the children in **Robins Class** were excited to be invited to Kestrels to try out and critique the quizzes. They tried out as many as they could, while the creators stood by to provide help if needed but also to watch their quiz in action and to evaluate its effectiveness. All the children (and the staff!) had a very enjoyable computing lesson together!



This week, in their **Art** lesson the children in **Skylarks Class** have been developing their observational drawing skills by creating detailed still-life sketches of fruit. They focused on looking closely at shapes, textures, and shading to bring their artwork to life. Using a variety of techniques, they explored how to blend and layer colours for depth and realism. It's been wonderful to see their concentration and creativity shine—well done, children!



Reminder:

- **Nightingales Class Cake Sale** will take place **today Friday 14th February at 3.10pm** outside the Dining Hall. Please come along with cash and show your support. Thank you.
- We cannot emphasise how important it is for the children to develop their **oracy** skills, such as listening to and retelling stories and **read EVERY DAY!** Please continue to do so during the holiday. Together we will help our children to achieve their potential.
- Maidenhead Big Read is to inspire the love of reading and we will also celebrate the World Book Day in Term 4. We have already secured a few Workshops for our children including face to face author visits as well online sessions.
- Please refer to the leaflets sent home yesterday for details about this weekend's event at Maidenhead Library. It's a fantastic opportunity for families to meet some incredible authors and illustrators!
 - **Nick Arnold**, author of the *Horrible Science* books, will be sharing fascinating insights;
 - **Zak Simmonds-Hurn**, illustrator for *The Phoenix* magazine, will lead interactive draw-alongs;
 - **Iszi Lawrence** will captivate children with stories of WWII at White Waltham Airfield; and
 - **Catherine Bruton**, author of *No Ballet Shoes in Syria*, will discuss her latest book, *Bird Boy*.

All events are free to attend, with no advance booking required. Don't miss out!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU for your unwavering support, giving up your time to help the school in various ways. Whether it is listening to children read, helping at Stop and Drop, braving all weather conditions, painting and decorating our new learning space, or organising class cake sales to raise more money for school or offering kind words etc. – your efforts are deeply appreciated! Thank you for making a great difference which benefit all of our children at WSL!

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **MONDAY 24th February 2025** for the start of Term 4.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

Star Pupils of Term 3

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been a good role model demonstrating and promoting our School values: having positive attitude to learning, doing their best, working hard, being respectful and showing good manners. Their photographs are displayed on the Star Pupils Board in the School Hall.

EYFS: Millie W
Year 1: Reggie D
Year 2: Theo P
Year 3: Blake R
Year 4: Imogen H
Year 5: Cody R
Year 6: Calyn L



House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	214	1370
Galileo (Green)	196	930
Redgrave (Red)	182	1024
Yeats (Yellow)	151	1023

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: 10-02-25 to 14-02-25

Owls 92.0%	Skylarks 97.5%
Nightingales 93.2%	Red Kites 93.5%
Robins 92.5%	Kestrels 95.7%
Whole School 94.3%	



Habit of the Month

In **January**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Showing respect and responding to all adults in the exactly the same way**. 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.

Thank You and Well Done

Thank you and Well Done to **Wilfred, Ava, Imogen and Dorothy** for an amazing performance of Dragon Dance, Monkey Sticks and Kung Fu on stage as part of the New Year Celebration at the Town Hall in Oxford on Sunday 9th February. We are very proud of them, Thank you to parents and family for your ongoing support.

Football News



During the last two weeks our School Football Team played 2 matches. We are delighted that the children worked extremely hard and the Girls Team won 1-0 against All Saints Junior, the Boys Team lost 3-2 against All Saints in a very close match. Well Done to the team! Thanks to Mr Errington for organising these events and parents for transporting children to and from the school. Your continued and enthusiastic support is much appreciated.

Class Assembly

Red Kites Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 12th March at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends of children in Red Kites Class are welcome to join us.



World Book Day & Maidenhead Big Read

Celebrating **World Book Day** is one of the highlights of the School Year at WSL. To mark the **World Book Day on Thursday 6th March** this year, we will have a Non-Uniform Day when children are invited to come to school in their favourite book characters. **The Maidenhead Big Read Event** will take place between 3rd March and 14th March 2025 in and around Maidenhead. We will be taking part in this event as part of the celebration of **World Book Day** this year. Please refer to the leaflets for more details.

Open Maths Sessions for Parents

You are invited to come to your child's Open Maths Session to see how Maths is taught and how children learn at WSL. The Open Session will start **from 9.00am to 10.00am** or as indicated otherwise on the following date for each class. Please save the dates.

✚ Kestrels	Tuesday 5 th March
✚ Red kites	Tuesday 18 th March
✚ Skylarks	Wednesday 19 th March
✚ Nightingales	Thursday 20 th March
✚ Robins	Tuesday 25 th March

Writing Workshop for Parents in Owls

Writing Workshop for parent in Owls will take place on **Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 2.30pm** in Owls Classroom. Please save the date.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting

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

KS1 SATs Information Meeting

KS1 SATS Information Meeting will take place on **Friday 28th 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 12th – Thursday 15th May 2025**. If your child is in Year 6, it is vital that they are in school that week.

E- Safety and Resources

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we are committed to teaching our pupils about. Here are some resources which you may find helpful in supporting your children online:

- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the [UK Safer Internet Centre \(saferinternet.org.uk/parents\)](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents)
- Advice for parents and carers from [Childnet \(childnet.com/parents-and-carers\)](https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from [Common Sense Media \(commonsense.org\)](https://www.common Sense Media (commonsense.org))
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from [Internet Matters \(internetmatters.org/controls\)](https://www.internetmatters.org/controls)
- Information and reporting of online grooming or sexual abuse from [CEOP \(ceop.police.uk\)](https://www.ceop.police.uk)

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)

Governors can be contacted via email to clerk@wslprimary.org

Dates for Your Diary

The Academic Year 2024-2025

Term 3 (30 days)

February	Fri 14 th	End of Term	3.10pm
		Nightingales Class Cake Sale	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	
	Fri 28 th	KS1 Optional SATs Information Meeting	2.25pm
March	3 rd to 14 th	Maidenhead Big Read Festival	
	Tues 4 th	Open Maths Session for Parents in Kestrels Class	9.00-9.50
	Fri 7 th	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting	2.30pm
	10 th -13 th	World Book Day Workshops for all children in School	
	Wed 12 th	Red Kites Class Assembly	2.30pm
	w/c 17 th	Last session /week for Teacher Led Clubs	
	Tues 18 th	Open Maths Session for Parents in Red Kites Class	9.00-9.50
	Wed 19 th	Open Maths Session for Parents in Skylarks Class	9.00-9.50
	Wed 19 th	Robins Class Assembly	2.30pm
	Thurs 20 th	Open Maths Session for Parents in Nightingales Class	10.00-10.50
	Tues 25 th	Open Maths Session for Parents in Robins Class	9.00-9.50
	Tues 25 th	Parents Evening for All Classes	3.30-5.30pm
	Wed 26 th	Writing Workshop for Parents in Owls	2.30pm
	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	
	12 th -15 th	KS2 SATs Week	
	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:

Robins Class Staffing Update Letter to Robins

Maidenhead's Big Read - Weekend Event Leaflets to all

February Half Term Fun Football Coaching Leaflet at Winnersh to all

Dragon Dance Payment Reminder