



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 25

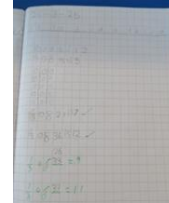
Friday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an eventful week we have had!

It was wonderful to see and talk to so many of you at **Parent Evenings** this week. Thank you very much for coming to see your child's Class Teacher and spending time discussing your child's progress. We hope you enjoyed viewing your children's work and found the information you received useful and know how you can support your child/ren. We believe that working in partnership with parents is an integral part of your child's success; your support is very much appreciated and will most certainly optimise your child's progress. If for any reason, you were not able to attend on either of the specified evenings, please do talk to your child's Class Teacher so that another appointment can be made. Please do not feel that these meetings are the only opportunity to speak with Class Teachers, you are always welcome to speak to your child's Class Teacher at the end of the day if you so wish. Please go to the school website where you can find many online resources to support your child's learning at home.

On Tuesday this week, Robins Class hosted an engaging **Open Maths Session** for parents. The focus of the session was on recognising simple fractions and working out fractions of given numbers. Parents had the opportunity to observe and participate in various activities designed to help children understand fractions in a fun and interactive way. The children demonstrated their ability to identify fractions such as halves, quarters, and thirds, and applied their knowledge to solve practical problems involving fractions of numbers. The session was a wonderful success. We hope you have gained insights into how Maths is taught at WSL, enhancing your understanding of the methods and strategies used in the classroom. Thank you for your support.



At the **Writing Workshop for parent in Owls**, held on Wednesday this week, Miss Painter shared the Early Learning Goals for writing and explained how Early Years Team support children in making the transition to Year One. She highlighted the importance of using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in their writing. To give parents practical ideas for supporting writing at home, Miss Painter modelled *Red Ditties* and *Green Get Writing* books from the RWI Phonics programme, showing how children can *hold a sentence* and *complete a sentence* at home. She also discussed using picture stimuli to write for different purposes, such as making lists, writing weekend news and cards. Miss Painter also discussed proof reading and editing their work, using a different colour to mark their changes. She emphasised the importance of correct letter formation, especially as children prepare for Year One and begin formal handwriting. Miss Painter answered parents' questions and offered advice on making writing as fun and interesting as possible by linking it to children's interests. We hope you have found the session helpful and took away some useful tips to support your child's learning at home.

We were honoured to welcome **Alex Barfield, the High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire 2024-2025**, to our school for a special assembly on Wednesday this week. This event was a significant highlight, providing children with valuable insights into law enforcement and community safety. During the assembly, the High Sheriff shared his roles and responsibilities, explaining his voluntary position and the importance of his work in the community. The children were particularly fascinated by his attire and the ceremonial sword, sparking a lively Q&A session. They asked many questions about his uniform and the history behind it. The engaging discussions and interactive sessions left a lasting impression, fostering a sense of responsibility and awareness among the children. It was a memorable experience that we hope will inspire our children to contribute positively to their community. We extend our sincere thanks to the High sheriff for taking the time to visit us. His presence and support means a great deal to our village school.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

Here's what the children say...

I liked his sword and the sheath that held his sword. I was impressed he had a real sword. – Forrest

I found it very interesting to learn about what sheriffs did in the past. – Ava

The High Sheriff is very cool and he told us about all of the responsibilities he has and he showed us his sword. He also told us about his uniform. – Ayrton

I loved learning about the High Sheriff. I didn't know that he was the one who introduced Joshua Reynolds to the House of Commons. He is actually the youngest High Sheriff in the land. Sadly, they only have their job for one year because in the olden days, kings didn't want their high sheriffs to be too powerful. He represents the King in Law and order. You get picked to be the High Sheriff, not paid! – Lowry

I think that meeting the high sheriff was very interesting. I learnt that there are 55 High Sheriffs in the UK, I also learnt that you only hold the position for 1 year. My favorite 2 facts were that if you are High Sheriff you have permission to wear a special sword, my other favorite fact was that you don't get paid to do it. Overall it was a fantastic and inspiring visit – Mason

It was such a great experience. We got to ask questions and found out lots like he doesn't like to wear his uniform because it's uncomfortable. He also has never used his sword, other than being the High Sheriff he also does a lot of charity events. – Ava

Last Friday, our children had the exciting opportunity to participate in **Dinosaurs and Fossil Dig Workshops**. They transformed into real-life palaeontologists, uncovering hidden fossils and learning about prehistoric creatures in a hands-on and interactive way. It was fantastic to see our young scientists so engaged in their discoveries! Here are some photos and children's comments



I liked learning about how to be a paleontologist. – Dixie

I really liked digging up the fossils that came from the Ocean – Wilf

I learnt a lot about fossils and I enjoyed looking up to find out what we had uncovered. – Riley

I enjoyed digging for the fossils and we found one that was 150 million years old. – William

Children's comments continued:

I liked the opportunity to stroke Jake, the baby T Rex. – Bailey

I liked it when I dug up the T Rex Tooth. – Oscar

I think that the fossils were very interesting and that we were very lucky to have the experience. My favourite part was when he bought out his baby T-Rex called Jack- It was also very fun to uncover different fossils and work out what they are. – Tilly P

I liked the dinosaur workshop because I felt like a real discoverer. I also would like to do it again because it was fun and interesting asking questions to someone who knows a lot about dinosaurs. There was also a baby dino (called Jake) that we met and got to pet at the end. – Calyn

Joel taught us how to properly brush and off fossils without damaging them, he also taught us about dinosaurs and the different types of them, like carnivores and herbivores. We got to use brushes to uncover some fossils and identify them. We also got to meet Jack the dinosaur. - Rayaam



Next week we will be working on **Healthy Choices**. Children will discuss whether it is difficult to make healthy choices or whether they have the power to make their own healthy choices. They will discuss different scenarios in class and explore how they may feel when they have made healthy choices. Perhaps you could have a chat with your child and ask them 'Have you ever been inspired to make a healthy choice? What inspired you? Here is a quote: 'Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.' – William James, American philosopher and psychologist (1842 - 1910) What might this quote mean?

Reminder & Upcoming Events:



Thursday 3rd March 2025 PTA will organise another fundraising event **Easter Bonnet Parade, £1 to enter on the day**. Please get your children busy and design and make a spectacular Easter Bonnet. Children will have a Parade on Thursday next week in school and one winner for each year group will be announced and prizes will be presented at Celebration Assembly Friday 4th March.



In school, as part of the Easter Celebration, we will organise the very popular **Easter Egg Hunt** for all the children on **Thursday 3rd March** next week at 2.45pm on the School Playground. Siblings are welcome to join us. Children with the Golden Tickets will receive a prize from school.



The children in Performing and Debating Club are expected to attend a dress rehearsal on **Wednesday 2nd April from 3.10 to 4.10pm**. Parents can pick up your children at 4.10pm that day.

Parents whose children are in the club are invited to a Special Performance of *Macbeth* on **Friday 4th April at 9.00am in the School Hall**. This event will showcase the hard work and dedication of the children as they bring Shakespeare's classic tragedy to life. It promises to be a show filled with an impressive acting, dramatic scenes, and a unique interpretation of the timeless play. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing this memorable experience with you.

Is this the fastest term there has ever been?! We will break up for the Easter Holiday next **Friday 4th April at 1.00pm**.

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	Henry L	Emily V
Nightingales	Amber H	Emilie W
Robins	Henry M	William J
Skylarks	Eva S	Forrest D
Red Kites	Sophie M	Jorgie G
Kestrels	Ollie H	Lexy G

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	146	2230
Galileo (Green)	151	1659
Redgrave (Red)	212	1811
Yeats (Yellow)	185	1873

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

Attendance for the Week

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

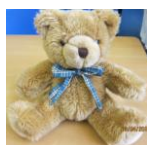
Class Attendance: 24-03-25 to 28-03-25

Owls 90.9% Skylarks 92.5%

Nightingales 94.3% Red Kites 92.4%

Robins 96.9% Kestrels 94.8%

Whole School 93.5%



Habit of the Month

In **March**, children will continue to focus 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.

Amazon Wish List

We regularly update our **Amazon Wish List** and would appreciate your continued support. If you would like to purchase something for the school, please click the link https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/ZK98E8KNOSZO?ref=wl_share Thank you.

Class Assembly



Nightingales Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 2nd April at 2.30pm** in the School Hall. Family and friends in Nightingales Class are welcome to join us.

After School Clubs for Term 5 and 6

Clubs letter has been sent to parents this week. Please complete online bookings when they go live next Monday. Places are offered on a first come and first serve basis. Other clubs led by external professionals can be booked and paid directly online.

After School Clubs Reminder

Please remember that we do not run After School Clubs in the first and last weeks of the terms, i.e. **NO Club in the week commencing 21st April in Term 5**, unless it is otherwise indicated. If you require any child care, please use our Woodpeckers After School CARE CLUB. Please book in advance. Thank you.

Easter Egg Hunt



We will be holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Thursday 3rd April**. The hunt will start at **2:45pm** and younger siblings are very welcome to come along and join in the fun. The prizes will be presented to all winners at the end of day in the School Playground soon after the Easter Egg Hunt. Please come along and enjoy the fun celebration of Easter.

School Meal Cost Increase

From April 2025, the cost of meals will increase by 10p per meal (meal price of **£2.79 from April**). Please note that this increase is due to the level of taxation and is taking place outside the usual annual inflationary increase of the meal price which takes effect from September each year; the annual inflationary price increase will also take place as usual in September.

STIKINS School Uniform Name Labels

Each child has taken home their **5 free personal sample labels printed by Stikins®**. A row of 5 labels per child is wrapped individually in a bag, which has instructions for use on the back. They have also included stickers showing the school fundraising number **24482** which can be stuck on the back of each pack. As mentioned last week, Stikins® is a school fundraising scheme. We will receive 30% commission every time parents order name labels directly from Stikins®, quoting our School Fundraising Number **24482**. You can order the name labels via their website: www.name-labels.com or by phone 01270 668076

All Inclusive Easter Family Fun Day

The local charity **Stand Out For Autism** is launching their sensory bus project with all schools in RBWM on Saturday **12th April 2025**. Please refer to the ALL INCLUSIVE Easter Family Fun Day poster for more details.



Bag2School Collection

This event raises a considerable amount for School Fund whilst helping others less fortunate. We will be paid from the bags of **old clothes, handbags, jewellery and shoes** we collect. Please bring as many bags to school as you can on **Wednesday 30th April at 9.00am** when they will be collected. You may use ordinary bin bags or plastic carriers.

Please DO NOT bring bags to School before the date as we have no places in School to store them. Thank you.

Junior Cricket for Children at WSL Cricket Club

In partnership with **Performance Cricket**, WSL Cricket Club is offering children of all abilities an inclusive cricket programme throughout the Summer Term on **Monday evenings, 6.00-7.30pm**, starting **Monday 21st April 2025**. The cost for 15 sessions is **£100 per child**. Families can register their children directly via their website <https://wsfcc.co.uk/junior-cricket/> and **taster sessions are available** for first-time attendees.

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 4 (30 days)

April Thurs 3rd Easter Egg Hunt & PTA Easter Hat Competition
Fri 4th 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 Tues 22nd Start of Pupil Term
Thurs 24th Football Matches at Holy Trinity Primary 3.30pm
Wed 30th Bag2School Collection 9.00am
Wed 30th Owls Class Assembly 2.30pm
May Mon 5th May Day Bank Holiday
Thurs 8th Performance Workshop for EYFS & KS1 10.30-12.00
12th -15th **KS2 SATs Week**
Wed 21st EYFS Health Screening (Height and Weight) in School 9.30am
Thurs 22nd Young Apprentice Competition 1.00-2.30pm
Fri 23rd End of Pupil Term

May Holiday: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Term 6 (38 days)

June Mon 2nd Staff Inset Day
Tues 3rd Start of Pupil Term
Wed 4th Road Safety Workshop for Kestrels Class 1.15pm
Fri 6th It's Your Move – Year 6 Transition Talk 1.15pm
Sat 7th Village Festival
July Wed 23rd End of Pupil Term

Summer Holiday: Thursday 24th July 2025 – Tuesday 2nd September 2025

The Academic Year 2025-2026

Term 1 (38 days)

September Wed 3rd Staff Inset Day
Thurs 4th Start of Pupil Term
October Fri 24th End of Pupil Term

October Holiday: Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 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:

KS2 DT Week Letter to KS2

After School Extracurricular Clubs Letter to all

Woodpeckers Club Advanced Booking Reminder to all

PTA Easter Hat Competition Poster to all

All Inclusive Easter Family Fun Day Poster to all