



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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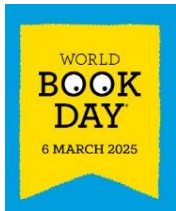
Weekly Newsletter Number 22

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What another eventful and successful week we have had here at WSL! I cannot describe the magic that was in the air in school during the World Book Day and Book Events this week. Please read on to find out more....

On Tuesday this week, parents of **Kestrels Class** took part in our **Open Maths Session**, gaining valuable insight into how Maths is taught at WSL. The session focused on addition and subtraction of decimals, with parents observing teaching strategies, pupil engagement, and how children develop their understanding through practical and written methods. It was fantastic to see parents joining in discussions and activities with their children, experiencing first-hand how we support mathematical learning. Thank you to everyone who attended—we hope you found it informative and useful in supporting your child's learning at home!



We had a fantastic day celebrating **World Book Day, 6th March 2025!** Children and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life with fantastic costumes. Yesterday morning, we had our **Book Characters Parade** in the School Hall, with a huge variety of characters from Harry, Hermoine, and McGonagall from *Harry Potter*, Grandpa from *The Great Escape*, Dorothy and Scarecrow from *Wizards of OZ*, Matilda, The Twits, The Witches from Roald Dahl's story books to James Bond, Superman, as well as beloved characters like Little Red Riding Hood, Paddington Bear, ballerinas and The Cat in the Hat, to name but a few. It was wonderful to see such creativity and enthusiasm for reading across the whole school. Throughout the day, children took part in different activities, inspiring a love for reading and storytelling. It was impressive to see how much effort had been made with the costumes by the children and staff! Thank you so much for your support and to everyone for making World Book Day such a memorable event! Here are some photos for you to enjoy.



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

On Wednesday and Friday this week, Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their celebrations with exciting author workshops. They attended a virtual session with **A.M. Dassu** and a face-to-face Writing Workshop led by David Barker, giving them a unique opportunity to learn from professional writers. Here are some of the children's comments.

I think the workshop was good because I got to know a lot about her life growing up. Like her challenges she has overcome to be who she is right now. I have also learnt how to be a better writer because not all writers enjoy every second writing their stories. It was also very inspiring. Calyn

It was a great time with A.M Dassu and I thought the workshop was very inspiring and memorable. I learned that anyone can do anything they want and that even authors get bored sometimes. Also if you think you are good at something, carry on with it and don't just give up on it. Keira

I liked it because it made you believe in yourself and run till you reach your goal, and it made you think anything is possible. Indie

Thank you for inspiring me to become a really good descriptive story writer. – Rayyan

I enjoyed it when she told us about her life story and how she became a writer and the hardship and choices to become a writer. – Ollie

I have learnt that all writers get bored of writing and that A.M Dassu studied economics in school. I really liked the way she presented it so that it wasn't all about her it was about us all as writers. Tom

Maidenhead Rotary Thames Writing Competition 2025

This year, once again, we entered Year 5 and 6 for **Maidenhead Rotary Writing Competition** with the theme of **Wonderful Water**. We are very proud to announce that Ben Tilley was nominated as WSL School Winner. He and his family members attended the Recital & Awards Ceremony event last Thursday 27 February at Cookham Rise Primary School. Ben was invited to read his poetry entitled **Wonderful Water**. He was presented a School Finalist Certificate and also had a photo taken with the Mayor. He has made us all proud! Well done, Ben!

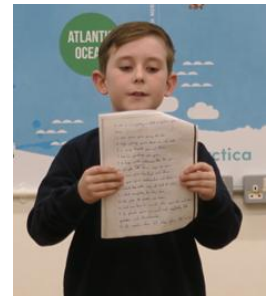
Wonderful Water

Water, water everywhere,
To wash my hands and wash my hair,
Although water is everywhere,
Sadly, some people have none and not having water always ends badly,
So we must share and be fair,
Do not waste it or throw it away,
Because if you do, we don't have it, someday,

In liquid state it moves so free,
Filling cups and flowing to the sea,
Water is a mystery, a solid a liquid a gas it's all three,
Water flows from spring to sea,
A life giving force that we all need,
In every droplet pure and true,
There is goodness for you,
It helps with sickness like the flu,
And it gets abnormal stains off of you,
The ocean flows beautiful and blue,
It goes up as condensation and down as precipitation,

We must keep water safe and hold it close,
So that everybody has their dose,
Water feeds the plants and trees,
Which are home to animals like squirrels and bees,
The plants give us fruit and vegetables like potatoes and strawberries,
Water crashes ships but helps grow the crops,
Water can be a tidal wave or one singular drop,
Water can be fair
Water can be unfair,
But don't waste it,
Because when the well dries out, then you'll see the importance of water,
There is lots of water in our galaxy without life, but no life in our galaxy without water,
So my message to you is water, water, water we need.

By Ben T





Next week we will be working on **Kindness Online**. Children will discuss how they can show kindness online. This links very well with the recent Online Safety Workshop and class activities. Perhaps you could discuss with your children 'How might you feel if someone was unkind to you online?' Here is a quote: *'If you can't say something nice . . . don't say nothing at all.'* - Thumper in Bambi, 1942 Disney Movie. What might this quote mean?

Let's send out this strong message to our children - In an online world where we can be anything, **be kind!**

Reminder & Upcoming Events:



The Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting for Year 1 Parents will be held today **Friday 7th March** this afternoon at **2.30pm** in **Nightingales Classroom**. It is an important meeting, we would like to see as many of you as possible.



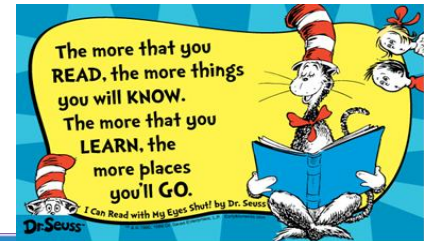
Red Kites Class Assembly will take place on **Wednesday 12th March** at **2.30pm** in the School Hall. Children will be sharing what they have been learning during Term 3 and 4. Family and friends of children in Red Kites Class are welcome to join us.

This year, the theme for **2025 Maidenhead's Big Read festival** is **Wings, Take Flight, open a book and spread your wings**. More details of the programme can be found [here](#). If any parent wishes to volunteer to help out for a couple of hours over that weekend, that would be great! Here is the web link to find out what it entails and to sign up for a preferred optional day/time/location: [Volunteers for MBR 2025 Saturday](#) [Volunteers for MBR 2025 Sunday](#)

- There are a lot of activities for children and families at Maidenhead Library this weekend - the school with the highest pupil attendance at the weekend event will get a free visit from Immersive Experience Ltd including a planetarium. Please refer to the programme sent home today.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher



TAKE FLIGHT

OPEN A BOOK & SPREAD YOUR WINGS
8TH & 9TH MARCH 2025
MAIDENHEAD LIBRARY

Maidenhead's Big Read
presents a weekend of events
INSPIRING, ENTHUSIASING AND ENTERTAINING THROUGH LITERATURE & THE ARTS

Scan for more details

No advance booking required. The number of participants attending per session is restricted so entry will be handed on a first come first serve basis.

ONCE UPON A BUS
A WORLD-ON-WHEELS OF STORYTELLING
ONCEUPONABUS.COM

- 9 authors, storytellers.
- Many of the presenters' books available at The Little Bookshop, Cookham.
- Pop-up bookshop in Library.
- Author book signings at the end of the session.
- Readers' corner for quiet reading with parents.
- Once Upon a Bus - storytelling.
- The Joystick Club - making a chuck glider or try a pedal plane (weather permitting).
- Craft activities.

Saturday, 8th March	Sunday, 9th March	All Weekend
<p>Children's Corner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Milner - 10:30 • Rhian Lynette - 11:30 • Nick Arnold - 12:30 • Zak Simmonds-Hurn - 13:30 <p>Author Presentations, Riverview Corner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Arnold - 10:45 • Zak Simmonds-Hurn - 12:00 • Phillip Kavvadias - 13:15 • Rhian Lynette - 14:30 	<p>Children's Corner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Burgess - 11:30 • Alice Hemming - 12:10 • Rhian Lynette - 13:10 <p>Author Presentations, Riverview Corner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iszi Lawrence - 11:30 • Catherine Bruton - 13:15 	<p>Quiet Readers' corner</p> <p>Craft Activities</p> <p>Outdoors</p> <p>Once Upon a Bus</p> <p>Saturday, 8th March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gruffalo (10:00-10:30) • Room on the Broom(11:00-11:30) • Neverland(12:00-12:30) • The Gruffalo(13:15-13:45) • Alice Down the Rabbit Hole(14:15-14:45) • Space(15:00-15:30) <p>Sunday, 9th March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gruffalo (11:00-11:30) • Room on the Broom(11:45-12:15) • Neverland(12:45-13:15) • Alice Down the Rabbit Hole(13:30-14:00) <p>The Joystick Club</p>

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	Wren G-J	Bethan U
Nightingales	Sebby W	Phoebe P
Robins	Maisie B	Eduardo H
Skylarks	Hector G-J	William D
Red Kites	Ayrton A	Toby H
Kestrels	William C	Monty W

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	228	1827
Galileo (Green)	215	1330
Redgrave (Red)	240	1380
Yeats (Yellow)	240	1495

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

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 01-03-25 to 07-03-25

Owls 97.0%	Skylarks 95.4%
Nightingales 97.1%	Red Kites 96.2%
Robins 96%	Kestrels 96.9%
Whole School 96.4%	



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. Thank you.

KS1 Optional SATs Information Meeting for Parents

Last Friday, Mrs Wiseman, in her role as English Subject Leader, delivered an information session for Year 2 parents about the KS1 End of the Year Optional SATs. The meeting provided an overview of the assessments, covering different areas: Reading, Maths and spelling, with Teacher Assessment used for Writing. Parents also received guidance on how to support their children at home. Thank you to everyone who attended. If you were unable to join but would like more information, please speak to Mrs Brancato or contact the School Office.

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/ZK98E8KNOSZQ?ref=_wl_share Thank you.

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

The **Maidenhead Big Read Event** takes place between 3rd March and 14th March 2025 in and around Maidenhead. This event continues for the following week. Please refer to all the events flyer, poster etc. More details of the programme can be found [here](#).

Correct School Shoes and Labels

Please could you ensure that your son/daughter wears the correct school shoes to school that meet the uniform policy – **NOT trainers**.

Please make sure **every item of clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name and class**. We have a significant amount of lost property, none of which is named, which makes it very difficult for us to find out who it belongs to. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Morning Expectations

In order to **develop self-help skills and independence** of all children, we would ask parents / all children, including children in Owls Class to use Stop and Drop Service or say goodbye to your children at the main entrance. Helpers at the Stop Drop will assist your child safely out of the car. so that they can walk to their classroom on their own. This practice helps encourage **independence** in our young learners. Please support us and let them do things that they can do themselves.

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 9.50am** or as indicated otherwise on the following date for each class. Please save the dates.

- Red kites Tuesday 18th March
- Skylarks Wednesday 19th March
- Nightingales Thursday 20th March
- Robins Tuesday 25th 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.

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.

School Lunch Order

It is essential that pre-ordering of school lunches is completed and paid for using SCOPAY. This ensures that the catering team is able to produce the correct number of meals, to speed up service and help reduce food waste. If your order is not completed on time, then please bring a packed lunch for your child that day.

Break Time Snacks

We are a healthy School and have a simple rule for break time snacks – **fresh fruit or vegetables ONLY**. Children in EYFS and KS1 (Year 1/2) do not need to bring a snack as they are provided with fruit or vegetables and milk (for EYFS) each day. All children in KS2 can bring their own healthy snacks.

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)

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

The Academic Year 2025-2026

Term 1 (38 days)

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

Open Maths Session Reminder to Kestrels

PTA Recruitment Letter to all

World Book Day Event Reminder to all

Forest Fun Easter Camp to all

Year 1 Phonics Screen Check reminder to Nightingales