



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 38

Friday 18th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an eventful and successful week we have had at WSL!

Transition Week went brilliantly. We were delighted to welcome our new EYFS children into Owls Class, where they had the opportunity to meet their Class Teachers and support staff. All the children across the school thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their New Class Teachers, Teaching Assistants and their friends in their new classrooms for the 2025-26 Academic Year. The children took part in a range of fun and engaging learning activities, focused on building relationships, teamwork, exploring our School Values and developing Growth Mindset. They also spent time learning about what new routines will look like from September 2025. On transition day, although Mrs Morgan was unable to be in school, a virtual lesson was set up so the children could still meet their new teacher. They were excited to connect online and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her and each other in this unique way. It was a lovely opportunity to begin building relationships and set a positive tone for the year ahead. These designated transition days play a vital role in helping children move smoothly into their new year, whether they are staying within the school or preparing to move on. Here are some photos that capture just a few of the wonderful activities the children enjoyed during the Transition Days.



We also held an **Information Meeting for our new EYFS parents**, which was very well attended. During the session, parents had the opportunity to meet the new Class Teachers, Miss Painter and Mrs Sharma, and learn more about what life will look like in Owls Class. We shared our School Vision and emphasised the importance of building a strong home school partnership from the very beginning. We discussed our **Home-School Agreement**, which outlines the shared commitment between parents, school staff, and children to work together to create the best possible start to school life. We particularly highlighted the importance of parents supporting the school's **behaviour expectations**. By promoting positive behaviour, kindness, respect, and responsibility both at home and at school, we can ensure that children receive a consistent message and feel safe, secure, and ready to learn. We encouraged families to model and reinforce our School Values, Growth Mindset and routines at home, helping children to settle quickly and thrive in school.

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



The session also included a workshop on **School Readiness**, delivered by Mrs Claire Middleton, our School Link Educational Psychologist. She offered practical tips and strategies to help children develop independence, emotional resilience, and healthy routines in preparation for starting school in September. A big thank you to Marie, who kindly organised a **School Uniform Sale** for our new families. Her support was



greatly appreciated and helped ensure that everyone feels more prepared and welcomed ahead of the new school year.

School Council Presentation to Governors

We are incredibly proud of our **School Council**, who had the opportunity, on Tuesday this week, to present to the **Governing Board** about the impact they have made this year. The children spoke with confidence, clarity, and genuine passion about their work and the positive changes they have helped bring about across the school.

From leading whole-school initiatives, gathering pupil voices, and promoting our School Values, to influencing playground improvements and supporting fundraising efforts—the School Council demonstrated how pupil leadership can make a real difference. Our governors were extremely impressed by the children’s maturity, teamwork, and thoughtful reflections. It was clear to everyone that the School Council takes great pride in representing their peers and making our school an even better place to learn and grow.

A heartfelt thank you to Miss Hill and Miss Bennett for their dedication and guidance in supporting the School Council this year. Their encouragement and leadership have helped the children grow in confidence and achieve so much. Well done to every member of the School Council—you’ve been **excellent ambassadors** for your classmates, and we are very proud of all you’ve accomplished!



What have we been learning in school?

Last week, our Year 1 children in Nightingales Class stepped into the role of mini chefs as part of their **DT** project — making their very own delicious **smoothies**! The classroom was buzzing with excitement as the children explored a colourful fruits, from strawberries and bananas to pineapples. Before diving into the fun, they spent time learning about the importance of healthy eating and how to safely use kitchen tools. Each child had the opportunity to design their smoothie recipe, choosing their favourite fruit combinations and deciding whether to add orange or apple juice. They worked independently to peel, chop, and blend their ingredients, showing fantastic focus and care. It was wonderful to see the children taking turns and helping each other with pouring and tidying up. They had a brilliant time and enjoyed the experience that help develop key skills in planning, food preparation, and evaluating their work. Well done, Year 1 children!



On Wednesday, we had an exciting visit from Sarah at **Mad Science Club**, who brought science to life with a series of fun and interactive experiments. The children were fascinated as she demonstrated different scientific principles in action — from chemical changes and air pressure to balance and motion. One of the highlights was a colourful experiment where water appeared to magically turn pink and vice versa. The children were also invited to had a go



at keeping a ping pong ball floating in the air by blowing through a straw, a simple but exciting challenge that had everyone engaged and smiling! It was a fantastic hands-on experience that sparked curiosity and gave pupils a taste of the fun they can

expect from the club. If your child is interested in joining, keep an eye out for the Mad Science Club sign-up information — open to children in Years 1 to 6!



Reminder and Upcoming Event

Here are some key dates for your diary:

Monday 21st July **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony** to Year 6 Parents only 9.30am

Monday 21st July **Year 6 Leavers' Party** 4.00pm-6.00pm

Wednesday 23rd July **End of Term 6 – School finishes 1.00pm**

PTA CAMPOUT Update – Night Camping Cancelled, Evening Activities Still On

Due to the **Amber Weather Warning** for thunderstorms and storms, we have made the difficult decision to **cancel the overnight camping** portion of our Campout for safety reasons.

However, we are pleased to let you know that the **evening activities will still go ahead as planned!**

Here's what to expect:

- **Food will be served**
- **The bar will be open**
- **Bedtime story session for the children**
- **Fun and relaxed atmosphere for all**

The event will **close at 11:00 PM**, and we kindly ask that all families make arrangements to head home by then. We understand this change may be disappointing, but we truly appreciate your understanding and support in keeping everyone safe.

Looking forward to a fun and memorable evening together!

Meet Your Child's New Teacher Meetings for Parents will take place on **Thursday 11th September 2025**. We will run the meetings twice to enable parents with children in different year groups to attend at **3.20pm – 4.00pm and repeated at 4.05pm-4.45pm**. These meetings will set out the expectations for the year ahead and provide you with important information about what your child will be learning etc. and also for you to meet your child's Class Teacher and see their new learning environment. You may of course ask any questions. There will be a creche organised for the children in school during the meetings.

Have an enjoyable weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

Star Pupils of Term 6

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: Baneen J

Year 1: Lily S

Year 2: Jemima K

Year 3: Samuel W

Year 4: Lawrence G

Year 5: Keira E

Year 6: Tilly M



House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	193	3093
Galileo (Green)	212	2752
Redgrave (Red)	169	3004
Yeats (Yellow)	157	3010

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

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 14-07-25 to 18-07-25

Owls 94.6% Skylarks 98.3%

Nightingales **100%** Red Kites 96.1%

Robins 92.1% Kestrels 98.2%

Whole School 96.8%



Habit of the Month

In July children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Stay positive and embrace challenges**. The children are expected to have a positive mindset, and use strategies to tackle any challenges during this transition period. Please help and encourage your children to think, say positive things and build positive relationships. We appreciate your continued support in helping our children form good habits.

After School Clubs

Clubs run by other external professionals will finish in w/c 14th July. Children then should be collected at 3.10pm. If you require child care after school, please use our **Woodpeckers Club**. Please book a slot in advance using SCOPAY. Thank you.

Sun Protection

With the good weather set for the next few weeks, it is important that our children come prepared.



Please can we ask that the children come to school prepared for the weather including:

- Wearing sun cream each day.
- Ensuring your child comes to school with their school water bottle, **clearly labelled**.
- Ensuring that your child also comes to school with a hat they can wear when they are outside. Please make sure hats are **clearly labelled with their names**.

Contact Details Update

If you have changed your email address or phone numbers recently, please make sure that you inform the School Office ASAP, so we can make any changes we need to ensure the data we collect is accurate and up to date.

Shopping Bags for Children's Books and Belongings

As we are fast approaching the end of the school year, we will be sending your child's books and belongings home next week. To help us with this, please send in a **strong shopping bag** with your child. This will ensure they can safely carry everything home. Thank you for your continued support!

Reading Books

ALL Reading Books must be returned to school by Thursday 17th July. We need to check our stock and get all books sorted and organised, ready for the new academic year. Please can you check and make sure your child/ren return the borrowed books. Thank you

Year 2 Swimming Lesson

Children in Robins Class will start swimming lessons in September 2025. Please refer to the letter sent home for details.

Summer Reading Challenge 2025

Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest reading for pleasure program for children aged 4 to 11, delivered via public libraries. Children can sign up for **free** at their local library or online. The theme for this year is '**Story Garden**'. From bugs to plants, there's something for everyone. **The challenge will start from 12th July to Mid-September**. Children can visit the library and borrow books over the summer holidays. They will collect stickers along the way and get a medal and certificate if they complete the challenge – reading at least 6 books.

PTA Class of 2025 Camp Out

Class of 2025 Campout will be held on Friday 18th July 2025 from 5.00pm. Please join us to celebrate another wonderful year at WSL, say farewell to our beloved Kestrels class as they head onto their next adventure, and give a warm welcome to some of our new Owls. Please come along to support us and have great fun!

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns for your child or for any other pupils from the school during the Summer holiday, please email MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk. Please remind your children to keep safe when they are in or beside water during the Summer holidays and to not play near railway lines.

Spaces at the School Next Year

As we look forward to next year, I would like to give you an update on our school places for September. We are FULL in most year groups, but we still have 2 places available in Year 1, 5 places available in Year 3 and 1 place in Year 5. We will be very happy to talk to any parents who might be interested in their child starting in WSL in September, for example if they are moving into the area. Please contact RBWM Admissions Team or the School Office for more details.

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 6 (38 days)

July	Fri 18 th	PTA Class of 2025 Camp Out	5.00pm onwards
	Mon 21 st	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony in the School Hall	9.30am
	Monday 21 st	Year 6 Leaving Party	4.00-6.00pm
	Wed 23 rd	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

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

Term 2 (35 days)

November	Mon 3 rd	Staff Inset Day
	Tues 4 th	Start of Pupil Term
December	Fri 19 th	End of Pupil Term

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Term 3 (30 days)

January	Mon 5 th	Staff Inset Day
	Tues 6 th	Staff Inset Day
	Wed 7 th	Start of Pupil Term
February	Fri 13 th	End of Pupil Term

February Holiday: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

Term 4 (29 days)

February	Mon 23 rd	Start of Pupil Term
March	Fri 27 th	End of Pupil Term:

Spring Holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026
(Good Friday is 3rd April 2026 and Easter Monday is 6th April 2026)

Term 5(29 days)

April	Mon 13 th	Start of Pupil Term
May	Mon 4 th	May Day Bank Holiday
	Fri 22 nd	End of Pupil Term

May Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term 6 (38 days)

June	Mon 1 st	Staff Inset Day
	Tues 2 nd	Start of Pupil Term
July	Wed 22 nd	End of Pupil Term

Summer Holiday: Thursday 23rd July 2026 – Monday 31st August 2026

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:

Starter Booklets to New EYFS Parents

Sex Education Letter to Year 6

Campout Reminder to all

Clubs Letters to all

First Day of School Photographs to Year 6

