



# 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 39

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Farewell Assembly – Celebrating Mrs Kemp and Mrs Wiseman

Last Friday, we held a very special **Farewell Assembly** to celebrate and thank two much loved members of our school community, **Mrs Kemp**, TA and ELSA and **Mrs Wiseman**, Class Teacher, who are both retiring after many years of dedicated service at WSL.

Mrs Kemp has been part of the WSL family for an incredible **18** years, and Mrs Wiseman has devoted an amazing **25** years to the children, staff and families here. Throughout their time at our school, in their respective roles, they have given so much to the children, always with care, kindness, and commitment. Their hard work, smiles and unwavering support will be greatly missed. The children and staff shared some of their favourite memories, told heartwarming stories, sang special songs in their honour and the Year 1 children also created lovely paintings suggesting what Mrs Wiseman could do in her retirement, ranging from gardening and travelling to relaxing etc. It was a joyful, emotional celebration filled with love and laughter.

As part of the assembly, both Mrs Kemp and Mrs Wiseman were presented with handmade Thank You cards from the children and staff, as well as **Certificates of Appreciation** in recognition of their long and dedicated service. We were also delighted to welcome **Mrs Pitt**, who represented our parents, and presented a leaving gift, a **Double Hanging Egg Chair**, to Mr Wiseman on behalf of the parent community, our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed. In a beautiful gesture, Mrs Wiseman also presented the school with a **Flamingo Willow Tree** as her leaving gift. This special plant will be planted in front of the school at the right time and will serve as a lasting reminder of her years of care and commitment to our school community.

We wish Mrs Kemp and Mrs Wiseman all the very best for a well-deserved, happy retirement! You leave behind a legacy of love and care that will not be forgotten.



### Campout Fun—A Night to Remember!

Despite the cancellation of the overnight camping last Friday due to the Amber Weather Warning, our PTA Campout event was a resounding success! Families came together for an evening filled with laughter, connection, and plenty of fun. The grounds buzzed with energy as children enjoyed exciting activities, while adults joined in the fun, including a lively tug of war that brought out everyone’s competitive spirit! From delicious food and a welcoming bar to the cozy bedtime story session around the camp fire, the evening had something special for all ages. The atmosphere was relaxed and joyful, and it was heartwarming to see our community come together and make the most of the evening.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Marie - Francoise, Mrs Anna Phythian and many others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes—carrying out risk assessments, coordinating logistics, and even returning on Saturday to help with cleaning and tidying with a group of parents who gave up their time to help. Your dedication truly made all the difference.

A big thank you also goes out to all the parents who supported the event as part of the **Campout Crew** as below, whether by helping set up, volunteering during the evening, or simply bringing your wonderful energy. Your involvement helped create a warm and memorable experience for all.

- |                 |                  |                    |                    |                     |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Anna Phythian   | Phillippa Pitt   | Marie-Françoise    | Jon Martin         | Gareth & Laura Owen |
| Natalie Kennedy | Annabelle Hanson | Kate Wilsdon       | Sally Prowse       | Sarah Hemmings      |
| Henny Bird      | Cassie Bingle    | Nicole Jahanshashi | Sara & Alan Maddox | Emma Priddy         |

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

Susie & Ed Grey  
Alex Meyer  
Vicky Egar

Lizzie & Ian Lambert  
Lisa Mordt  
Laura Norman

Vicky Lomas  
Elaine Harris  
Lizzie & Max Whitehead

Alex Edwards  
Tam & Carl Gauna-Miller

Lizzie & Tom Shuttleworth

We would like to give a special mention to:

**Alastair Brooker** at *ANB Trees & Ground* – lighting

**Ben Warner** – tree decorating hero

**John Kiss / the Village** – lending us the bunting, lanterns, and fridge

**David & Polly Pollecutt-Gray** – tug of war rope

**Sarah Collin** – music from St Avian

**Rich Wilder** – brilliant compere

**Lela Maddox** - bar

Take a look at some of the highlights from the evening in the photo collage below! We are so proud of our community and grateful for everyone who helped make the night a success. We are already looking forward to the next one!



On Monday morning this week, we celebrated a heartwarming **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony**, joined by proud parents, grandparents, and families. The hall was filled with smiles, laughter, and a few happy tears as the children shared their memories, special moments, friendships, milestones, and achievements from their time at WSL Primary School.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, confident, kind, and resilient individuals who are now equipped with strong values that will guide them through an ever-changing and sometimes uncertain world. Their growth and spirit give us every reason to be hopeful for the future. It was a joyful and emotional send-off, marking the end of one chapter and the exciting beginning of the next. There were touching thank you messages to teachers and heartfelt appreciation for the continued support of parents and carers. A certificate of graduation and a special gift were presented to each of our Year 6 pupils as a token of our pride in their achievements and to wish them well as they move on to the next stage of their educational journey. The parents also presented thoughtful gifts to staff members as a token of appreciation. Thank you to your kind words and generous gifts - they meant a great deal to us. Thank You!



Unbelievably, this school year has flown by. What a year! As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you, parents for being an integral part of our school community. Your help and support throughout the year in every way are much appreciated. The children have worked really hard and each one of them has made progress across the curriculum! None of this would have been possible without the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Support Staff and your immense support and partnership. A huge thank you goes to our wonderful staff for their relentless work. I am incredibly grateful to each of them for their hard work and extensive contributions towards making WSL such a brilliant school. WSL is a fantastic place to be and I feel incredibly privileged to be Headteacher of this wonderful school! I know the difference that our Outstanding School makes to your child's education. There have been many highlights and successes for the school. We are so proud of our achievements and are hugely proud of the children who are a real credit to our school and to you as parents and carers.

A massive **THANK YOU** to our hard working **PTA** in the making, some keen parents have supported the school so magnificently this year, who organised a few fun events and contributed to many of our School Improvement Projects including painting and decorating the recently opened Swallows, our new Learning Space and contributed towards the transport for Swimming and Whole School Trip etc.. Thank you to all the Class Representatives who also raised an amazing amount of money for each class which enabled us to have purchased a variety of learning resources for the children and many parents who generously donated a variety of learning resources from Amazon Wish List! **THANK YOU** from the bottom of my heart to everyone, parents, carers and staff for your continued support!

At the end of this term/year, today, we will be sadly saying farewell and 'Good Luck' to Mrs Wiseman, Mrs Kemp, Miss Painter (who will be on her maternity leave) and pupils, particularly our Year 6 who are leaving us – We wish our children well and very happy in their new schools and they will carry on their learning journey at their secondary schools. We do hope that you keep in touch with us and let us know how you are doing. It has been great pleasure having you at WSL! We would like to thank all the parents of Year 6, some of you will be joining the ranks of ex-Waltham St Lawrence parents, (although we still hope to see you at future school events!) for your partnership and huge support over the years!

School will finish tomorrow on **23<sup>rd</sup> July at 1.00pm** for the Summer Holiday. For those returning, school will be closed for **staff training on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025** and **will re-open for pupils on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025**. Please remember school gates will open at 8.30am and the morning register will be taken promptly at 8.40am when the bell goes and lessons will follow.

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I wish you all a relaxing, happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing everybody invigorated and ready for the next Academic Year 2025-26!

Thank you all again for another successful and memorable week / year.

Have an enjoyable weekend and very happy and safe Summer Holiday!

Li-Juan Ellerton  
Headteacher

## Star Pupils of 2024-25 Academic Year

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:** Henrietta B

**Year 1:** Poppy L-W

**Year 2:** Oliver B

**Year 3:** Eshal J

**Year 4:** Grace O

**Year 5:** Lottie L

**Year 6:** Alexandra G



## Values Gems

We continue with our **Values Nominations** and encourage children to put our values into action in everything they do and say in daily life. Those children who get most nominations will be our **Values Gems**. This Term our

**Values Gems are:**

Kai S	Wren G-J
Joshua H	Lily S
Mia P	William L
Monty W	Isabella W
Harlow L	Oscar BC
Maya B	Aaron H

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	40	3133
Galileo (Green)	71	2822
Redgrave (Red)	70	3074
Yeats (Yellow)	52	3062

The Winning House's for this term is **Brunel**. Well done.

## Attendance for the Week

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



**Best Class Attendance this Year**

03-09-25 to 22-07-25

**Nightingales Class – Year 1 – 97%**

Many Congratulations

## Stop and Drop Zone

We are very grateful to parent volunteers: Mrs Edwards Ms Pullin, Mrs Kennedy, Mr Moore, Mr Lavers, Mr Martin and Mrs Mann and others for helping at the Stop and Drop, ensuring the safety of the children as they leave their car and make their way into school independently. Thank you for your great help!

## Reading, Reading, Reading

Daily reading is vital in supporting our learners to become fluent readers who develop a love of books. Reading is the most crucial skill any child will learn. It is our school's clear expectation that every child reads every night without any distraction. Please support us by ensuring that there is a time set aside every evening to ensure your child can read and, ideally, to be read to by an adult. Happy Reading during the Easter holiday.

## Meet the New Teachers and The Year Ahead Meetings

**Meet Your Child's New Teacher and the Year Ahead Meetings for Parents** will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Year 2 Swimming Lesson

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

## Stationery Update

We would like to remind parents and request that **NO pencil cases should be brought into school**. We will provide the right kind of stationery for ALL children to use in class. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## School Meal Cost Increase

From September 2025, the cost of meals will increase by **13p** per meal (meal price of **£2.92 from September**). 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.

## Bag2School Collection on

Please bring as many bags **old clothes, handbags, jewellery and shoes** to school on the above date.

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](mailto:clerk@wslprimary.org)

### Dates for Your Diary

#### The Academic Year 2024-2025

##### Term 6 (38 days)

July Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> End of Pupil Term 1.00pm

Summer Holiday: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

#### The Academic Year 2025-2026

##### Term 1 (38 days)

September Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff Inset Day

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Start of Pupil Term

October Fri 24<sup>th</sup> End of Pupil Term

October Holiday: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

##### Term 2 (35 days)

November Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff Inset Day

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Start of Pupil Term

December Fri 19<sup>th</sup> End of Pupil Term

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

##### Term 3 (30 days)

January Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Staff Inset Day

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Staff Inset Day

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Start of Pupil Term

February Fri 13<sup>th</sup> End of Pupil Term

February Holiday: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

##### Term 4 (29 days)

February Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Start of Pupil Term

March Fri 27<sup>th</sup> End of Pupil Term:

Spring Holiday: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

(Good Friday is 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 and Easter Monday is 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026)

##### Term 5 (29 days)

April Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Start of Pupil Term

May Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May Day Bank Holiday

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> End of Pupil Term

May Holiday: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

##### Term 6 (38 days)

June Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Staff Inset Day

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Start of Pupil Term

July Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> End of Pupil Term

Summer Holiday: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.wslprimary.org)

Information / Letters sent home or can be accessed on the school website last & this week:

Swimming Lessons Letter to Robins

Kung Fu Summer Camp Registration Form to all

After School Clubs letter to all

PTA Ice Cream Sale to all

Email from Miss Hill to Redkites