



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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### Weekly Newsletter Number 01

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year to everyone – and a special welcome to all the children and families who have joined us for the first time. We wish them all happiness and success during their time with us at WSL. I am glad to say that we have had a very busy start to the new academic year. The children have returned to school happily, they are smartly dressed, polite, positive and eager to learn. As I write, the school is buzzing with excited learners! In our first Whole School Assembly last Friday, we shared our high expectations with the children. At WSL, our School Values underpin everything we do, we promote a simple message: **Only our best will do!**

Democracy is an integral part of the school life. This week we also had Class and House Assemblies, children have had their voices heard and elected New School Council and New House Captains following their well-prepared speeches, Playground Leaders and various class monitors were nominated, too. They are all excited to be able to develop their leadership skills and provide support to their peers and want to do their best to help others and make a difference. All children are encouraged to have ownership of their learning and take on responsibilities within the school. Please read on to see the various roles and jobs Year 6 children have in their final year at WSL. They all enjoy these responsibilities as they appreciate being treated as mature and responsible young people.

### Summer Holiday School Improvement Projects

Over the summer holidays, the school has once again been a hive of activity. Contractors, IT consultants, technicians, premises staff, and teaching staff have all worked hard to ensure our learning environment is safe, inspiring, and ready for the new academic year.

### Building and Grounds Improvements

Work carried out by *Fresh Approach Ltd*, led by Mr Paul—one of our school parents, and his team, included:

- Final sealing of all windows in the Swallows Learning Space
- Completion of the concrete slab pathway surrounding the new Swallows building
- Installation of black aluminium trim skirting to secure the building and prevent vermin access
- Roofing improvements in the EYFS Outdoor Learning Area, forming a new waterproof join between the existing plastic covering and the main roof
- Construction of an external wall for the Owls Class Outdoor Learning Area, matching the opposite side for consistency. This improvement significantly enhances the outdoor learning provision by creating a more enclosed and sheltered space, allowing for better use of the area throughout the year—regardless of weather conditions. It also contributes to a more defined and secure environment for focused outdoor activities.
- Repairs to the storage shed included replacing rotten panels at the top and bottom, restoring the roof. Our Handy Person Andy installed clear glass in place of the old, coloured panes and removed the shelving to create space for a learning activity area. These improvements allow significantly more natural light into the space, making it brighter and more suitable for use as an additional activity area for our Reception children.



### IT and Infrastructure Upgrades

- The school's server has been upgraded, improving speed, security and capacity to support growing digital demands.
- All school laptops have been reimaged with updated software to support teaching and learning and ensuring a smoother, safer and more consistent experience for staff and children.

### General Maintenance and Cleaning

- Wooden floors in the corridor polished
- Deep cleaning of the kitchen by a professional cleaning company
- Lawns mowed and hedges trimmed to keep our outdoor spaces tidy and welcoming



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible teaching staff for their hard work over the summer in preparing for the new school year. Their dedication has helped ensure a smooth and productive start for your child. While many of you are aware of the effort that goes behind the scene, it's always worth highlighting the time, effort, commitment and passion that our Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Support Staff invest to make Waltham St Lawrence the wonderful place it is.

As we are at the start of the new academic year, I have communicated with you via letters or emails regarding our high expectations for the children. Please refer to the welcome letter sent home last week for details. Here are some reminders:

- It is very important that your child attends school every day when they are fit and well. This year we have a school attendance target of **97%** for pupils. Pupils with attendance of less than 90% are regarded by the Government as having Persistent Absence and pupils with attendance in danger of falling to this level will be invited into school for support and an action plan.
- No pupils should be in school before 8.30am for supervision reasons, except for those who attend Breakfast Club starting at 7.45am.
- School Gates open at 8:30am. Pupils arriving after 8.40am are LATE and their parents need to report to the School Office and sign in the 'Late Arrival Book'.
- **Please label everything** e.g. School Uniform, PE Kit, Reading Bags and Water bottles and remember **NO pencil cases** are required, we will provide all necessary stationery for children etc.
- Children must have their PE kit in school every day, not just PE days. They also need to ensure that they have adequate long sleeve tops and tracksuits once the weather turns colder. Please use a **drawstring bag** for their PE kit. **NO rucksacks** are allowed.
- We provide children in EYFS and KS1 with daily fruit and vegetables snacks. Please ensure your child in KS2 brings **healthy snacks** e.g. fruit or vegetables and fresh water. If your child chooses to have packed lunch, we encourage parents to make healthy packed lunches. Fizzy drinks, sweets or sticky fruit winders should not be included (fresh or dry fruit only).
- Due to many children having allergies, we kindly ask that **no sweets are brought to school for children's birthdays**. Thank you for your understanding and support.
- **School meal will cost £2.92**. Please remember to **order school lunch for your child via Scopay before midnight!** If you forget to order your child a meal you will need to bring in a packed lunch.
- It is really important to **read daily with your child and discuss the book with them**. Please write quality feedback or any comments and sign the Reading Record or Homework Diary to let us know how that is going.
- If someone other than yourself or your nominated person(s) will be collecting your child, please tell a member of staff. We cannot release your child to anyone who has not been authorised.
- September is the time of year where we update our school records. It is essential that we have accurate records of all of the children in the school including addresses and contact numbers and emails in case of emergency, so please can you inform the School Office of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.

Thank you for attending the **Welcome and Year Ahead Information Meetings** for Parents yesterday. We hope you have found these meetings useful and informative. During the meeting, we highlighted the importance of our partnership and reintroduced the **Home School Agreement**, which outlines our shared responsibilities. Teachers have discussed this with their classes and asking children to sign it as part of their commitment. For families who were unable to attend, we will be sending home **two copies** of the agreement today. Please take time to read and discuss it with your child, then return one **signed copy to school on Monday 15th September**. Your engagement and support are essential, we would appreciate your full support of our school procedures, policies and your partnership. Without that partnership it will not be possible for our learners to fulfil their potential. Quite simply, we want the best for your child in exactly the same way you do. Together we can achieve that goal!



May I also remind you that we operate an **'Open Door' policy** and parents are always welcome to speak with a member of staff or with me about any concerns. During busy times, however, it may be necessary to arrange an appointment via the School Office. If you have any comments or feedback about the school, I would be pleased to hear them. I am usually available on the

playground at the end of the school day or at Drop Off time or alternatively, you can make an appointment to see me through the School Office.

I would like to emphasise that if an incident at school involving your child or others, it is very important that you contact **and inform the school directly**. We strongly urge parents not to use social media such as WhatsApp to discuss or address school related incidents. These platforms are not the appropriate place for resolving concerns and can often lead to misunderstandings or unnecessary distress for those involved. I reassure you that we always take your concerns seriously and handle every situation with care and confidentiality and address all matters promptly, fairly and sensitively in line with our school policies. We are committed to working with you to ensure a positive and respectful resolution.

**Key Dates and events are listed in the 'Dates for Your Diary' on the last page of this Newsletter.** In case you are reading one of these newsletters for the first time, a reminder that it is produced every Friday and contains all the up to date information about the school, including events. Newsletters can be accessed via a link sent to your email address each week or you can view them on the school website [www.wslprimary.org](http://www.wslprimary.org)

### What have we been learning in school? – Learning Highlights

It has been a fantastic start to the term across all year groups, with lots of exciting learning taking place!

Kestrels Class kicked off the year with a brilliant team-building activities, working together on problem-solving challenges that helped strengthen friendships and collaboration.

In Key Stage 2, our learners have begun exploring the Science topic of "Push and Pull", investigating forces through hands-on experiments and real-life examples. They have also started their World War Two topic work, delving into history with curiosity and empathy as they learn about life during wartime. Meanwhile, our Key Stage 1 learners have been busy developing their phonics skills, building confidence in reading and writing. In Maths, they have been exploring place value and sorting shapes according to different criteria, using practical resources to deepen their understanding.

We are also thrilled to see our new Reception children settling in so well. They have embraced their new routines with enthusiasm and are already making new friends and enjoying their learning through play. Here are some photos for you to enjoy. Thank you to all our staff for creating such a positive and inspiring start to the term!



At WSL we use **The Big 5 SMSC Values Programme** to deliver Relationships and Health Education Curriculum. The Value for this term is **Peace**. We will focus on one related value each week: **Belonging, Solitude, Play, Growth, Resilience** and **Joy**. This week we have been looking at the value of **Belonging**. The children in their classes discussed and reflected on "Do you feel you belong in many places?" Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren – 'What makes you feel belong? Why is it important to feel you belong? You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote *'Not belonging is a terrible feeling. It feels awkward and it hurts, as if you were wearing someone else's shoes.'* – Phoebe Stone, author (1947-present)

 **PEACE**- Next week we will focus on the related value of **Solitude**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on "What do you like about Solitude? How does it help you?" Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren – 'Are you able to find pleasure in Solitude? You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote *'All alone! Whether you like it or not, alone is something you'll be quite a lot.'* – Dr. Seuss, American children's author (1904 - 1991).

### New PTA Committee:

We are delighted to announce that a new Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) committee has been successfully formed, to be officially voted in at the AGM in November:

- **Co-Chairs:** Marie-Françoise Wolff (child in Owls & Robins) and Vicky Lomas (child in Owls & Skylarks)
- **Events Co-ordinator:** Tash Ellery (child in Owls)
- **Treasurer:** Dan Ellery (child in Owls)
- **Secretary:** Olivia Bowley (child in Nightingales)

The new committee is already full of ideas and enthusiasm, and we are looking forward to working together to support our school community through events, fundraising, and initiatives that benefit all our children.



If you would like to get involved organising events or being part of our wonderful crew of 'on the day' helpers, please get in touch with Marie-Francoise Wolff and Vicky Lomas via [wsl.pta@gmail.com](mailto:wsl.pta@gmail.com)

Our first event is the Halloween Disco on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, 5.00-7.00pm. If you would like to get involved helping at this event, please let us know.

The PTA plays a vital role in bringing together our school community, supporting both our children and staff while organising memorable events that everyone can enjoy. We can't do it without you, so we encourage you to get involved and help us continue creating unforgettable events at Waltham St. Lawrence.

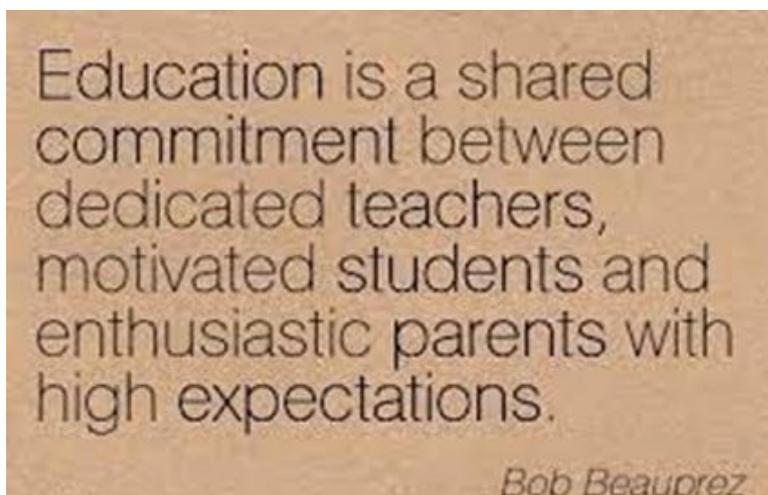
Thank you to all the new parents who joined our **Coffee Morning** this morning. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. These gatherings are a great way to connect, build community, and learn more about how we can support our children together. We also appreciated the opportunity to introduce our new PTA Committee, help everyone understand the roles of PTA and share how even small contributions—whether time, ideas, or resources—can make a big difference in raising extra funds for the school. Every effort helps enhance the experience and opportunities for all our children. The PTA continues to work hard to support the school, and we encourage you to get involved whenever and however you can. Your support truly matters.



**Swimming lessons** for Year 2 will be on Thursday every week, started this week. The last session will be on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 in Term 2. Children will be back on time for school hot meal, there is no need for packed lunch unless your child choose to have packed lunch for that day. Please can you make the payment via SCOPAY if you have not done so.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Li-Juan Ellerton  
Headteacher



## House Captains 2025-26

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on being elected House Captains:

<b>Brunel (Blue):</b>	Kiera E	Oscar B-C
<b>Galileo (Green):</b>	Kamran S	Charlotte L
<b>Redgrave (Red):</b>	Matilda P	Cody R
<b>Yeats (Yellow):</b>	Ben T	Harlow L

## School Council 2025-26

Welcome to this year's School Council. New members of School Council were elected this week. They are:

<b>Year 2:</b>	Lily S	Jay E
<b>Year 3:</b>	Oliver B	Olivia M
<b>Year 4:</b>	Ava M	Cooper G
<b>Year 5:</b>	Felix L	William D
<b>Year 6:</b>	Alanna T	Authur M-P

## Year 6 Playground Leaders 2025-26

Playground Leaders will be responsible for organising and leading games and activities on a rota basis during active lunch hour.

Ayrton A	Jojo B	Oliver R
Phoebe C	Darcy E	Jorgie G
Finn H	Toby H	Florentina H
Zamin M	Ajoni T	Harry M

## 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.

<b>Owls</b>	Jack L	Summer W
<b>Nightingales</b>	Roman R	Rose B
<b>Robins</b>	Neave S	Joshua H
<b>Skylarks</b>	Forrest D	Maisie B
<b>Red Kites</b>	Preston M	Sienna O-D
<b>Kestrels</b>	Zamin M	Ayrton A

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
<b>Brunel (Blue)</b>	<b>323</b>	323
<b>Galileo (Green)</b>	197	197
<b>Redgrave (Red)</b>	270	270
<b>Yeats (Yellow)</b>	264	264

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:** 08-09-25 to 12-09-25

<b>Owls</b> 99.1%	Skylarks 97%
Nightingales 93.3%	Red Kites 95.9%
Robins 97%	Kestrels 95.0%
Whole School 97.2%	



## Gifts – THANK YOU

All staff and I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone for the thoughtful gifts and cards we received at the end of last term. We were all very touched by your kind words and generosity. Thank you so much!

## Secondary School Application

Secondary applications for September 2025 open today. Applications must be submitted no later than the deadline 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. Please refer to the letter sent home.

## Habit of the Month

In **September**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Being aware of my surroundings and keeping myself and others safe**. 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.

## Termly Curriculum Overview

Termly Curriculum Overview for each Year group will be uploaded on the School Website by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September. You will be able to access the overview via <http://wslprimary.com/curriculum/> These give you a broad overview of the learning that takes place in Term 1 & 2 for your children. It is a useful starting point for you to do some research, support homework or just have a conversation with your child about what they are learning at school.

## After School Extra-Curricular Clubs

All clubs will be running next week. Children are expected to commit to a whole course, except for illness or other valid reasons and follow the School Golden Rules at all times. Please notify the teacher or School Office as soon as possible if your child cannot attend a session.

## School Photograph



The photographer will be visiting the school to take **individual and siblings photographs** including pre-school children on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 8.30am**. Sibling photos will be taken first followed by individual ones. You may wish to ensure your child/ren are looking particularly smart for the occasion.

## Nut /Dairy/Food Allergy

Please could we remind all parents to keep us informed about any food allergies or food intolerances that your children may have. We do have children and adults in school who have nut allergies, so please could we remind you that we are a nut free school and ask all parents to continue to be vigilant and not bring any nuts or nut products on to the school site. **Children are not allowed to share food with each other to avoid any incidents.** Thank you for your support.

## Medicine in School

Please could all parents note that only prescribed medication should be brought into school and handed in to the School Office. If your child requires a **prescribed medicine** and a dose has to be administered at lunchtime, then **parents must complete a Request Form for Administration of Medicine. Without this we are unable to administer medicine.** These forms are available from the School Office. The medicine must be in the original labelled bottle/container.

**Asthma:** Even if your child has not been diagnosed with asthma but has been given an inhaler (for any reason) then please inform the School Office. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

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 Fiona Edwards (Parent Governor)

### Dates for Your Diary

#### The Academic Year 2024-2025

#### Term 1 (39 days)

Month	Date	Event	Time
September	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Staff Inset Day	
	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	8.30am
	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Village Show at the Neville Hall	2.00-4.00pm
	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	After School Extra Curricula Clubs start this week (external)	
	Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher and The Year Ahead Information Meeting	3.20 & 4.05pm
		Swimming Lessons start for Robins Class	11.00am
	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome NEW Parents -Coffee Morning with Headteacher & PTA	8.50am
	W/C 15 <sup>th</sup>	Baseline Assessment for children in Owls Class	
	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Photograph – Individual and Siblings	8.30am
	Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Robins Class Visit to Waltham Place Farm	9.00-2.40pm
	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	My First Class Photo by Maidenhead Advertiser	9.30am
	Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	Governors Day in School	9.30-10.50
	October	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Autumn School Census Day
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Parents Viewing and Ordering Christmas Cards	3.15pm
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas Cards to be collected today	
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>		Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>		Parents Evening for KS2 Classes ONLY	3.30-5.30pm
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>		Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	5.00-7.00pm
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	3.30-5.30pm
		Flu Immunisation Vaccination for all children in school	8.30-10.30am
22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>		Year 6 Bikeability Level 2 Course	
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>		PTA Halloween Fancy Dress Disco / Movie – details to follow	5.00-7.00pm
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	3.10pm	

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

#### Term 2 (35 days)

Month	Date	Event	Time
November	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme 'Choose Respect'	
	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
December	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class	
	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

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

#### Term 3 (30 days)

Month	Date	Event
January	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Inset Day
	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Inset Day
	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term
February	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term

February Holiday: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 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](http://www.wslprimary.org)

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

Welcome to the New Academic Year Letter to all

Club Letters to all

Scopay Introductory / Registration Letter to Owls

Kung Fu Club Leaflet and Booking Form to all

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) Letter to Year 6

No Parking at Stop and Drop Reminder to Owls

Cox Green School Open Evening Invitation to Year 5/6

Parent/Carer Flu E-Consent Letter to all

PERFORM Drama Leaflets to all

New PTA Committee Letter to all