



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 02

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed another busy week of learning, with the children settling well into routines and showing great focus in their work. It has also been a joy to witness our new EYFS children completing their first two weeks with such enthusiasm. They look so smart in their uniforms and come into school eager to learn each day. The children have adapted brilliantly to the big changes in routine and are clearly enjoying making new friends and exploring their new surroundings. All of our pupils are fully engaged in a wide range of carefully planned learning activities. Thank you to our new parents for helping make these first weeks such a successful and positive start!

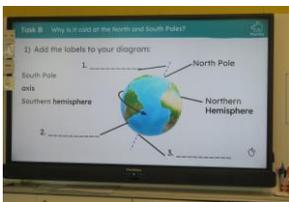
During my visits to each class this week, I saw some truly impressive work and progress. It was wonderful to notice the children practising a Growth Mindset, putting real effort into their learning – all of which make us very proud.

As a school, we are encouraging our children not only to engage with their learning but also to develop positive habits that will support them every day. This month’s Habit of the Month is **being aware of my surroundings and keeping myself and others safe**. We would be grateful if you could reinforce this at home, helping the children to practise making thoughtful choices so that it becomes a lasting habit.

Attendance and Punctuality: Every day in school counts. We would like to say a huge Thank You and Well Done for your support, making sure your children **arrive on time every day** and are being **punctual**, getting on with their learning in class. It has made a difference and has had some positive impact! Keep it up! If your child is finding things difficult—whether emotionally, socially, or academically—please don’t hesitate to see us. We are here to help and can signpost you to the right support. Working together makes all the difference.

What have we been learning in school? – Learning Highlights

In **Geography** Topic this week, the children in **Robins Class** were learning about the world’s cold places and why it is cold in the North and South Poles. They were able to explain that the earth is tilted on an axis. When the North Pole is tilted towards the sun it is warmer and sunny. When it is tilted away from the sun it is cold and dark. The children showed great curiosity and were able to share their ideas with real confidence – a fantastic start to their new topic!



This week, the children in **Kestrels Class** have been working on techniques to amplify sentences. Using amplification techniques such as **repetition** and **expanded noun phrases**, they took simple sentences and transformed them into powerful pieces of writing. The children showed real creativity and focus, carefully choosing words and structures to add impact and depth. Their wow work has been a joy to read and is a fantastic example of the high standards they are striving for in English. Here are a few examples for you to enjoy.

Simple Sentence: The storm looms.

Wrathful lightning struck violently as clouds, polluted and heavy, gathered to watch the rueful pilot say his goodbyes. Anonymous and solitary, accepting and nostalgic, he threw the golden box into the dark abyss shedding a tear.

By Keira

Uninviting, sizeable thunder clouds floated gloomily above. The pilots gut instinct was to flee, though hope brightly lit the way. Gathering clouds. Gathering fate. Gathering danger. How could he possible survive?

By Phoebe

The unforgiving and severe storm raged trying to eradicate anything in its path. Meanwhile the wrathful lightning pelted down all around them. The threatening thunder tried to frighten the pilot and his ship away but it couldn’t. Noise echoed all around. There was noise everywhere; the noise of thunder, crack of lightning and the pitter patter of the rain.

By Ben

The airship flew into the sky.

The blimp was incredible. It's incredible majestic structure was towering over below. It flew 30 metres up. Its intention to enter the incredible myth of the eye of the storm. But it wasn't a myth; he was yet to discover the incredible truth

Toby L



PEACE- Next week we will focus on the related value of **Play**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on “How do you feel when you make time to play? What about when you haven’t had a chance to play?” Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren – ‘What is your favourite game to play? Why? How does playing it make you feel?? You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote ‘*It’s the things we play with and the people who help us play that make a great difference in our lives.*’ - Fred Rogers, American TV personality (1928 – 2003).

Upcoming Events Reminder:



The photographer will be visiting the school to take **individual and siblings photographs** including pre-school children on **Monday 22nd 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.

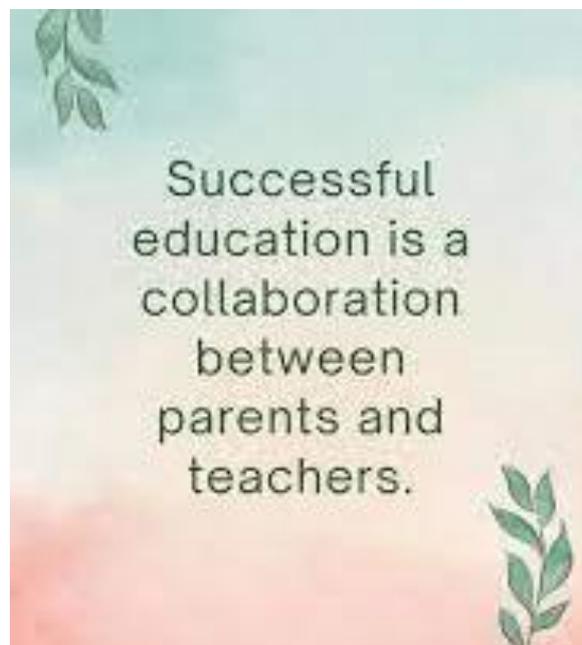
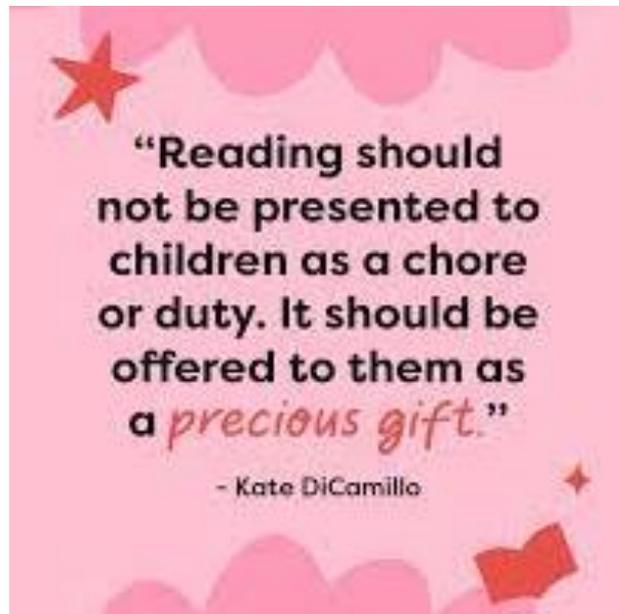
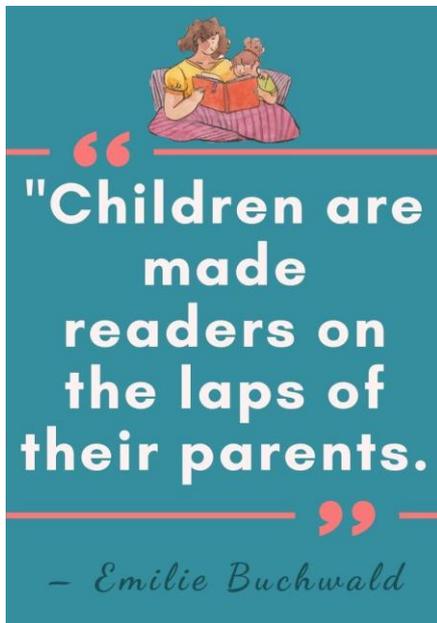


RWI Phonics Workshop for Year 1 Parents will take place on Wednesday 1st October at 2.30pm in Nightingales Classroom. Please come along and learn about how we teach reading at WSL and some strategies as to how you can best support your child’s reading at home. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Our school annual **Harvest Festival** will take place in Waltham St Lawrence Church on **Friday 3rd October at 2:00pm**. Please look out a letter for more details.

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	Chester S	Harlie P
Nightingales	Henrietta B	Henry L
Robins	Abdullah J	Mia M
Skylarks	Mia A-M	William L
Red Kites	Oscar P	Keira T
Kestrels	Jorgie G	Arthur M-P

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	335	658
Galileo (Green)	252	449
Redgrave (Red)	318	588
Yeats (Yellow)	315	579

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: 15-09-25 to 19-09-25

Owls 99.1% Skylarks 91.7%

Nightingales 91% Red Kites 96.3%

Robins 100% Kestrels 90.3%

Whole School 94.6%



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.

Thank you

Thank you to all the parents in Owls Class for your wonderful support with our new morning drop-off routine. Saying goodbye at the Blue Gate, and with some children already starting to use the Stop and Drop Zone, is really helping to build independence in our young learners. **Well done to our youngest learners – we are so proud of how confidently you are adapting to the new routine!** We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation and support.

Lateness

Please try to be on time to school each day. The school gates open at 8:30am and the bell rings at 8:40am. Lessons begin immediately after registration at 8.40am.

My First Class Photo

For parents in Reception Owls Class - My First Class photo will be taken by professional photographer from Maidenhead Advertiser on **Friday 26th September** at 1.30pm. No names will be mentioned. Please inform us if you do not want your child to be photographed. The photo will then be published in the Maidenhead Advertiser Newspaper in October, date to be confirmed. Please make sure your child looks smart for the photo.

After School Extra-Curricular Clubs

All clubs are up running now. 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 Lunches

Please remember - **Lunches for the following day must be ordered and paid for IN ADVANCE by 12.00 midnight every day**. You can order lunches for your children for the whole week or term via ScoPay www.scopay.com **LATE ORDERS AND PAYMENTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**. The school kitchen needs to know how many children will be having lunch before they place the weekly food order on Fridays. If you have any problem, please do come and discuss with us. Many thanks.

New PTA Committee

Our new Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) committee has been successfully formed:

- **Co-Chairs:** Marie-Françoise Martin and Vicky Lomas
- **Events Co-ordinator:** Tash Ellery
- **Treasurer:** Dan Ellery
- **Secretary:** Olivia Bowley

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

Class Representatives 2025-26

Many of you are aware that each class has two parent Class Representatives. Their role is to be a contact between parents and staff and they also act as the link to the PTA, helping to coordinate fundraising events. The role is a voluntary one and as such can be adapted to suit individuals. There is still a vacancy for Skylarks Class. If you are interested, please let the PTA or the School Office know. Thank you for your continued support.

Owls	Stacey Moore & Marie-Francoise Martin
Nightingales	Olivia Bowley & Sarah Irwin
Robins	Lizzie Shuttleworth, Annabel Ganson & Lizzie Lambert-Webb
Skylarks	Sarah Anderson & Vicky Lomas
Red Kites	Deborah Dziedzic & Jess Marshall Pullin
Kestrels	Ginny Lavers & Elaine Harris

Secondary School Application

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

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents Year R Sept 2025

If you have a child due to start school next September, or you know anybody who does, please note that we are holding four Open Mornings when parents/carers can come and look around the school and ask any questions they may have. These will take place from 9.45-10.45am on

- Tuesday 23rd September 2025**
- Thursday 16th October 2025**
- Wednesday 5th November 2025**
- Thursday 27th November 2025**
- Tuesday 13th January 2026**

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)

September	W/C 15 th	Baseline Assessment for children in Owls Class	
	Mon 22 nd	School Photograph – Individual and Siblings	8.30am
	Tues 23 rd	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45- 10.45am
	Wed 24 th	Robins Class Visit to Waltham Place Farm	9.00-2.40pm
	Fri 26 th	My First Class Photo by Maidenhead Advertiser	9.30am
October	Tues 30 th	Governors Morning in School	9.30-11.30am
	Wed 1 st	RWI Phonics and Reading workshop for Year 1 Parents	2.30pm
	Thurs 2 nd	Autumn School Census Day	
		Parents Viewing and Ordering Christmas Cards	3.15pm
	Fri 3 rd	Harvest Festival In WSL Church	2.00pm
	Tues 7 th	KS2 Reading Workshop for Parents in Years 3-6	2.30pm
	Wed 8 th	Bag2School Collection	9.00am
		Christmas Cards to be collected today	
	13 th -16 th	Pre-Loved Halloween Costume Sale collecting at Morning Drop Off	8.30-8.40am
	Thurs 16 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Fri 17 th	Pre-Loved Halloween Costume Sale on the playground	3.10-3.45pm
	Mon 20 th	Parents Evening for KS2 Classes ONLY	3.30-5.30pm
	Tues 21 st	Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	5.00-7.00pm
	Wed 22 nd	Parents Evening – for ALL Classes	3.30-5.30pm
		Flu Immunisation Vaccination for all children in school	8.30-10.30am
22 nd -24 th	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2 Course		
Thurs 23 rd	PTA Halloween Fancy Dress Disco / Movie – details to follow	5.00-7.00pm	
Fri 24 th	End of Pupil Term	3.10pm	

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	
	Wed 5 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	10 th -14 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme ‘Choose Respect’	
	Thurs 27 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
December	Thurs 4 th	Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class	
	Fri 19 th	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

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

Term 3 (30 days)

January	Mon 6 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 7 th	Staff Inset Day	
	Wed 8 th	Start of Pupil Term	
February	Fri 14 th	End of Pupil Term	
		Owls Cake Sale	

February Holiday: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st 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.wsprimary.org

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

Class Visit to Waltham Place Letter to Robins	Early Reading Strategy information to Owls
Flu Immunisation Vaccination Parents E-Consent Reminder to all	uSports Gymnastics Club to Year 1- 4
Twyford & District Round Table Fireworks Night Colouring to all	Change of Menu on Monday Information to all