



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 03

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another busy and successful week. On Tuesday morning, we were delighted to welcome prospective parents to our first **Open Morning** of the year. Visitors enjoyed a guided tour of the school, observed teaching and learning in action, and attended an informative presentation. Feedback was very positive—the visitors commented on our children’s excellent learning behaviours, their high levels of engagement with daily miles and PE etc. and the school’s calm, purposeful atmosphere.

If your child is due to start school in September 2026, or if you know someone who is looking for a school place, please encourage them to come and visit us. We are always happy to show families around and answer any questions they may have. We also welcome enquiries from parents of children in other year groups, as we still have places available in certain classes. The more children we have, the more funding we receive, which helps us to provide the very best opportunities for all our pupils. If you would like to arrange a visit or find out more, please contact the School Office. Here are more dates for Open Mornings from 9.45-10.45am on

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

### Thank You Message from Mrs Wiseman

*“I want to say an enormous thank you to everyone for my many amazing retirement gifts and cards. Over the summer, I have really enjoyed having time to do a lot of ‘reading for pleasure’, and where more comfortable to do it than in my wonderful new egg chair?! As you can see, it is positioned to perfectly catch the early evening sunshine - just right for also enjoying a lovely, cold glass of wine (thanks for all those bottles!)!*

*Thank you also, to all of the children for their lovely songs, pictures and poems. It took me a long time to read through them all, along with all of your beautiful cards.*

*Thank you once again for your generosity and kind words, and for all your support over the years.”*



At the Farewell Assembly in July 2025, Mrs Wiseman generously presented the school with a parting gift – a beautiful Flamingo Willow tree. Planted at the beginning of this term near the entrance gate, the tree will greet everyone who passes by. In time, its graceful pink and white blossoms will flourish, serving as a lasting reminder of Mrs Wiseman and the warmth, care, and dedication she has given to our school community.



### National Fitness Day – Getting Active Together!

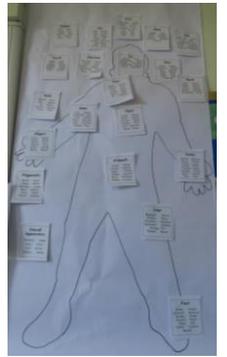
On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, we proudly took part in the **National Fitness Day 10@10** Live Stream Broadcast, this event was run by Leisure Focus in partnership with Maidenhead and Ascot Schools Sports Partners and Windsor Schools Sports Partnership. The 10@10 is a perfect way to help achieve the children's 60 minutes of activity a day. It was fantastic to see everyone moving together, smiling, stretching and full of energy and enthusiasm. A big thank you to Miss Bennett, our new PE Subject Leader for coordinating this event and to all staff for supporting the event and encouraging our children to embrace healthy habits.



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



In **Red Kites**, the children have been learning about how to use powerful adjectives to describe characters in their **English** sessions. They brought this to life by creating a life-sized word bank filled with WOW words about different parts of the body for their writing. Next week, they will be creating their very own characters using this amazing word bank! Well done Red Kites!



The **Year 4** scientists have been learning about contact forces and friction as part of their **Science** Topic on Forces and Magnets. This week, they experimented with different types of surfaces to see which allowed their cars to travel the furthest. They built their own ramps using wooden boards and used bubble wrap, sandpaper, tinfoil, wood, paper and carpet to gain an understanding of how different surface properties create friction. They worked in teams to carefully record their results using a metre stick.

Well done Year 4!



On Wednesday this week, the children in **Robins Class** had an exciting visit to Waltham Place Farm. The highlight of their trip was **making soda bread** from scratch. Guided by Nick and our staff, the children mixed the ingredients, kneaded the dough and watched in awe as their bread baked to perfection. The children enjoyed the fruits of their labour, spreading delicious jam on their freshly baked soda bread. The children learned about the origins of their food. From the wheat to the kitchen, the children took part in **flour milling**, gaining a deeper understanding of where the flour comes from. They enjoyed a peaceful nature walk through the beautiful grounds, collected shiny conkers and created stunning nature collages using leaves and twigs. The children were thrilled to see the pigs up close. The visit to Waltham Place Farm was a memorable and enriching experience. Here are what the children say about their day and some photos for you to enjoy.



**PEACE**- Next week we will focus on the related value of **Growth**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on "Can you flow through your changing emotions? Are you able to go with the flow?" Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren – 'How do you feel when you are stuck with an uncomfortable feeling? How do you feel when your emotions start flowing again? You may also want to explore the

meaning of this quote *“Let's not forget that the little emotions are the great captains of our lives and we obey them without realizing it.”* Vincent van Gogh, Dutch painter (1853 – 1890).

### Governors' Update

The first Governing Board meeting was held last week. I would like to share some important updates. After eight years of dedicated service as Chair of Governors, Fiona Edwards has stepped down from the role due to work and family commitments. We are deeply grateful for her outstanding leadership, unwavering commitment, and the positive contributions she has made to the school throughout her tenure. We are pleased that she will continue to serve as a valued member of the board in her role as Parent Governor.

We are delighted to announce that Sam Teague has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors, with John Kiss taking on the role of Vice Chair. I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our governing Board for their continued support and contributions to the school

We look forward to a productive year ahead and thank all governors for their ongoing dedication to the school community.

### Upcoming Events Reminder:

**Harvest Festival rehearsal session in WSL Church** will be on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**. Please remember to drop off your children in Year 1-6 at the church at 8:40am. Children in Owls are dropped off at school as usual.

Our school annual **Harvest Festival** will take place in Waltham St Lawrence Church on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2:00pm**. Please refer to the letter sent home last week for more details.



**RWI Phonics Workshop for Year 1 Parents** will take place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**KS2 Reading Workshop** will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm** in the school Hall. Important strategies will be shared. We would encourage and expect as many parents to come as possible as your involvement plays a vital role in your child's progress.

Parents in Robins are invited to attend **Year 2 Reading Comprehension Workshop on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm in Swallows Learning Space**. Mrs Brancato will share some strategies of how we support children with their reading and reading comprehension.

Safe The Date – **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm**. We will hold a very important workshop for parents focusing on **Zones of Regulation and Emotion Coaching** to help you support your child/ren. Please look out for a letter for more details.



Waltham St Lawrence PTA is creating our very own school cookbook, filled with delicious recipes from the wonderful families in our school community! To make this special keepsake truly shine, each family is welcome to contribute a favourite recipe – something you enjoy making (and eating!) together at home. It could be a treasured family classic, a quick weeknight winner, or a beloved dessert – all recipes are welcome! If you would like, you can also include a photo of the dish or of your family cooking together, adding a

personal touch to each page.

**Please send your recipe (and optional photo) to [wsl.pta@gmail.com](mailto:wsl.pta@gmail.com) by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

The finished cookbooks will be available to order via the PTA Events website and will be ready by the end of November – just in time for Christmas! They will make perfect gifts for grandparents, relatives, and friends – a thoughtful (and tasty!) way to share a piece of our school community.

If you are interested in **purchasing copies of the cookbook**, please place your order as soon as the link is available (an alert will be sent). This will help the PTA estimate how many to print and keep costs and waste as low as possible.

Thank you for being part of this fun and meaningful project. We can't wait to see – and try – your delicious recipes!

WSL PTA

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	Lee M	Gracie M
Nightingales	Joseph I	Isla K
Robins	Poppy L-W	Sebastian W
Skylarks	Ridley J	Emily C
Red Kites	Beatrice K	Bella W
Kestrels	Alanna T	Darcy E

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	327	985
Galileo (Green)	204	653
Redgrave (Red)	256	844
Yeats (Yellow)	219	798

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:** 22-09-25 to 26-09-25

Owls 100%	Skylarks 95.2%
Nightingales 93.8%	Red Kites 99.3%
Robins 96.5%	Kestrels 96.7%
Whole School 97%	



## 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.

## My First Class Photo

Children in Owls Class had their photos taken today - 'My First-Class Photo' will be in The Maidenhead Advertiser shortly. Prior to this, parents in Owls Class can view the photo via our school's pictures on Maidenhead Advertiser website. The link to their website will be sent to you in due course.

## Parking and Safety

We kindly ask all parents to **avoid parking in restricted Zones** i.e. the Zigzag 'Keep Clear' Zone and Stop and Drop Zone in front of the school. Parking in these zones can cause accidents and block other parents from using our Stop and Drop system. Let's work together to keep our school environment safe for everyone. Thank you.

## 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](http://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.

## School Census Day Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

It is School Census Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October next week. Part of **next year's funding** will be decided by the number of children having school meals that day. The more children who have a meal on just this day, the more funding the school will receive to further improve provision. Even if your child does not usually have hot dinners, please consider persuading them and book your child/ren in for lunch on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October if you can. To promote and encourage children to have a school lunch that day, we will swap the menu around. The Thursday menu will be Fish Fingers with Chips or BBQ Quorn with Chips and Friday will be Greek Chicken with Pitta or Cheese Whirl with Rice. Thank you for your support.

## 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

## Bag2School Collection

We have organised Bag2School fundraising event which raises some extra amount money for School Fund whilst helping others less. Clear bags with information leaflets were sent home last week for you to put in any **old clothes, handbags and shoes** etc. These bags can be brought into school **at drop off time by 9.00am on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. You can use your own bags. Thank you for your support. **Please do not bring any filled bags to school before this date, as we are unable to store them. bags must be dropped off by 9.00am at the latest, only on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

## Secondary School Application

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

## Open Mornings for Prospective Parents Year R Sept 2026

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

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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	Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	Governors Morning in School	9.30-11.30am
October	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	RWI Phonics and Reading Workshop for Year 1 Parents	2.30pm
	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Autumn School Census Day	
		Parents Viewing and Ordering Christmas Cards	3.15pm
	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harvest Festival In WSL Church	2.00pm
	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Reading Workshop for Parents in Years 3-6	2.30pm
	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bag2School Collection	9.00am
		Christmas Cards to be collected today	
	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Reading Information Meeting for Parents in Robins	2.30pm
	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-Loved Halloween Costume Sale collecting at Morning Drop Off	8.30-8.40am
	Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am
	Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Zones of Regulation and Emotion Coaching Workshop for Parents	2.30pm
	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-Loved Halloween Costume Sale on the playground	3.10-3.45pm
	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)

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)

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	
		Owls Cake Sale	

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:

Harvest Festival Letter to all

Wokingham Food Bank Harvest Shopping List to all

Bags2School bags to all

Gymnastics Club Cancellation Letter to Years 1- 4

Bikeability Letter to Year 6

PTA WSL Cookbook Letter to all