



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 05

Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We were delighted to see so many of you join us last Friday at WSL Church to celebrate our **Harvest Festival**. This special occasion was our first whole school celebration of the academic year, and it truly was a joyful one! The theme of our Harvest Festival focused on Gratitude, Appreciation, and Teamwork. Through poems, songs, Harvest art, and a wonderful recount of a class trip to Waltham Place Farm, the children reminded us of all the good things we have in our lives and how important it is to share with those who may be less fortunate. There is nothing more uplifting than hearing our children sing so beautifully and speak with such confidence and clarity. A big thank you to our Year 6 children for leading the service so wonderfully, and to all the teachers and TAs who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare the children and make the celebration such a success. We are also very grateful for your kind donations, which have now been delivered to the local foodbank. Our sincere thanks also go to Revd Roy for stepping in to support us, and to all the parents who helped transport or walk the children to church. As it was my final Harvest Festival here, it felt especially meaningful and memorable — a celebration I will always treasure.



Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our recent **KS2 Reading Workshop** on **Tuesday** this week, led by our three KS2 teachers, Mr Errington, Miss Hill and Mrs Morgan. The session was designed to support parents in understanding the national expectations for reading and how we teach reading comprehension skills in school. During the workshop, we explored the key areas that help children become confident and fluent readers who can understand and enjoy a wide range of texts. These included:

- **Retrieval** – finding and recalling key information from a text.
- **Inference** – using clues and evidence to understand what is implied but not directly stated.
- **Prediction** – anticipating what might happen next based on what has been read.
- **Summarising** – identifying the main ideas and expressing them clearly.
- **Explaining and Justifying** – giving reasons for opinions using evidence from the text.
- **Comparing and Contrasting** – identifying similarities and differences between characters, themes, or settings across different texts.

The teachers also discussed practical ways to support reading at home — such as asking open-ended questions, discussing characters' feelings and motives, and summarising a story together. Encouraging children to read daily for pleasure and talking about what they read are simple but powerful ways to build comprehension and confidence.

Parents who attended received a **Reading Advice Booklet** tailored for each year group (Years 3–6) and a **Recommended Book List** offering age-appropriate titles to inspire reading at home. These resources are designed to help families continue supporting their child's reading journey beyond the classroom.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended for your enthusiasm and engagement. Your partnership in fostering a love of reading at home plays a vital role in your child's progress and enjoyment of learning. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's Class Teachers via the School Office — we would be happy to share the booklet and reading list with you.

“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”



Year 1 Outdoor Learning Space – A Fresh New Look!

We are delighted to share that our Year 1 Outdoor Learning Space has been thoughtfully improved to make it an even more purposeful and engaging environment for our children. Previously open on all sides, the area is now half enclosed with a new panel running halfway up. This clever design allows children to enjoy a sense of their own space while still enabling adults to supervise and support play and learning from the other side.

One of the new panels features a large double-sided blackboard, which children can use them for drawing, writing, and recording their ideas during outdoor learning sessions. It has added a wonderful creative element to the space, encouraging collaboration, communication, and imaginative thinking.

The partial enclosure has also helped to create a calmer and more defined learning area, supporting focused play and exploration across the curriculum — from Maths and Literacy to Science and Expressive arts.

We are so pleased with how this improvement has enhanced the environment, making it both safer and more inspiring for our Year 1 children to learn and play every day. Here are photos to show Now and Then.



What have we been learning in school? – Learning Highlights

The children in **Nightingales Class** enjoyed a delightful and educational visit to **Waltham Place Farm** yesterday. The children had the opportunity to engage in a range of hands-on activities, including visiting the dairy cows, where the children learned about the milking process, dairy products and the traits of cow family. They also picked apples and feeding to the pigs, which was a highlight for many. During a bug hunt, the children explored insect habitats and discovered a range of species, deepening their understanding of the role insects play in the ecosystem and their impact on the environment. In the afternoon, the children went for a woodland walk., searching for mushrooms and animal tracks. They then used natural materials such as twigs, leaves, acorns, pinecones to create imaginative woodland animals. The day finished with a lively game of Fox and Chicken, which brought a lot of laughter - A great day was had by all. This visit provided a rich and memorable learning experience, supporting their Science topic on Animals and incorporating elements of art, nature, and environmental awareness. Here are some photos for you enjoy.



Here's what some of the children had to say about their day:

I have enjoyed my day a lot and the best bit was feeding the pigs. - Wren

I liked going in the forest and making a hedgehog and a squirrel with the twigs. - Joseph

I had a good day and the best bit was feeding the pigs the acorns and apples. - Mille

I enjoyed all of it and I would like to do it all again. - Nelson

I liked hunting for bugs and I found a millipede. - Olivia

I enjoyed everything; it was all my favourite bits! - Kai

Congratulations to our **Girls' Football Team**, who won all five of their football matches of the season, against pupils from much larger schools yesterday. They scored 11 goals with no goals conceded. The girls team thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They showed outstanding teamwork, determination, and skill throughout each game, demonstrating that size is no match for spirit and strategy. Their success is a testament to their hard work and enthusiasm — we are incredibly proud of their achievement! Thank you to Miss Bennett for coordinating this event in her new role as PE Subject Leader. Thank you to Miss Bennett, Mr Errington and parents for being there to support our team.





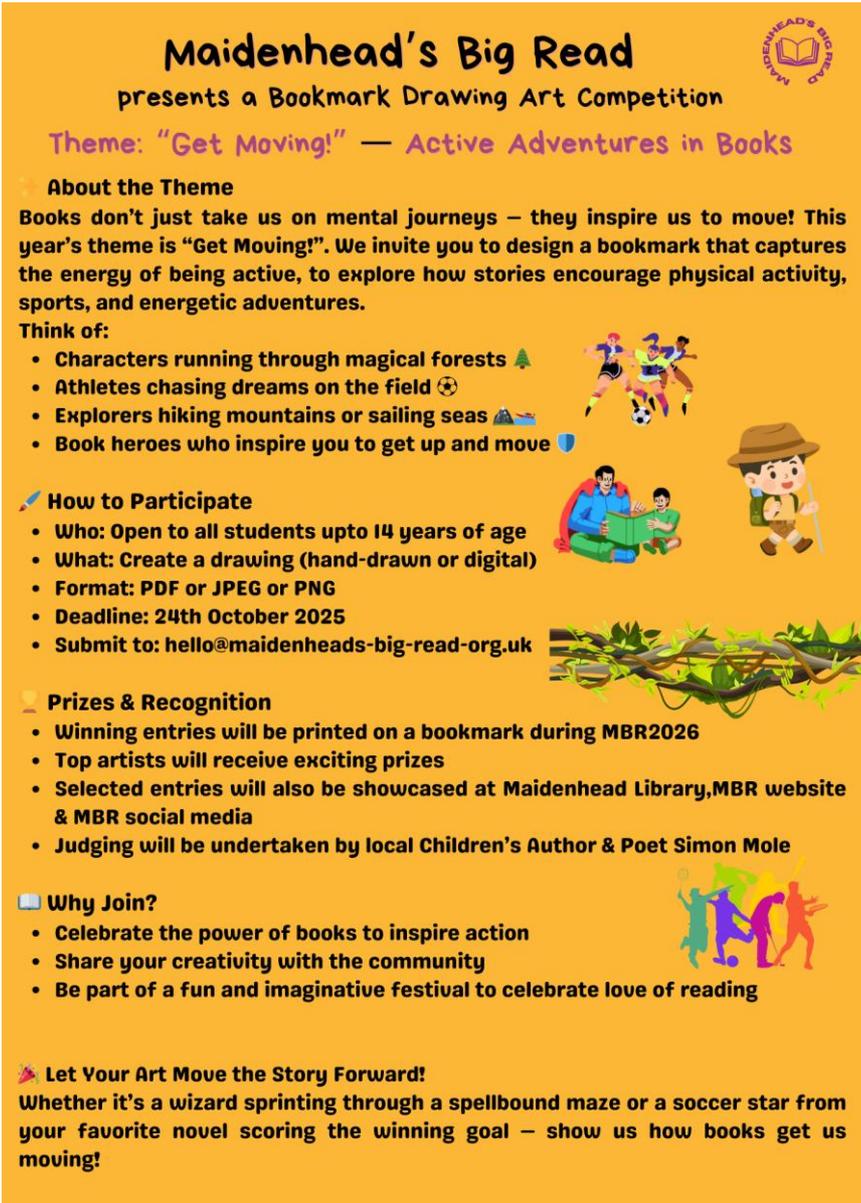
PEACE- Next week we will focus on the related value of **Joy**. The children in their classes will discuss and reflect on what Joy means and “What brings you joy? Why is it important to notice when we feel joy? Sometimes it can be hard to capture the feeling of joy. Perhaps you can have further discussions with your child/ren at home and ask your child/ren – ‘How do you feel when you are joyful? What ingredients have helped bring you joy? How do you feel when you get the help you need? You may also want to explore the meaning of this quote *“Joy is to fun what the deep sea is to a puddle. It’s a feeling inside that can hardly be contained.”* – Terry Pratchett (English Author, 1948-2015).

Upcoming Events Reminder:

- Parents in Robins are invited to attend **Year 2 Reading Comprehension Workshop this afternoon at 2.30pm in Swallows Learning Space**. Mrs Brancato will share some strategies on how we support children with their reading and reading comprehension.
- **Owls Class - Diwali Learning and Coconut Barfi Making**
Next week, the children in Owls Class will make **Coconut Barfi**, a sweet treat made using desiccated coconut and condensed milk. If your child has any allergies or dietary requirements, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements.
- **Supporting Children’s Emotions through Zones of Regulation and Emotion Coaching** Workshop for Parents will take place on **Thursday 16th October at 2.30pm in the School Hall**. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the School Office so that we can make necessary seating arrangements. We look forward to welcoming you and seeing as many of you as possible. please refer to the letter sent home for details.
- We welcome prospective parents to our **Open Morning on Thurs 16th October from 9.45 to 10.45am**. This is a wonderful opportunity to see our school in action and learn more about what makes our community so special. Please do help spread the word to friends, neighbours, and anyone who may be looking for a place for their child — whether for Reception next year or an in-year transfer, as we currently have spaces available in certain year groups. We would love to welcome them to our school family!
- Please find below a weblink to our **Maidenhead Big Read Newsletter**, and attached a copy of a poster detailing our **MBR Bookmark Drawing Art Competition** for our students to take part <https://mailchi.mp/08a8ae541a5e/mbr-newsletter-18095904>

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher



Maidenhead's Big Read
presents a **Bookmark Drawing Art Competition**

Theme: **"Get Moving!" — Active Adventures in Books**

About the Theme
Books don't just take us on mental journeys – they inspire us to move! This year's theme is "Get Moving!". We invite you to design a bookmark that captures the energy of being active, to explore how stories encourage physical activity, sports, and energetic adventures.

Think of:

- Characters running through magical forests 🌲
- Athletes chasing dreams on the field ⚽
- Explorers hiking mountains or sailing seas 🏔️
- Book heroes who inspire you to get up and move 🦸

How to Participate

- **Who:** Open to all students upto 14 years of age
- **What:** Create a drawing (hand-drawn or digital)
- **Format:** PDF or JPEG or PNG
- **Deadline:** 24th October 2025
- **Submit to:** hello@maidenheads-big-read-org.uk

Prizes & Recognition

- Winning entries will be printed on a bookmark during MBR2026
- Top artists will receive exciting prizes
- Selected entries will also be showcased at Maidenhead Library, MBR website & MBR social media
- Judging will be undertaken by local Children's Author & Poet Simon Mole

Why Join?

- Celebrate the power of books to inspire action
- Share your creativity with the community
- Be part of a fun and imaginative festival to celebrate love of reading

Let Your Art Move the Story Forward!
Whether it's a wizard sprinting through a spellbound maze or a soccer star from your favorite novel scoring the winning goal – show us how books get us moving!

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	Ezra E	Poppy A-M
Nightingales	Whole Class for exceptional behaviour	
Robins	Constantine M	Emilie W
Skylarks	Blake R	Jemima K
Red Kites	Hector G-J	Lawrence G
Kestrels	Sophie M	Ajooni T

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	263	1538
Galileo (Green)	293	1223
Redgrave (Red)	226	1357
Yeats (Yellow)	337	1403

The Winning House for this week is **Yeats**. Well done.

Attendance for the Week

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

Class Attendance: 06-10-25 to 10-10-25

Owls 100% Skylarks 97.8%
Nightingales 98.2% Red Kites 97.2%
Robins 94% Kestrels 93.3%
Whole School 96.6%



Habit of the Month

In **October**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Showing Appreciation**. 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.

Bag2School Collection – THANK YOU

Together we have raised **£120.30** for **401kg** of donated bags of clothes etc. Thank you so much for your ongoing support. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated.



Supporting Children's Emotions Workshop for Parents

This is a very important Workshop for parents, please come along to learn about some key strategies we use to Support **Children's Emotions through Zones of Regulation and Emotion Coaching on Thursday 16th October at 2.30pm in the School Hall**. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the School Office so that we can make necessary seating arrangements. We look forward to welcoming you and seeing as many of you as possible. please refer to the letter sent home for details.

PTA Pre-Loved Halloween Costume Sale

Pre-Loved Halloween Costume Sale will take place on **Friday 13th October 2025** after school on Playground. These costumes will be resold for a small profit to support families and our school.

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.

Parents Evenings

The online booking for Parents Evenings will be set up next week and go live. You will be receiving an online notification. Please look out for a letter with more details.

Parents Evenings will take place on:

Monday 20th October 3.30pm-5.30pm

Tuesday 21st October 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Wednesday 22nd October 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Nasal Flu Vaccinations for All Year Groups

Please ensure the e-Consent form is completed online as soon as possible, indicating whether you wish your child(ren) to receive the vaccination or not. This vaccination will take place on **Wednesday 22nd October** in school.

PTS Cookbook



Waltham St Lawrence PTA is creating our very own school cookbook - all recipes are welcome! If you would like to contribute, please share them, including a photo of the dish or of your

family cooking together, adding a personal touch to each page. You can **send your recipe (and optional photo) to wsl.pta@gmail.com by Friday 24th 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! 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.

PTA Upcoming Events



Thursday 23rd October, 5:00pm-7:00pm

- **Halloween Fancy Dressing Disco** (tickets are available on PTA-events) at school.

Tuesday 11th November, 6:00pm-7:00pm – **PTA AGM** with Governors and School Updates at school.

Thursday 14th December 3:30pm - Christmas **Fair** at school.

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 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)

October	Fri 10 th	Year 2 Reading Information Meeting for Parents in Robins	2.30pm
	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
	Thurs 16 th	Zones of Regulation and Emotion Coaching Workshop for Parents	2.30pm
	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’		
	28 th -25 th	Book Fair		
	Thurs 27 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45-10.45am	
	Fri 28 th	Robins Cake Sale		
	December	Thurs 4 th	Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class	
		Fri 5 th	Skylarks Cake Sale	
		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.wslprimary.org

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

- Class Visit to Waltham Place Farm Letter to Nightingales
- Bikeability Consent Reminder to Year 6 Parents
- Reading Workshop Reminder to KS2 Parents
- Bags2School Reminder to all
- Deadline for ordering School Photographs to all