



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 07

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,



It was so good to see so many of you attending the **Parents' Evenings** with your children and contributing to the discussions about your child's learning with their Class Teachers. We believe that working in partnership is key in ensuring your child's success and we are always looking to give you the information that you find most useful to help your child's progress and overall development, such as how we can work together to help children form good habits and acquire basic life skills to become more effective, independent learners. We hope you found the discussions with your child's direct involvement very valuable. If for any reason, you were not able to attend on either of the specified nights, please do speak to your child's Class Teacher to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. If you have any feedback for us, both positive and developmental, please let us know.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make last night's **Halloween Disco, Quiz and Craft Fundraiser** a great success!!! **An amazing £700+ was raised!** A huge Well Done to the PTA Committee who organised this event and funded the prizes for winners. A special THANK YOU to the parents who created fantastic decorations in the School Hall. HUGE thanks to our hardworking PTA for buying and preparing food including sausages, buns, popcorn and cucumbers and for managing the kitchen during the event. Massive thanks to all of the wonderful helpers, both before and on the day. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community. Thank you again to EVERYONE - staff, parents and children - who supported and enjoyed the fun event! We were incredibly impressed with the amazing efforts that children and parents have put into this fancy dress event!



The winners for the BEST DRESSED in each year group are as follows:

EYFS:	Jack L	William P
Year 1:	Isla K	Bethan U
Year 2:	Emilie W	Betsy M-P
Year 3:	Oliver B	Olivia M
Year 4:	Cooper G	Riley W
Year 5:	Preston M	Kaden K
Year 6:	Phoebe C	Ayrton A



“TOGETHER WE INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

What have we been learning in school? – Learning Highlights

Bikeability Training - Children in Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their 3-day Bikeability Cycle Training at Level 2 this week. They all followed instructions carefully and practiced some basic skills on the playground and learned more about how to ride their bikes safely by keeping some distance. They then cycled out on the roads around the village and learned all about how to cycle safely on the roads. For some children this was a completely new and slightly daunting experience. Nevertheless, they have overcome their anxiety and are now better prepared to cycle. They have become more confident and are reminded to remember the key safety rule – SEE and BE Seen. The instructors were very impressed with the children's energy and enthusiasm and how polite and sensible all children are! Well, done, children! Thank you, parents, for giving permission for the children to come on the course. We would like to offer our thanks to David and Simon and RBWM for kindly providing this invaluable training.



This week, our children enjoyed a rich variety of learning experiences! In **RE**, Red Kites Class explored aspects of **Judaism**, with our wonderful Teaching Assistants, Mrs Patterson and Mrs Taneja sharing personal experiences and fascinating artifacts that brought the topic to life.

In **Mandarin** lessons taught by Miss Li, children enthusiastically learned how to greet each other, hold simple conversations, and say their nationality. The children in Kestrels Class even linked numbers to a classic poem, helping them remember key vocabulary in an engaging and creative way.



It is hard to believe that we are already approaching October Holiday. The first term of this academic year has flown by! It is amazing to see how children have settled well into the term - they have all made very pleasing and impressive progress from their starting points! Thank you for your support and partnership.

As this chapter draws to a close for me, I want to take a moment to thank our wonderful community once again and share a final message. It has been an absolute privilege to lead such a caring, talented, and dedicated community. Watching our children grow, thrive, and shine has been one of the greatest joys of my career. I will miss the children enormously - their energy, curiosity, and laughter fill this school with life every single day. It has been such a privilege to see them learn, overcome challenges, and grow in confidence. I want to thank **our incredible staff**, who work tirelessly every day to deliver high-quality, inspiring teaching that ensures every child receives the support, challenge, and encouragement they need to succeed. They live out our School Values in all they do. My heartfelt thanks also go to **our wonderful parents / carers and governors** for your continued trust, support and partnership over the years. A huge thank you to all the parents, children, and staff for the **wonderful surprise farewell** on the playground at the end of the day yesterday. I was deeply touched to see so many of you there — it truly meant the world to me. Your warm smiles, kind words, and thoughtful gestures made it a moment I will always cherish. Thank you so much for your thoughtful gifts - your generosity and warmth mean so much and will be remembered always. This school will forever hold a very special place in my heart. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

The school will be **closed from Monday 28th to Friday 1st November** for October Holiday and **also closed on Monday 4th November** for Staff Inset Day. We **re-open** at 8.30 for the start of Term 2 on **Tuesday 5th November 2024**.

Wishing you all a happy and safe October Holiday and best wishes for the next new chapter ahead!

Li-Juan Ellerton
Headteacher

Star Pupils of Term 1

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: Summer W

Year 1: George O

Year 2: Jay Egby

Year 3: Henry M

Year 4: Annika M

Year 5: William D

Year 6: Alanna T



House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	373	2239
Galileo (Green)	296	1794
Redgrave (Red)	249	1901
Yeats (Yellow)	293	1966

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: 20-10-25 to 24-10-25

Owls 98.9%

Skylarks 96.2%

Nightingales 90.5%

Red Kites 97.2%

Robins 95.7%

Kestrels 97.9%

Whole School 96.2%



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.

Thank You...

To all the parents and community members who give up their time to help and support the children in class or school in so many different ways throughout Term 1, such as hearing children read, donating learning resources and help at Stop and Drop. Thank you!

Target Sheet

At the Parents Evenings, Class Teachers shared with you your child's Targets for your child to work on in order to make further progress. Please support your child's learning at home, working together we will enable your children to achieve their potential.

Reading at Home



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 schools 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.

RWI Phonics Workshop for Parents in Owls

RWI Phonics Workshop will take place on **Friday 7th November at 2.40pm** in Swallows Learning Space. Mrs Sharma will explain how we teach early reading at WSL and share some strategies on how best to support your children's early stage reading and writing at home.

PTA 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 7th November 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 AGM

PTA AGM will take place on **Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 6.00pm in school** with the New Committee elected, financial report shared and events planned for the year. **Governors** will also share their roles and responsibilities whilst the **Headteacher** will also share School Performance data and School Improvement Priorities at the meeting. Please save the date and come along to support the school.

Secondary School Application Deadline

Urgent Reminder for parents of Year 6 pupils:

The deadline for secondary school application is **31st October 2025**. Any applications received after 31st October 2024 will be treated as late and will not be considered until after National Offer Day on 3rd March 2025.

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents Year R Sept 2026

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 September 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! Parents will also have a chance to ask any questions they may have. These will take place from 9.45-10.45am on

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 24th End of Pupil Term 3.10pm
October Holiday: Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

Term 2 (35 days)

November Mon 3rd Staff Inset Day
 Tues 4th Start of Pupil Term
 Wed 5th Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.45-10.45am
 Fri 7th RWI Phonics Workshop for EYFS Parents in Swallows 2.40pm
 10th-14th Anti-Bullying Week – Theme 'Choose Respect'
 28th-25th Book Fair
 Thurs 27th Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.45-10.45am
 Fri 28th Robins Cake Sale
 December Thurs 4th Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class
 Fri 5th Skylarks Cake Sale
 Mon 8th KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to whole school 2.00pm
 Tues 9th KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents in the School Hall 2.15pm
 Wed 10th KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents in the School Hall 2.15pm
 Thurs 11th PTA Christmas Fair in School 1.00-3.00pm
 Fri 19th End of Pupil Term 1.00pm
Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Term 3 (30 days)

January Mon 6th Staff Inset Day
 Tues 7th Staff Inset Day
 Wed 8th Start of Pupil Term
 February Fri 14th End of Pupil Term
 Owls Cake Sale
February Holiday: Monday 17th February 2026 to Friday 21st February 2026

Term 4 (25 days)

February Mon 23rd Start of Pupil Term
 March Fri 27th End of Pupil Term:
Spring Holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026
(Good Friday is 3rd April 2026, Easter Monday is 6th April 2026)

Term 5 (29 days)

April Mon 13th Start of Pupil Term
 May Mon 4th May Day Bank Holiday
 Fri 22nd End of Pupil Term
May Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term 6 (38 days)

June Mon 1st Staff Inset Day
 Tues 2nd Start of Pupil Term
 July Wed 22nd End of Pupil Term
Summer Holiday: Thursday 23rd July 2026 – Monday 31st 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