



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

School Road, West End, Berkshire RG10 0NU | Telephone: 0118 9343248 | Email: office@wslprimary.org

Weekly Newsletter Number 08

Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with enormous pride and honour that I sit and write my first newsletter as the new Headteacher of Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School. The children of Waltham St. Lawrence have taken up a greater and greater space in my heart over the past ten years and their happiness and well-being truly is the reason why I roll out of bed in the morning. Although we will all miss Mrs. Ellerton enormously and wish her every success for her new adventure, we are also looking forward to an exciting future full of personal and academic challenges and achievements.

Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School currently provides an outstanding education for all children, enabling them to become confident, independent individuals with key skills for lifelong learning. It is my vision to maintain this secure, positive learning environment, where all children are able to achieve their potential, whilst also implementing new local and national initiatives, to enable the school and its children to set goals and achieve the highest possible standards.

As a Headteacher, I believe that outstanding leadership is about vision, communication and hard work. However, I also understand that in order to be successful, the relationships and teamwork built between everyone connected with the school must be strong. All members of the school community including children, Governors, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, non-teaching staff and parents must understand that their ideas are welcomed and valued. Alongside this, they must also be able to understand, and believe in, the vision of the Headteacher if new ideas are to be fully implemented and have maximum impact.

Over the past ten years, I have observed that society as a whole appears to be evolving faster and faster and I believe that education must evolve at a similar pace. Technology, AI and Smartphones are all becoming increasingly common, and appropriate education is vital if children are to learn how to respond to each development in a positive, safe, confident manner. Keeping at the "cutting edge" of research and new initiatives in education is critical, but it is also vital that, when making decisions about which initiatives to implement, the core values of the school are maintained so that it does not lose its ethos and identity.

I believe that Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School has a vital role to play within the community, helping to create links between families and providing a physical space for the wider community to use. As a dedicated, hard-working, caring teacher, I have always believed that the children that we teach should be at the centre of every decision made. As a dedicated, hard-working, caring Headteacher, I will still believe the same to be true, even if my role in ensuring this happens is different. By setting the highest of standards for myself, I believe I can inspire others to build positive relationships with each other and deliver outstanding, inclusive teaching, which will allow all children to feel safe and secure, and achieve their potential. I truly believe "**only my best will do**" and I am proudly looking forward to taking the school and the children forward on the next stage of their journey.

Many thanks to everyone for their kind words of support and encouragement.

Mr. D. Errington
Headteacher

Our School Golden Rules

- We respect each other and think and act responsibly.
- We listen attentively and follow instructions straightaway.
- We work hard and never give up.
- We use kind words and keep safe.
- We take care of our environment.



STEPS

Smile
Thank you
Excuse me
Please
Sorry



STAR

Sit/Stand up straight
Track the speaker
Ask politely
Respond thoughtfully



"Being involved in the education of a child is a privilege. We must take the opportunity to be "that person" that the child will remember forever" David Errington (2025)

What have we been learning in school?

Fireworks – The children in Owls Class have had a very busy week. They have been learning about Bonfire Night and how to stay safe when around fireworks. The children have made some wonderful firework pictures using “scratch art”. In Maths, the children have been learning about circles and triangles and their properties. They learned new vocabulary including curved, corners and sides.



Solubility and Saturation - Year 5 have been studying the solubility of different materials and the concept of saturation. The class created a saturated sugar solution and will now make observations throughout the week to see if the sugar crystals are precipitated from the solution to form a sediment – Watch this space!



The Royal Ballet - This week, Red Kites class attended a live streamed lesson from the Royal Ballet, which came directly from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. They learned ballet language from Swan Lake, sword fighting movements from Romeo and Juliet and contemporary dance movements from a modern ballet called Flight Path. The children had the opportunity to see what the backstage departments did, such as costume, scenery, lighting, and even the armoury. They saw how these departments all worked together to create amazing ballet performances! It was a wonderful introduction to the world of Dance before we start rehearsals for the Dance Festival 2026!



Long Division – Kestrels Class have been working very hard to master the challenging written layout of long division calculations. They used whiteboard pens to record their method and used their times tables knowledge to inform their answers.



Wow... What an incredible amount of wonderful work has taken place – and we have only been back in school for four days. I am incredibly proud of ALL children for the effort they have made and the wonderful start of term that we have had.

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	Ottlie R-C	Louie M	
Nightingales	Rose B	Emily V	
Robins	Fergus G	Rose B	
Skylarks	Olivia M	Eduardo H	
Red Kites	Cooper G	Isabella O-S	Mason W-P
Kestrels	James H	Phoebe C	

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	243	2482
Galileo (Green)	143	1973
Redgrave (Red)	141	2042
Yeats (Yellow)	233	2199

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: 04-11-25 to 07-11-25

Owls 96.2% Skylarks 98.9%
 Nightingales 95.2% Red Kites 97.7%
Robins 99.5% Kestrels 95.8%

Whole School 97.3%



Habit of the Month

In **November**, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Smiling**. It is so important to “pass on” a smile to others. Did you know... it is almost impossible not to smile back if someone smiles at you!

Go on.... Pass on a smile today!



Poppy Sale



The Year 6 children will be selling poppies and other items to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal after school every day on the playground. This will continue until Friday 14th November.

If your child catches the school bus or attends Woodpeckers Club every day, the items will be on sale in the School Hall between 12.00pm and 12.15pm. As we will be selling the poppies after school, there is also no requirement for your child to bring any cash into school; simply make your donation with your child at the end of the day. Please help us in supporting this worthy cause.



Meet the Headteacher - 12th November

Next Wednesday from 8.45am until 9.30am

I will be having a short “meet the Headteacher” session which all parents are welcome to attend in the school hall. During the session I will share my vision and aims for the children of Waltham St Lawrence as we move forward with enthusiasm and determination.

World Prematurity Day – Monday 17th November

This term we will be raising money for World Prematurity Day which aims to raise global awareness of premature birth and its impact on families. The day highlights the challenges faced by preterm babies, advocates for quality care and support, and promotes initiatives to prevent premature births. Did you know, around 90,000 babies are born sick or premature every year in the UK? In exchange for a £1 donation (payable via Scopay) the children will be allowed to come to school on **Monday 17th November** wearing as much **PURPLE** or **BLUE** as possible. (The colours of World Prematurity Day). Thank you so much for your support – It WILL make such a huge difference.



PTA AGM



The 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 share School Performance data and School Improvement Priorities at the meeting. Please save the date and come along to support the school.

Open Mornings

Thursday 27th November 2025

9.45am-10.45am

Tuesday 13th January 2026

9.45am -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 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!

The Lych Gate



Just a quick reminder that the Lych Gate Parish Magazine is available to buy from the school office for £1.00. The magazine is published monthly and contains lots of useful information about day-to-day life and upcoming events in Waltham St. Lawrence and the surrounding area. It also

has a range of adverts for companies supplying everything from kitchens to firewood.

The Book Fair



Hooray – It’s time for the book fair! From Tuesday 18th November until Tuesday 25th November you will be able to purchase books everyday in the School Hall. Come along and browse or buy an early Christmas present that will last a lifetime.

Staff and Governors of Waltham St Lawrence Primary School are committed to the safeguarding of children

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr David Errington (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Katie White (Inclusion Coordinator)

Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Fiona Edwards (Parent Governor)

Dates for Your Diary**Term 2 (35 days)**

November	Monday 3rd	Staff Inset Day	
	Tuesday 4 th	Start of Pupil Term	
	Wednesday 5 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45am-10.45am
	Friday 7 th	RWI Phonics Workshop for EYFS Parents in Swallows	2.40pm
	Monday 10 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Theme ‘Choose Respect’	
	Tuesday 11 th	PTA AGM	6.00pm
	Wednesday 12 th	Meet the Headteacher	8.45am
	Monday 17 th	World Prematurity Day: Non–Uniform - Wear purple or blue	
	Tuesday 18 th	Book Fair Arrives	
	Wednesday 19 th	SPaG Strategies Workshop for Robins Parents in Swallows	2.40pm
	Tuesday 25 th	Book Fair Leaves	
	Thursday 27 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents	9.45am-10.45am
	Friday 28 th	Robins Cake Sale	3.10pm
December	Monday 1 st	Simon Mole, Poet in Residence Arrives (Information to follow)	9.00am
	Thursday 4 th	Last Swimming Lesson for Robins Class	
	Friday 5 th	Simon Mole, Poet in Residence Leaves	3.00pm
	Friday 5 th	Skylarks Cake Sale	3.10pm
	Mon 8 th	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal to whole school	2.00pm
	Tues 9 th	KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents in the School Hall	2.00pm
	Wed 10 th	KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents in the School Hall	2.00pm
	Thurs 11 th	PTA Christmas Fair in School	1.00pm-3.00pm
	Friday 12	Owls Christmas Concert	2.40pm
	Wednesday 17 th	Christmas Jumper Day	
	Wednesday 17 th	Christmas Lunch	12.00pm
	Thursday 18 th	Christingle at Waltham St. Lawrence Parish Church	2.00pm-3.00pm
	Friday 19 th	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026**Term 3 (30 days)**

January	Monday 5th	Staff Inset Day	
	Tuesday 6th	Staff Inset Day	
	Wednesday 7 th	Start of Pupil Term	
February	Friday 13 th	End of Pupil Term	3.10pm

February Holiday: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026**Term 4 (25 days)**

February	Monday 23 rd	Start of Pupil Term	
March	Fri 27 th	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

**Spring Holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026
(Good Friday 3rd April 2026, Easter Monday 6th April 2026)****Term 5(29 days)**

April	Mon 13 th	Start of Pupil Term	
May	Mon 4 th	May Day Bank Holiday	
	Fri 22 nd	End of Pupil Term	3.10pm

May Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026**Term 6 (38 days)**

June	Mon 1st	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 2 nd	Start of Pupil Term	
July	Wed 22 nd	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

Summer Holiday: Thursday 23rd July 2026 – Monday 31st August 2026

Please note that Staff Inset Days are subject to change. Please do not book family holidays during term time.

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**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**