



# WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 13

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### STEPS

Smile  
Thank you  
Excuse me  
Please  
Sorry



### STAR

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

**It's the most wonderful time.... of the year!** Every classroom is full of colour, excitement, decorations and joy, despite the rain and wet weather! Wherever I look there are amazing achievements and excellent events. The Key Stage One Nativity was "**Simply the Best**" and the PTA have gone above and beyond with the Silent Auction and Christmas Fair. With only one week of school to go before the "**big day**" it's full steam ahead with the preparations and celebrations including Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and of course the Key Stage 2 Christingle. Ho ho hope it all goes well!

I would like to once again say a huge **THANK YOU** to Mrs Lomas, Mrs Martin, Mrs Bowley, Mrs Ellery, Mr Ellery and all members of the PTA. I know that many families have bid for, and won, some wonderful early Christmas presents through the silent auction. I would like to thank **everyone** who took the time to read through the lots and put in a bid, even if you were not successful. I would particularly like to thank the fantastic families who won the "*Headteacher for the afternoon*" prize. I am looking forward to putting my feet up! A massive **THANK YOU** also goes to ALL individuals, companies and businesses who donated the incredible items that were sold. I can now announce that the silent auction raised a quite remarkable...

**£3,934.97!!!**

**THANK YOU** to Mrs Brancato, Miss Bennett, Mrs Newell, Mrs Sinibaldi, Mrs Taylor, Miss Howe and all the Key Stage 1 staff for a magnificent Nativity Play. It was the most incredible production full of super songs, cracking costumes, perfect props and joyful jokes. Your hard work and dedication have inspired to children to aim for the moon and reach the stars.



**THANK YOU** to all of the wonderful adults who have organised and delivered clubs this term. From Mrs Wakeling at 7.45am to Miss Rees at 5.55pm our children really do receive the best care and support. Our children have also had the opportunity to expand their learning with Sewing, Art, Mad Science, Football, Dance, Kung Fu and Mandarin!



**THANK YOU** to our amazing site staff, Mr Smith, Mrs Smith and Mr Barden. We all enormously appreciate your hard work and endless hours of cleaning, fixing and sorting. The school simply wouldn't look the same without your efforts!

**THANK YOU** to Mr Harris and Master Harris for delivering a brilliant rugby session to Kestrels Class. The children have learnt so much and enjoyed practising their passing and catching skills.

**FINALLY**, the biggest **THANK YOU** of all is for our **brilliant children!** Our outstanding Owls will put on a heart-warming singing concert today, our Skylarks, Red Kites and Kestrels have continued their practice for the Christingle Celebration and our amazing Nightingales and Robins put on a memorable Nativity of the highest quality. At Waltham St. Lawrence "**only our best will do**" and our children have truly shown how brightly they can shine when they combine their talents.

Please remember to pick your children up at the correct time on Friday.... **It's a 1pm finish!**

Mr. D. Errington  
Headteacher

# Key Stage 1 Nativity and PTA Christmas Fair



Together We Inspire and Achieve



## **Red Kites World War One Diaries**

Red Kites have been writing World War One diary recounts. We have looked at real diaries from the period and practiced writing techniques such as powerful expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials. Here are a few examples of our wonderful work. **Warning – these pieces contain “grown-up” themes of War which may make you feel sad.**

### **9<sup>th</sup> August 1917**

#### **Day 1**

I hope tomorrow will be a better day because today was horrible. I got trench foot and I got shot on my hand because I was saving another person. He is in hospital but so am I. The nurse says I might be in here for three and a half months. At least I can miss fighting and all that. Tomorrow is the great push, I hope we can gain some land because we don't have much. When we sleep, we are freezing and struggle to hold our rifles.

#### **Day 2**

I must push and push, this pain is killing me. I hope the war ends soon. It's been going on for three years. I hope my family remembers me. I have a picture of my wife. Every night, I pray that I will come out of the war in one piece. Last night, I had a nightmare of my wife dying when I came home from a heart attack.

#### **Day 3**

I barely have enough strength to write. The nurse says I will die this week so I'm giving this to my wife Rebecca to say my last goodbyes. I wish you to have a great life so just to say, I love you, Rebecca.

#### **Day 5**

Yes! The war is ending! All I need to do is one more fight and I'm out of this miserable place!

*Hello – this is his friend. He died when he was shot in the shoulder. I will send this diary to you. I think your name is Rebecca and you're his wife.*

**By Preston**

### **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1916**

On Day 1, I crept carefully into the trenches. I buried my head deep into my helmet, shaking in lots of fear about tomorrow when we would ambush the enemy. I sank into a little ball, rocking side to side all night with no sleep.

### **November 19<sup>th</sup>**

I was worried if something went wrong. I climbed over the trench into No Mans Land. My team swept the dark airfield like a huge wave washing to shore. We struck like lightning with our guns. We were killing machines.

### **November 20<sup>th</sup>**

I was zooming through the hospital hallway as I lay above the clouds like in a dream. The doctors helped me get stronger and more stable. I was now able to go back to my team. When I got back, most of our team had already vanished. The ground was buried by the cold blood that flowed in every direction. The battle was intense but hopefully we'd win.

**By Bailey**

### **July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916**

Earlier on a soldier was bleeding like mad. Every time I tried to restart his heart, more blood squirted on my face. As much as I tried to help him, more blood was spurting out like ketchup and when I left the room to get something, it was over. The Germans had snuck in and finished him off. With another dead corpse lying down on the bed, I guess I'm not a very good nurse but at least I'm not a soldier anyway. If I was, I'd be dead already.

### **July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Patients are coming like gunshots, pull the trigger and they're in one after another. One was shouting "I miss home, I miss my family, I miss joy, I miss freedom". I wish I could at least help them before they go. I hate being a nurse and the look of bloody flesh and deceased bodies. At that moment, I thought to myself "Today's gonna be a long day". I saw people gathering around our tent and I don't think there's going to be a tomorrow.

**By Eva**

### **August 30<sup>th</sup> 1916**

Today was a nightmare. It all started at 6.35am. We slumped on the muddy, chaotic and unwelcoming trenches. Me and Commander Edwards laughed and joked as the thunderous clap of a booming shell collapsed on the cold, erupted soil with a furious BOOM! Commander Edwards soon called me and Old Wilfred over for a talk. "Tomorrow is the night!" he boomed shouting over the deafening and consuming thunder of a German shell.

"What do you mean Commander?"

"Tomorrow is the night we go over the top!" he roared and then, annoyed, strode off. I got hit by shrapnel and was immediately hurried away to the hospital. It was an unsettled, angry place with people swearing madly, others covered and blood splattered. There was one girl who caught my eye. I always knew I had a special charm. We had a funny and serious conversation and by the end of the night, I felt considerably lighter and close to her.

### **July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916**

This day was the last hurdle, the last moment to end it all and all was up to us. One at a time, we trooped out of the tents like the true, united army we are. Our suffering must stop – this war must end once and for all and we must win. The death rattle of a gun declared the ultimate war was to commence. The thud of cascading bloody bodies signalled our loss, English bodies rolling away to the horizon. And only sheer luck could help me survive. A bullet glimmered in the sky for a second, but then in the flick of an eye, the maroon bullet found its prey.

**By Charlie**

## 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.



<b>Owls</b>	Octavia A	Freddie P	
<b>Nightingales</b>	The whole of Nightingales Class		
<b>Robins</b>	The whole of Robins Class		
<b>Skylarks</b>	Emily M	Jemima K	
<b>Red Kites</b>	Bailey H	Rupert M-P	
<b>Kestrels</b>	Toby L	Ben T	Arthur M-P

## House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
<b>Brunel (Blue)</b>	201	3768
<b>Galileo (Green)</b>	138	2747
<b>Redgrave (Red)</b>	149	3011
<b>Yeats (Yellow)</b>	<b>205</b>	3365

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

## Attendance for the Week

**Class Attendance:** 08-12-25 to 11-12-25

Owls 90.9%                      Skylarks 91.3%  
Nightingales 94%              **Red Kites 98.1%**  
Robins 97.8%                  Kestrels 94.2%  
Whole School 94.5%



**Excellent attendance and punctuality maximises potential!  
Every second counts.**

## Habit of the Month

In December, children will be focusing on **Only My Best Will Do – Respect at mealtimes.**

**Be thankful** for the food you have been given.

**Be adventurous** when trying new things.

**Be polite** while you are eating.

**Be thoughtful** when tidying away after your meal.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch**



## Open Mornings

**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.**



## Kung Fu



With a new term approaching **Kung Fu Club** are looking for new members. This fantastic club will give you many new skills and opportunities and well as developing your balance and core strength.

## Reading, Reading, Reading

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 school's 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.

## PTA Fundraisers

### Cookbook and School Tea Towels

School Tea Towels will make a perfect Christmas present for family and friends! The product is 100% cotton and is high quality.



The brand-new WSL Community Cookbook is filled with delicious, tried-and-tested recipes from our wonderful school community. This limited-edition collection is the perfect addition to any kitchen. From family favourites to festive treats, every purchase helps support WSL initiatives.

Even Mr. Errington could make these delicious dishes!

Available while stocks last — once they're gone, they're gone! Only £12... an absolute bargain!

You can now order tea towels via the PTA-events website [www.pta-events.co.uk/wslpta/](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/wslpta/)

## Congratulations

Florentina is back from Argentina, where she was the only girl playing in the final of the Argentine Association Polo Cup. The tournament had roughly 200 children enter and Florentina won 5 of her league games to get to the final! A wonderful achievement.



## Clubs for Term 3 & 4

If you would like your children to attend After School Clubs, please sign up with payment via **SCOPAY**. There are limited numbers for each club, places are offered on a first come, first serve basis. All booking must be completed via SCOPAY by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

All Clubs will start in the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, unless otherwise indicated.

**After School Care Club and Breakfast Club will start on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**, please complete Booking via SCOPAY. Thank you.

## Christmas Post Box

The **Christmas Post Box** is still in operation. It can be found outside the Kestrels class next to the Christmas Tree. The **Christmas Elves** are to deliver children's cards daily and the last delivery day is **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. If your children would like to send a card to other children or members of staff, all they need to do is write their **first names** and **surnames** and the **name of the class** on the envelopes. The Postal Elves can only deliver to pupils and staff at WSL Primary School.

**Christingle Celebration Arrangements 2025**  
**Monday 15th December and Tuesday 16th December**

Making Christingles – please bring in a large orange.

**Christingle Celebration – WSL Church - 2:00pm.**

**Thursday 18th December - No School Bags**



We would be grateful to any parents in Owls who are able to take your child/ren to the Church by car in the afternoon at **1.30pm**. Please speak to your child's Class Teacher or let the School Office know if you can help.

**Please do not enter the Church until all the children are in position and ready, the Church Warden will invite you in at 1:50pm.**

The School Bus will be running as usual and will pick up children at WSL Church, but please inform the bus driver of any changes or arrangements for the day if you are a regular user of this service.



**Please note there will be NO WOODPECKERS CLUB on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Parking on 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Service**

Due to the limited parking available on the road near WSL Church, could we please ask you to ensure that your vehicle is parked legally and considerately at all times and to ensure that emergency access to all roads is not impaired, giving due consideration to our local residents. Please do not park in front of the Church gate. Thank you for your support with this.

**Christmas Services at WSL Church**

Everyone is invited to attend the Christmas Services:

- **Service of Lessons and Carols** – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.00pm - traditional service of carols and readings by candlelight.
- **Crib and Christingle Service** with Impromptu Nativity at 4.00pm Christmas Eve - a service for all children young and old to take part in
- **Christmas Day Family Service** at 10.30pm



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: Mr David Errington (Headteacher)  
 Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Katie White (Inclusion Coordinator)  
 Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Fiona Edwards (Parent Governor)

**Dates for Your Diary**

Friday 12	Owls Christmas Concert	2.40pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle Preparations – Bring an Orange to School	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch	12.00pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle at Waltham St. Lawrence Parish Church	2.00pm-3.00pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>End of Pupil Term</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>

**Christmas Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

**Term 3 (30 days)**

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

**February Holiday: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Term 4 (25 days)**

<b>February</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
<b>March</b>	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	End of Pupil Term	1.00pm

**Spring Holiday: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
 (Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026, Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026)**

**Term 5(29 days)**

<b>April</b>	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Pupil Term	
<b>May</b>	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday	
	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Pupil Term	3.10pm

**May Holiday: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Term 6 (38 days)**

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

**Summer Holiday: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.wslprimary.org)

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