



WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Newsletter Number 18

Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School was built over **100 years ago** and during that time it has provided an education for many generations of children, serving the village and surrounding area. This week has shown what an important role the school building has played, and will continue to play, in terms of the **past, present** and **future**, and also on a **global** scale.

The Past

Looking to the past, last week we had a visit from Mrs. Pauline Howland, a name that you might not recognise, but for those families who have lived in the village for a long time, I wonder if you remember any of her family members.

Pauline wrote this short piece for the newsletter.



"My brothers and I believe that my Grandmother went to school in Southlake Road. Her 6 children went to Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School – they were the Charlton family and they lived in Sherlock Row. Their names were Bob, Win, Eve, Alf, Peggy and Ern. My Mum, Eve, attended the School from 1930 to 1939 – she was 14 years old when she left. As a child she won a cup for sporting excellence and I still have the trophy. It is called the Victor Ludorum Cup and she won it in 1939.



Eve my Mum, and Peggy my aunt, stayed in the village after they got married and their children went to Waltham St. Lawrence. Peggy Newcombe (aunt) had 4 children and Eve Powell (Mum) had 3. My eldest brother remembers cycling on his tricycle from Sherlock Row along Hungerford Lane to the school from the age of 5 – he says on his own! The Head was Miss Boshier – quite a formidable lady who kept a cane above the blackboard in her office. My brothers attended the school from 1953 and I attended from 1964 to 1971. From around 1971 my Mum worked in the canteen and then in the playground. She finally became a teaching assistant working mainly with Sheila Harvey. My Mum retired in 1986 but returned for another 4 years until she reached 65 years of age.

I would like to know if I can give the trophy that my Mum won in 1939 to the school to present to a pupil on Sports Day."

I am pleased to say that I have the trophy in my office and we will be presenting it to the child who embodies the spirit and values of Waltham St. Lawrence at the end of Sports Day 2026. **Thank you so much Pauline**, for amazing memories and a generous gift that I know we will treasure as a school for years to come.

The Present

This week we enjoyed a first-class Class Assembly with Kestrels sharing their learning with the rest of the school and many excited parents. Despite a last-minute change of plan due to the heavy rain and a slightly leaky roof, the assembly was outstanding. Kestrels Class learnt so many lines, cleverly knitting their knowledge of Maths, English and Dance together under the strict guidance of their teacher Jorgie Gray.



The Future

Owls Class have continued their excellent Balanceability progress. They have also shown that they are ready for any challenge by writing numbers, designing trousers, reading sentences and even building castles. It is so inspiring to see so much learning taking place all day, every day in the Owls classroom. When looking around the classroom it is fascinating to think about who might become a politician, footballer, youtuber, surgeon or even a Headteacher when they grow up.



And Finally... The World

We have also crossed international boundaries this week and have received some beautiful gifts from our sister school, Dalton Elementary in Wenzhou, China. I am very keen to continue to build a close relationship with our sister school as the ease of travel is now making the world a smaller place. I also believe an understanding and appreciation of the differences between lifestyles and cultures helps to make our children more empathetic and aware of their place as global citizens.



Many thanks for your continued support

Mr. D. Errington

A Week in The Life of Waltham St. Lawrence Primary School



Owls Class
Shining
Brightly

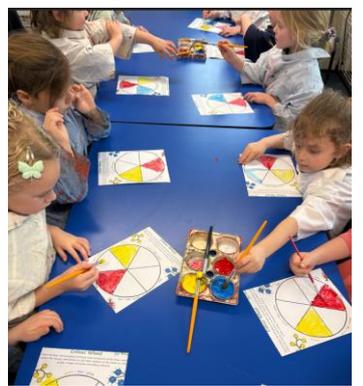
Kestrels outstanding
Class Assembly



Gifts
from
China



Money
in
Robins



Art in Nightingales

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	Chester S	Freddie P
Nightingales	Millie W	Clemmie P
Robins	Sebastian W	Poppy L-W
Skylarks	Mia P	Ridley J
Red Kites	Imogen H	Preston M
Kestrels	THE WHOLE OF KESTRELS CLASS	

House Points

	Weekly Total	Rolling Total
Brunel (Blue)	366	783
Galileo (Green)	217	527
Redgrave (Red)	231	554
Yeats (Yellow)	293	668

The Winning House for this week is Brunel. Well done.

Attendance for the Week

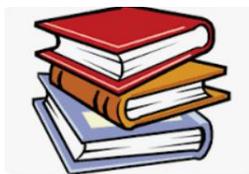
Owls – 97.7% **Skylarks – 88.5%**
Nightingales – 85.8% **Red Kites – 96.2%**
Robins – 94.3% **Kestrels – 93.8%**



Whole School – 92.7%

Excellent attendance and punctuality maximise potential! Every second counts.

Parents into school 9.00am – 9.45am



You are invited to come to your child’s Open English Session to see how English is taught and how children learn at WSL. The Open Session will start **from 9.00am.**

Please save the dates.

- Monday 26th January – Kestrels Class
- Tuesday 27th January – Owls Class
- Wednesday 28th January – Skylarks Class
- Thursday 29th January – Robins Class
- Friday 30th January – Red Kites Class
- Monday 2nd February – Nightingales Class

Class Assemblies

Children in each class will be presenting their learning to the school community, with parents invited to attend. The Class Assembly will take place on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3.10pm.



The dates for each Class Assembly are as below:

- Wednesday 28th Jan - Robins Class
- Wednesday 4th Feb – Skylarks Class
- Wednesday 11th March – Nightingales Class
- Wednesday 18th March – Red Kites Class
- Wednesday 25th March – Owls Class

Safeguarding – Drop-off

A polite reminder. If you arrive at school before 8.30am you must stay with your child until a teacher appears and the blue gates are opened. There are an increasing number of children who are arriving before 8.30am and are waiting unsupervised. Please be aware that, as a school we are only responsible for the children from 8.30am onwards and therefore, prior to that time the children **MUST** be accompanied by their parents.

Chinese New Year Celebrations – Tuesday 3rd February

Lunch Menu – Caterlink will be cooking a delicious “Chinese New Year” inspired lunch including both chicken and vegetarian sweet and sour noodles.

Dragon Dance Workshops - The Dragon Dance Workshop is a wonderful opportunity for children to immerse themselves in the vibrant and symbolic traditions of the Chinese New Year. Children will be taking part in this engaging and interactive workshop in class groups.

To cover the expenses associated with the workshops, each child will be charged a voluntary fee of £5.00. You can make the payment via SCOPAY which has been set up for you. We would appreciate it if you could complete the payment by Friday 30th January 2026.



End of the day show - We would also like to extend an invitation for you to join us at the end of the school day at 3.00pm when some of our children will showcase their newly acquired Dragon Dance skills and drum rhythms.

Zones of Regulation – This week – The Blue Zone

Please help us to support your children by using the language below so that they can recognise when they are in different zones.

We might expect to be in the Blue Zone just before bed time or when we are watching the TV. We are running slow! We might be tired or sad.



POWER UP WEEKEND

Saturday 7th
and
Sunday 8th
March



Join us for a hands-on weekend to help spruce up the school and create an even better environment for our children

YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

We would love some volunteers to help with painting, building, DIY, tidying, or donating materials. Even just an hour of your time will make a huge difference!

Please contact wsl.pta@gmail.com if you can help



Thank you



Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr David Errington (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Katie White (Inclusion Coordinator) / Mrs Giovanna Brancato (KS1 Team Leader) / Mrs Jo Waite (KS2 Team Leader)

Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Fiona Edwards (Parent Governor)

Contact the Governing Board: clerk@wslprimary.org

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

Dates for Your Diary

The Academic Year 2025-2026

Term 3 (30 days)

January

Monday 26 th	Kestrels English Open Session for Parents	09.00 – 09.45
Tuesday 27 th	Owls English Open Session for Parents	09.00 -- 09.45
Wednesday 28 th	Skylarks English Open Session for Parents	09.00 – 09.45
Wednesday 28th	Height and Weight Check – Owls Class	09.30
Wednesday 28 th	Robins Class Assembly	14.30 – 15.05
Thursday 29 th	Robins English Open Session for Parents	09.00 – 09.45
Friday 30 th	Red Kites English Open Session for Parents	09.00 – 09.45

February

Monday 2 nd	Nightingales English Open Session for Parents	09.00 – 09.45
Tuesday 3 rd	Dragon Dance Workshop	13.00 – 15.00
Tuesday 3rd	Chinese Lunch menu provided by Caterlink	12.05 – 13.00
Wednesday 4 th	Skylarks Class Assembly	14.30 – 15.05
Thursday 5 th	School Movie Night organized by School Council	16.30 – 18.15
Monday 9 th	CHINESE NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES WEEK	
Monday 9 th	KS1 Assembly - "Great Athletes" launch	13.10 – 13.30
Monday 9 th	KS2 Assembly - "Great Athletes" launch	14.40 – 15.00
Tuesday 10 th	Internet Safety Day	All Day
Wednesday 11 th	DANCE FESTIVAL - Red Kites Class	All Day
Friday 13th	Owls Cake Sale	15.10
Friday 13 th	End of Pupil Term	15.10

February Holiday: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

Term 4 (25 days)

February

Monday 23 rd	Start of Pupil Term	
Thursday 26 th	Big 60 PE festival at Braywick leisure Centre (Y1 and Y2)	13.00 -- 15.10
Thursday 26 th	Rotary Writing Competition Evening	18.00
Friday 27 th	Robins Cake Sale	15.10

March

Tuesday 3 rd	Bags2School Day	
Wednesday 4 th	Great Athletes Activity in Hall	13.00 -- 15.00
Wednesday 4th	Nightingales Phonics Workshop (Year 1)	14.30 – 15.00
Sat 7th/Sun 8th	WSL POWER UP WEEKEND	All Day
Monday 9 th	BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK	
Monday 9th	Fire Safety Talk (Year 5)	10.30 – 11.30
Wednesday 11 th	Nightingales Class Assembly	14.30 -- 15.05
Wednesday 18 th	Red Kites Class Assembly	14.30 -- 15.05
Friday 20 th	Kestrels Class Fundraiser	15.10
Monday 23 rd	Parents Evening – KS2	15.30 -- 17.30
Tuesday 24 th	Parents Evening – All Classes	17.00 – 19.00
Wednesday 25 th	Owls Class Assembly	14.30 -- 15.05
Wednesday 25 th	Parents Evening – All Classes	15.30 -- 17.30
Thursday 26 th	Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Hat Parade	14.50
Friday 27 th	End of Term	13.00

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	15.10

May Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term 6 (38 days)

June	Mon 1 st	Staff Inset Day	
	Tues 2 nd	Start of Pupil Term	
July	Wed 22 nd	End of Pupil Term	13.00

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

Dates /times added/changed will be highlighted

Please do not book family holidays during term time. Dates are 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

School Values: Truth Love Peace Responsibility Community

