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Headteacher's Message

We're incredibly proud of our new Nursery and Reception children, who have made a fantastic start at Walton Oak. A big well done to parents too — your preparation and support have clearly helped your children settle smoothly into this exciting new chapter. It's been a pleasure getting to know all the new faces, and lovely to see the children engaging so positively with the learning opportunities in both the classrooms and outdoor areas. We hope the transition has felt smooth for families, but if there's anything we can help with, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Next week, we're looking forward to welcoming parents of children in Years 1–6 for our *Meet the Teacher* open classrooms. These relaxed, drop-in sessions will take place on Wednesday at either 3.30pm or 6pm. It's a great opportunity to: Meet your child's new teacher, find out about the year's topics, trips, and classroom routines, ask any questions or share useful information. We hope to see many of you there!



Our new topic webs have been uploaded to the school website today. These give an overview of what your child will be learning this term. You might like to explore a book, film, or day out related to their topics — memorable experiences can really help children make links and retain new learning. Take a look [here](#) to see what's coming up!

Our enrichment clubs started this week, and we're proud to be offering 20 different clubs across the school. These clubs provide children with the chance to try something new, develop skills, have fun, and meet others from different year groups. We'd love to see every child join at least one club - they're excellent value and don't forget that pupil premium families are entitled to one free club per term.

Finally, we've been truly impressed by the quality of applications for this year's Pupil Leadership Team. Shortlisting was incredibly tough and every child who applied should feel very proud. Interviews for eleven shortlisted candidates will take place on Tuesday and we'll be announcing the new team, including our Head and Deputy Head Pupils, in next week's Wire. We're also excited to see which Year 6 pupils step forward for our Prefect and Sports Leader roles. If the seventeen excellent leadership applications are anything to go by, we'll have a very strong group to choose from. Year 6 have already shown fantastic focus and maturity - a brilliant start for our most senior children!

Sián McCarthy





General Information

Start and finish times

A reminder that the school day officially starts at **8:50am** but children can arrive from **8:30am** for a soft start. This helps with settling in and supports families with multiple drop-offs. The **main playground gate will close at 8:50am**. After this time, children must enter through the **main office** and will be marked as **late**. **After 8:50am**, parents/carers must exit via the **back gate**, which will be locked at **9:00am**.



Stay, Play and Learn Sessions for EYFS and KS1

We invite you to come and join in some phonics learning with your child in their classroom and get involved in their play and learning. This will be followed by a brief information session to help you support your child at home with their phonics. To book please follow the relevant link for your child's class and date that you would like to attend.

1B:

Tue 23rd September 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856073>

Wed 24th September 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856082>

1N:

Tue 23rd September 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856060>

Wed 24th September 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856077>

Reception Hedgehogs class:

Tue 7th October 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856144>

Wed 8th October 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856156>

Reception Squirrels class:

Tue 7th October 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856134>

Wed 8th October 9-10am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/1856151>

Nursery Butterflies:

Tue 14th October 9-10am - Link will be made available soon

Nursery Ladybirds:

Thur 16th October 9-10am - Link will be made available soon

Harvest donations

Between Monday 22nd September and the morning of Friday 26th September we will be collecting donations for our Harvest appeal which will once again be the Walton and Hersham Foodbank - a wonderful and much needed community resource. Please either send donations into class with your child or drop them at the school office. Please see the flyer below for recommended items. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Transition

Prospective RECEPTION Parents Information Evening: Monday 22nd Sept September 2025 at 6.30pm
Come and meet the team and hear from the headteacher about our Ethos and Provision at Walton Oak.



Prospective Reception Open Morning Tours: Various dates – see our website [here](#)

Is your child due to start school in September 2026? Please come and have a look around our school. You can book [here](#) to join a tour - You are welcome to bring your child along.

Surrey CC Guidance for Secondary Transition

If your child will reach the age of 11 between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026, they will be due to start secondary school in September 2026. You can apply for a secondary school place from **1 September 2025**.

The closing date for on-time applications for secondary schools is **31 October 2025**.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary>

Local Secondary School Admissions information and open events for the 2026 Y6-7 Transition:

Heathside Walton:

<https://www.heathsidewalton.org/open-events/75.html>

Three Rivers Academy

<https://www.threeriversacademy.org/Admissions/Admissions/>



Thamesmead:

<https://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/admissions-arrangements/>

Esher Church of England High:

<https://www.esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=21>

Reading

Teaching Reading at Walton Oak - Master Readers Approach



MASTER READERS
excellence after phonics

We all know that reading is a vital skill that opens up a world of opportunities for our children. It underpins success across the curriculum and sets the foundation for lifelong learning. At Walton Oak we teach reading beyond phonics (Spring Y2-Y6) using the **Master Readers**® approach which builds a strong, whole-school reading culture, encourages a genuine love of books and boosts children's engagement, confidence and vocabulary. This is not only in helping our children become fluent, confident readers but is also in supporting their comprehension and ability to think more deeply about texts.

Importantly, it is also inclusive – ensuring that those who find reading more challenging get the support and interventions they need to thrive.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Whole class shared reading of chosen text	Book Club	Visual Starter Comprehension Questions	Review

The weekly cycle supports children in developing their reading ability across the week. Each day, children have a 40-minute lesson to give them a daily opportunity to become true readers.

Reading Awards

We can't wait to give out our first reading awards of the year so get reading! Here is a reminder of the plan:

Each week, we count the number of reads recorded in your child's reading record. These can include:

- Reading at home with a parent or carer
- An adult reading to your child
- Reading with an adult in school

Please note that we count a maximum of 10 reads per week. If you read more than that—fantastic!—but only 10 will go towards the weekly total.

As children build up their reads, they will receive rewards to celebrate their achievements:

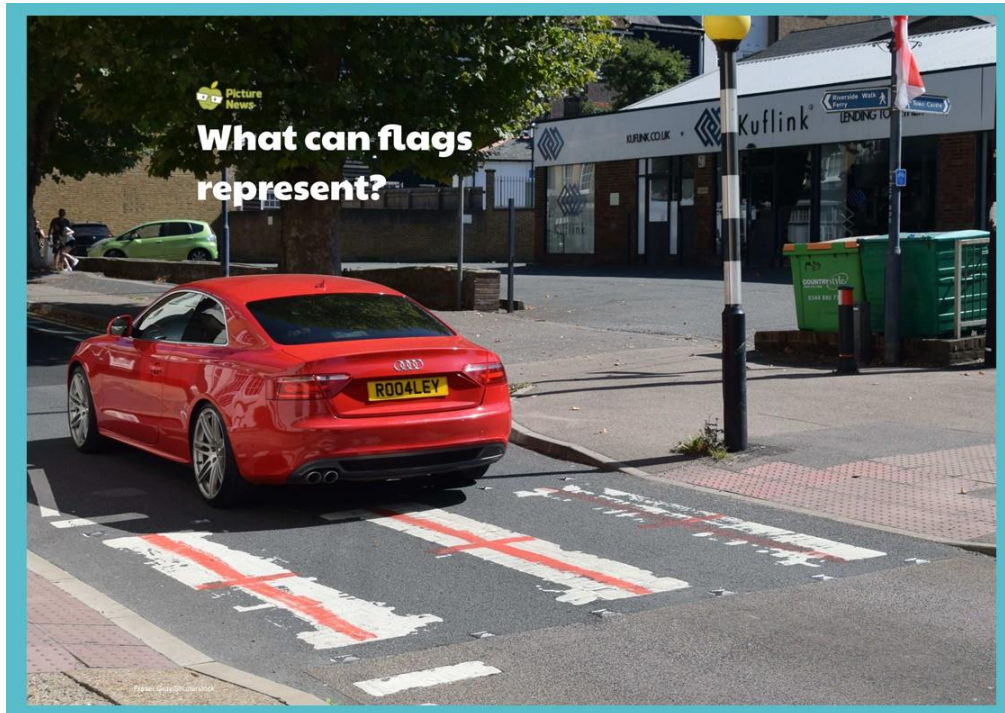
- **20 reads** – Sticker
- **50 reads** – Bookmark
- **100 reads** – Certificate (children will receive this from a member of the Senior Leadership Team)
- **150 reads** – Pencil
- **200 reads** – Badge
- **300 reads** – Medal
- **400 reads** – Book voucher

Once children reach 100 reads and beyond, their name will be added to our "reading wire" display in school and they'll receive a special mention in our Friday celebration assembly.



Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



Tiny Happy People



This week's activity is aimed at 3-4 year olds, but it can be played by all the family. All you need is a drawstring bag (you could use a pillow case) and fill it with some household items - this could be a sponge, wooden spoon, a cuddly toy, a book, the list is endless. Then take it in turns to feel inside the bag and describe an item to each other using as much description as possible, without saying what it is. On the link below is a short video to show you how to play. There is also a list of benefits of this game and how to extend the language used.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/sensory-bag-3-4-years/zt9q7yc>

Have fun playing! Let us know how you get on, we'd love to hear from you.



Pastoral News

Harvest donation

We will be supporting Walton and Hershham foodbank who are a charity supporting local families in crisis. Last year they supported over 2000 children through foodbank referrals and were able to provide over 49,000 meals. Please see the poster below for their most in need items but they are also happy to receive any donation and these can be dropped into school between 22nd and 26th September.



In support of
**Walton & Hershham
Foodbank**

Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the Walton & Hershham food bank will provide over 300 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Tinned meat / fish
- Tinned Macaroni / Ravioli / Spaghetti Bolognese
- Coffee / hot chocolate
- Jam / peanut butter
- Long-life sponge puddings
- Fruit juice / squash
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Washing up liquid
- Pull-up nappies – 6, 7, 8

www.waltonhershham.foodbank.org.uk

Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Saxon Primary School is recruiting

We are looking to recruit a number of Teaching Assistants with a passion for creating lifelong learners, committed to inclusion who has a high expectation of themselves and every child. Working Hours: both Monday to Friday, term time only (39 weeks per year) full time roles of 30 hours per week to be worked 8:30am to 3.15pm and morning only roles working 22.5 hours per week, 8.30am to 1.15pm. These roles are fixed term positions to 31st August 2026. For more information on these roles please see:



<https://www.eteach.com/job/fixed-term-teaching-assistant-1505117>



Diversity and Equality

Flags



This week, children learned about *Operation Raise the Colours*, a recent campaign where people displayed English flags in public spaces to show pride in their country. They reflected on times they've done the same, such as during the Women's Euros and discussed how flags can be powerful symbols of national pride and support for teams.



They also explored the concerns some people have that flags can sometimes be used in ways that exclude others, particularly in protests around immigration.



The children heard about Marcus Rashford, the England footballer who campaigned for free school meals during the pandemic. He represents a modern British identity, celebrating both his national pride and his Black Caribbean heritage. Rashford's openness about his background and support for Black History Month helped children consider the positive impact individuals from diverse backgrounds bring to our society.

Together, they agreed that celebrating Britain is important and that it should be done in a way that includes and uplifts everyone.

They made links with our Walton Oak Way, our British Values, important Protected Characteristics and the UN Rights of the child.



Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We all have the right to feel safe, happy and to be ourselves. When we help others settle in and make new friends, we support their freedom to take part and enjoy school.

Protected Characteristics

We are all different with our own backgrounds, families and cultures. When we welcome people from other places, we help everyone feel respected, valued and part of our community.



UN Rights of the Child

All children have the right to feel safe, be included and treated fairly, regardless of where they come from. Schools play an important role in creating welcoming communities where every child feels they belong.





FOWO

FOWO AGM, Wednesday, 17th September, 6.45pm in the school hall

Come join us at the FOWO AGM on **17th September at 6.45pm** and help build our school community in 2025-26. The meeting is open to all parents, carers and staff and everyone’s input is welcome, just come to the school hall on the day.

At the AGM, the current chair and treasurer present a brief report on the past year. Then, as happens every year, the current committee stands down and the new committee is voted in, before discussing the plans for the upcoming year. There is a lot of change this year as the current chair (Helen Allingham), treasurer (Jenny Johnson) and secretary (Sarah Shotton) are standing down after completing their maximum three year terms. Other long standing members, Hollie Park and Vicky Wales will also be leaving the committee.

We’re delighted that some people have already expressed an interest in joining as committee members this year, but we need more. Rest assured there will be five existing members who are planning to stay on. Take a look at the posters at the end of the Wire to see what’s involved. Questions? Just contact fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk or speak to a current committee member.

FOWO Class Reps needed for Nursery!!

A big thank you to everyone who has offered to be a class rep this or is staying on from last year. Details of class reps are given below. We still need people for Nursery. If you are happy to help or would like more details, please email fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk.

Nursery:	Year 3: Caroline Smart, Gemma Goodison, Rebecca Lunn
Reception: Isabel Williams, Laura Dean	Year 4: Caroline Feltham, Helen Allingham, Sarah Shotton
Year 1: Dovile Cook, Vania Oliveira	Year 5: Anika Mann-Patel, Kirsty Hubbard, Rebecca Lunn, Vania Oliveira.
Year 2: Alison Wong, Lucy Bishop, Sarah Shotton, Toni Lockhart	Year 6: Lex Holness, Lucy Bishop

Pre-Loved Clothes Rail – back for 2025-26

Grab a bargain and help the planet by doing your school uniform shopping at the FOWO pre-loved uniform rail in the school foyer. Everything is £1 and you can pay by cash or bank transfer (see poster in foyer for details). We have a great stock of purple jumpers/cardigans, summer dresses, grey shorts and skirts, as well as plenty of PE kit. Grey trousers and dresses will go out later in the term. The rail is checked and topped up a few times of week and there is a lot of turnover this time of year, so check back if you don’t find what you need the first time.

Bagged donations of uniform are gratefully received, just leave them next to the clothes rail. Please no old logo items or non-uniform items. We can’t put them out and have to take them to the charity shop or home for recycling.

Classlist – Please check your child’s class

Please can you check your child’s class on Classlist and update their details if they need moving. It takes just two minutes. This is particularly important for year groups that were mixed up at the end of last year, as we don’t know which class your child was allocated to and you may miss out on some FOWO comms. To update your child’s details:

- Open the app
- Select your photo (bottom right)
- Select children and classes
- Select child and choose which class to put them, you should see a list of all classes available

Find FOWO on socials

With the beginning of a new term, why not connect with us to be part of the amazing FOWO community?!

- Instagram ([@friendsofwaltonoak](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwaltonoak))
- Facebook ([Friends of Walton Oak - FOWO](https://www.facebook.com/Friends of Walton Oak - FOWO))

We’re looking forward to connecting with you all!



Celebrations



Gold Leaves

Well done to the following children who all received a gold leaf this week for following our Walton Oak Way Values:



Hedgehogs	Aria
1B	Kash, Miles & Joe
2L	Michael
3G	Honor & Isla
4C	Heidi, Ronnie & Jasmine
4A	Ruby, Max, Leandra, Emma, Eliza & Jacob
5C	Zach
6BD	Jack & Tommy H

On behalf of the Walton Oak staff team we wish you a pleasant weekend.





Upcoming dates for the diary

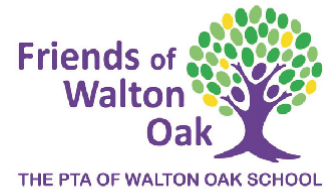
Newly added dates in red

Wed 16 th Sep	Meet the Teacher 3.30pm or 6pm (approximately half an hour)
Wed 16 th Sep	FOWO AGM 7pm
Mon 22 nd Sep	Prospective RECEPTION Parents Information Evening 6.30pm
Tue 23 rd Sep	Stay, Play & Learn Year 1, 9-10am
Wed 24 th Sep	Stay, Play & Learn Year 1, 9-10am
Mon 22 nd Sep	Harvest donations welcome this week
Fri 26 th Sept	Harvest Celebration for children (not parents) – donations welcome
Tue 7 th Oct	Reception Stay, Play & Learn 9-10am
Wed 8 th Oct	Reception Stay, Play & Learn 9-10am
Tue 14 th Oct	Year 6 Bristol Residential (3 nights)
	Butterflies Stay, Play & Learn 9-10am
Thur 16 th Oct	Ladybirds Stay, Play & Learn 9-10am
Tue 21 st Oct	Parent Teacher Consultations 1.50-4.30pm
Wed 22 nd Oct	Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00-7.00pm
Fri 24 Oct	INSET DAY
Mon 27 th Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov	Children return to school
Mon 17 th Nov	Individual/Sibling photos
Mon 17 th Nov – Fri 21 st Nov	Year 6 Bikeability
Weds 19 th Nov	Parent Learning Conference 5-7.30pm
Mon 24 th Nov	Year 1-6 Flu Vaccinations
	Year 6 Height and Weight checks
Fri 19 th Dec	End of Term 1.45pm





VOLUNTEER WITH FOWO IN 2025-26



WHAT IS FOWO?

We're the Parent Teacher Association of Walton Oak and a registered charity. Run by volunteers, our role is to help build the Walton Oak community and to raise funds to add that little bit extra to school life for the children. We are looking for new volunteers for 2025-26. There are three ways you can help.

FOWO HAS HELPED TO FUND:

- Library refurbishment
- KS2 trim trail
- Early Years play areas
- Running vests
- Christmas books
- Y6 leavers' celebrations

Committee Member

- Decides and organises event calendar/ fundraising initiatives.
- Votes on funding requests
- Classlist App admin
- Mix of set roles, e.g., treasurer, comms and general members. Descriptions available.
- Meets termly and belongs to a FOWO WhatsApp group.
- Elected at September AGM or can join during school year.

General Volunteer

- Helps with occasional tasks such as:
- Wrapping lucky dip/grotto prizes
 - Running a fair stall
 - Helping at a disco
 - Setting up/packing away events
 - Sorting fair prize/uniform donations
 - Making teas/coffees at an open event
 - Helping at clothes collections
 - Designing a poster
 - And more...

FOWO Class Rep

- Belongs to the Class Rep WhatsApp group.
- Forwards on FOWO messages to their year group/class WhatsApp chats.
- 2-3 reps per year group.
- Recruited at the start of each school year.

Save the date!
FOWO AGM:
Wednesday, 17th
September, 6.45pm

FAQs

Who can join the committee?

Any school parent/carer or staff member.

Do you need experience to be on the committee?

No, just a willingness to get involved.

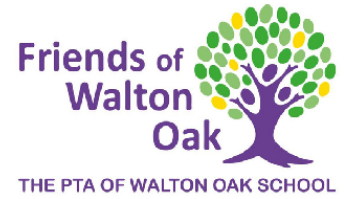
What if I can't make a meeting or am not available during evenings/working week?

No one is expected to attend every FOWO meeting/event. We all have other commitments, but if enough people are on board, we can make it work. It's about what you can do, rather than what you can't!

CONTACT FOWO@LUMENLEARNINGTRUST.CO.UK OR SPEAK TO A CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR MORE DETAILS.



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Three Rivers Academy Open Evening

Three Rivers Academy warmly welcome you to join us for our Open Evening on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 5.30pm.





Upcoming Admissions Events & Key Dates:

NOTRE
DAME
SCHOOL 

7/26

11+ Admissions Programme

For more information, visit our [webpage](#) or e-mail admissions@notredame.co.uk

ND Discovery Day: 27th September

Whole School Open Event: 10th October 2025

Whole School Open Event: 11th October 2025

11+ Registration & Scholarship Application Deadline: 16th October 2025

11+ Assessment Day: 21st November 2025

Scholarship Assessments: 25th – 28th November 2025

Year 7 Offers & Scholarship Offers: January 2026

Offer and Scholarship Acceptance Deadline: March 2026

Inspiring Individual Potential



THAMESMEAD SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

Thursday 9th October 2025

5.30pm - 8.00pm

Headteacher's talks at 5.30, 6.15, 7.00, 7.45pm



We warmly invite parents and primary school students to visit our successful school

You do not need to book to attend but will need a ticket on arrival if you would like to go to the Headteacher's Talk.

More details are on our website.

Thamesmead School, Manygate Lane, Shepperton, TW17 9EE

Tel: 01932 219400 Email: info@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

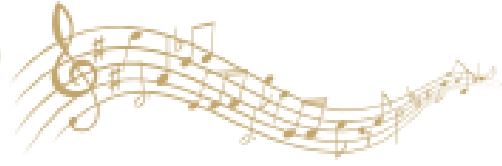
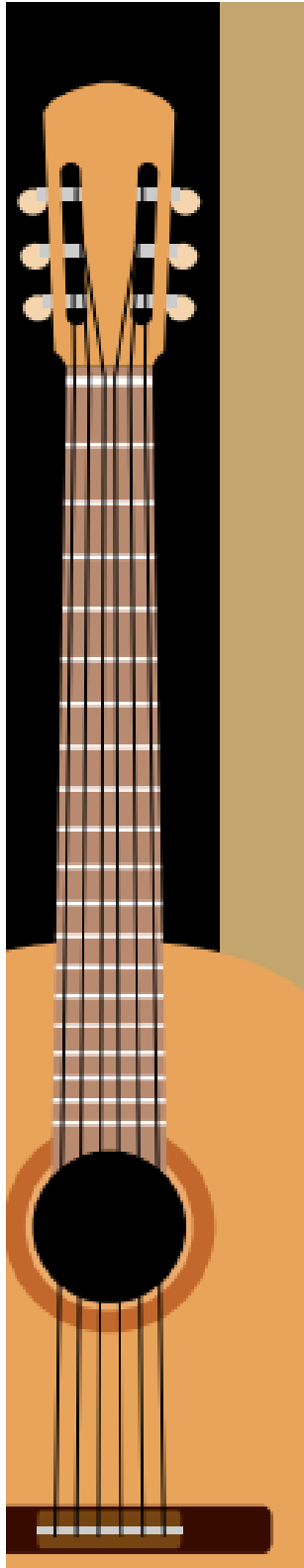
Website: www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Morning tours of the school are also bookable via the school office

"My daughter is happy and thriving at Thamesmead. An extremely good school and would highly recommend to other parents" – Year 7 parent.

"We never had any doubt choosing Thamesmead was the right decision. We're proud to be part of the Thamesmead community." – Year 8 parent

"Thamesmead teachers have been outstanding, showing true passion for their role and supporting our children." – Year 10 parent



PIANO, GUITAR, UKULELE & NOW DRUM LESSONS AT WALTON OAK

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

**Piano, Guitar, Ukulele & Drum Lessons
Available at Walton Oak**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

LTP Music is delighted to be able to offer
Piano, Guitar, Ukulele lessons & Drum
lessons.

Sessions will run throughout the school
day.

For more information and to book
lessons please contact LTP Music directly
at hello@LTPMusic.co.uk

