



Quick Links

Term Dates

School Calendar

FOWO

Curriculum info

Healthy Lunches

Pastoral Support Team

Uniform

Trust Jobs

Attendance

Online Forms

Online Safety

## Headteacher's Message



It has been an eventful week at Walton Oak with two trips taking place in years 2 and 4 (see the enrichment section below), anti-bullying workshops and as I write, our FOWO volunteers are busy putting in all the important preparations for our community event later this afternoon – The Walton Oak Christmas Fair 2025! Life in a school is always about more than what happens within the classroom walls; the experiences children gain through trips, events and wider opportunities enrich their learning, build confidence and strengthen the sense of belonging that is so important in a thriving school community.

On the subject of community, we held our local Governing Board meeting for the term last Thursday. Our governors are a central part of our school community, assuring the leadership of the school and helping us to identify areas of strength and development. In the meeting, we reflected on both the strengths of the school and the challenges we face. Governors spoke positively about the assurances in leadership they have received this term, particularly around how the six principles of nurture are being applied in line with the Nurture UK project we are carrying out. They also recognised the strong focus on our writing framework and the impact this is having on children's writing outcomes and presentation in books. Governors noted how well we support our most vulnerable children whilst ensuring that all children are making progress, with teachers showing great skill in managing the breadth of needs across a class cohort.

We recognise that education today comes with many challenges and it's more important than ever to work together. Collaborating with our governors and other leaders within the Trust provides us with the insight and support needed to navigate these challenges with confidence. We are deeply grateful for this network of support, which helps us continue to provide the best possible education for all our children.

We continue to look for ways to build partnership with parents so that you feel well equipped to support learning at home, especially in hearing children read. Surprisingly, there are still a great many children who aren't heard to read, or read to. We hope to change this by continuing to promote the love of reading for all children in different ways. To start with, please read the speech that our head Pupil Amelie read at our parent learning conference describing what reading means to her (see below).

Christmas preparations are now well underway, with the joyful sounds of singing coming from classrooms. Please book your seat at one of our performances if you haven't already – they promise to be a wonderful celebration of the season. This weekend also brings Walton's Festival of Lights 2025 in the town centre. While the lantern parade is sadly no longer possible due to health and safety restrictions, our choir will be singing and we hope you will join us in enjoying another festive local community event.

Siân McCarthy





## General Information

### Head Pupil Speech – Love of Reading

As mentioned above, Amelie from Year 6 prepared and beautifully read a speech about her own personal love of reading at the parent learning conference. It is a powerful and inspiring example of why sharing books with children from a young age as well as in later childhood, is of the utmost importance.



*Good evening, everyone. My name is Amelie and I am the Head Pupil here at Walton Oak School. Today, I am going to be talking about reading and how it is so important in daily life. For me personally, reading is important as it supports my understanding in all areas of learning. It is a key factor in everything I do in life; for example, it allows me to read basic signs, ingredients in food and advertisements. It also gives me a better understanding of the world around me. However, reading for pleasure is just as important as the skill of reading.*

*Out of school, I enjoy reading for pleasure as it takes me into a different world and makes me feel safe. I like to immerse myself in these new worlds as it's like a new thrilling adventure on every page. In addition, the books that I throw myself into allow my imagination to become reality.*

*Whenever I have spare time - such as in the early evening - I like to read because of the positive feeling it gives. Sometimes, I read to my siblings. My youngest sister is just learning to read; she enjoys the stories within chapter books but is not yet able to read them herself so I share these with her. Reading has always been a big part of my home life - my parents read books for their own enjoyment and to myself and my sisters for fun. Despite being independent as a reader, I still enjoy listening to others read stories.*

*Today, I would like you all to take time to think about why reading is so important and how lucky we all are to have such great reading opportunities at Walton Oak. I hope that by me sharing my love of reading, it will support you in helping your child to build their own love of reading.*

### Medication Procedure

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, we kindly remind parents of the school's medication procedure:

- All medication must be handed directly to the school office
- Parents must complete the required medication paperwork (online form on website or paper copy from office) before any medication can be accepted or administered
- Medication will be stored and administered by the office team (apart from inhalers/epipens which are kept in the classrooms)
- Any medication required during trips will be handed over to the teachers by the office

### Uniform Reminder

As the colder weather sets in, we'd like to remind families of the importance of children coming to school in full school uniform each day. We have noticed an increase in children wearing black leggings with white socks worn over the top - this is not part of our uniform policy. To help keep everyone warm while still looking smart, please ensure that children wear black or charcoal grey tights or socks as part of their uniform. Please also ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat and appropriate outdoor accessories (warm hat, scarf and gloves) so that they can enjoy their playtime, even when it is particularly cold. Thank you for your support in helping our pupils stay warm, comfortable and ready for learning while representing our school with pride.

### Christmas Performances

Please see below dates for Christmas performances. There are still tickets available.

#### **Tuesday 2nd December:**

- Reception & Y1 Nativity (babies/toddlers welcome) - 9.15am



**Wednesday 3rd December:**

- Nursery Nativity - 11.00am
- Reception & Y1 Nativity - Weds 3rd Dec - 2.15pm
- Nursery Nativity - 2.30pm

**Thursday 4th December:**

- Reception & Y1 Nativity - 9.15am
- Y2 & 3 Christingle Service - 2.00pm

**Monday 8th December:**

- Y4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert (babies/toddlers welcome) - 9.15am

**Tuesday 9th December:**

- Y4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert - 9.15am
- Y4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert - 2.00pm

**Wednesday 10th December:**

- Y4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert - 2.00pm

**Children in Need**

The total raised for Children in Need was **£688.16**. Thank you for all of your donations!

**Foodbank Donations**

If you would like to collect everyday essentials for the foodbank each day in December the foodbank will be delighted to receive them in January. In addition to their normal donation sessions, they are holding a special Saturday donation morning on 10th Jan '26 10-12 at their warehouse in Hershaw. **Please see the Reverse Advent Calendar at the end of the Wire.**

**WALTON CHARITIES WINTER  
APPEAL**

**NON-UNIFORM DAY  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
2025**

Children are invited to school in home clothes for a donation of £1

The money raised helps support children in the community receive a Christmas bundle or toy and continue to provide essential support to children living in Elmbridge.

Thanks to Walton Charities, every £1 is doubled, meaning your generosity goes twice as far to help local families.



## Transition

### Prospective Reception Open Morning/Afternoon Tours

We have now completed all our scheduled tours for prospective Reception parents. It has been a pleasure meeting such a wonderful group of parents and carers and answering their questions as we showcased our school.



If you know any families seeking a Reception place for September 2026 who were unable to attend a tour but would still like to visit, please let them know they are very welcome to contact the school office to arrange a time to come in and have a look around.

### Reception - school applications

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you will need to apply for a school place between **3 November 2025 and 15 January 2026**.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant>

Contact the office if you need support with this. Please note: you will still need apply even if your child is our nursery.

## Reading

### 100 Reads

Congratulations to those children that have reached 100 reads and received their certificate in assembly! Keep up the good reading!



Ruby – 4A

Anoushka – 5M

Ben – 5C

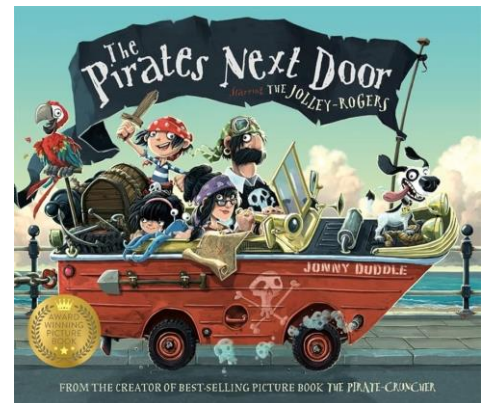
### Tip for reading with your child at home

*Take turns reading.* Let your child read a page, then you read the next. This keeps the pace relaxed, models fluent reading and breaks the reading into manageable chunks. It also makes reading feel more like a shared, enjoyable activity rather than a task.

### Book review

Mrs McCarthy is recommending *The Pirates Next Door* by Jonny Duddle, a wonderfully lively and imaginative story that has become one of her favourites to share with children. She loves this book because it blends humour, adventure and an important message about friendship and acceptance - all wrapped up in Jonny Duddle's vibrant, detailed illustrations.

The story introduces the Jolley-Rogers, a pirate family who unexpectedly move into a quiet seaside town. Their arrival causes quite a stir among the locals, but young Matilda is excited to make new friends. Through playful rhyme and colourful scenes, the book explores how first impressions can be misleading and reminds us all of the value of welcoming others, even when they seem different from ourselves.



Mrs McCarthy especially enjoys how much children engage with the illustrations - each page is full of hidden details and pirate mischief for them to spot. It's a brilliant read-aloud book that sparks curiosity, conversation and plenty of giggles.

*The Pirates Next Door* is a joyful, warm-hearted story that celebrates community, kindness and a touch of adventure - perfect for sharing at home. Mrs McCarthy hopes your family enjoys it as much as she does!



Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let’s Talk!






**Can technology ever help us too much?**

## In the news this week

Nike has revealed a new type of powered shoe, called Project Amplify, which uses small motors to boost a person's walking and running movement. The shoes are designed to reduce tiredness and make everyday movement easier, especially for those who need extra support. Nike says the aim is to help people stay active, independent and mobile in their daily lives.

**Things to talk about at home ...**

- Explain and share your thoughts with someone at home about the new shoe design.
- Do you believe everyone should be allowed to use the same technology, or should some things be only for people who really need them?
- Can you think of other technologies designed to make life easier? Which do you use?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Enrichment Activities

Pied Piper Performance



This week the children in Reception and KS1 were treated to a special performance from the pied piper theatre company, they performed their show 'Zoom', all about a little girl and her adventure with an alien. The children really enjoyed it and really got involved in the singing and the chants. Well done!



Anti-Bullying Theatre Visit



On Tuesday, Reception to Year 4 took part in an engaging anti-bullying theatre show. The performance taught the children important strategies such as asking for help, looking confident and speaking up. Through relatable characters and real-life scenarios, the show helped pupils understand what bullying is and how they can use their own power for good. The children came away with clear, memorable messages about positive choices and supporting others.



I liked when I could stand up in front of everyone and repeated a message we could say if we are being bullied — Seren, Year 1

My favourite part was when Philip stepped up to stop the bullying. It taught us that it is important to speak up against bullies – Cora, Year 4

### Year 5 and 6 Anti-Bullying Workshops



On Tuesday, Year 5 and 6 also took part in individual class workshop sessions. During these lessons, the pupils explored what bullying is and what it is not, building a clearer understanding of the difference. They discussed the importance of speaking up and learned that doing



so does not make someone a "snitch," but rather helps keep everyone safe. The workshops also helped them consolidate their learning from Anti-Bullying Week, reinforcing how important it is to use their power for good.



We talked about different scenarios about what bullying looks like and we acted out these problems and learnt how to respond appropriately. I really liked that we all got to join in and learn about different situations, it's important that we treat others fairly – Fraser, Year 5

### Year 2 Trip to Kew Gardens



Year 2 had a wonderful time exploring Kew Gardens this week! The children were excited to discover a wide variety of plants from all around the world and enjoyed seeing how gardens change with the seasons. During a hands-on workshop, they learned about different types of seeds and what they need to germinate, even getting the chance to examine some seeds up close. It was a fun and inspiring day that sparked lots of curiosity about nature and plant life!





### Year 4 - British Wildlife Centre Trip

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting and memorable trip to the British Wildlife Centre this week. The children had the opportunity to see a wide range of native animals up close, including foxes, deer, owls, otters, badgers, stoats and the rare Scottish wildcats. They were fascinated to learn how these animals live, hunt and are cared for, and they impressed the keepers by asking thoughtful, well-considered questions throughout the day.

A particular highlight was getting to hold a real deer antler, which helped the children understand more about how deer grow and shed them each year. Keeper talks, animal encounters and exploring the enclosures all helped bring their science topic on living things and their habitats to life. The children represented our school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and great behaviour during the entire visit.





## Pastoral News

### Parenting Puzzle

We are hoping to hold a Parenting Puzzle course at Walton Oak in the new year. The course gives parents the opportunity to learn more about supporting children's behaviour, emotions and to develop skills that will help you at home.

To request a place you can email the school office or contact Mrs Natasha Herron-Duke on 07938645949

**Parenting puzzle at Walton**  
**Oak**

THE CENTRE FOR  
**EMOTIONAL  
HEALTH**

**This a 10 week programme designed to offer strategies for guiding children buy focusing on four core building blocks: self awareness appropriate expectations, empathy and positive discipline**

What the program covers

- Understanding child behavior: Learning to interpret what your child's actions and emotions mean.
- Listening and communication: Developing better ways to talk and listen to your children.
- Praise and guidance: Understanding the power of encouragement and positive reinforcement.
- The power of play: Recognizing the importance of play for development.
- Boundaries and parenting styles: Exploring different approaches to setting limits and managing behavior.
- Self-care: Recognizing the importance of looking after yourself as a parent.

Core concepts

- Self-awareness: Understanding your own feelings and how they influence your parenting.
- Appropriate expectations: Having realistic expectations for your child's development and behavior.
- Empathy: Developing an understanding of your child's feelings and perspective.
- Positive discipline: Learning effective strategies for setting boundaries and guiding behaviour in a constructive way.

The programme will be run 1 day a week for a period of 10 weeks. Although it is best to attend all 10 sessions we understand that this is not always possible.

## Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

**The Echelford Primary School is recruiting:** Are you committed and passionate about education and keen to make a difference? Are you highly motivated, proactive, flexible and reliable? We are offering a wonderful opportunity to become an integral part of our exceptional community of children and adults. We are looking to appoint someone who wants to create a provision that is stimulating, safe, caring and creative. The right candidate will be organised and able to lead and work as part of a team and use their own initiative. For more information **click on the link on page 1.**



### FOWO

Donate a jumper, share the joy – Christmas Jumper Rail soon to open!

With Christmas Jumper Day just around the corner, we're launching our School Christmas Jumper Rail to help every child join in the festive fun — and we need your help!

If you have any gently worn, clean Christmas jumpers that your child has outgrown, please consider donating them to school. All sizes are welcome, and every donation helps another child sparkle on the day! Donations can be dropped off at the FOWO Clothes Rail in school reception anytime before Friday 5 December.

The jumper rail will be available for families to browse and choose from in the lead-up to Christmas Jumper Day. All items £1

Thank you for helping us spread warmth, cheer, and a little extra sparkle this season!

### A festive message from FOWO

We know it has been a busy few weeks in the run up to the Christmas Fair which is happening today, but we just wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all parents/carers, grandparents, students and staff for their support in making the event such a success!

We hope you are enjoying the festive fun around the school, and look forward to updating you next week, on all Raffle winners, as well as providing you with all our fundraising totals.

Click on the logos below to connect with us and to keep up to date



## Celebrations



### Achievements outside of School



Willow-Hope & Blake were flag bearers for their local football team - Walton and Hersham at a recent match. What a great opportunity and lovely to see our children supporting an exciting community event. Well done!





Gold Leaves

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



<b>Butterflies</b>	Kharim
<b>Ladybirds</b>	James
<b>Hedgehogs</b>	Aria, Eliya & Lucas
<b>Squirrels</b>	Henry, Ibrahim, Martha & Theo
<b>1B</b>	Miles & Oscar
<b>2L</b>	Atanas, Holly, Isabel & Lydia
<b>2S</b>	Bobby, Matty & Roman
<b>3B</b>	Amelia
<b>3G</b>	Isla, Phoebe & Saffanah
<b>4C</b>	Millie
<b>4A</b>	Emily, Lydia & Seren
<b>5C</b>	Brody, Elliot, Jaxon, Jessica B, Mica, Sienna & Tommy
<b>5M</b>	Kiri-Mae

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





Upcoming dates for the diary

Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Reception & Yr1 Nativity (babies/toddlers welcome) 9.15am
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Nursery Nativity 11.00am
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Reception & Y1 Nativity 2.15pm
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Nursery Nativity 2.30pm
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception & Y1 Nativity 9.15am
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr2 & 3 Christingle Service 2.00pm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert (babies/toddlers welcome) 9.15am
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert 9.15am
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert 2.00pm
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr4, 5 & 6 Christmas Concert 2.00pm
<b>Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Non uniform day for Walton Charities Winter Appeal - £1 donation</b>
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term 1.45pm
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children return to school
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Children return to school





**Dad Matters** is a new charity in Surrey helping new dads suffering from stress, anxiety or depression during the perinatal period (conception to second birthday). Research indicates up to one third of new dads are affected. These mental health issues not only impact the dad’s wellbeing, but also his ability to support the mum and engage with the baby. There is a variety of support available for new mums, but very little for new dads –**Dad Matters** is filling this gap.

**Dad Matters** (part of the Home Start Surrey charity) supports new dads with information, someone to talk to, and one-to-one counselling. Our aim is to improve bonding between dad and baby, improve mental health of the dad and to benefit the whole family – now and well into the future - by providing support during the critical perinatal period. Please use this [link](#) for more information

**Merry Christmas!**  
**December Timetable**  
 All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long  
**£24 each or FREE with School Membership**  
 Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)  
 Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm



**Walton & Hershham Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell



## Reverse Advent Calendar 2025

Reverse adverts will be gratefully received at the Foodbank Warehouse, Faulkner's Road, Hershham KT12 5JB on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 10-12pm.

1 Hot chocolate	2 Tinned potatoes	3 Long-life sponge puddings	4 Washing up liquid	5 Biscuits	6 Deodorant
7 Custard	8 Savoury snacks	9 Tinned tuna	10 Instant coffee	11 Shower gel	12 Tinned vegetables
13 Shampoo	14 Instant noodles	15 Long-life fruit juice	16 Mayonnaise	17 Kitchen towel	18 Non-bio laundry pods
19 Shaving gel/foam	20 Tinned meat	21 Ketchup	22 Children's toothpaste	23 UHT long-life milk	24 Chocolate bars

[www.waltonhershham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.waltonhershham.foodbank.org.uk)

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1185959



# WALTON'S FESTIVAL of LIGHT

**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
*Between 12:00 - 18:00*

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

LIVE PERFORMANCES *from the COMMUNITY* | FUNFAIR RIDES  
STROLLING ENTERTAINERS | FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK  
FREE FACE-PAINTING | **FOODBANK DONATION DROP-OFF**

### SCOUTING LIGHT PARADE and CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON

SUPPORTED BY: RadioWey.org | FOODBANK DONATION DROP-OFF: FREDERICK W. CHITTY & CO | ORGANISED BY: Walton & Hershham Foodbank | lovewalton | WALTON-ON-THAMES



# Walton Oak Primary School

## Penalty Notice and Fines

Changes effective 19/08/24

# 1

### FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

**£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.**

**Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days**

# 2

### SECOND OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

**£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.**

**No reduced rate will be offered**

# 3

### THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY OTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance, a penalty notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

**10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD** Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.



01932 259604



[www.waltonoak.co.uk](http://www.waltonoak.co.uk)