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Headteacher's Message

Happy New Year! It's been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to Walton Oak this week – and what a chilly week it's been. There was even a flurry of snow, much to everyone's delight. Staff have been pleased to see children looking appropriately dressed for the weather. The start of the Spring term always feels very calm after the excitement of Christmas. This week there has been a renewed focus on the routines and expectations that will enable children to be their best.

Looking ahead, we have several important priorities this term that will further strengthen our school community. Our Pupil Leaders will play a key role in supporting children and families to understand and embed the Six Principles of Nurture. This work builds on the strong foundations already in place as we continue our journey towards becoming an accredited Nurturing School through the Nurture UK project. Walton Oak is one of only 100 schools in Surrey selected to take part, in recognition of our ongoing commitment to ensuring every child is supported to thrive and learn.



We are also continuing to develop our strong focus on Oracy, supporting children to talk confidently and to learn through talk. From next week, we will be introducing 'Food for Talk' in the dinner hall. Each day, a question will be displayed on the screen for children to discuss with their friends over lunch. We know that some children do not always have opportunities for high-quality talk at home, so this provides a valuable and inclusive chance for everyone to share ideas and build communication skills. Staff will encourage discussion and questions will be made

accessible to all children through the use of pictures and prompts. Here's one for you to try at home...



Siân McCarthy

General Information

Staff News

We said goodbye this week to Mrs. Settu, Nursery TA. Mrs. Settu has worked across Key stage 1 and Early Years during the past 2 years and has brought much care and support to our children. Mrs. Settu and her husband are expecting their first baby in May so Mrs Settu has decided to take some time to enjoy preparing for the new addition to their family. We wish her all the best for the future.



Forest School Accreditation - Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Bailey and Miss Bessant who have successfully completed their Forest School Training and assignments and have been awarded their Level 3 Forest school Leader Status. This followed a rigorous accreditation process including a lengthy case study and the development of policy and documentation. We are very proud of them and very pleased to be able to offer this provision to enrich our curriculum. Mrs Bailey and Miss Bessant will continue to share their expertise with the wider





team so that we strengthen practice across the school to incorporate outdoor learning into all aspects of the curriculum.

Change to PE Schedule – New PE Uniform Days

Beginning the 5th January, PE days for each year group will be as follows:

Butterflies: Tuesday

Ladybirds: Friday

Reception: Wednesday

Year 1: Monday

Year 2: Thursday

Year 3: Wednesday

Year 4: Friday

Year 5: Thursday

Year 6: Tuesday

Please ensure that your child comes to school on these days wearing appropriate PE attire and footwear. All other aspects of the school day will remain the same. This change will help us better align our schedule and make the most of our PE time.

Enrichment Clubs

You should now have received an email with your confirmed enrichment club. All clubs will commence week beginning **12th January** and finish the week commencing **23rd March**.

Magma Maths

This term, we are excited to be launching Magma Maths. This innovative online platform encourages children to see themselves as confident mathematicians. It allows pupils to show their working, receive instant feedback and build deeper mathematical understanding. Our teaching team will be receiving training on the use of this platform in the next couple of weeks and it will then be introduced to the children. More details will follow in the coming weeks - watch this space!

Important Parking Reminder - Zig Zag Lines

A reminder to our families about parking by the school. Please be mindful about parking safely. This means finding a parking space that has no restrictive road markings such as white or yellow lines. In particular, the zig zag lines opposite school indicate a restricted area. This is to prevent the road from becoming narrowed as it is important that motorists can clearly see the upcoming zebra crossing and children and families can cross the road safely. The leaves and debris, previously covering these lines have been cleared and so they are now completely visible. Thank you in advance for your efforts in keeping our children safe.

Transition

DEADLINE APPROACHING: 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 by **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 the following children who have reached their 100 reads this week:





Martha - Squirrels	Ella – Squirrels	Zak - Squirrels
Hope - Hedgehogs	Arlo - Hedgehogs	Max - Hedgehogs
Luca - Hedgehogs	Hannah - Hedgehogs	Toby - Hedgehogs
Kai – 2S	William B – 3B	Abi – 3B
Ata – 3B	Rory – 3G	Isla – 3G
Phoebe – 3G	Fionn - 3G	Dylan – 3G

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that, to keep things fair and manageable, a maximum of 10 reads per week can be counted in children’s reading records. Regular little-and-often reading really does make the biggest difference.

Back to Books in the School Library!



On their return to school after the holidays, classes enjoyed spending time exploring our school library. Children have a weekly opportunity to browse the shelves, discover new authors and genres and take time to choose books that sparked their interest. This has been a lovely way to re-ignite excitement for reading and remind everyone that the library is a welcoming space to enjoy stories, learn something new and develop a love of reading.



Tiny Happy People

Opposites



This week’s activity is about learning opposites. No resources are needed and it can be played at any time of the day. This could be at meal times, on the school run, or even at bath time. Learning opposites is an important concept for children. Click on the link below to find a short video of how to help your child. Have fun!



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/have-fun-learning-opposites/zrhkkmn>



Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let’s Talk!

Research from the National Literacy Trust highlights the importance of conversation at mealtimes. A study of 35,000 children across the UK found that children who regularly talk with their families during meals are more confident communicators. Through its Words for Life campaign, the Trust encourages families to support children’s speaking and listening skills by taking simple steps such as chatting together at mealtimes, emphasising that everyday conversation plays a vital role in children’s future success. Try using our ‘Time to Talk’ resource from Picture News to inspire conversations at home:



TAKEHOME Go - All in!

In the news this week

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a special year, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites, and even audiobooks, with the theme 'Go All in'. Throughout the year, schools, libraries, and communities will run fun events and challenges to help everyone find a type of reading they love.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the types of books or other materials you enjoy reading.
- Ask an adult to describe their reading journey, e.g., what they liked reading as a child, what they read now.
- Why do you think fewer people read in today's world? What do you think of the initiative – is it a good idea in your view?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Diversity and Equality

Reading Equality



2026 is the National Year of Reading. It is a Special year, organised by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. During assembly on Monday, the children considered all the various reading opportunities they might have to read or hear stories e.g. books, comics, magazines, websites, audiobooks etc They also learned about some of the ideas people across the country have already had to promote reading.



The children were reminded of an inspirational person that they have visited in assemblies before, Malala Yousafzai. Malala grew up in Pakistan and bravely stood up for girls’ right to an education. Her story helps children understand that everyone deserves the same opportunities, regardless of gender, background, or where they live. She is now a global advocate for fairness and inclusion in education and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.





Malala’s message is one we encourage you to share with your child:

"One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

Malala’s story reminds us all how powerful education can be and her starting point for this is... reading!



Pastoral News

Parenting Puzzle

There are still spaces available for the Parenting Puzzle course being run by Mrs Natasha Herron-Duke. This will be held on Mondays for 10 weeks from the 12th January. If you would like a place, please contact Mrs Herron Duke.



Parenting puzzle at Walton
Oak

THE CENTRE FOR
EMOTIONAL HEALTH

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

What the program covers

- Understanding child behaviour: 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.



FOWO

FOWO In 2026 – Spring Meeting

Thank you to those of you that came along to the FOWO Spring meeting earlier today. It was lovely to meet you all! We have confirmed so many exciting events for the Spring and Summer terms. A full list of which can be found below, so please don't forget to add them to your calendars!

We will be asking for volunteers for a number of the events, so please do get in touch either via your Class Reps, email - fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk - or grab one of us at either drop-off or pick-up!

It's going to be an exciting year!

FOWO Diary: 2026: Save the Dates

- **15 & 16 January 2026** - Happy School Bags clothing collection
 - 15 January 2026 - 5pm - 6pm - drop off by FOWO shed
 - 16 January 2026 - school drop-off- by the school gate, or under the cover by the school building
- **30 January 2026** - Yr 1 & 2 cake sale
- **06 February 2026** - FOWO Parents Quiz night
- **13 February 2026** - Yr 5 & 6 cake sale
- **20 March 2026** - Yr 3 & 4 cake sale
- **08 May 2026** - Nursery & Reception cake sale
- **13 June 2026** - FOWO Summer Fair
- **17 & 18 June 2026** - Happy School Bags clothing collection
 - 17 June 2026 - 5pm - 6pm - drop off by FOWO shed
 - 18 June 2026 - 9am - by the school gate, or under the cover by the school building
- **03 July 2026** - End of year discos

Full Bags, Happy Smiles: Our Spring Clothing Drive with Happy Bags

It's that time of year again, when we give you the opportunity to clear out all your unwanted clothes after the festive period, with our annual clothing drive, with Happy Bags.

Collections of unwanted clothes and shoes will be on the following dates:

5pm on 15th January

Morning drop-off on 16 January 2026

Instead of discarding all those old clothes, this collection offers a recycling solution that benefits the environment, less fortunate people in need, and raises funds for the school all at the same time!

If your child bought home a Happy Bag collections bag, please use that, otherwise, bin bags and carrier bags are fine

For a full list of what is accepted, please go to <https://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk/what-we-collect/> or check out the poster on the FOWO Board or at the back of The Wire this week

Don't be a Grinch – Give Your Festive Jumper a New Home

With the festive period now over, why not give the jumpers that you know your children will have grown out of by Christmas this year a new home, and donate them to FOWO for Christmas Jumper Day?

Please drop any unwanted clean, bagged jumpers by the FOWO Uniform Rail in reception and we will store them until the festive period when they will reappear in time for Christmas Jumper Day!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FOWO!



Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant on a fixed term contract to cover a maternity leave. This is an opportunity for individuals who are patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff. If you actively enjoy working with children in a stimulating and creative environment, have experience ideally within the education sector and are professional in your approach with a desire to make a lasting personal contribution to our children’s lives, we want to hear from you. For more information please **click on the link on page 1**

The Echelford Primary School is recruiting: We are recruiting a Wraparound Care Manager (24.75 hours per week, 7:00 am - 8:45 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday, with an additional 1 hour per week for admin tasks during term time (38 weeks per year). 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 on these roles please **click on the link on page 1**.

The Echelford Primary School is recruiting: We are recruiting a Deputy Wraparound Care Manager on a Fixed Term Contract (12 hours per week, 3pm – 6pm three afternoons per week and 7.30am - 8.30am three mornings per week, term time only (38 weeks per year). **Flexibility around these hours may be considered.** 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 on these roles please **click on the link on page 1**.

Riverbridge Primary School is recruiting: We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for someone who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please **click on the link on page 1**.

Celebrations



Ruben had a very exciting Christmas day!

“On Christmas Day, me and my family paid a visit to the local fire station. As a family, we were fortunate enough to be able to spend Christmas together but people working during this time need to look after the community and keep them safe. So, we decided to bring them gifts - cakes that we baked. Will (the firefighter at Walton fire station) welcomed us, showed us around and was excited to try our baked treats”.

Another example of the community spirit demonstrated by the children of Walton Oak School – well done Ruben!



Alex has recently achieved a Blue Peter Green Badge for his efforts to help the environment. Alex has a strong interest in nature and often chooses to go litter picking to help keep his surroundings clean. Following his litter picking activities over the summer, he was awarded his Green Badge in December. We are very proud of Alex and his fantastic achievement!



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 & Mila
1B	Filip, Jessica-Rose, Bambi & Bella
1N	Arabella
3B	Noah & Sienna
4A	Hayden, Jazib, Emily, Alaia, Hayden & Elizabeth
5M	Ruben

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



Friendly Reminder

Hoppy wants to remind you, yourschool's clothing collection issoon! Get your bagsready. Bring asmuchas you can, even use extra bags if needed. More donations mean more funds for the school's reinvestment! Let's make it count!



Your Collection Date is:

15th Jan - 5pm

16th Jan - drop-off

[f](#) [in](#) [HappySchoolBag](#) www.happyschoolbag.co.uk 0170 858 5071 info@happyschoolbag.co.uk

THANK YOU

all your support is appreciated and will go to helping Walton Oak and all the students!!





What we collect

We accept:

- ✓ Adults and children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes
- ✓ Handbags, belts, hats, jewellery
- ✓ Toiletries, perfumes,
- ✓ Souvenirs, unwanted gifts

Please ensure that all items placed in the bags are in good REUSABLE condition. Please ensure that the bags remain dry on rainy days. Thank you

If unsure about anything, please call us on 0170 868 5071

We do not accept:

- ✗ Uniforms, underclothing
- ✗ Bric-a-brac, toys, DVD'S, CD's
- ✗ Rugs, blankets, curtains, books
- ✗ Household linen, pillows, duvets
- ✗ DIRTY, DAMAGED, or WET clothes



www.happyschoolbag.co.uk

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