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Headteacher's Message

The Year 5 team jumped straight into Spring 2 with a residential trip to Bowles Rock in Kent. The children had a wonderful time and a truly valuable experience, challenging themselves by taking risks in their activities and navigating the milestone of staying away from home -for some, for the very first time. They managed the joys and frustrations of sharing a dormitory with friends and even tackled the ultimate test of independence: putting on their own duvet covers, which often proved the biggest challenge of all! By stretching themselves out of their comfort zones, the children rose to the occasion and experienced the genuine sense of achievement that comes with overcoming fears. The staff were immensely proud of how the children got stuck in, looked after one another and demonstrated resilience and personal growth. Though tired at the end of a busy week, they returned to school eager to share their adventures with us all. Those who remained on-site also did themselves proud, throwing their best efforts into their projects and welcoming their classmates back with a smile. We are incredibly grateful to Miss Courtenay, Miss Maddin, Ms Moorhouse, Mrs Murray, Miss Orton and Miss Hamper for investing their time (and sleep) into making this such a memorable experience and to Mrs Sexstone for leading the provision so successfully back at school.



In other news, Year 3 were out and about today and yesterday, completing their Feet First training. This is a vital learning opportunity that takes place in the streets outside our school, teaching road safety skills to better enable them to safely walk to and from school with their parents and carers and prepare them for independent travel. The instructors were very impressed with how seriously the children took this training and how well they listened throughout.

Looking ahead, next week is Walton Oak Book Week. "Learning to read so we can read to learn" is a phrase we often use to help children realise the importance of literacy and the lifelong enjoyment it can bring. Our Book Week aims to reinforce this message with exciting activities planned to encourage children to read individually, collaboratively and unexpectedly. We are all looking forward to dressing up for World book day (a day early) on Wednesday; please remember this event is purely for fun and there is no expectation for children to wear anything elaborate or expensive. Simple home-made costumes are often the best and the day always brings smiles and curiosity as we make connections between the characters we see and the books they represent.

We also invite you to our Bedtime Stories event on Tuesday evening. This is always popular with families as it is completely low-pressure and simple: just come along in comfy clothes or nightwear, bring a cosy blanket or teddy and a mug for hot chocolate. If children have a favourite book, they are welcome to bring it along to share with their grown-up, though there will be plenty of other books available to choose from. It is a wonderful chance to find a quiet spot to read together or listen to a story read by a member of staff as there is nothing quite like cosying up with your favourite person and a good book.

Siân McCarthy





General Information

A Reminder – we are a nut free school

Please do not send your child into school with any nuts or nuts products ie nutella sandwiches, cereal bars containing nuts as part of their packed lunch or break time snack. We have a number of children with severe allergies.

Stay, Play & Learn Sessions for EYFS & KS1

We invite you to come and join in some continuous provision and early writing learning with your child in their classroom. This will be followed by a brief information session to help you support your child at home with their writing and fine motor skills. To book please follow the relevant link for your child's class and the date that you would like to attend. **Could you please book in using your child's name.**

Reception Hedgehogs Class:

Tue 10th March 9.00-10.15am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2025916>

Thur 12th March 9.00-10.15am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2025931>

Reception Squirrels Class:

Tue 10th March 9.00-10.15am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2025911>

Thur 12th March 9.00-10.15am <https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2025922>

African Drumming Workshops



On Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March, children across the school will take part in exciting African drumming workshops led by a visiting specialist. Pupils will explore rhythm, teamwork and performance through hands-on drumming sessions, finishing with a whole-school performance to celebrate their learning. We're really looking forward to an energetic and memorable experience for all children.

Understanding Parents' Experiences of Accessing and Using Funded Childcare Entitlements - Early Years Parent Survey

Following the expansion to funded entitlements, Surrey County Council have created this short online survey to help us understand the experiences of families with children between 0-5 years in accessing childcare and applying for, and using, the funded childcare entitlements.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey:

[Have Your Say Today - Childcare and funding - parent survey 2026 - Surrey Early Years And Childcare](#)

We are looking to better understand what factors are most important to parents when they are considering childcare places, as well as finding out how informed parents are about funded entitlements that are available.

We are really interested in parent feedback and hope that we will be able to use this to continue to offer support to the early years sector around sufficiency and sustainability.

Parking on Road markings

Another plea to the small number of parents who still park across zig zag and double yellow lines. This isn't about avoiding a fine, this is about **keeping children safe**. It is being noticed by staff and parents and we are being sent photos of cars that are parked inconsiderately. We will be contacting individual parents to ask that they please consider the safety of all of our children when dropping their own children at school. Blocking crossings and taking up space on pavements, puts children and other pedestrians at risk so we kindly ask that you either arrive earlier or wait until there is a free, safe space to park before putting others at risk. Thank you to everyone who parks responsibly.



Important Message re Social Media

Please remain vigilant about your child’s use of social media and messaging apps. Be aware of the age restrictions for platforms such as TikTok, WhatsApp and Snapchat as these limits are in place to help keep children safe. Social media and group chats should be closely monitored at home by parents to ensure appropriate and safe use. We are continuing to see trends originating outside of school, including the current “Red Vs Blue” trend, which may present safeguarding concerns within our community. Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping children safe online.

Reading

Reading awards

Congratulations to all the children who have reached 100, 150, and 200 reads, what a fantastic achievement! Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support at home, reading for pleasure plays such an important role in your child’s education and development.



100 Reads

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Ester – Hedgehogs | Josh – Hedgehogs | Miles – 1B |
| Eden – 1N | Emmeline – 1N | |

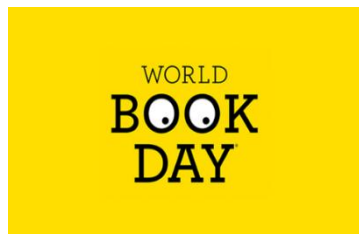
150 Reads

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Violet K – Butterflies | Arlo – Hedgehogs | Moriam – Squirrels |
| Arlo – 1N | Eden – 1N | Evie D – 1N |
| Evie S – 1N | | |

200 Reads

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Hannah – Hedgehogs | Albie P – 1B | Lucy – 1B |
| Alice – 1N | Hugo – 1N | Marianna – 1N |

World Book Week



We’re excited to be celebrating World Book Week 2026 with a range of fun activities to inspire a love of reading across the school. The week will include opportunities to “Drop Everything and Read”, a reading swap between classes, our annual Bedtime Stories Evening, a book character dress-up day and a teacher story swap. We will finish the week with a celebration assembly and a special visit from author Margaret Bateson-Hill, who will lead a whole school assembly and workshops with some of the children. Each child will also receive a World Book Day book token to be used at participating bookshops.

Don’t forget to dress up as your favourite book character on Wednesday and click on the link below to sign up to the Bedtime Stories event on Tuesday evening. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdea-HnNAHuow6etsKfWMN5Q8a69PEB9-rXTsGp5C0wLqnOvA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>
We look forward to a wonderful week celebrating reading!

Bedtime Stories



Don’t forget that our annual Bedtime Stories event will be taking place on **Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 5:30 - 6:15.**

Join us for our annual Bedtime Stories evening! Pop on your pyjamas, bring a blanket or cuddly toy, and settle in for a cosy night of storytelling. The evening includes:

- **Stories read by Walton Oak staff**
- **Hot chocolate with marshmallows**
- **Cosy reading dens for families to enjoy together**



Please complete the Google Form by Wednesday 25th February to let us know if you're coming so we can prepare enough reading dens: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdea-HnNAHuow6etsKfWMN5Q8a69PEB9-rXTsGp5C0wLqnOvA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Dress code: Pyjamas and comfy slippers

Reminder: Bring a mug if you'd like hot chocolate!

Transition

Secondary school offer day

Secondary school offers for 2026 entry will be sent on **March 2, 2026 (National Offer Day)**, primarily via email in the evening for online applicants or by post for paper applications. See the Pastoral section below for guidance of how to support your child with the range of feelings this news will bring.



Tiny Happy People

Traffic light game!



Do you remember playing this when you were younger, maybe at school, or out playing with your friends? A simple game that children will love. Follow the link for a brief video.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/rangers-traffic-light-activity/zgvthcw>

You can play this traffic light game anywhere. In the garden, inside the house, at the park - or even at the supermarket!



Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



TAKEHOME

2nd - 8th February



Does seeing yourself in a toy or story help you feel like you belong?

In the news this week

A toy company called Mattel has released a new Barbie doll designed to represent people who have autism, with features such as a fidget spinner and noise-cancelling headphones. The doll was created with help from the autistic community, so more people can see themselves reflected in their toys.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you think it's important for toys to show different kinds of people?
- How do you feel when you see a character or toy that is like you?
- Can you come up with other examples of books or toys that aim to help people feel included?
- How can we help other people feel included when they might feel different or left out?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Extra-Curricular Events

Netball

Year 6 boys and girls dominated a netball match against Grovelands last night. Great team work and a successful result of 8-3 to Walton Oak. Well done to all players!



Enrichment Activities

Year 5 Residential Trip to Bowles Rock



This week, our Year 5 children had an exciting and memorable start to the half term with a residential trip to Bowles Rock. During their time away, pupils took part in a wide range of adventurous activities, including rock climbing, low-ropes challenges, skiing, kayaking and bravely jumping from high-rope platforms.



Throughout the residential, the children showed fantastic perseverance and resilience as they pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones and took on new challenges. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another, developing their teamwork skills and growing in confidence each day. Every child participated fully in all activities and approached each experience with enthusiasm, positivity and courage.



The evenings were just as memorable as the daytime activities. The children enjoyed a night walk, sharing the experience together and taking in the surroundings, before ending the residential with a campfire where they roasted marshmallows, chatted with friends and reflected on their achievements.

The residential was a fantastic opportunity for the children to challenge themselves, build independence and strengthen friendships. We were so impressed by the way they supported one another and embraced every experience. All of the children represented the school brilliantly, and we couldn't be prouder of how they conducted themselves throughout the trip.





Year 1 Stay, Play & Learn

Year 1 had a wonderful time at our recent Stay, Play and Learn session, where parents were invited to join us for one of our writing lessons. The children were excited to share their imaginative ideas as they planned and described their very own secret gardens, full of magical plants, hidden doors and fascinating creatures. It was fantastic to see such creativity and enthusiasm from everyone involved.

After the lesson, the children proudly showed their parents around the classroom, sharing their work and favourite learning areas. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate their achievements together and enjoy learning side by side.



FOWO

Welcome Back!

FOWO Diary: Spring & Summer 2026

- **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
- **10 July 2026** - FOWO End of Year Drinks

A sweet thank you from Yr5 & 6

A massive thank you to everyone that donated a cake and who came along to the Yr 5&6 cake sale at the end of last term. The rain held off and we were inundated with customers!

We raised a total of £214.30!

Thank you once again for all your support. It means so much to the school - students and staff!

World Book Day Costume Exchange – Now Live

With World Book Day next week, we are sprinkling a little literary magic with a fun, planet-friendly costume swap from **25 February - 04 March 2026**

Come and give a costume a new chapter for **just £1**. The rail is already well stocked!

Got something to donate? Please leave it bagged by the rail in school reception so it's ready for its next adventure.

Let's keep the stories flowing and the costumes circulating — one swap at a time.

Keep in touch



@friendsofwaltonoak



FriendsofWaltonOak



fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk



Pastoral News

Secondary school offer day

On Monday the children will find out what secondary school place they have been offered for September. It is an important milestone for our Year 6 families. While it is often exciting, it can also bring mixed emotions, including disappointment, uncertainty, or anxiety. This is completely normal.

Common Feelings You May Notice

Children may feel:

- Disappointed if they did not receive their first choice
- Worried about making new friends
- Nervous about moving to a larger school
- Concerned about getting lost or coping with the work

Parents/Guardians may feel:

- Protective or worried
- Frustrated with the process
- Unsure how best to support their child

All of these reactions are valid.

How You Can Support and Empower Your Child

1. Start with listening

Before reassuring, acknowledge feelings:

- "I can see you're feeling disappointed."
- "It's okay to feel unsure, this is a big change."

Feeling heard reduces anxiety.

2. Focus on what stays the same

Although the school will change, many important things remain:

- Family support
- Existing friendships (many continue beyond primary school)
- Your child's personality, strengths and interests

Remind them: "The school is new, but you are still you."

3. Build familiarity

Once places are confirmed:

- Visit the school website together
- Attend transition events
- Practise the journey if possible
- Connect with other families

The more familiar something feels, the less worrying it becomes.

Simple Anxiety Tools to Try at Home

- **Worry Time** – Set aside 10 minutes to talk about worries, then move on with the day.
- **Worry Box** – Write worries down and revisit them together later.
- **Calm Breathing** – Breathe in for 4, hold for 4, breathe out for 4.
- **Brave Thoughts** –
 - Worry: "I won't make friends."
 - Brave thought: "Lots of other children are new too."



Diversity and Equality

Seeing Ourselves!



Our whole school assembly on Monday, focused on the power of "belonging" and the importance of representation in the world around us. We explored the inspiring work of Adah Parris, an artist and "dreamer" who likens our society to a giant jigsaw puzzle. Adah teaches us that if any pieces are missing or hidden, the whole picture remains incomplete. Throughout her career, she has campaigned to ensure that no one is left out of the story because of how they look or how their brains work, reminding our pupils that diversity is, in fact, a "superpower."



The children engaged in a thoughtful discussion about representation - the simple but vital idea that everyone should be able to see someone like themselves doing amazing things. This week provided a perfect real-world example, as we discussed the launch of a brand-new Barbie doll designed to represent children with autism. Complete with ear defenders and a fidget spinner, the doll sparked a wonderful conversation about why brands like Mattel are diversifying their toys. The children shared insightful reflections on how seeing their own experiences reflected in stories, TV shows, and toys helps them feel valued and gives them a true sense of belonging.

The impact of the assembly was felt immediately. Following the session, two of our children, Chloe and Phoebe, proudly brought in their own Barbie dolls to show their peers. These specific dolls are designed to represent people who are hearing impaired and wear hearing aids, just like Chloe and Phoebe do. It was a moving moment to hear them explain why these dolls are so special to them and how much it means to have a toy that looks just like they do. Our children are learning that when every "puzzle piece" is visible, our school community becomes a much brighter and more inclusive place.



It feels quite special and quite nice to have them. It is special to me because it feels like we belong - *Phoebe*

She has the same hearing aids as me. Mine are pink too! *Chloe*

Protected Characteristics

The new Barbie doll aims to represent people with autism. Everyone should feel included and represented. It's important that no one is left out or treated unfairly because of a disability.



Individual Liberty

The Barbie doll highlights how everyone deserves to be themselves and use the tools that make them feel comfortable. It is a reminder that our differences are what make us special.



UN Rights of the Child

All children have the same right to be included and respected, no matter who they are. The Barbie doll shows that every child should enjoy their rights and no child should be treated unfairly.





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. 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.**

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a class Teaching Assistant on a fixed term contract who has a passion for creating lifelong learners, are committed to inclusion and equality and have high expectations of themselves and every child. We are looking for somebody who is not afraid to make mud pies and, if asked to be a zoo keeper, can jump into role and immerse themselves in the children’s play. We are looking to appoint somebody who can be flexible and support learning in a creative way. For further information please **click on the link on page 1.**

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 | Mila, Josh, Ronnie, Ester & Arlo |
| 1B | Mera & Ben |
| 1N | Lewis, Ella, Mariana, Josh, Levi & Sophie |
| 3G | Sofia M & Ayla |
| 4C | Ronnie & Elizabeth |
| 4A | Max |
| 5M | Sheriff & Laura |

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



Upcoming dates for the diary

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tue 3 rd Mar | Bedtime Stories – 5.30 – 6.45pm |
| Wed 4 th Mar | World Book Day Dress Up Day |
| Tue 10 th Mar | Reception Stay, Play & Learn – 9.00am |
| Thur 12 th Mar | Reception Stay, Play & Learn – 9.00am |
| Fri 13 th Mar | Year 3 Sleepover – 6.30pm |
| Mon 16 th Mar | Reception Bocketts Farm trip |
| Fri 20 th Mar | Red Nose Day |
| Fri 20 th Mar | FOWO Yr3 & 4 Cake Sale |
| Tue 24 th Mar | Parent Teacher Consultations 1.50-4.30pm |
| Wed 25 th Mar | Parent Teacher Consultations 4-7pm |
| Fri 27 th Mar | End of term – 1.45pm |
| Mon 13 th Apr | Children return to school |



We're celebrating World Book Day & you're invited!

| | |
|--|---|
| When: 25 February - 04 March 2026 | Where: Walton Oak School |
| How we're celebrating: <p style="text-align: center;">We will be running a 'Costume Exchange' (all items £1) on the FOWO clothes rail from 25 February 2026.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All donation to be bagged and left by the rail</p> | Contact: <p style="text-align: center;">FOWO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk</p> |



Sponsored by  **The reading for fun charity**

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WORLD BOOK DAY

Friends of Walton Oak
THE PTA OF WALTON OAK SCHOOL

World Book Day Costume Exchange!

All items on the FOWO rail are £1!

Sponsored by **NATIONAL BOOK tokens**

The reading for fun charity

Provide a list of the five most important points Summarise

By using AI Assistant, you agree to the Generative AI User Guidelines.



Community Cafe

- 🕒 Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for 3 hours
- 📍 [St John's Church, Walton-on-Thames](#)
The Furrows Walton-on-Thames, KT12 3JQ, United Kingdom
- 📖 A community cafe offering a warm drink, cake and a chance to chat.
- 🏷️ **COMMUNITY EVENT** **REFRESHMENTS**

Walton Oak School
Multi-Sport Camp
- Easter Holiday!

Active, Fun, and Supportive Holiday Experience for Children!

| | |
|--|---|
| When: Monday to Thursday 30 th March – 2nd April Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm (Full Day) | Wrap-Around Care Available Early Drop-Off: 8:00am – 9:00am Late Pick-Up: 3:00pm – 4:00pm |
|--|---|

Sports, Games & Activities for All Ages & Abilities!
Fun, Fitness & Teamwork!

Pricing:

- Day Rate: **£30** per day
- Full Week Rate: **£110**
- Wrap-Around Care: **£7** per session (Early or Late)
- Hot Lunch & Snacks: **£7** per day

Limited places available – Book in advance!

- Book Online: via our form
- Contact: kieran@kgcoaching.uk

KG Coaching



Walton-on-Thames
St Mary's and St John's

Messy Church

EASTER

St John's Church
Saturday 28th March
4 - 5.30 pm

Join us for a Messy Easter as we look forward to the coming of our Saviour! Crafts, games, worship and a sit-down hot meal for all the family. Simply sign up all who wish to eat.



Places are limited - book here now
www.waltonparish.org.uk/messy-church

www.thegapclub.com

The Great Spring Quest

Easter 2026
Holiday Club

Staines | Staines Preparatory School
30th March - 10th April
• HAF DATES: 31st March, 1st, 7th & 8th April

Weybridge | St Georges Junior School
30th March - 17th April

Englefield Green | St Judes Junior School
31st March, 1st, 7th & 8th April
• HAF Dates

Early Years
age 3+

01753 251077
Book Online!

