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Headteacher's Message

Yesterday saw many children marking St George's Day by proudly wearing the uniform of organisations they attend such as Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and similar. It was wonderful to see the range of groups represented and the pride the children take in being part of them. Its positive that so many children get to experience a sense of unity and belonging in places beyond school, who share similar values with regards to teamwork, service and community.



Rastamouse creator Michael de Souza led the Aim high writing workshop that some of our children attended on Tuesday. They had a wonderful day and were inspired by his poetry and his ability to 'play' with words to great effect. They had the opportunity to write and receive feedback from him and they particularly loved listening to him reading his Rastamouse story, bringing it to life with a broad Jamaican accent! See more in the Enrichment section below.

A big well done to Year 6, who have been taking part in a practice run of their end of key stage tests this week. We're committed to keeping the Year 6 curriculum broad and balanced, ensuring pupils continue to benefit from a wide range of subjects rather than focusing solely on tests. That said, giving them some experience of test conditions is important as it's a valuable life skill, and one that helps build confidence and feel prepared for secondary school.

The children have been really well supported throughout and this preparation will help them feel calmer and more assured when the actual tests arrive in May. It's also been great to see the rest of the school playing their part, keeping corridors especially quiet to create the right environment. A big thank you to everyone for helping Year 6 do their very best.



This Saturday, I'll be heading to London to cheer on our children in The 2026 Mini London Marathon. We've hit our full capacity with 40 Eager young runners signed up to take on either the 1-mile or 2.6km (1.6 miles) course. It's a spectacular route that follows the final stretch of the main marathon route, passing Buckingham Palace before crossing the official finish line. If you're looking for a lovely day out, please come along to St James' Park and help us cheer them on! A huge thank you to Mrs. Huang for her incredible work in organising this. I look forward to sharing photos and a full update in next week's Wire.



Siân McCarthy

General Information

Self-Regulation Aids (Fidgets)

Self-Regulation Aids (Fidget tools) have become a frequently debated topic in recent months, with a growing number of children and parents feeling that they are needed to support concentration in school. However, in practice, only a small number of pupils genuinely benefit from this approach. For many others, they can actually become a distraction and have a negative impact on focus and learning.



We have looked carefully at the research, take advice from our SEND support partners and reflected upon our own experience in school to guide our approach, ensuring we support children effectively while maintaining a positive learning environment for all. Children are assessed against clear criteria before any decision is made.





Where it is agreed that a child would benefit from a Self-Regulation Aid, one will be provided by the school and its use will be closely monitored to ensure it is having a positive impact and not distracting others. Parents will be informed and the support will be linked to a clear target on the child's individual provision map. Until this process has been followed, children should not bring fidget tools into school. It is important to remember that these are not toys, but a carefully considered strategy used to support specific needs.

Please see the [Self-Regulation Aids \(Fidget tools\) – Information for Parents and Carers](#) leaflet at the end of this newsletter.

Bikes and Scooters

I am sure you have seen our new signs reminding parents and children to dismount scooters and bikes at the school gates. They are designed to ensure everyone can feel safe walking around our site at the start and end of the day. Please pay attention to them and ensure that your child walks into the school grounds, wheeling their bike or scooter alongside them. Many thanks for supporting us to keep our school site safe for everyone.



Main Gates

You may have noticed that our electric vehicle gates have been out of order for some time. It has been confirmed that sadly, they are beyond repair. We will be installing a brand-new set of gates that will hopefully be much longer lasting. This will more than likely take place over the summer holidays. Until then, if you drive onto our site, please continue to support our site safety by ensuring you leave our manual gates as you find them – in other words, if you open them to enter, please then close them behind you. Many thanks in advance.

Art Week - Artists Around the World

We are excited to share that during the week commencing 27th April, we will be celebrating Art Week across the school, with our theme "Artists Around the World." Throughout the week, children will explore art from different countries, learn about artists, and experiment with a range of creative techniques before producing their own final pieces.



We would love to invite parents and carers to join us for a whole-school exhibition on **Friday 1st May at 3:00pm**. Classrooms will be transformed into different countries, showcasing the children's artwork, art in different countries and artist studies from the week.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's creativity and see the fantastic work they have produced.

Please note, Year 6 will be celebrating their own Art Week during the week commencing 18th May. This is to avoid any clashes with their preparation for the End of KS2 assessments. Parents and carers of children in Year 6 will be warmly invited to view their child's art week learning on **Friday 22nd May at 3.00pm**. For Nursery to Year 5, we look forward to welcoming you on **Friday 1st May at 3.00pm!**

Stay, Play & Learn Sessions for EYFS & KS1

We would like to invite you to the final Stay, Play and Learn session of the year in Reception and Year 1. This will provide an opportunity for the children to share their learning with you and celebrate their time in Reception and Year 1. After the session there will be an opportunity to join a short workshop to find out what to expect when your child moves into Year 1 and Year 2 in September. Please note we only have space for one adult per child to attend at one of the sessions. **Click the relevant link below to book your place:**

- **Squirrels Stay, Play & Learn - Monday 15th June (9.00am - 10:15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2176783>
- **Squirrels Stay, Play & Learn -Tuesday 16th June (9.00am - 10:15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2176788>
- **Hedgehogs Stay, Play & Learn -Monday 15th June (9.00am - 10:15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2176802>
- **Hedgehogs Stay, Play & Learn -Tuesday 16th June (9.00am - 10:15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2176807>



- **1B Stay, Play & Learn - Tuesday 2nd June (9.00am-10.15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2180888>
- **1B Stay, Play & Learn - Thursday 4th June (9.00am-10.15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181002>
- **1N Stay, Play & Learn - Tuesday 2nd June (9.00am-10.15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181005>
- **1N Stay, Play & Learn - Thursday 4th June (9.00am-10.15am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181007>

Learning Together Sessions for Years 2-5

Parents and carers of the classes below are warmly invited to attend a Learning Together session in their child's classroom. These sessions will give you an opportunity to explore a 'typical' snapshot into your child's morning in class. If a parent is unable to attend, please feel free to invite a grandparent or other adult/relative in your place. Please note that only one parent/carer can attend per child due to space in the classroom. A letter detailing this information was sent to the relevant parents/carers of these classes earlier today. **Click the relevant link below to book your place at one of the sessions:**

- **2L – Tuesday 19th May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181140>
- **2L – Wednesday 20th May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181147>
- **2S – Tuesday 19th May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181150>
- **2S – Wednesday 20th May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181156>
- **3B – Thursday 21st May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181158>
- **3B – Friday 22nd May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181161>
- **3G – Thursday 21st May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181164>
- **3G – Friday 22nd May (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181167>
- **4A – Tuesday 19th May (9.30am-10.00am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181170>
- **4A – Wednesday 20th May (9.30am-10.00am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181174>
- **4C 4A – Tuesday 19th May (9.30am-10.00am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181177>
- **4C – Wednesday 20th May (9.30am-10.00am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181179>
- **5C – Wednesday 10th June (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181183>
- **5C – Thursday 11th June (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181187>
- **5M – Wednesday 10th June (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181190>
- **5M – Thursday 11th June (9.00am-9.30am)**
<https://buytickets.at/waltonoakprimaryschool/2181192>

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting

We would like to warmly invite all Year 1 parents and carers to attend an important meeting about the upcoming Phonics Screening Check on **Thursday 21st May at 3.30pm**.

This meeting will provide valuable information about what the check involves, how it will be carried out and how you can best support your child at home. The Phonics Screening Check is where all the Year 1 children are assessed on their ability to apply their phonic knowledge, by reading a mixture of real and pseudo-words (alien



words). We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend, as this meeting is an important opportunity to ensure you feel informed and prepared to support your child.

Transition

Nursery

Are you looking for a nursery place for September? We hold tours of our nursery on Fridays at 9.00am. Please call the school office to book.



Reading

100 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 100 reads this week:

Teddy – 1B	Natallie – 3B
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150 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 150 reads this week:

Anna – Squirrels	Fionn – 3G
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200 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 200 reads this week:

Mila – Hedgehogs	Louis – Squirrels	Oscar – 1B
Isla – 3G		

300 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 300 reads this week:

Alex – 1B	Dhruv – 1B	Lily – 3G
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Tiny Happy People

A Nature Walk



A free fun activity to try with your children and family. A nature walk! Easy, free and fresh air. Getting outside has many benefits for adults and children alike. On the link are some ideas to make it fun for you all

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zj6nsk7>

Playing outside is fun, exciting and important for children's learning. If you love to be outside head to the section called 'getting outdoor collection' for some more ideas! We would love to see any photos of you having fun outside, send them into the office.



Enrichment Activities

Y1 & 2 AIM High Writing Day

On Tuesday, six children from across Year 1 and 2 attended the exciting AIM High Writing Day at Cardinal Newman School. The workshops were led by Michael De Souza.



Michael moved to England in 1960, leaving his home in Trinidad to join his parents in Notting Hill, West London. For over two decades, he has worked as a swimming teacher, but his real passion for working with children led him to explore writing. He has a genuine love of storytelling and particularly enjoys working with KS1 pupils, seeing it as the perfect stage to spark a lifelong interest in language and creativity.

The children loved hearing Michael perform some of his well-known poems, and they were excited to have a go at writing and performing their own pieces too.

"I enjoyed that Michael made us draw pictures and he asked us to write a poem about each picture. My favourite part of the workshop was when he read us his story called Rastamouse." Thomas, 2L

"I really enjoyed the story that Michael read to us." Dhruv, 1B

Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



TAKEHOME



What makes a great place to live?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

In the news this week

A new town, called Barking Riverside, is being built in East London to help provide more homes in the local area. It will include around twenty thousand homes, as well as schools, parks, and shops for people to use. Many people are expected to move there in the future as the area continues to grow.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you like most about where you live? Why?
- Is there anything you would change about your local area?
- Is Barking Riverside the type of place you would like to live? Explain your thoughts.
- If you could design your perfect place to live, what would it include, and why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

www.takehome.co.uk/discuss

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Pastoral News



Surrey Families have created a new parenting support page available on the Family Information Service (FIS) website.

The pages have been designed to guide parents and carers through the support available at every stage of a child's development. There are a variety of age appropriate courses, services, and places where parents and carers can access help and advice

Parenting courses will be advertised on this website:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/families/support-and-advice/parenting>

As well as a range of useful online courses there are also links to a confidential helpline, live online chat , whatsapp support service and email support.

Some of the courses available through FIS are:

- Sibling arguments
- New baby in the family
- Lets Play
- Bringing up Confident Children
- Parenting Neurodivergent Children

House Competitions



Art Week House Competition

Next week, we will be celebrating all things Art in school. In addition to the exciting Art Week learning that children will be participating in school, all children from Reception to Year 6 are invited to take part in our exciting 'Recreate the Artwork' house competition. Children should recreate a piece of artwork inspired by an artist or country of their choice. They can choose to:

- Create their own version using drawing, painting, collage or recycled materials
- Dress up and recreate the artwork using props and costumes, taking a photo side by side with the original image

Photos of completed artwork should be submitted via email to the school office, ensuring the child's name and house team are detailed in the email. Alternatively, children can bring in their physical artwork, ensuring their name and house team are detailed on the back.

All entries will receive 10 house points. Which house will be victorious this half term?



FOWO

Give your party bag 'hidden gems' a second life!!

We've all been there: your child comes home with a party bag, and those little toys end up forgotten in a kitchen drawer or worse - the bin. This year, FOWO wants to turn that clutter into Fair magic!

We are collecting unused small toys to use as prizes and game rewards for the upcoming Summer Fair. It's a double win: you clear out the clutter, and we keep the Fair sustainable and fun.

- **Where to drop them:** Please leave them (bagged up) by the Uniform Rail in reception.
- **Alternative:** Hand them directly to any FOWO volunteer on the playground.

Let's cut down on waste and put a smile on another child's face at the Summer Fair. Thank you for your support!

Does your household have any teddies that are ready for a new best friend?

Our beloved **Teddy Tombola** is back for the Summer Fair, and we are looking for cuddly recruits! If your household have any soft toys at home that are looking for a new adventure, we would love to help them find a new home.

We are looking for teddies that are:

- Clean and cuddly
- In "like-new" condition
- Ready to spread some joy!

How to donate: Place them in a bag under the uniform rail; hand your clean, undamaged teddies to a FOWO volunteer or drop us an email at fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk to arrange a handover.

Thank you for helping us make this year's stall the fluffiest one yet!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please keep an eye on our socials for regular updates about what we are doing in and around the school!



[@friendsofwaltonoak](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwaltonoak)



[FriendsofWaltonOak](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofWaltonOak)



fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk

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	Ester, Hannah, Chriselle, Toby, William
Squirrels	Theo, Zak, Summer, Toby Elodie, Rhaegar, Martha, Ella, Moriam
1B	Bambi, Salim, Oscar
2L	Lydia, Holly, Essa
3B	Mia, Jolie, Edward, Lucy, Lilah, William
3G	Sam, Rafe, Julia, Mia, Sandra, Arlo, Honor, Isla, Fionn, Safia, Sofia, Olivia, Saffanah



4A	Max
5M	Alexandru, Kiri-Mai & Laura

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





Upcoming dates for the diary

New dates in red

Mon 27 th Apr	Yr5 Hampton Court Trip
Mon 27 th Apr	Yr4 Swimming starts
Wed 29 th Apr	Yr4 Delight in Dance Showcase – 2.30pm
Fri 1 st May	Art Week Exhibition – 3pm
Mon 4 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed
Fri 8 th May	FOWO Nursery & Reception Cake Sale 3.15pm
Mon 11 th May	KS2 SATS Week
Tue 19 th May	Yr2 Learning Together Session 9.00-9.30am
Tue 19 th May	Yr4 Learning Together Session 9.30-10.00am
Wed 20 th May	Yr2 Learning Together Session 9.00-9.30am
Wed 20 th May	Yr4 Learning Together Session 9.30-10.00am
Wed 20 th May	Class Photos
Thur 21 st May	Yr3 Learning Together Session 9.00-9.30am
Thur 21 st May	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Meeting 3.30pm
Thur 21 st - Fri 22 nd May	Yr4 Walton Firs Residential
Fri 22 nd May	Yr3 Learning Together Session 9.00-9.30am
Fri 22 nd May	Art Week Exhibition for Yr6 – 3pm
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	HALF TERM
Tue 2 nd Jun	Yr1 Stay, Play & Learn 9.00-10.15am
Thur 4 th Jun	Yr1 Stay, Play & Learn – 9.00-10.15am
Sat 6 th Jun	Nursery & Reception Open Morning – 10.00-11.30am
Mon 8 th Jun	Nursery Non uniform day & donations for Summer Fair
Mon 8 th Jun	New Reception Parent Induction Meeting - 6.30pm
Wed 10 th Jun	Yr5 Learning Together Session 9.00-9.30am
Thur 11 th Jun	Yr5 Learning Together Sessions 9.00-9.30am
Fri 12 th Jun	Non uniform day & donations for Summer Fair
Sat 13 th Jun	FOWO Summer Fair
Mon 15 th Jun	Reception Stay, Play & Learn – 9.00-10.15am
Tue 16 th Jun	Reception Stay, Play & Learn – 9.00-10.15am
Thur 18 th Jun	FOWO Happy Bags Collection
Fri 19 th Jun	Celebrating Us Event – 3.15pm
Tue 23 rd Jun	Sports Day Y1 - 3 – 10-11.30am
Tue 23 rd Jun	Sports Day Y4 – 6 – 1.30-3.00pm
Wed 24 th Jun	Sports Day Nursery & Reception – 9.30-10.30am
Tue 30 th Jun	Move Up Morning
Tue 30 th Jun	Secondary Induction Day
Thur 2 nd Jul	Volunteer Afternoon Tea (by invitation) – 2pm
Fri 3 Jul	FOWO end of Year Discos
Wed 8 th Jul	Yr6 Production – 2pm & 6pm
Fri 10 Jul	FOWO New Reception Picnic – 3.30-5.00pm
Wed 15 th Jul	Yr6 Celebration Day
Thur 16 th Jul	Yr6 Leaver's Assembly 9.00am
Fri 17 Jul	End of Term – 1.45pm



Self-Regulation Aids (Fidget tools) – Information for Parents and Carers

Background

We have recently seen a significant increase in the number of children bringing fidget tools into school. In some cases, children are bringing multiple items or collections and these are sometimes being used more as toys than as tools to support learning.

Staff have noticed that, for many children, fidget tools can become a distraction rather than a help. This is both for the child using them and for others in the class. In some instances, their use has even become competitive between pupils.

At Walton Oak, all classes already include regular movement and brain breaks throughout the day to support focus and wellbeing. While research shows that fidget tools can be helpful for some children, particularly those with specific sensory or attention needs, they are not necessary or beneficial for everyone.

When Can Fidget Tools Help?

Fidget tools can support attention and reduce stress for some children, particularly those who find it difficult to stay focused. However, not all fidget tools are helpful.

Items that are visually distracting (e.g. spinners) or have a game element can actually reduce concentration. Effective fidget tools are typically:

- Quiet and discreet
- Used without drawing attention
- Focused on simple hand movement (e.g. squeezing or tactile input)

It's also important to remember that "fidgeting" doesn't always require a specific object. Other strategies we use in school include:

- Standing while working
- Flexible seating (e.g. wobble cushions)
- Movement breaks
- Sensory supports like desk textures or bands on chairs

Our Approach in School

We want to ensure that fidget tools are used appropriately, as a support for learning, not a distraction.

Children are taught that:

- Fidget tools are for helping concentration
- They should be used quietly and without distracting others
- Not everyone needs one
- Teachers may ask for them to be put away if they are not being used appropriately



What We Ask from Parents and Carers

To help us maintain a positive learning environment for all children, we ask that:

- You carefully consider whether your child genuinely needs a fidget tool
- You do not send fidget toys into school without prior agreement

If you believe your child would benefit from a fidget tool, please:

- Contact the school office and request a discussion with the Inclusion Lead (SENCo)
- Explain your child's needs and the type of support you feel would help

We have a range of suitable resources available in school and will provide these where appropriate.

Moving Forward

Our aim is to support every child's learning in a calm, focused classroom environment. Fidget tools can be helpful for some children, but only when used in the right way and for the right reasons.

We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that all children can learn without unnecessary distractions.





Art Week

27th April - 1st May 2026

House competition
"Recreate the artist"

As part of our Art Week, we will be running a whole-school house competition to celebrate creativity and artistic talent. Children are invited to take part in our "Recreate the Artist" challenge, where they can recreate an artwork inspired by an artist or country of their choice.

They can choose to:

- Create their own version using drawing, painting, collage or recycled materials
- Dress up and recreate the artwork using props and costumes, taking a photo side by side with the original image

Photos of completed artwork or recreations should be emailed to the **school office**.

All entries will receive 10 house points for taking part. There will be a winning entry from each house in:

- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2





PEAK PURSUER BUNDLE

- ✓ X10 CLIMBING VISITS
- ✓ CLIMB ANYTIME OFF-PEAK
OR AFTER 5PM PEAK
- ✓ 90 DAYS EXPIRY

MINI EXPLORER BUNDLE

- ✓ X10 SOFT PLAY VISITS
- ✓ PLAY ANY TIME
- ✓ 90 DAY EXPIRY

**2 WAYS TO SAVE - CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE
& ENJOY MOUNTAINS OF VALUE!**

VISIT WWW.ROCK-UP.CO.UK/OFFERS FOR MORE INFORMATION





WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB 



Welcomes junior members for the 2026 season
 U5 – U15 Boys and Girls
 Season kick off - Friday 1st May 2026, 5.15pm onwards

2026 SEASON INCLUDES:

- Friday evening training
- Matches throughout the summer
- Family membership to West End Sports and Social Club

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION



 @WestendEsherCC
FURTHER INFORMATION
 Email Ruth Lovering juniorchairman@weecc.co.uk
 Membership registration via TEAMO at weecc.co.uk
 The Pavilion, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF



WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB 



Welcoming Girls for our u 10-u 15 Introduction Day

Wednesday 29 April 2026 6:30pm-7:45pm
 Join us and bring a friend for:

- A taster session
- To meet everyone
- BBQ and Drinks
- Registration



2026 season includes:

- Weekday evening girls training
- Family membership of West End Social Club
- Matches throughout the season
- Friday evening mixed training

 @WestendEsherCC
FURTHER INFORMATION:
 Jo Graves: girlscricket@weecc.co.uk
 07983 325783
 The Pavillion, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF


