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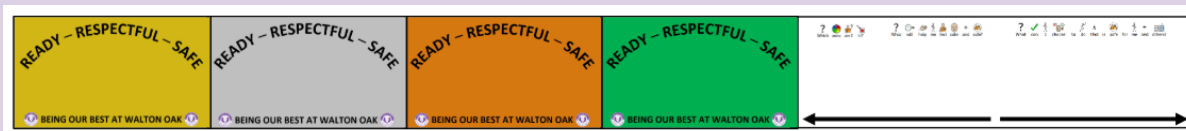
It has been wonderful to welcome our returning children and staff back to school this week and it has been a positive start to the new term. We also want to extend that welcome to families of our new 'in year' starters and Nursery children – we are very pleased to welcome you all to our Walton Oak community.

Staff returned on Tuesday for INSET training, focusing on our priorities for the year ahead and reaffirming our commitment to Unconditional Positive Regard and Restorative Practices. I want to thank our staff for the time and commitment they have put into preparing the classrooms and learning for the children, ahead of the start of term.



In our first assembly, the children listened to The Pirates Next Door by Jonny Duddle and explored the themes of curiosity over judgement, belonging and living our Walton Oak Way values. They were also reminded of our three key words, **Ready, Respectful, and Safe** and spent time reflecting on what these mean in practice.

Following valuable feedback from our parent, staff and child surveys, alongside research into trauma-informed and relational practice (notably work by Paul Dix and Tom Bennett), we have updated our Stay on Green charts. Your children may have told you that the charts are now displayed horizontally rather than vertically, so children no longer move 'up and down' the chart. In addition, specific warning colours (blue, yellow and red) have been replaced with a regulation space.



If children drift away from Green, it indicates a need for some support. Staff will help guide them to use regulation strategies to reset and return to the colour they were on. Over the next few weeks, the children will spend time in class learning about the revised system and how to use Zones of Regulation to support themselves in managing their feelings so they can feel ready to learn, stay on Green and earn rewards. We hope that the children will see that making mistakes, or not feeling 'ready' sometimes, is normal and acceptable as long as they use strategies that are 'respectful' and 'safe'

We will soon be publishing our statutory end-of-year assessment results on our website for Reception, Year 1 Phonics and Key Stage 2. Every year group is different, for example, pupils joining or moving on at different times changes a year group's overall picture, so comparing results year-on-year isn't always helpful in telling the whole story. What matters most is individual growth and we are incredibly proud of the fantastic progress each child has made.

Finally, we are so excited to welcome our new Reception children on Monday. Our staff can't wait to get started and are ready to take your special First Day photo!

Siân McCarthy





General Information

Staff News

This week, we were pleased to officially welcome our new members of staff to Walton Oak - Miss Hughes in Year 2, Miss Heyden in Year 3, Mrs. Algar in Year 4 with Miss Pott (who has returned from maternity Leave), Mr. Roche in Year 5 and Mrs. Davidson, who is our new Inclusion Lead.



Start and finish times

A reminder that the school day now officially starts at **8:45am** but children can arrive from **8:30am** for a soft start. This helps with settling in and supports families with multiple drop-offs. The main playground gate will close at 8:45am. After this time, children must enter through the main office and will be marked as late. After 8:45am, parents/carers must exit via the back gate, which will be locked at **8:55am**.

Bagels

Unfortunately, The National Breakfast Programme, who heavily supplemented our morning Bagel offer has ceased. We are currently working with Walton charities to get this up and running again so every child can have the opportunity to receive a piece of bagel each morning to ensure their tummies are full at the start of the day. In the meantime, if you require any support with ensuring your child has a good breakfast at the start of the day, let us know and our pastoral team will be happy to help.

'Behind the Classroom Door' - Date for your Diary

Parents and carers of children in Y1-6 are warmly invited to come and explore 'Behind the Classroom Door' on **Wednesday 23rd September**.

Our teachers in Y1-6 will be opening up their classroom doors between 3.30-5.00pm, inviting parents/carers to come along to explore their child's new learning space; take a look at the resources that will support them; meet their new class teacher; and receive important information about the year ahead, including key learning experiences for that year group. This is an informal event, allowing parents/carers to drop in at any time between 3.30-5.00pm - children are more than welcome to join, allowing them to show their parent/carer around their new classroom. We hope to see as many parents/carers coming to take a peek 'Behind the Classroom Door' on Wednesday 23rd September.

Earrings

It is a Trust-wide stipulation that school children must not wear earrings while taking part in PE lessons. Members of staff cannot remove earrings on behalf of children so a child must be able to remove their earrings independently or alternatively the earrings are removed before they come to school. Children with newly pierced ears are included in these guidelines and so are also required to remove their earrings; the duration of the lesson is not long enough to allow piercings to close over. Additionally, we are not able to allow children to take part in lessons with plasters covering earrings so it is imperative that children learn to remove/insert earrings themselves. If any parents/carers are finding it difficult to manage this expectation with their children, our pastoral team will be happy to support.

Dropping children to classrooms

We've noticed some younger children being dropped at the main entrance and walking in alone. While staff are on duty to greet families and respond to brief queries, children remain the responsibility of their parents until they are handed over at the classroom.

Please ensure all children from Reception to Year 5 are walked to their classroom door, even if they have an older sibling at the school. Thank you for your support in keeping all children safe.

Stay, Play and Learn Sessions for EYFS and KS1 – Save the Date

We invite you to come and join in some phonics learning with your child in their classroom and get involved in their play and learning. This will be followed by a brief information session to help you support your child at home with their phonics. Booking links will be shared next week.

Year 1:

Tuesday 22nd September 9am-10am



Wednesday 23rd September 9am-10am

RECEPTION:

Tuesday 6th October 9am-10am

Wednesday 7th October 9am-10am

NURSERY Butterflies:

Tuesday 13th October 9am-10am

NURSERY Ladybirds:

Thursday 15th October 9am-10am

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will not receive a third penalty notice, however, where there is a third occurrence within the 3 year period, Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Advice and support is available from an Inclusion Office by contacting your local Education office as follows:

North West – Tel: 01483 518130

South West – Tel: 01483 517179

North East – Tel: 01372 833588

South East – Tel: 01737 737777

Privacy Notice for Pupils, Parents and Carers

Under data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how the school uses any personal data that we hold about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' (sometimes called 'fair processing notices') to individuals where we are processing their personal data.

Our Lumen Learning Trust privacy notice for pupils, parents and carers explains how we collect, store and use pupil & parent/carer personal data. This document can be found via this

link: <https://www.lumenlearningtrust.co.uk/about-us/lumen-learning-trust-policies/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr>.

Your child's profile name within Google Classroom

Your child will automatically be provided with their own personalised profile to enable them to access Google Classroom as part of their educational experience at our school. This is a fantastic online tool that allows a virtual learning environment to connect teachers and classmates from any location. Additionally, both in certain and uncertain times it ensures that we can provide a safe, secure and reliable way to continuously deliver education. You can read more about our remote learning offer, how and why we use Google Classroom and the security of your child's data by visiting our school website and navigating to Curriculum & Online Learning.

Each child has a unique profile which represents them in the online classroom, this is comprised of a name tag. Only the individuals in the virtual class can view this profile and all members of a Classroom are bound by the



Lumen Family Acceptable Use of ICT Agreement and E-Safety Rules. For clarity purposes their name tag is comprised of their forename and surname. However, if you would like your child's profile name to show only the first initial of their forename and full surname please do contact our school office who can action this for you.

Sharing data and information with NHS Surrey to support children to access local health and wellbeing services
Surrey Children's Community Health Provider, Children and Family Health Surrey request regular information from us about our children to support planning and delivery of school-based health screening at different points of a child's life. Information provided to them by the school is Name, Gender, Address and DOB. Assurances have been received from the Service that this request is in accordance with Government guidelines and adheres to the required Data Protection standards. If you would like further information please refer to <http://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk>. <https://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/about-us/privacy-policy>

Transition

Reception Intake 2027 - Prospective Parents Information Evening

We are holding a Prospective Parents Information Evening for Reception 2027 intake on Monday 21st September 2026 from 6.30pm -7.30pm. Book a place [here](#).



Reception Intake 2027 - Head/Deputy headteacher group tours

We are also running several Head/Deputy headteacher group tours. Please do come along to see the school in action and find out more about provision for children at Walton Oak. Click [here](#) to book a place.

Walton Oak Nursery – places available for 2026 and beyond!

We are incredibly proud of the Nursery provision at Walton oak, rated as Good as part of our most recent school Ofsted. Although the Nursery remains very popular, we still have a few 15 and 30 hour places for 2026-2027 available and we welcome applications for our waiting list. Unlike many private nurseries, there are no registration fees and children can be registered from birth. If you have younger children not yet registered we would encourage you to complete the application form found [here](#). Please do share this link with any friends and family that may want to join the Walton Oak Community. Further information can be found on our [website](#).

Surrey CC Guidance for Secondary Transition

If your child will reach the age of 11 between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027, they will be due to start secondary school in September 2027. You can apply for a secondary school place from **1 September 2026**. The closing date for on-time applications for secondary schools is **31 October 2026**.

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

Local Secondary School Admissions information and open events for the 2027 Y6-7 Transition:

[Heathside Walton](#)

[Three Rivers Academy](#)

[Thamesmead](#)

[Esher Church of England High](#)

Reading

Reading Rewards at Walton Oak – A Guide for Parents

We're pleased to remind you of how our Reading Rewards system works, and how you can help support your child's reading journey at home.



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

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

Please note that we count a maximum of 10 reads per week. If you read more than that - fantastic! - but only 10



will go towards the weekly total.

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

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

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

Thank you for continuing to support reading at home—it makes a huge difference to your child’s progress and enjoyment of learning.

Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let’s Talk!

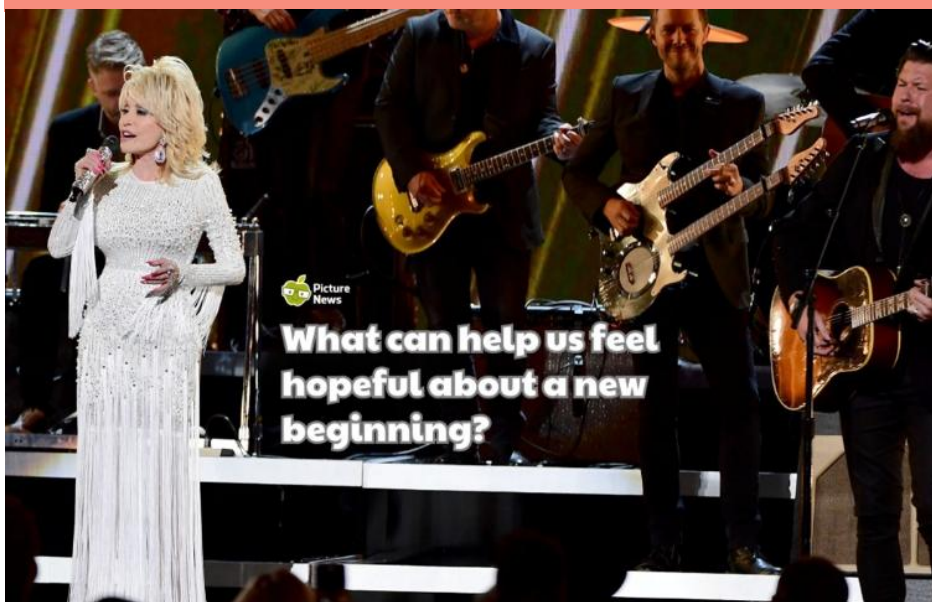


Let’s look at the story



Earlier this year, singer Dolly Parton gave one of her most hopeful songs a fresh start, by recording it again 50 years after she first wrote it. She worked with other singers and used the new version to raise money for children’s cancer research.

Just as Dolly returned to something from her past and gave it new meaning, a new school year gives us an opportunity to build on what we have already learned, try new things and make a positive difference to others.





Pastoral News



Back to school anxiety: Top Tips for Parents and Children

As summer comes to an end, the anticipation of a new school year can bring a mix of excitement and anxiety for both parents and children. While it's normal to feel a little nervous about the unknown, there are ways to make the transition smoother and less stressful.

Here are some top tips from Sam Tyrer, the founder of Change Talks to help parents and children ease back to school anxiety and to start the year off on the right foot.

Start early with a routine

The transition from a relaxed summer schedule to the structure of school can be jarring for many children. One of the best ways to ease this change is by gradually reintroducing a school year routine before the first day. Start setting regular bedtimes and wake up times a few days before. This helps adjust your child's body clock and reduces the shock of waking up early on the first day back. Incorporate other parts of the school routine, like having meals at set times and setting aside a quiet period for reading or homework. Establishing a routine early can help reduce anxiety and create a sense of security for your child.

Keep the conversation going

Open communication is key to understanding your child's fears and concerns about going back to school. Encourage them to express their feelings and listen without judgment. It's important to validate their emotions - let them know it's perfectly normal to feel anxious about new teachers, making friends, or adjusting to a different environment. Share your own experiences of overcoming fears to help them feel less alone. By keeping the lines of communication open, you can better support your child and provide reassurance when they need it most.

Be positive and reassuring

Children often pick up on their parents' emotions, so try to stay positive and calm about the upcoming school year. Speak positively about the school experience and highlight the aspects your child is looking forward to, whether it's reuniting with friends, engaging in favourite subjects, or joining extracurricular activities. Reassurance from you can help them focus on the positives and reduce their anxiety about the unknown. Show confidence in their ability to handle the new school year - it can be incredibly empowering for them.

Celebrations



Gold Leaves

Well done to all the children who have managed to stay on green or move along the reward section of the Stay on Green chart this week. We look forward to filling up the Gold Leaf Tree and celebrating gold leaf achievements again next week!



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



Upcoming dates for the diary

New dates in red

Mon 7 th Sep	Reception start part time – 9.30am, or 1pm
Tue 8 th Sep	Reception part time – 9.30am or 1pm
Tue 8 th Sep	New Nursery Butterflies start – am only
Wed 9 th Sep	Reception part time inc lunch (9am-1pm)
Wed 9 th Sep	New Nursery Butterflies – am only
Thur 10 th Sep	New Reception full time
Thur 10 th Sep	New Nursery Ladybirds – am only
Fri 10 th Sep	New Nursery Ladybirds – am only
Fri 10 th Sep	FOWO New Reception Parents Coffee – 9am
Tue 22 nd Sep	Stay, Play and Learn Year 1 (+phonics workshop)
Wed 23 rd Sep	Behind the Classroom Door event for parents and children – ‘drop in’ between 3.30 and 5pm
	FOWO AGM 7-8pm
	Stay, Play and Learn Year 1 (+phonics workshop)
Mon 21 st Sep	Prospective Parents Information Evening 6.30pm
Fri 2 nd Oct	Additional Inset Day
Tue 6 th Oct	Reception Stay, Play and Learn (+phonics workshop)
Wed 7 th Oct	Reception Stay, Play and Learn (+phonics workshop)
Fri 9 th Oct	Young Minds: Hello Yellow event for young people’s mental health awareness
Tue 13 th Oct	Butterflies Stay, Play & Learn 9-10am
Wed 14 th Oct	Ladybirds Stay, Play & Learn 9-10am
Mon 19 th – Fri 30 th Oct	HALF TERM





FREE Online Courses and Workshops for Parents and Carers in Surrey

Supporting Families Across Surrey

Surrey Family Learning, part of Surrey County Council, offers a range of [Family learning adult learning courses - Surrey County Council](#) for parents and carers. Signing up is quick and easy through our website. Our courses are designed to help families support their children's learning, wellbeing and development at every stage of their education.

The new Autumn Programme is now available and includes practical advice, guidance and support on a variety of topics for families with children of all ages.

Parents and carers can enrol free of charge with just a few clicks.
To find out more and book your place, visit the Surrey Family Learning website.
Helping parents support learning, confidence and wellbeing at home.

Surrey Family Learning: ESOL Support for Parents

New ESOL Family Learning Courses Coming This Autumn

Our free online ESOL Family Learning courses can help you understand the UK education system, build confidence in your English, and support your child's learning at home. Delivered by friendly, experienced tutors, our sessions are relaxed, practical and designed to fit around family life. All courses are free to Surrey residents.

- Understand how the UK education system works
- Support your child with phonics, reading, grammar and maths vocabulary
- Develop strategies for raising bilingual children
- Improve your confidence in speaking and understanding English
- Communicate more effectively with your child's school and teachers

