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Headteacher's Message

As you will already know, reading remains a high priority for us at Walton Oak. We are going from strength to strength with our reading provision and were delighted that this was recognised in our Ofsted inspection in July.

"Leaders prioritise reading and live by the mantra that 'pupils learn to read, so that they can read to learn.' All staff are trained in how to teach reading effectively, and the phonics programme is taught expertly by highly skilled staff...Pupils read books that closely match the sounds that they are learning. They get the help they need to become fluent readers." Ofsted, 2023

It is important that we all recognise that teaching children to read isn't a one off event – it's ongoing and we are keen to ensure we continue to build upon our strengths and identify areas in which we can improve. Yesterday Miss Sandell, Early Reading Lead; Mrs Griggs, English Lead; Miss Harris, Year 1 teacher and Phonics Champion; and I met with a Literacy Specialist, to support us with further enhancing our provision. She provided us with an extremely useful opportunity to reflect on everything we are doing and why it is so important. I was reminded that we are teaching children to be readers for life. That once they know their phonics and can read with fluency, that isn't the end of their reading journey. All children, regardless of their ability must continue to read widely and often.

We encourage the love of reading in school and I ask that you to do the same at home. Visit a library or a bookshop; talk to your children about what they are reading and what they enjoy about their book; read in front of your child and talk about your book with them so they can see that reading for pleasure extends beyond the classroom. If your child hasn't yet found an author or a genre that they thoroughly enjoy, please talk to your child's class teacher or one of our reading team for advice.

* * *

I mentioned in last week's Wire that a recent highlight of mine had been interviewing some of our year 6 pupils for leadership roles in school. This was part of our selection process to find our Head and Deputy Head Pupil and the Pupil Leadership Team. There is a lot to gain from holding a position of responsibility in school. They shape us as respectful and confident citizens who can contribute positively to our community. I am very proud of the children who put themselves forward for these roles. I must admit, we didn't make it easy for them but they were a determined bunch!

Those children who wished to apply were invited to write a letter explaining why they would be best suited for the role. They were then shortlisted to attend an interview. The children were all very impressive at interview, explaining with detail and clarity the qualities they would bring to their roles and their understanding of what it means to be a role model. My favourite description of a role model was:

"It means to inspire someone, but letting them take their own path" Bilal, 6G

It was a difficult decision to select the six Pupil Leaders, as each and every child brought something special to the process. Please look further on in this newsletter to see who our newly appointed Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) are.

Siân McCarthy





General Information

Staff News

We said good bye to two members of staff this week. Firstly, Miss Dunn, Class Teacher in year 4, has left Walton Oak to pursue other opportunities. She will be missed by her class, but we are pleased that Mr Hayman is temporarily fulfilling the role of Class Teacher for 4D while we look to appoint someone new. Mrs Waitt, Teaching Assistant in Year 3, has also left us today to take up a new role locally. We wish them both all the best for the future.



Hello Yellow Day

Don't forget that next Tuesday is Hello Yellow Day! Children are invited to wear a yellow accessory as we raise awareness of the importance of looking after our wellbeing and mental health. Children could wear a pair of yellow socks, a yellow bow or a yellow wristband in addition to their normal school uniform. Throughout the day, we will have a variety of activities and assemblies for children to explore ways to look after and maintain their wellbeing.

Zebra Crossing

A polite reminder to ensure you are using the new zebra crossing outside of school when crossing the road with your children before and after school. We understand that there are times that parents/carers are in a rush but the priority is ensuring all children are safe, particularly at such busy times on the road. We are also keen to develop the children's understanding of road safety; this is something we will continue to explore in school too.

Parent-Teacher Consultations

Earlier this week, parents and carers were sent a letter detailing the information for our upcoming parent-teacher consultations (Tues 17th and Weds 18th Oct). Please ensure you have read this letter carefully. The booking system for parent consultations went live on Scopay this morning. We look forward to welcoming you into school for these important meetings with your child's class teacher.

New Reception Open Morning: Saturday 7th October 10-11.30am

Is your child due to start school in September 2024? Please come and have a look around our Reception classes and our fantastic new Reception outdoor learning environment. Please bring your child along to explore and get involved in some activities. We look forward to meeting you.

Reception 2024 Open Day Tour: Wednesday 11th October - 9.30-10.30am

In addition to the Open Morning tomorrow, we also have a series of open day tours for prospective Reception parents. Details of these and the booking link are available on our website: <https://www.waltonoakprimary.co.uk/>. Our first tour is on Wednesday and will include an introduction from Mrs McCarthy and the Head and Deputy Head pupil, followed by a tour with Senior Leaders and the Pupil Leadership team.

Year 1 – Learning Update



This week, Year 1 started a new book in English called 'Augustus and his Smile'. The children have been talking about how Augustus might be feeling, discussing what might have happened in the story to make him feel sad at one point but then happy at another. They used a wide range of vocabulary to make their writing more interesting and have been remembering to use finger spaces too!

In RE, they have been learning about the Bible and how it is an important book for Christians. The children looked at one of the stories from the Bible; The Creation and learnt about how, in the story, God created the world over six days and on the seventh day he rested. They looked at an artist called Kate Neal who created seven paintings to depict the different days of the creation then used her paintings to create their own versions.



Stay Play and Learn - Nursery

Parents of children in Nursery are invited to join us for our first Stay, Play and Learn session of the year:

Butterflies - Tuesday 10th Oct, 9.00-10.00 **Ladybirds** - Thursday 12th Oct, 9.00-10.00

Children enjoy bringing their parents and carers to school to show off their classroom and share in their learning. Parents and Carers also gain useful insight of their child's lived experience at school.



Dramacube are running Half Term Workshops.

For little pumpkins aged 5-7 years...

HALLOWEEN PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS | 2 Days | Esher & Hampton Hill

For ghouls aged 8-12 years....

'MAKE-A-SCARY-MOVIE' WORKSHOPS | 2 Days | Walton, Esher and Hampton Hill

Everyone gets a digital link of their final film and families will be invited in on the afternoon of day two for an interactive cinema experience! <https://www.dramacubeproductions.co.uk/october-half-term-workshops/>

Pupil Leadership Roles

Congratulations to our new Pupil Leadership Team:

Head Pupil

Deputy Head Pupil

Pupil Leader

Pupil Leader

Pupil Leader

Pupil Leader



Lisa



Bilal



Poppy



James



Evita



Lyra

Their first role will be to support us in showcasing our school at the upcoming open morning for prospective parents. Our Head and Deputy Head Pupils will deliver a speech before leading a tour of the school with the rest of the PLT.

The calibre of applicants for Pupil Leader was so high that we decided to create a new role of Senior Prefect to ensure all children had an opportunity to apply their skills in a way which best suited them. These children will head up our Year 6 Prefect Team in keeping our school looking and feeling safe and happy. Congratulations to:

Senior Prefect

Senior Prefect

Senior Prefect

Senior Prefect

Senior Prefect



Mary



Samanta



Blake



Jessica



Lily-Rose

We are excited that we have such a keen and talented year 6 and that there are several other roles and responsibilities that they will be able to apply for soon. Along with our Reading Ambassadors and House Captains, the children have quite an influence on their school. I look forward to what they will bring to the life of Walton Oak this year!

Reading

Author Visit Next Week: Mel Taylor-Bessant



We are looking forward to our author visit next week. Mel Taylor-Bessant will be visiting KS2 on 10th October. There is still time to pre-order any of her books which she will dedicate and sign following her assembly and question and answer session, that afternoon.



Tiny Happy People

This week's activity is aimed at 4-5 year olds and it's called 'Playing the face game'. This is a game all about facial expressions and communicating about emotions. It can sometimes be hard for children to communicate and express their feelings, this is an activity that can be used to help children express themselves. You could play this at home, on the school run, in the car or even at bedtime.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/face-game/z8sqr2p> Please let us know how you get on. We'd love to hear from you!

Oracy

Last week's THUNK

Our Think this week has caused some laughs. The children enjoyed explaining ideas such as:



"There would be lots of water."

"There would be no police, people would be squirted with mud instead."

"There would be lots of elephant statues"

"There would be no more riding elephants"

"There would be no elephants in zoos"

This week's THUNK

If the answer is "Once with a fish", what is the question?



Enrichment Activities

Year 6 TTRS Battle:

Next week, our Year 6 children will enter into the very first cross-school Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) battle of the year. This will be against all of the other Year 6 classes across the Lumen Learning Trust.



The battle will go live at 7am on Monday 9th October and will be accessible between 7am-7pm each day that week. The battle will end at 3pm on Friday 13th October when we will find out which Year 6 class has been crowned 'Top of the Rocks'. We will be providing lots of opportunities for the Year 6 children to engage in TTRS game play during the school day. If you have a child in Year 6, please encourage them to log into TTRS at home to try and earn as many points as possible for their class. Best of luck to 6G and 6P!

Pastoral News



Pastoral support in school

As a school we have a number of people in place to support the children's emotional development. Pastoral support begins in the classroom and all of our staff have had training to support children to develop their emotional understanding through the use of the Zones of Regulation. Classroom staff are always available to support the emotions that children can feel throughout the day using emotions coaching and the nurture of the relationships they build.

Some children may need some additional support to develop a range of skills such as friendships, social skills, improving self-esteem or just need some extra check-ins from staff across their week to talk about any worries they may have. This will be supported by our four new Learning Mentors across our school. Mrs Habbins, Miss Bessant, Miss Hamper and Mrs Barrett are supporting children by delivering short term interventions and children are put forward for these sessions by their class teacher or Miss Langley and there will be discussions with parents if your child is receiving this support.

We are lucky to have a full time ELSA in Miss Williams who works with children who need short term intervention of 6-10 weeks following the ELSA programme. The work Miss Williams can do is supporting children who: may have experienced a loss or bereavement; need support to regulate their emotions; have anxiety; need support to manage conflict and relationships; or have a significant need from earlier life experiences. Referrals to Miss Williams can be made by class teachers or parents and they will be asked to complete a referral form to share what the concerns are and the outcomes they would like to see from the ELSA support over the 6-10 weeks. These will then be discussed between Miss Williams and Miss Langley to ensure that the children receive the right support at the right time.

If you have any concerns about your child and their emotional development you can contact Miss Langley or Miss Williams via the school office.



Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Darley Dene School is recruiting:

Are you ambitious and keen to make a difference?

We are seeking to appoint a highly enthusiastic, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of Teaching Assistant. This is an opportunity for an individual who is patient and emotionally resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and inspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please visit:

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1369455> or click the link to 'Jobs in the Trust' on the left hand side of Page one.



FOWO

Halloween Costume Sale and Second Hand Uniform Sale: Friday 13th October 3.15pm

Grab a bargain at the second-hand uniform AND Halloween fancy dress sale on Friday, 13th October at pick up. Donations of good quality, reusable uniforms (**NO old logo items please** – we can't sell or give away) and children's Halloween costumes are gratefully accepted from next Monday, 9th to Friday, 13th October – these can be left in the purple bucket in the foyer. All uniform items will be £1; costumes £2-3. Cash and card accepted. If paying in cash, the right amounts are appreciated as we have limited float.

Family Gardening/Litter Picking Event: Saturday 14th October, 10am–12pm

Come along to the first of FOWO's family gardening events next Saturday morning! We will be doing a litter pick around the school grounds, working in the amphitheatre to clear dead bushes and preparing a few planters with bulbs. FOWO will also be providing refreshments. Find out the full details and sign up now on Classlist so that we can prepare for numbers. We are particularly keen to identify any keen gardeners or people who work or own a gardening business that would be interested in getting involved. Please email fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk if you can help!

Children's Movie Night: Friday, 20th October, 3.15-5.15pm

FOWO is holding its first-ever movie night on Friday, 20th October 3.15 – 5.15pm. Children in Y1-Y6 are invited to join us for a movie, plus drinks and snacks straight after school. (Children will be taken straight to the movie night by teaching staff.)

- **Y1-2:** will be watching **Home** in the conference room
- **Y3-Y6:** will be watching **Luca** in the school hall.

Buy tickets - £3 per child – on Classlist and remember to answer all the questions! Tickets are limited so don't delay! If your child needs to go to After School Club (ASC) after the movie night, please state this when buying tickets and we will put them on the list to be picked up by one of the ASC team.

Calling All Tesco Shoppers!

Help FOWO win a Tesco Community grant for outdoor play equipment. From early October until January, FOWO will be one of three charities on the charity token boxes in Tesco Stores; shoppers can vote for their preferred charity using the blue tokens given out at the till. At the end of the collection period, the charity with the most votes will receive £1,500 in donations from Tesco; the second-placed will get £1,000 and the third-placed £500. Please help FOWO be the number one charity!! We will be featured on boxes in the following stores: Ashford Extra, Ashford Express, Addlestone Extra, Chertsey, Esher, East Molesey, West Molesey, Hersham, Staines Express, Sunbury Extra, Weybridge (Queen's Rd), Walton. If you are in any of the stores, we'd love to see pictures of the token boxes to see progress!



Celebrations



Gold Leaves

Well done to the following children who all received a gold leaf this week:

Hedgehogs	Jessie, Roman & Cole
Squirrels	Penelope, Alisa, Thomas,
1A	Sadie, Natallie, Rafe & Harry
2C	Blake, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Summer & Safwan
3N	Noah, Alexandru, Adiyat & Eva
4D	Eliza, TJ
4G	Molly, Leo, Reggie, Tierni, Grace & Delilah
5B	Kate, Olivia,
5P	Fareeha, Magnus, Elsie, Cvetelina, Santiago, Nicholas, Riley, Zack, Dylan, Sami, Bartosz, Harvey & Magnus
6G	Finn & Lyla,
6P	Blake, Eddie & John

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



EDUCATION TINY
Happy
PEOPLE

HELP YOUR **CHILD** EXPRESS
THEIR **FEELINGS**



Happy



Panic



Angry



Sad



Bored



Shy



Confused



Tired



Embarrassed



Silly



Scared



Frustrated