



WALTON OAK WIRE

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Headteacher's Message

Christmas excitement well and truly landed at Walton Oak this week. It began with a group of our Year 5 children attending the Parade at the Walton Festival of Light on Saturday. The children looked so proud as they carried their homemade lanterns through the main streets of Walton-on-Thames, spreading Christmas cheer to all who enjoyed watching from the side-lines. Thank you to Miss Bayliss for organising the lantern making workshop in school, Mrs Chung for creating our school sign, Mrs Bourne, Miss Langley and Mrs Bailey for attending the festival with our children. Read more below...



Back in school, the rehearsals for Christmas performances are underway with beautiful singing, ringing through the corridors. The children's performances to parents and carers begin next week with Nursery, Reception and Year 1 performing their nativity plays in school and Year 2 performing their Christingle service at St Mary's Church. Key stage 2 will then continue the festive cheer into the penultimate week with their carol concert. The shows are booking up fast so please make sure to book yours if you wish to watch your child perform.

Today was a mufti day for the Christmas Fair donations. As I finish writing this letter I can hear the buzz from the hall and the excited voices coming from Santa's Grotto. I look forward to joining in with the 'human fruit machine' soon. I hope all who are, or will attend later have a wonderful time. Thank you to our FOWO parent helpers for giving up your time to organise such a fun filled community event for our school.

Over the last 12 days of the autumn term children will be enjoying some other Christmas themed events such as Christmas Jumper day next Wednesday 6th December to raise money for Save the Children and Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 13th December - these dates are all detailed on our school calendar (see the tab to the left). They will also take part in some art and crafts activities and have a class Christmas party, details of which were shared with you in a separate letter last week.

In between these events, we will aim to keep the curriculum feeling as normal as possible in order to maintain some calm and routine which we know the children benefit from.

General Information

Festival of Light

In class we made our lanterns. First, we used willow branches for the structure. Next, we used tissue paper to form the outside. After that, we cut shapes out of silver paper e.g. suns, moons and stars. Then we stuck them on the lantern.





On Saturday evening, we gathered at the back of the Heart Centre and were given sticks to hang our lanterns from. Walton Oak was the last school in the parade, behind Grovelands.

Four people held a glorious 'Walton Oak School' banner. They walked in front of all the other Walton Oak children. We felt excited and nervous at the same time.

Then we started walking. We passed Sainsbury's and then walked down the high street. There were hundreds of people who had come to watch us. They were all clapping and waving. We waved back. At the end, there was a giant Rudolph. We all counted down from 10 to



1 and then Rudolph was lit. It looked as bright and beautiful as a star!

We've watched it before but it seemed a lot stranger to actually be in it. We felt proud of everyone who took part and even prouder to be representing Walton Oak. Most of all, we had fun! *Thomas and Jemima, 5B*

Christmas Dinner - 13th December

Don't forget to book your child's Christmas dinner over the weekend as the numbers need to be in by Monday 4th December. Please note there is no deli (D) or snack (J) option on this day.

Marvellous Me



Teachers have begun sending out Marvellous Me messages. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so soon so you do miss any messages about your child's achievements! Your child brought home a letter a couple of weeks ago to help you with setting up the app. If you don't have this or experience any problems with setting it up then please notify the office.

Play Time Developments – Exciting news



Next week we are having a PlayPod installed in our KS2 playground. This is a huge scrapstore that, like our smaller one on the KS1 playground provides a huge range of scrap materials (cardboard tubes, tyres, netting, ropes, crates, bins, fabric, clothing, boxes, carpet tiles, foam, keyboards, phones... the list is varied and endless!) to extend

the possibilities of play for all children. This is the first step in a revised lunch time offer for the children which will involve rezoning, introducing new equipment and play spaces – including regular use of Woody Oaks and lots of support and training in how to use it all safely and manage risks. We are working closely with Scrapstore Play Services to help us enhance our provision and meet the needs of all age groups at lunch times. We are hoping that we will be able to have everything planned and everyone trained in time to open our new PlayPod and new offer, sometime in March. Please follow this link to find out more: <https://www.playpods.co.uk/>

Spring Term Clubs

Yesterday, a letter was sent out to all parents and carers of children in Reception to Year 6, detailing our Spring Term club offer. Within the letter, there is a link to a Google Form for parents/carers to share their child's preferences for up to 3 club choices. The form closes at 12pm on Wednesday 6th December so please ensure you refer to this letter ahead of time to ensure you have an opportunity to share your child's club preferences for next term.

Barvember

Across November, the children in Years 1 -6 have been taking part in the annual challenge 'Barvember' - a maths initiative set-up by White Rose Maths. This is always a great opportunity for the children to engage with maths problems and rehearse the skill of using bar models to support them in reaching an answer. This is a very visual method for problem solving and can be used in such a variety of ways. It has been so exciting to see children of all ages using their bar models to tackle a range of maths problems. Below are some comments from children, sharing their personal experience of the Barvember challenge.



"Bar models help me with my maths because they help me with a problem and working the maths out. They tell me what type of maths calculations I need to do next." *Brodie, 2C*

"I do Barvember in the mornings on my table and I think they are really good. I definitely have the hang of them now and I can use them for lots of challenges." *Alex, 3N*

4G discussed how bar models help us to visualise the problem.:

"I can see what I need to do when I see the problem presented this way." *Molly, 4G*

"Barvember has helped me learn about bar models and how they are very important, not just in Maths but in everyday life. It has also helped me to dig deeper into my learning and made me challenge myself more." (Thomas 5B)

"Barvember was enjoyable in lots of different ways and a good challenge. It was good learning about bar models and will help me in my SATs and in my learning." *Mary, 6P*

Reading

Book Review

Suraiya in 3C has written a detailed book review about the Demon Dentist. She concludes with: First of all, I enjoyed the book because I loved all of the characters. David Williams writes with a lot of description about the characters which helped me paint ideas and create a picture in my head. I also really like the story bit where Mrs Roots hated the children and got them to the evil Dentist, it could have been improved if the ending was a bit better. They could have made the Demon Dentist continue her evil actions for longer and capture more children, I would recommend this book.



100 Reads

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

Maddie – 2C	Emily – 2DO	Samuel – 2DO
Amelie – 3N	Immy – 3N	Laura – 3N
Seth – 3N	Katie – 5P	Magnus – 5P

Reading Ambassadors

Congratulations to **Aurora – 3C** who became our newest Reading Ambassador this week!



Tiny Happy People



Children love rhymes and songs and music is great for their development and language learning. Try some of the traditional nursery rhymes and songs on the link. There are short video clips to help you with the actions and tune.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/nursery-rhymes-and-songs-collection>



Oracy

This week's THUNK



If I had a million pounds and bought a million pound house, would I still be a millionaire?



Enrichment Activities

Year 1 Toy Workshop

This week Year 1 had a visit from Chertsey Museum for a Toy Workshop to consolidate all our wonderful learning around Toys this half term. Children had the opportunity to look at some toys from the Victorian period and also some more modern toys. The children had 6 different activities to have a go at throughout the morning. Children loved this experience and have been talking about it ever since. They even got to make their own Thaumotrop!



Can Bears Ski?

Last Friday, children from Reception and Key Stage One were able to enjoy a wonderful performance of 'Can Bears Ski?' by the Pied Piper Theatre Company. The book, 'Can Bears Ski?', was written by Raymond Antrobus who is a deaf poet and brings a brilliant insight into the childhood of someone who is deaf to younger children. The performance we watched included deaf actors from Definitely Theatre. All the children listened and engaged with the performance brilliantly and represented Walton Oak incredibly well.





Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Darley Dene Primary School in Addlestone 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 see:

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1378206> or click button at the top left hand side of page 1.



Walton Oak Primary 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 see: <https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1386465> or click button at the top left hand side of page 1.

Lumen Learning Trust is recruiting

We are looking to appoint a member of staff to support in the delivery of P.E. lessons across the five Lumen Learning Trust (LLT) schools, this is an exciting role for anyone who is interested in coaching and developing youth sport. This role is supported by Sports Premium funding and therefore is a fixed term contract, expiring on 31st August 2025. There is the possibility that the contract will be extended subject to the funding from the DfE continuing. For more information please see: <https://www.eteach.com/job/sports-coach-1389220>

Pastoral News

Festive well-being tips

Christmas is without a doubt an exciting time of year for children, whether they are writing their Christmas list or dressing up for a party, they live and breathe this time of year. Whilst it is a joy to see our children so happy, this time of year demands a lot from us, here are some well-being tips to help you relax during this busy period.

Try to maintain good routine

We know that this tip can be easier said than done, however, in the run up to Christmas it is important to maintain routine around Christmas so that children can cope with all the excitement in a manageable way.

Plan ahead

Try to write down all the things you need to get done, add the dates you need to complete them by.

This little well-being tip will help you to stay afloat keeping to all those commitments whilst also taking a moment to look after yourself.

Allow yourself to have some you time

Take time to pause, refresh and re-energise.

Talk with others

Know that you are not alone. When we talk to other people we can recognise that others may share the same feelings or experiences as us and that we are not alone. Just knowing that someone else feels the same can be of big comfort.

Take the pressure off

It is easy to compare ourselves to others sometimes but this will often lead to unattainable ideas of parenthood. Just remember that you are enough as a parent, and your children will appreciate all you do for them- so try to take away some of the pressure thrown your way.





House Competitions



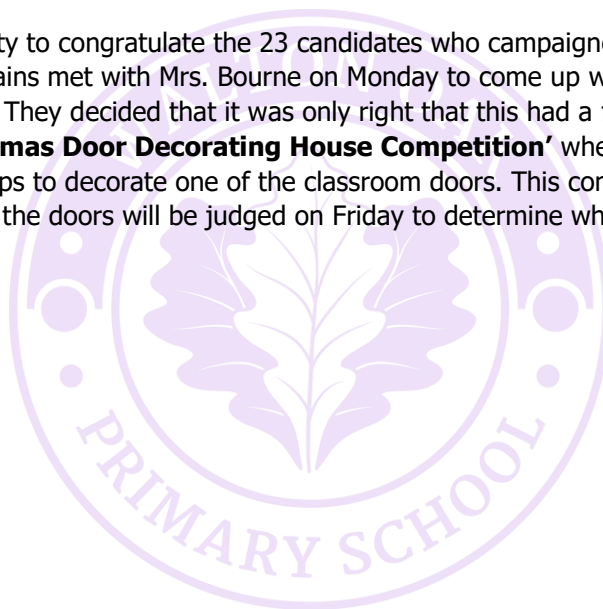
House Captains 2023-24

Last Friday, we held our House Captain Elections. It was an exciting morning watching the recorded speeches from the 23 candidates. The children in Years 1-6 then voted for two candidates each from their own house - one from Year 2 and one from Year 6. The votes were counted very carefully and the scores were closer than they have ever been before; some houses had just one vote separating the top two children.

During the assembly on Monday, the results were shared with the children, with our newly elected House Captains being presented with their important badges. We are now very pleased to share with you all that our new House Captains for 2023-24 are:

	Dragon	Phoenix	Pegasus	Griffin
Year 2	Eliza 2DO	Jasmine 2DO	Elizabeth 2C	Charlie 2DO
Year 6	Penny 6G	Lilly C 6P	Mary 6P	Harriet 6P

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 23 candidates who campaigned so brilliantly ahead of the elections! Our new House Captains met with Mrs. Bourne on Monday to come up with a plan for the very first House Competition of the year. They decided that it was only right that this had a festive theme so they have launched the '**Christmas Door Decorating House Competition**' whereby children will gather in house groups to decorate one of the classroom doors. This competition will be taking place next week and the doors will be judged on Friday to determine which house will claim the first victory!





FOWO

Bag2School Collection – 19th January 2024

If you're having a clear-out, please bag up any unwanted items and save them up for our Bag2School collection on the 19th of January. Bag2School collects unwanted reusable clothes, bags, linen and soft toys and pays us by the weight collected. You can read what they accept here: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>.

Ellie and Starlight's Christmas Adventures Special Promotion

Local drama company is putting on its festive theatre show, Ellie and Starlight's Christmas Adventure at the Cecil Hepworth Playhouse in Walton from 13th – 24th December. Buy your tickets using the code: WOAK23 and get £1 off the ticket price, plus FOWO receives a £1 donation. You can buy tickets here: www.ellieandstarlight.co.uk.

Esher Rugby's New Year's Party – Fundraising Link

If you're making plans for New Year. Check out the New Year's Eve party at Esher Rugby Club, 7pm – 1am. Early bird family tickets cost £25. Book using this link, and FOWO will also receive a commission.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-years-eve-party-at-esher-rugby-club-tickets-754484071167?aff=Waltonoakprimary>

Easy Fundraising – Have you signed up?

Do your Christmas shopping and raise money for FOWO! With easyFundraising, over 8,000 brands will donate when you make a purchase, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. We currently have 113 supporters – how many more can we add? You can get started at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofwaltonoak/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2

Calling All Tesco Shoppers

Don't forget to ask for a blue token and vote for FOWO when shopping at local Tesco stores. We are 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 are 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.

Elmbridge Community Lottery – Please Support FOWO

FOWO now has an [Elmbridge Community Lottery](http://www.elmbridgelottery.co.uk) page! Buy tickets (£1 each) to be in chance of winning prizes of up to £25,000 each week. 50% of all ticket sales through the FOWO page go to FOWO, while 10% go to other local causes. To start supporting us, please visit www.elmbridgelottery.co.uk and search for FOWO.

Fundraising Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported the uniform and Christmas jumper sale last Friday – we raised £60!

Celebrations

Achievements outside of School

We are super proud of William, 6G for his performance in Annie with his stagecoach group. He was an orphan, a dog catcher, a servant and a New Yorker. He handled the costume changes with aplomb. Well done William!





Gold Leaves

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

Ladybirds	Albie
Hedgehogs	Roman, Bobby, Jessie & Holly
1A	Isla, Eva & Ivy
1H	Esmae, Juno & Edward
2C	Edward
2DO	Oliver, Ronnie, Cora & Emily
3N	Louie & Alex
4D	TJ, Charlie, Rosie, Savannah, Amelie, Mia, Tommy, Ronnie, Jack, Ella, Nina, Thomas, Ariyaana, Willow, Mert, Isaac, Sami, Jasmim, Mollie, Kiara, Millie, Courtney, Kiara, Charlie, Eliza, Mia, Amelie, Thomas
4G	Isabella, Tierni, Maddie, Poppy, Jack, Zeshan, Elina, Freddy, Max & Freddy
5B	Naveesh & Bentley
5P	Dylan, Riley, Amelia, Arlo, Bartos & Nicholas

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

