



WALTON OAK WIRE

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Headteacher's Message

Happy New Year, everyone. I hope the start to 2024 has been kind to you all. We have been eased gently into the spring term with a short, two-day week - enough to dust off the cobwebs and get us back into routines but not too overwhelming. I hope the children have enjoyed sharing news of their Christmas break with their friends and teachers. It is good to see them looking smart and ready for the term ahead.

As always, we are acutely aware that holidays can be quite stressful times, particularly at Christmas when the expectations and demands can feel significantly higher than usual. Remember that we are here to provide pastoral support too. If you need to share any concerns that have arisen over the break, please let us know. We will always do our best to listen and work with you to formulate a plan of support as required. Class teachers are an important first point of contact. You can also get in touch with Natasha Herron-Duke, our Home School Link worker via the 'Pastoral Support Team' button to the side of this page.

Looking ahead, we have a few things coming up:

Mon 8th Jan	Spring term enrichment clubs start for those who have signed up and been allocated a place.
Tues 9th Jan	Final Prospective Reception Parents open morning (9.30am)
Fri 12th Jan	FOWO Open mtg 2-3pm in school hall
Fri 19th Jan	Bag2school collection (8am-9am) FOWO second hand uniform sale and Y1&2 cake sale (3.15pm-3.45pm)
Mon 22nd Jan	World Religion Day – details to be shared soon
Mon 29th Jan	Maths week
Weds 31st Jan	FOWO Break the rules day
Fri 2nd Feb	NSPCC Number Day – TTRS Themed Dress Up Maths Market (2.30-3.30pm) Year 3 Sleepover

Remember that you can click the 'School Calendar' button at the left hand side of the page to check calendar dates and even download a copy. We will continue to add reminders in the Wire when anything new comes up.

From all of us at Walton Oak, we wish our whole school community a positive term ahead and all the best for 2024!

General Information

Attendance Matters

Earlier today, a leaflet was shared with you all to highlight some key points about school attendance. If you haven't had the opportunity to read it yet, please make the time to do so.



Following the Covid-19 pandemic, school attendance figures nationally declined and Walton Oak is no exception to this trend. We understand there are times when exceptional circumstances occur or children are too unwell to attend school. However, we are well equipped to support children emotionally and with low level illnesses such as a cold. We have a skilled pastoral support team, beginning with the class teacher and extending to learning mentors, a trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) and our Home School Link Worker (HSLW). Please remember this when you are unsure about whether a school day may be too much for your child. We can make provisions to ensure they still receive their education with an appropriate level of demand, even if a little under the weather.

Encouraging pupils to reach their full potential in a safe, inclusive & nurturing environment



Ensuring regular attendance for your child is crucial for their educational success. Research consistently highlights a strong connection between good attendance and academic achievement at both primary and secondary levels. Children with consistent attendance tend to develop a solid academic foundation, enabling them to grasp key concepts and build essential skills. Sustained attendance also positively influences social development, as regular school interactions contribute to improved interpersonal skills. By fostering a habit of consistent attendance now, you are laying the groundwork for your child's future success, both academically and in the broader scope of their lives. Your commitment to their attendance plays a pivotal role in shaping a brighter and more promising future for them and we hope we can continue to work in partnership to support you with this.

Friends of Walton Oak (FOWO) – Open Meeting



We would like to warmly invite as many parents as would like to attend, to our next FOWO open meeting on Friday 12th January. It is a meeting to discuss upcoming events and share ideas, expertise and availability to help. FOWO consists of staff and parents who are invested in supporting the school with raising money and organising community events that bring people together. There are no expectations for anyone to give more time than they have available, so if you are interested in hearing more information or sharing views but are worried about ongoing commitments then please put that worry aside. FOWO meetings are friendly and non-judgemental and everyone from across our diverse community is welcome.

Flooding

Many of you will know that behind our school field, behind our boundary fence, is a public walkway with a ditch that runs alongside it. Due to the heavy rain, this ditch has filled with water and there is no clear divide between the edge of the path and dip in the ground next to it. Anyone unfamiliar with this area, or a young child, may accidentally step to the side and fall into the deep water. Please be careful if travelling along this path and if older children use this path alone, please advise them to stick to the path or avoid it altogether.

Reading

Reading Challenge

Let's get reading Walton Oak! Which class can achieve the most reads at home this half term? An extra playtime goes to the class who tops the leader board. **Read-y**, get set and go!



Reading Ambassadors

Congratulations to our new reading ambassador: **Amelia 3C**

100 Reads

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

Kai – 3N	Jaxon – 3N	Milo – 4G
Holly – 4G	Phoebe H – 4G	Evita – 6G
Jessie – 6G		

Book Week: 4th - 8th March

Watch out for information coming soon on the exciting opportunities we have planned for Book Week. This will include an author visit, book adventures and of course an opportunity to dress up!

Oracy

Let's Talk

High-quality classroom talk is essential to pupils' thinking and learning. It is also linked to improvements in reading and writing, and overall attainment. Last term, we shared a weekly 'Thunk' with the children in their classes and within the Wire to prompt discussions at home.



This term, we will be thinking more about the world around us. We have invested in the online resource 'Picture News' and will begin introducing it in assemblies, the classrooms and as a family



discussion point in The Wire. Each week, a different news article will be selected with an associated image and a thought provoking question for children to talk about. Look out for our first 'Let's Talk' Take Home article next week.

Extra-Curricular Events

Maths Week - w/c 29th January



During the week commencing 29th January, we will be holding an exciting Maths curriculum week with a 'Young Apprentice' theme. The children will be working collaboratively across the week to design and create a new Maths resource or game that they feel would support them with their continued Maths learning. The products that they create will be on sale on Friday 2nd February at our Walton Oak Maths Market. Parents and carers are warmly invited to come along to our Maths Market that afternoon (from 2.30pm onwards), where they will be able to purchase their child's product. The proceeds raised from the products sold at the Maths Market will go to the NSPCC - a charity that is incredibly important. Please note - the Maths Market will operate a cash only system. Please pop this key date in your diaries so you can come along to support this exciting and purposeful fundraiser.



As mentioned before the Christmas holidays, we will also be showing our support for the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 2nd February by dressing up as our Times Tables Rockstar characters (or a general rockstar theme for children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1). We look forward to seeing the range of rockstar outfits on display that day!



FOWO

Happy New Year from FOWO! We hope you had a great break over Christmas. We have some great events planned for this term. Look out for more details here in the Wire, on Classlist, on the FOWO Facebook page and in class WhatsApp groups.

FOWO Open Meeting – SPRING TERM – Friday, 12th January, 2–3pm

FOWO is holding its Spring Term meeting at school (room TBC) on Friday, the 12th January at 2pm when we will be reviewing last term's activities and discussing plans for the coming term. The meeting is open to all parents, carers and staff associated with the school. Please come along if you want to hear more about what FOWO does or share any thoughts or feedback. It is fine to attend with younger children. Comments can also be emailed to fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk if you cannot attend in person.

BAG2SCHOOL Collection – Friday, 19th January 2024, 9am

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>.

Y1/Y2 Cake Sale & Second-Hand Uniform Sale Friday, 19th January – 3.15 – 3.45pm

Year group cake sales are back! Each half-term for the rest of the year, we'll be holding a cake sale led by two of the year groups. On Friday, 19th January, it's the turn of Y1 and Y2. Please help, if you can, with cake donations or volunteering on the stall on the day. If you can volunteer, please email fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk. Cake donations can be dropped off on the day at the office.

We will also be holding a second-hand uniform sale alongside the cake sale. All items cost £1, so come along and grab a bargain. Donations of clean uniform in good condition gratefully received. Please leave this in the purple FOWO bucket in the foyer from 15th – 19th January.



Pastoral News



Elmbridge Family Centres – Free drop in support/advice sessions in January



Spurgeons Family Centre are offering a new drop in service for families at a number of local venues, starting this month. They are able to offer a range of advice at these sessions and all information can be found on the flyer at the end of this newsletter. You can contact Spurgeons on 01932 229103 or elmbridge@spurgeons.org.

Celebrations



Gold Leaves

Well done to the following children who all received a gold leaf at the very end of the last term or in their first two days back this week:

Butterflies	Finn
Squirrels	Philip, Michael, Eden, Thomas, Mahdi, Cecie, Alisa, Penelope & Harlow
3N	Georgia, Joseph & Ethan
4D	Savannah & Mollie
4G	Phoebe

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



Elmbridge Family Centres

FREE drop-in support/advice sessions
(For families with children aged 0-19yrs)

Our team will be running various drop-in sessions around Elmbridge, providing FREE support/advice on a range of topics;

Parenting advice
SEND
Challenging
Behaviour

Nursery/school
application
FEET/FEE nursery
Schools

Financial
assistance
Budgeting
Grants support

Domestic Abuse

The Bridge, Bridge Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 1AE
Fortnightly from Wednesday 17th January (9.30-11 am)

St John's Church, The Furrows, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 3JQ
Fortnightly from Thursday 4th January (9.30-11 am)

Cobham Community Centre, Oakdene Road, Cobham, KT11 2LY
(Free parking onsite)
Monthly (9.30-11 am) Thursday 11th January,
Thursday 8th February, Thursday 7th March

For further information, please contact us
Tel: 01932 229103 Email: elmbridge@spurgeons.org