



WALTON OAK WIRE

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www.waltonoakprimary.co.uk

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Headteacher's Message

It has been a very focused week at Walton Oak. I have felt so proud of the attitudes towards learning that children across the school have shown in their lessons. I particularly enjoyed spending time in Year 5, to join in their special PSHE learning about friendships and how they manage their emotions and responses towards each other. The children showed maturity in how they discussed their thoughts and shared their suggestions. I feel positive about how they will be able to apply this new learning to their everyday lives.



An exciting moment for all, but especially our youngest children, was when we had some snowfall earlier in the week. Although just a sprinkling, it caused such wonder for our reception and nursery children as many had not remembered seeing snow before. It was delightful to see them chasing the snowflakes and catching them to look more closely - some tried to catch them on their tongues. How wonderful the world can be through fresh eyes!

We had our last set of parent tours this week, for our new 2024 reception cohort. The deadline for applications is on Monday and we are hopeful that we will be a popular school choice for our local families. Our Pupil Leadership Team have enjoyed taking part in these, with Lisa and Bilal (our Head and Deputy pupils) giving insightful speeches and the whole PLT leading parents around the school and answering their questions. We are very proud of them for being excellent role models.

This term will see our Pupil Leaders and Senior Prefects carrying out some exciting projects around pupil wellbeing, anti-bullying and community links. There will be various meetings next week to seek the children's views and allocate roles for them to carry out. I look forward to sharing plans with you in due course.

Finally, it has felt positive to have sent emails of recognition to the parents/carers of 97 of our children to congratulate them for their child's 100% attendance during the first term of this year. Our attendance leaflet, that we shared last week, highlights how attendance over 95% is good and over 98% is excellent. 100% equates to not a single days absence - well done to all those who managed to achieve this.

Siân McCarthy

General Information

Our School App



Live and ready for you to install, our school app is available free of charge on your mobile device via the iOS App Store or Android Google Play. Just search for 'School News', look for the dark blue logo (left) and install to give you access to the key parts of our website including our online school calendar, a quick contact tab, as well as handy extras to connect you to key school information and online forms. The app calendar will even allow you to add school events to your own device calendar so you need never miss an important date again. Make sure you install it today! Please visit this link for full instructions on how to install the app on your device:



<https://www.waltonoakprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Our+News+%26amp%3B+Events+App&pid=139>

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



Cinderella's Ball - Nursery

As part of our topic this half term, the children in Nursery are invited to attend Cinderella's Ball on Wednesday 7th of February. This means they can come to school on that day dressed as a Prince or Princess or wearing a royal accessory e.g. a crown.

Reading

100 Reads

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



Ella – 4D	Mollie – 4D	Thomas – 4D
Mia – 2C	Edith - Squirrels	Cecie - Squirrels

150 Reads

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

Annabelle – 4G	Poppy – 4G	Mia – 2C
Maddi – 2C		

Tiny Happy People



This week's activity is about learning opposites. No resources are needed and it can be played at any time of the day. This could be at meal times, on the school run, or how about bath time. Learning opposites is an important concept for children. Click on the link below to find a short video of how to help your child. Have fun!



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/have-fun-learning-opposites/zrhkkmn>

Oracy – Let's Talk!

Take Home Focus

As we explained last week, in our commitment to develop children's critical literacy skills, we have teamed up with Picture News to help develop their understanding and appreciation of the news.



Having age-appropriate conversations with your child about the news keeps them interested and informed about what's happening in the world... and you too! They move from wanting to know what happens in MY world to what is happening in THE world and their place in it.

By having regular conversations about the news, you are able to share a whole range of topics and, together, make more sense of different events, issues and stories.

Today's Take Home focus is all about emojis. The children were exposed to the following story in assembly this week and had lots of views on the matter so should be well equipped to talk to you about this at home.

We would love to hear from families, through filling in the notes section next to the article below or via email.



TAKEHOME



In the news this week

10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.

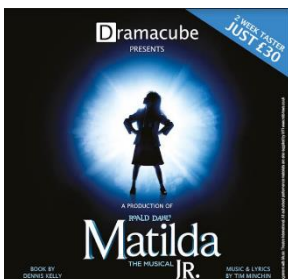
Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you know about emojis? Do you ever use them?
- Talk to someone else at home. Do they use emojis?
- If you could design a new emoji, what would it look like?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Extra-Curricular Events



Dramacube - Join the cast of Matilda JR

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the award-winning Matilda The Musical is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life.

Dramacube Productions are looking for 8-12 year olds to join the casts in Esher, Walton on Thames, Twickenham and Hampton Hill.



Every child who joins for the Spring Term will be offered a part in the production - regardless of their previous acting or singing experience!

Book a 2-week taster for £30 or secure a place in the cast at <https://www.dramacubeproductions.co.uk/youth-company/matilda-jr-8-to-12yrs/>

Check out the leaflet shared at the end of the Wire.

Enrichment Activities

World Religion Day - Monday 22nd January

As a school, we are looking forward to celebrating World Religion Day for the very first time on Monday 22nd January. **We would still love to hear from anyone who might be interested in coming into school on Monday 22nd January - or anytime during that week - to talk to the children about their religious traditions and beliefs.** If you are interested in supporting us with this, do get in touch with Miss de Fraine via the office (office.waltonoak@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk) and she will contact you to discuss this exciting





opportunity with you. Our children really value learning from real life experiences and they also enjoy having members of the community in school to share their first hand experiences with them.

Pastoral News



Parenting support

Parenting can be challenging for a number of reasons. Some of the services below may be useful sources of help, advice and tips:

- **Family Learning** offer a wide range of free parenting courses from Surrey County Council, including on understanding children's behaviour.
- All Surrey residents can **[register for free online guides for families](#)**. The guides cover a wide range of topics and include tips from childcare, education and NHS health experts. A brand-new course 'Back to School' has recently been added.
- **Family Lives**, also have a dedicated web page which provides tips on **[establishing a school routine](#)**.

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-1390677>

Riverbridge Primary School in Staines is recruiting

We are looking to appoint enthusiastic and creative Teaching Assistants/1:1 Teaching Assistants with a 'can do' attitude who are passionate about making a difference, to join our friendly, committed, hardworking team <https://www.eteach.com/careers/riverbridgeprimary/job/teaching-assistant-1394790>

Riverbridge Primary School in Staines is recruiting

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic person to join the team in our extremely popular Breakfast Club <https://www.eteach.com/careers/riverbridgeprimary/job/breakfast-club-assistant-1394819>

House Competitions



Spring 1 House Competition

This half term, the House Captains have decided that they'd like a Maths themed house competition to tie in with our exciting Maths week (w/c 29th January). They have therefore planned for an epic Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) battle to take place during Maths



Week. Children in Years 2-6 will be able to earn points for their house across the week by playing any game on TTRS that will earn them coins; game play will be open between 7.00am-7.00pm between the Monday-Thursday of that week, with the battle opening again on Friday at 7.00am but finishing promptly at 3.00pm. The House Captains are aware that children in Reception and Year 1 do not have access to TTRS so have planned for them to play some interactive Maths games which will earn them house points. At the end of the week, the points will be totalled from the Reception and Y1 Maths games and added to the points earned by each house in Y2-6 to work out which house will be awarded this term's trophy!





FOWO

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

Donate unwanted (and reusable) clothes, household linen and soft toys and raise money for FOWO! Bag up any unwanted items and save them up for our Bag2School collection on Friday 19th of January. You can use the Bag2School bags that will be sent out in book bags or just use normal bin liners. Please drop off donations by 9am on 19th. The collection point will be just inside the school gates – look out for the sign. You can find a full list of what Bag2School accept here: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>.

Y1/Y2 Cake Sale and 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 by 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. Remember we are a nut-free school!

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 uniforms in good condition are gratefully received. Please leave this in the FOWO tub in the foyer.

What Does FOWO do? FOWO committee profiles

Over this term, we will be providing short profiles of FOWO committee members in the Wire. Often, people ask what being on the committee involves; this should provide some more insight! This week, Helen Allingham, Chair of FOWO, writes about what she does.



I'm Helen, mum to Magnus in Year 5 and Charlie in Year 2. I work as a business researcher and writer and am also the current Chair of FOWO. I've been on the FOWO Committee since 2019 and Chair since September 2022. My role is to lead the FOWO committee and make sure we achieve the goals of the PTA, which we agree with the school leadership. Often, the role of a PTA is to raise additional funds for a school; here at Walton Oak, we do fundraise through FOWO, as with the Bag2School initiative, but more importantly, our role is to help build a sense of community among our school families. We do this by organising community events, such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs and the Parents' Quiz Night. In my role, I chair the open termly meetings where we discuss the planned events and what needs to be done to make them happen. We try to spread the load between us as a committee, with different members leading the various activities. This year, I am leading the new gardening events and the summer fair.

I've really enjoyed being on the FOWO Committee, it's great to be able to contribute to our school. and to get to know people from other year groups. I'd encourage everyone to get involved with FOWO in some capacity if they can. It's open to all school parents/carers and no special experience is required. Often people worry about the time commitment, and while there is plenty of opportunity to get really stuck in if you want to, more than anything we need a bigger pool of volunteers who are willing to give 1-2 hours over the course of the school year to help at cake sale or fair or behind the scenes e.g., poster design, wrapping lucky dip prizes etc. Come along to one of the open meetings or drop us a line at fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk if you want to know more!



Celebrations



Gold Leaves

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

Squirrels	Penelope & Aisha
1A	Ava H, Milena, Natallie, Alice, Sadie, Finley, Ayla, Hartley & Scarlett D
1H	Ava, Sofia & Albie
3C	Aurora
3N	Louie, Laura, Vincent, Georgia & Blake
4D	Lyra, Mia, Ella & Nina
4G	Holly
6P	Lisa, Bilal, Mary, Zara & Lilly-May

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





YMCA EAST SURREY

Community Wellbeing Team Parent/Carer Workshops

Proud to be part of
Mindworks
Surrey

The children and young people's emotional
wellbeing and mental health service

YMCA East Surrey's Community Wellbeing Team invites you to attend our free online workshops for parents/carers:

- ▶ Talking to your child and supporting them to cope with worries
- ▶ Understanding, expressing and managing emotions

These workshops are suitable for parents/carers with children aged 8+. Our Community Wellbeing team will provide you with information and key strategies to support your child. There will also be time for you to ask any questions that you have via the online chat function.



For dates and times and to book your place, please visit our website:


www.ymcaeastsurrey.org.uk/parent-workshops/

f X @ YMCAEastSurrey

YMCA

Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you





Dramacube
PRESENTS

**2 WEEK TASTER
JUST £30**

A PRODUCTION OF
ROALD DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL JR.




BOOK BY
DENNIS KELLY


MUSIC & LYRICS
BY TIM MINCHIN

JOIN OUR CASTS
**ESHER, HAMPTON HILL
TWICKENHAM & WALTON ON THAMES**
8-12 YEARS

REHEARSALS START JANUARY 2024
PERFORM AT HAMPTON HILL THEATRE
OR CECIL HEPWORTH PLAYHOUSE

www.dramacube.co.uk

 DramacubeProductions  Dramacube  Dramacube Productions



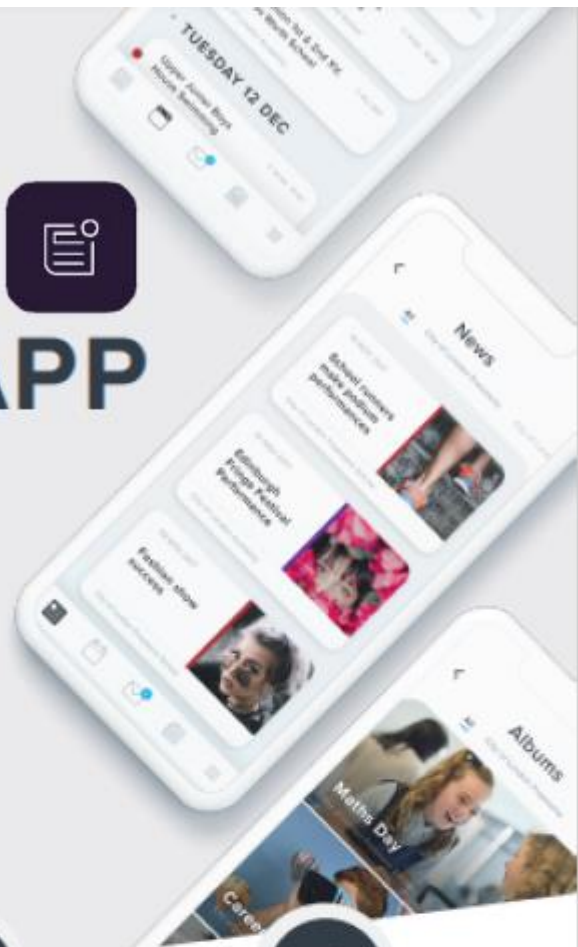
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk



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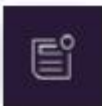
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TINY
Happy
PEOPLE

KEEPING YOUR HOUSEHOLD CALM...



1 PLAN WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



2 CREATE A STICKER CHART



3 GET OUTSIDE



4 COOK MEALS TOGETHER



5 HAVE A DANCE PARTY



6 CREATE A DAILY PICTURE DIARY



7 VIDEO CALL FAMILY



8 STORY TIME



9 5 MINUTES OF PEACE



WALTON OAK
DRAGON
VS
WALTON OAK
GRIFFIN
VS
WALTON OAK
PEGASUS
VS
WALTON OAK
PHOENIX

AN EPIC HOUSE BATTLE

MON 29TH JAN - FRIDAY 2ND FEB
7AM-7PM DAILY
FINISHES AT 3PM ON FRIDAY!

WHICH HOUSE WILL BE VICTORIOUS?