



## Quick Links

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## Headteacher's Message

Over the course of the last two weeks, staff have received some refresher training on how we use our Stay on Green Behaviour Policy and the importance of 'reflection time' in helping children make sense of their feelings and actions so that they can take responsibility for their mistakes and make a plan to repair the harm.

To 'reflect' means to 'think deeply about'. If a child makes a mistake with their behaviour and causes disruption or harm, we will always encourage and support them to reflect on the situation. We often use a reflection sheet to help them with this, which supports a conversation. During reflection time, the children will think through specific questions:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking and feeling at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected?
- How have you been affected?
- What needs to happen to put things right?
- What do you need?
- How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?
- What can I/we do to help you?

Interestingly, the question 'why..?' doesn't feature. Often children don't know why they did something as they are responding to an emotion and not much thought goes into it. We find that by talking situations through, everyone comes to a much better understanding and are more likely to learn from their mistakes.

We will be sharing some further information with parents about how we apply our behaviour policy at school in the coming weeks.

I have been pleased to see how many children have chosen to take part in our enrichment clubs this term. Between 3.20pm and 4.20pm each day, the school has been a hive of activity with children immersing themselves in new and exciting clubs including a new Get Active and Henna club.

We have many more enrichment opportunities planned for this term. Read on to find out more.

Siân McCarthy

## General Information

### Staff News

I am delighted to share the news that Mrs Bourne and her husband are expecting their first child. Baby Bourne is due to arrive in early August. Please join me in congratulating them on this very special news!



### Break the Rules Day – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

This is a polite reminder that we have our FOWO Break the Rules Day coming up (Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January). Take a look at the FOWO section for the Wire for more information.



## World Thinking Day/Founders Day – Girl Guides and Scouts



World Thinking Day is celebrated by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world on **22nd February** each year. Boy Scouts also mark 22nd February but call it Founders Day.

The aim of this day is to bring together children from all over the world (nearly 150 countries take part) to celebrate international friendships, raise money and think about a global theme, which is changed each year.

The Theme for World thinking day 2024 is '**Our World, Our Thriving Future**'. We invite all children who attend any groups connected to the Scout movement to wear their uniforms to school on this day (**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**).

## Parental Engagement

As you may remember from the Autumn Term, we shared a survey with parents and carers regarding parental engagement opportunities. The responses gathered from this survey has provided us with useful information to help us when planning events to engage our parents/carers such as parent workshops and information evening sessions. With this in mind, we have taken the decision that any workshops which are just for information sharing - such as key details for residential trips - we will provide a virtual presentation or video for parents/carers to access at their leisure. For events or workshops that require more active engagement, we will invite parents/carers into school. We are hoping this will support you to engage with the content we are sharing more readily, as well as providing purposeful opportunities to invite you into school in person. Look out for more information regarding an exciting parent event that will be coming up in the Summer Term; this will be shared with parents/carers in the near future.

## Curriculum Information – Topic Webs

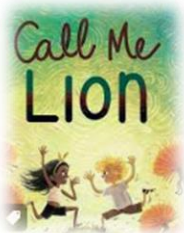
The new topic webs for this half term are now available to view on our school website and are a great source of information for parents as well as useful conversation starters with the children, about their learning. Have a look at the curriculum area of the website for further information.

<https://www.waltonoakprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=7>



## Reading

### Book Review



One of our adult volunteers, Mrs Warne, gifted 4G a book at Christmas. Molly was the first to read it and wrote the following review:



'Call me Lion' is an amazing book of friendship and passion about a boy called Leo with SM (selective mutism). He wants to talk but he can't talk. But his secret is, he has a love for dance. No-one else knows about this but he loves it. He made a friend called Richa, she's very chatty. Leo found out Richa goes to Just Jive too. But Richa has a huge secret, she can't read or write. She doesn't want

anyone to know so she pretends she can but really she can't. One day, Leo spread her secret and found out the only way to make things better was to perform'





## 100 Reads

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

Thomas - Squirrels	Bertie - Squirrels	Eden - Squirrels
Anaiah - Hedgehogs	Lydia - Hedgehogs	Max - Hedgehogs
Chloe - Hedgehogs	Roman - Hedgehogs	Alice - 1A
Honor - 1A	Finley - 1A	William L - 1A
Sandra - 1H	Dylan - 1H	Ivy - 1H
Ben - 3C	Anoushka - 3C	Sophie - 3C
Ameila - 3C	Kiri-Mai - 3C	Jessica B - 3C
Libby - 3C	Pheobe K - 4G	Florence - 4G
Lisa - 6P	Mary - 6P	Lukas - 6P
Bilal - 6P	Lyra - 6P	Harriet - 6P

## 150 Reads

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

Andy - Squirrels	Hattie - Hedgehogs	Luke - Hedgehogs
Jackson - Hedgehogs	Max - Hedgehogs	Rory - 1A
Thomas - 1A	Lily - 1H	William - 1H
Fionn - 1H	Harriet - 6P	

## World Book Week - w/c 4<sup>th</sup> March

To celebrate World Book Day and all things reading, we will be holding a very special 'Walton Oak's World Book Week' (WOW Book Week) during the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March. There are a range of exciting learning experiences planned for across the week. More details will follow but for now, please add to your diaries:

**Reading Escape Rooms - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March.** The children will get to take part in an exciting adventure to escape from Crow Castle. This promises to be a fantastic way to launch the week for children across the school. We will be asking for a small voluntary contribution towards this event. The picture to the right is a snippet taken from their website.

*Escape Crow Castle is an all-action, immersive event that focuses on books and reading in a highly engaging way. It is a unique way to provide enrichment to the curriculum, develop reading skills and to promote a love of books and reading for all pupils from EYFS to Year 10.*



**Author Visit - Kimba, a rapping poet, will be visiting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>.** He will perform his poetry to the whole school in the morning and will then run some workshops for some KS2 children during the day.



*For children in EYFS & KS1 their castle is being pestered by a troublesome baby dragon who just loves to read. Our queen is looking for brave volunteers to go back into the stories and reveal a spell to rid the castle of this pesky visitor. Children will work in teams and use their initial letter sounds, phonics, spelling and reading skills to find and cast the spell, in an exciting race against time as the baby dragon is now in their school too!*

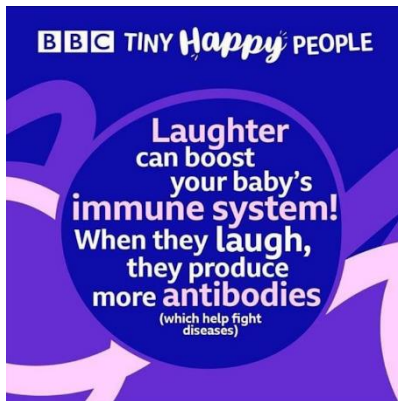


**Bedtime Stories evening - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> (5.30 - 7.00pm).** All children are invited to this special event, along with their parents/carers to share stories and a hot chocolate before bedtime. Bring a blanket/cushion, wear your pyjamas and snuggle together for a story in 'dens' set up around the school.

**Dress Up Day - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> - children are invited to dress up as a book character.** There will be some extra reading related activities planned for the day.



## Tiny Happy People



This week's activity is building scrap people. Have a go at building some scrap people using items from around your house. The recycling is always a good place to rummage to find some boxes, tubes, cartons etc to help. All children love to build, especially out of boxes! Let their imagination run wild. Click on the link below to watch a short clip to give you some ideas.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/building-scrap-people/zm3d8xs>

We'd love to see any creations you make with your children. Send a photo into the office of any of your amazing creations.

## Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



## In the news this week

A study from the University of Valencia, in Spain, found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading, for example, on an e-reader or tablet. The study, published in the Review of Educational Research, also found that while there is a negative relationship between digital reading and comprehension for primary school pupils, the relationship turns positive for secondary school-aged pupils.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you enjoy reading? If so, what type of books?
- > Talk to someone at home about the types of books they like to read.
- > Do you think you would prefer to read printed books, or books on an e-reader?
- > Do you think that one day, e-readers will replace books?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

## 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 Rock Star characters (or a general rock star theme for children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1). We look forward to seeing the range of rock star outfits on display that day!

### Y6 Boys' Football Match

On Thursday, the Year 6 boys' football team travelled to Bell Farm for their first match of the New Year. Despite a loss, we were super proud of how well the boys played in the freezing weather and against a very tough opponent! There was some great play and the boys were rewarded with a fantastic goal, scored by Harrison. The resilience that the team has shown this year has not gone unnoticed, and although the games have not always gone their way, the team has, and continues to, remain positive. The saying goes 'a picture is worth a 1000 words' and we feel this is certainly the case with yesterday's team photo - big smiles and lots of layers! Onto the next one...

Miss Pott and Miss Gardner



### Enrichment Activities

#### Year 2 Polar Regions Workshop

On Monday, children from Year 2 took part in a Polar Regions Workshop with OpenBox Theatre. The children ventured to the freezing North and South Poles to learn facts about these different regions. They considered the temperature of Antarctica and how scientists survive while they are living and working there. Did you know that spaghetti will freeze if you take it outside in Antarctica. The children also thought and learnt about the many different animals that live in the coldest parts of our world. They made sure the adults from Open Box Theatre didn't confuse matters by sharing their facts about Polar Bears and that they only live in the Arctic and not Antarctica!



All of the children were incredibly well behaved and represented Walton Oak brilliantly by showing wonderful levels of engagement, listening to the tour guides and answering questions - even when they were not quite sure of the answer. The children also used their imaginations fantastically as they travelled to the top and to the bottom of our wonderful earth.

#### Year 3 Roman Workshop



Year 3 had a visit from OpenBox Theatre Company on Monday. They took part in a Roman workshop where they had fun learning about how the Romans lived, what they wore and ate and how to be a Roman soldier. They thoroughly enjoyed marching around the hall and taking part in the chair of knowledge. Some of the children in Year 3 wrote thank you letters to the presenters Ken and Ian,

Thank you for coming to our school to show us how Romans lived. We appreciate the stickers and how funny you two were. I really wish you two could come back. Thank you for teaching us how to be soldiers. *Jaxon, 3N*





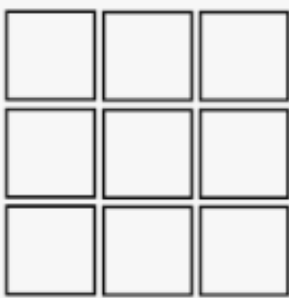
Thank you for showing us how the Romans lived. I loved how we acted as Romans and how they did things. I enjoyed the chair of knowledge and learning new facts about Romans. You two are very funny and that was the best workshop. *Sophie, 3C*

#### Coming up for Year 4 - Date for your diary

Next half term, Year 4 will take part in an exciting project of Heroes vs Villains. This is led by the teachers in Year 4 and is a programme created by the charity Delight. Over the half term, children develop the skills, language and confidence to create their own Hero vs Villain dance stories which they document in a Dance Journal and perform to families. The performance and sharing of stories to carers will be on the afternoon of **Wednesday 27th March**. More details to follow in the near future.

#### Y3 and 4 Maths Day

On Thursday, six children from Years 3 and 4 travelled to take part in an exciting Maths workshop at Cardinal Newman School.



"Yesterday, I went to a Maths day. We played a game where you roll 6 dice. The numbers could be 6, 5, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Then you could either use times or divide to try and reach a number for example - the biggest or smallest using all 4 operations. I also enjoyed the magic square game." *Daisy, Y3*

#### Magic Square:

Using the digits 1-9 once each, can you make all the rows, columns and diagonals add up to the same number?

"At the Maths day yesterday, we made a dinosaur with cubes. The cubes were different colours and were all worth a different amount. We had to make our dinosaur using cubes with a value of 540. We did a lot of different maths activities. Some of the activities were tricky but we had fun." *Poppy and Pheobe K, Y4*



#### Pastoral News

##### Looking after a child or young person's mental health

Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age which supports being mentally healthy.

**Be there to listen** - regularly ask your child how they are doing, to help them get used to talking about their feelings and know there's always someone there to listen. You can get top tips on 'young minds: how to talk to children about mental health'.

**Stay involved in their lives** - show interest in their life and what's important to them.

**Take what they say seriously** - listening to and adding value to what they say makes them feel heard. Consider how you could help them work through their emotions in a constructive way.

**Support them through their difficulties** - pay attention to how your child is feeling or behaving. It may not be easy facing challenging behaviour.

**Encourage their interests** - support and encourage your child to explore their interests, this will drive their enthusiasm and boost their mental wellbeing.

**Build positive routines** - develop structures around routine, healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also important, so ensure you have a fixed time for going to bed and getting up. The sleep charity has relaxation sleep tips for children.



### 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-1396659>



#### FOWO Meeting Update

Thank you to everyone who came to the FOWO open meeting last Friday. It was great to see some new faces! We discussed last term's activities and started planning events for this term, including the return of cake sales and the family Beetle Drive (games afternoon) in March. The termly meetings are open to all parents, carers and staff associated with the school, and we always welcome new people. Next term's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7pm.

#### Break the Rules Day, Wednesday 31st January

Get ready for Break the Rules Day on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. For one day only, children are invited to break the rules – detailed below. 50p per rule broken or £3 to break them all! Please bring cash and hand it in at drop-off.

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Face paint                      | Fancy footwear (no heels) |
| • Mufti top                       | Temporary tattoo          |
| • Mufti skirt, trousers or shorts | Nail varnish              |
| • Non-school bag                  | Crazy hair                |
| • Any snack (NO NUTS!)            | Crazy tie                 |

#### Affiliate Fundraising

FOWO has a number of fundraising links where we earn money from retailers when you shop with them. These include [easy fundraising](#), which raises money from over 8,000 retailers when you shop online, Stikins and Stampstastic clothes labels and the Elmbridge Lottery. All of these are really useful schemes for raising money for our school! We encourage you to find out more and sign up where possible. Full details can be found in the FOWO section of the school website, please keep checking back as these will be updated as and when we find out about more schemes:

<https://www.waltonoakprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Fundraising+Links&pid=125>

#### 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, Sarah Shotton, FOWO Secretary, writes about what she does.

*I'm Sarah, mum to two children who are in Reception and Year 2. I have been on the FOWO Committee since 2022 as Secretary, which means, alongside generally helping with FOWO fundraising events, I also minute and document all our meetings and the annual AGM. I have really enjoyed being a part of FOWO. I like how flexible it is and that there is no expectation of how much time you need to give or how you need to help. There are always lots of different ways you can get involved due to the many different fundraising events that FOWO puts on. I have really enjoyed getting to know all the other members of FOWO, it's been a great way to meet other parents outside of my children's year groups.*



## Celebrations



### Achievements outside of School



Well done to Mollie and Savannah, 4D who earned their Blue Peter Badge for reading. We are very proud of them. What great ambassadors for reading they are!

### Gold Leaves

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

Butterflies	Alison
Hedgehogs	Bobby, Ryan & Roman
1A	Rafe, Sandy, Jolie & Honor
2C	Nancy, Mia, Millie, Edward & Hayden
2D0	Mary
3C	Kiri-Mai
3N	Noah, Brody, Jaxon, Dino & Immy
4D	Isaac & Nina
4G	Phoebe k, Skyler & Leo
5P	Loui & Arlo
6G	Lola
6P	Blake Harriet Tommy & Zahara

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