



WALTON OAK WIRE

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Headteacher's Message



Today was a truly extraordinary day and a first for me and Walton Oak, with staff and children attending school dressed as Rock Stars! This was a perfect end to what has been a very exciting and immersive maths week, with Times Tables Rock Star battles and an Apprentice style challenge.

Today's dress up day was in aid of the NSPCC Number Day which supports the 'Speak out Stay safe' programme to help children understand what abuse is and what to do if they're scared or worried. Whilst dressing up is fun and helps raise money for the school or for charities, it also helps support a sense of belonging with everyone collectively feeling part of something special. The children managed very well to remain dedicated to their learning whilst sporting the alternative style uniform.

You will have received a separate newsletter about maths week which has captured the highlights of the week regarding the children's learning and engagement. The challenge of designing and making maths games has involved true to life handling of money. Children have been managing budgets, spending money in our makeshift shop and working out profits in addition to exploring the mathematical concepts required to make maths games. The teachers thought carefully about areas of our maths curriculum that their children would benefit from focusing on this week and planned meaningful learning opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in those areas.

Thank you to our staff for providing the children with such a purposeful week and to the children for being their best. Thank you also to Mrs Bourne for leading another successful Walton Oak maths week. It was great to welcome so many parents and carers to our Maths Market this afternoon to purchase your children's creations. I hope you all enjoy trying these out at home.

Looking ahead, we have a few things coming up in February starting with the Year 3 sleepover at school tonight! I look forward to sharing their experiences with you next week.

Mon 5th Feb	The start of Children's mental health week
Tues 6th Feb	Safer internet day
Tues 6th Feb	Eduthing Webinar for parents – Navigating the Digital Landscape (see flyer below)
Weds 7th Feb	Nursery Cinderella Ball
Mon 12th Feb	Half term break – 1 week
Thurs 22nd Feb	World Thinking day/Founders day – children who attend girl guide/scout organisations can wear uniforms to school
Fri 23rd Feb	FOWO Uniform/World Book Day costumes sale and year 3 and 4 cake sale
Tues 27th Feb	FEET FIRST: Walking training Y3 (over 2 days)
Mon 4th March	The start of World Book week for all and Reading escape room YR-6
Thurs 7th March	Bedtime stories evening (5.30-7pm)
Fri 8th March	Book Character dress up day

Siân McCarthy

General Information

Parent Learning Conference - Save the Date!

Parents and carers were sent an important flyer via email yesterday, detailing the date for our upcoming event - the Walton Oak Parent Learning Conference (Wednesday 24th April 2024). The flyer is also attached to the end of the Wire so please do refer to it for all of the necessary information. At the moment, this is just a 'save the date' - further details will be shared with parents/carers in the very near future.



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



Contact Details

Please remember to complete the online form 'Walton Oak Change of Contact Details' on our website if your address, telephone number or email has changed.

Children's Mental Health Week



Next week is children's mental health week and as a school we will be working on a number of different activities to promote the theme of 'Your Voice Matters'. The week will be launched with an assembly created by the children and each day the children will be taking part in an activity linked to the wheel of wellbeing.

Throughout the week, we would like the children to think about things that are important to them. We would love for everyone to send in a photo with a small quote about why they have chosen this to the school office email for the attention of Miss Langley. We will be sharing updates throughout the week and encourage you to talk to your children about the things discussed in mental health week.

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 22nd February**).

Need Help or Support Navigating the Digital World?

Our IT support company, Eduthing, are hosting an interactive webinar for parents and carers around keeping children safe online on **Tuesday 6th February 2024** – don't miss out! Please take a look at the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Reading

100 Reads

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



Jannat - Hedgehogs	Eva B – 1H	Mason – 1H
Saffanah – 1H	Sofia – 1H	Cora – 2DO
Cornelia – 2DO	Emily S – 2DO	Jacob - 2DO
Jasmine – 2DO	Lula – 2DO	Mary – 2DO
Amelie – 4D	Ishara – 5B	Jemima – 5B
Vadim – 5B		

150 Reads

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

Matthew - Hedgehogs	Eliza – 2DO	Emily G – 2DO
Jemima – 5B		

200 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 200 reads this week:

Lily – 1H	William – 1H	Thomas – 5B
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Tiny Happy People

Making sock puppets!



This week's activity is making sock puppets with your child. A fun and free activity that encourages imagination, vocabulary and role play. Watch the video on the link for some ideas.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/making-sock-puppet/z92rjfr>

Lots of fun to be had by all the family. Email the office with any photos of your sock puppets, we'd love to see them!

Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



Is fashion important?

In the news this week

A new BBC television programme, called Style It Out, gives nine young promising fashion designers from all over the UK the chance to compete in designing different outfits. The winner will have their clothes showcased at London Fashion Week. The main focuses of the challenge are creativity and sustainability, with the contestants having to use second-hand materials. As people's awareness of the impact of fast fashion increases, sustainable clothing is becoming more at the forefront of shoppers' minds.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Can you remember the last item of clothing you bought or were given? Where was it from and what was it for?
- > What does 'being fashionable' mean to you? Is it important to you? Talk to others at home.
- > What do you do with the clothes that you no longer need or that no longer fit?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Extra-Curricular Events

Dinosaur Day - Reception

On Wednesday, Hedgehogs and Squirrels had a fantastic Dinosaur day, the children dressed up as dinosaurs and did lots of exciting Dinosaur themed activities. This included doing a drama workshop where they learned facts about dinosaurs, they did some dinosaur role play and played some dinosaur themed games.



Fairytale Land - Nursery

This week in Nursery, the children enjoyed a drama workshop to enhance the learning from their topic 'I wonder....what happens happily ever after?' During the workshop, the children went on an adventure to Fairytale Land and came across princesses, knights and giants. They travelled in a big bubble and met the Princess' evil sister. It was great fun and the children got very involved.



Sports Fixtures

It has been another busy week for sport here at Walton Oak.



Year 6 Mixed Netball

To kick off the week, the Year 6 Mixed Netball team travelled to St Ann's Heath for their second netball game of the season. The team worked hard to create space across the court and were rewarded with plenty of opportunities. After a tricky first quarter and some incredibly tall oppositional players, the team came together for a quick chat and some positional changes, before making a great comeback from 4-0 to 5-3. Great effort.

Year 5 Boy's Football Team

The Year 5 Boys' Football Team were at home this week to Grovelands in their second ever match together, and for some of the boys, their first ever time playing. The team worked brilliantly together and it was clear to see the progress they had made. Despite a loss, there was lots for the boys to be proud of and some great points to consider moving forward.



Year 5 & 6 Girls Football

Yesterday, it was the turn of the Year 5 & 6 Girls. St Cuthbert's arrived as the girls were warming up for what was set to be a fantastic game. With an early goal from St Cuthbert's, the girls worked hard to level the score, and both teams went into the second half with a goal each. The girls hit the ground running straight from the whistle and were able to capitalise twice on some great passages of play, running the ball down the line twice for a final score of 3-1 to Walton Oak. A special mention goes to Mary and Lyra, our goal scorers of the match.

Y4 LLT TTRS Battle



This week, the Year 4 children across Lumen Learning Trust have been battling it out on Times Tables Rock Stars. It has been one almighty battle, with Walton Oak being in the top two spots across the week. Saxon and Riverbridge have been rapidly earning more points as the week has gone on which has kept the Walton Oak children on their toes. The competition ended at 3pm

today and we can now reveal that the class who has been crowned Top of the Rocks and will get to display the TTRS trophy in their classroom for the next half term is: 4T at Riverbridge! A huge well done to the Year 4 children here at Walton Oak; you managed to secure second place overall as a school and both classes ended the battle in the top 5 classes across the whole Trust. The top 3 players from Walton Oak were:

1st - Nina 4D

2nd - Mert 4D

3rd - Annabelle 4G

Enrichment Activities

Maths Week - The Young Apprentice

What an incredible buzz there has been around school this week as the children have immersed themselves in this year's Maths Week theme: The Young Apprentice. Mrs. Bourne has written a special Maths Week newsletter to share all of the wonderful learning experiences the children have engaged with across the week. Find out all about our young entrepreneurs via the separate Maths Week newsletter!





Pastoral News

Children's Mental Health Week

Place2Be is a leading children's mental health charity and ahead of next week they have put together some top tips written by children and young people to help you start the conversation with your child about mental health.

Take a look at the two flyers attached to the end of this newsletter for further information.



Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Walton Oak Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint two enthusiastic Teaching Assistants who can bring high quality support to children in our Early Years Foundation Stage. We are looking for individuals who are not afraid to make mud pies and, if asked to be a zoo keeper, can jump into role and be immersed in the children's play. For more information please click the link at the side of page 1.

Saxon Primary School is recruiting: We are seeking to appoint a highly motivated, proactive, flexible and reliable individual for the role of 1:1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Saxon Primary School. This is an opportunity for an individual who is patient and resilient to join our friendly, inclusive and aspirational team of teaching and support staff. For more information please click the link at the side of page 1

Darley Dene 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 click the link at the side of page 1.

Darley Dene Primary School is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a Early years teaching assistant who has a passion for creating lifelong learners, is committed to inclusion and equality and has high expectations of themselves and every child. If you would like to become a part of our friendly and inclusive support staff team and for more information please click the link at the side of page 1.

House Competitions



TTRS and Maths Games House Competition

It has been a fierce Maths-themed battle this week. Children in Years 2-6 have been showing off their times tables skills in a bid to earn as many house points as possible. In Reception and Year 1, the children have been playing a range of interactive Maths games to earn themselves points for their house team. There has been one house who has managed to maintain a steady lead across the week but this has only encouraged others to work even harder in a bid to close the gap. The children have worked so hard - whilst also being young entrepreneurs - and have earnt many points for their houses. I can now reveal that the final scores (based on average total points scored) are as follows:

- 1st - **Griffin** - 1879
- 2nd - **Phoenix** - 1555
- 3rd - **Pegasus** - 1230
- 4th - **Dragon** - 871





One child in particular deserves special recognition for showing utter dedication to his house team throughout the week. Magnus (5P) earnt a whopping 48, 117 points alone. He has been our top player across the entire week and made it incredibly hard for anyone to catch him. Magnus - I am sure Griffin are hugely grateful for your immense contribution to this competition. Well done to you!

The points from the TTRS battle will be added to the points that our Reception and Year 1 children earned by playing Maths games this week. Totals will then be added to our House Board in the hall and we will be able to determine who the overall winner of this term's house competition was. Look out for this information in next week's Wire.

Staff House Competition

As you may be aware, every member of staff is also part of one of our house teams and they too have had their own competition with a TTRS theme this week. Today, all of the staff who dressed up as a rock star automatically earned their house 5 points. In addition, some members of staff were voted 'best dressed' for their dressing-up efforts and earnt themselves bonus points for their house team. Well done to the following members of staff who were voted 'best dressed':

1st – Miss Pott – **Dragon**

2nd – Mrs. Murray – **Pegasus**

3rd – Miss Langley - **Dragon**



All house points from this week's competitions will be added together and added to the totals already earnt this year. We will provide an update next week before we head into our half term break!



FOWO

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 Stamptastic 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>

Recycle Plastic Party Toys with FOWO

FOWO would welcome your unwanted party bag and cracker toys to reuse as event prizes. It helps you to have a clear-out and helps us cut back on costs. We will have a collection tub at every cake / uniform sale for donations to be handed in.

Bag2School Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported January's Bag2School collection, we raised an amazing £155! For comparison, last January we raised £125 and last June £85.

Break The Rules Thanks

Thank you for all your support with Break The Rules Day, we're pleased to announce that it raised a £706!





Celebrations

Gold Leaves

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

Hedgehogs	Lucas, Dani-Louise & Holly
Squirrels	Penelope, Ariya, Edith, Michael, Cecie, Bertie & Alisa
2DO	Jacob
3C	Zach, Luca, Teddy, Jemima, Ronnie, Ishara & Libby
3N	Jack, Alex, Daisy, Brody, Vincent, Elliot, Georgia, Eva, Maya & Amelie
4D	Amelie, Ronnie & Mia
4G	Florence
5B	Tate & Abbie
5P	Fareeha & Eva

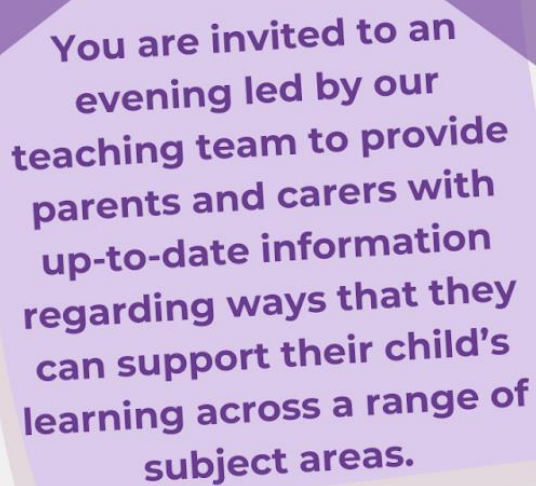
On behalf of the Walton Oak staff team we wish you a pleasant weekend.





Walton Oak Parent Learning Conference 2024

SAVE THE DATE:
Wednesday 24th April
5.30-7.30pm



You are invited to an evening led by our teaching team to provide parents and carers with up-to-date information regarding ways that they can support their child's learning across a range of subject areas.



More
information
to follow
soon!





Support poster

Emotional & mental health crisis line for children, young people and parents.

Free to call and open 24/7.

Call: 0800 915 4644

Neurodevelopmental helpline for parents of children with ADHD and/or ASD. Open 5pm to 11pm every day.

Call: 0300 222 5755

Scan me for other helpful support



Scan me to visit My Safety Plan



Mindworks website
www.mindworks-surrey.org





NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

AN INTERACTIVE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS AROUND KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE

It's not easy getting kids off screens, is it? Let alone protecting them from online predators, cyberbullying and the damaging effects of pornography.

But as parents & carers you play a CRUCIAL role ensuring the online safety of your children.🌐

You hold the key to ensuring the online safety of your children in this digital age. Empower yourself with confidence by joining my Zoom webinar '**Navigating the Digital Landscape: Empowering Parents for Online Safety Across Different Ages**' where you'll gain invaluable insights into fortifying your family's digital fortress

🚀 Webinar Highlights:

- **Proactive Parenting Strategies:** Uncover effective strategies to proactively manage your child's online presence, promoting a secure and positive digital environment.
- **Age-Tailored Guidance:** Discover age-specific tips to navigate the digital landscape at every stage of your child's development.
- **Practical Tools and Techniques:** Equip yourself with practical tools and techniques to implement parental controls, monitor online activities, and cultivate responsible digital habits.
- **Interactive Q&A Session:** Have burning questions? Get them answered live. Engage in a dynamic Q&A session tailored to address your specific concerns.
- **Building Digital Resilience:** Learn how to foster resilience in your children, empowering them to face the online world confidently and make informed choices.

Book your place today:

📅 **Save the Date: Tuesday 6th February at 7pm on Zoom**

💻 **Connect From Anywhere:** No need to leave the cosy corners of your home via Zoom and connect with fellow parents on this important digital journey.

💎 **Don't miss out on this opportunity** to elevate your role as a digital guardian. Register now for this Zoom webinar and embark on a transformative experience that promises to redefine your approach to online safety.

📝 Register and Embrace Digital Parenthood with Confidence!

🌟 Together, Let's Navigate the Digital Landscape for a Safer Tomorrow for our Kids! 🌟



Click or Scan Here

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**My VOICE
MATTERS**



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR
ONLINE LIFE LIKE?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO
TO HELP YOU?

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



My VOICE MATTERS

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**



LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- ① We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- ② I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- ③ Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- ④ Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- ⑤ Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- ⑥ Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures).
- ⑦ Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- ⑧ If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- ⑨ Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school – because they 'get it'.
- ⑩ Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGI8

For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK