



WALTON OAK WIRE

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Quick Links

Term Dates

School Calendar

FOWO

Uniform

School Meals

Pastoral Support Team

Trust Jobs

Online Forms



Headteacher's Message

It's been a weather beaten first week back but thankfully the sun shone today - I hope that's a sign of things to come. Thank you for ensuring your children are prepared for the wet weather. It has meant that they can still go outside on the drizzly days and get some much needed fresh air and exercise, which is so important. There are currently lots of exciting plans in place to refresh our lunch time offer for the children, starting with training next week for staff and children on how to successfully use the new PlayPod on KS2 and the restocked PlayPod on KS1. Look out for the new signage.

On 6th March, we will open the PlayPods and Woody Oaks as part of our regular playtime provision. Children will have the opportunity to utilise the range of scrap items in the PlayPod sheds to develop their imaginative play. I envisage den building, swing and hammock building, dressing up and imaginative games across the age groups. We will certainly share some experiences and photos with you all in the coming weeks.

Going forward, we will also be introducing some new equipment and revised play spaces, hopefully allowing us to relax rotas in certain zones, offering children a more engaging a free choice of activities. For many children, lunch times are the only opportunity to play which such a high level of freedom and safety and engage with a wide number of peers. There is so much to be gained from this both physically and socially, therefore we want to create a sustainable offer. Equipment quickly gets lost or damaged from wear and tear, so with this in mind we have bought into a refill service of scrap which will take place four times a year. However, I am also keen to share a wish list with parents and carers, so that if you are having a clear out you might think of us first – see the General Information section below.

Some other exciting news is that the NSPCC made contact with Mrs. Bourne this week to express their amazement regarding the work that the children put in across Maths Week. They said they were 'bowled over' by the whopping £617.94 that was donated to them as a result of the profit raised from the Maths Market, where children sold the products they had made. Not only will they be sending us a certificate to display here at school, they have also featured us on the fundraising page of their website in their 'Idea of the Month' section. You can see the article by following this link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/charity-fundraising/schools-fundraising-ideas/>

We are so proud of this achievement and really pleased that the NSPCC have recognised us as a school for our fundraising initiative and efforts.

Siân McCarthy

General Information

Staffing News

We were joined by two new Teaching Assistants before half term, Mrs Sexstone who has joined the Year 1 team and (another) Mrs Hamper who has joined Years 3 and 5. They already feel part of the team. Next Friday, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Port, Year 2 Teaching Assistant. We wish her all the best for the future.



Nursery

To support our current topic, 'I wonder...what happens under the water?' we have arranged for the children to take part in a pirate drama workshop. It will take place at school on Wednesday 20th March and will support the learning focus for that week which is all about pirates. The children are invited to dress as a pirate for this day or add an accessory such as a hat or eye patch.



Lumen Summer Camp 2024 is coming!



For those families looking ahead to the summer break we are delighted to share that we will be operating a Lumen Summer Camp from Monday 29th July to Friday 9th August at our Echelford Primary School site in Ashford. Staffed by teachers and teaching assistants drawn from our school staff teams - as well as trusted Lumen partners - families can be confident about the quality care their children will receive. More information will be featured in school newsletters, on our Camp website and Facebook page later in March with our booking site going live after the Easter break. We look forward to sharing more detail with you in the coming weeks.

Playtime Donations

We would be keen to have donations of any of the following:

For the Scrapstore:

- Suitcases
- Trunkies (or similar sit on, wheeled suitcases)
- Buggies/prams (actual size)
- Adult clothes for dressing up over uniform
- Adult size uniform e.g. nurse, doctor, army etc
- Handbags or brief cases
- Soft toys
- Sofa cushions
- Blankets
- Any den making material such as tarpaulin/nets etc
- Old landline phones (wires removed)
- Old desktop keyboards (wires removed)
- Old vacuum cleaner (empty with wired removed)
- Large boxes (that children can fit inside)
- Crate type items/plastic boxes
- Cardboard tubes of different lengths
- Anything that may enhance children's creative play (that can be made safe)

For the Toyshed:

- Car mats and/or cars and small vehicles
- Car garages
- Train sets
- Lego or building/construction type toys
- Board games (not electrical)
- Felt tips (that work) or colouring pencils
- Colouring books
- Wordsearch books
- Small world toys of any kind and accessories
- Cindy/Barbie type dolls and accessories
- Dolls house
- Toy animals or dinosaurs
- Baby dolls and accessories such as prams, beds, clothes etc.
- Dolls house
- Children's scooters
- Finger skateboards and accessories like ramps
- Garden games such as bat and ball, swingball, hoops etc.



Reading

100 Reads

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



Cole - Hedgehogs	Shay - Squirrels	Dylan – 2C
Ronnie – 2DO	Joshua – 3N	Brody – 3N
Noah – 3N		

150 Reads

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

Holly - Hedgehogs	Lydia - Hedgehogs	Nancy – 2C
Samuel – 2DO	Jasmine – 2DO	Amelie – 3N
Ayla – 3N	Thomas – 4D	Amelie – 4D
Mollie – 4D	Ariyaana – 4D	

200 Reads

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

Jackson - Hedgehogs	Elizabeth – 2C	Mia – 2C
Samuel – 2DO	Emily – 2DO	Laura – 3N

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting us again from 19th to 22nd March. More details to follow...





Tiny Happy People

Traffic light game!



Do you remember playing this when you were younger, maybe at school, or out playing with your friends?

Here is a simple game that children will love. Follow the link for a brief video.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/rangers-traffic-light-activity/zgvthcw>

You can play this traffic light game anywhere! In the garden, inside the house, at the park - or even at the supermarket!

Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



In the news this week

45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome. Maria del Mar Galcerán Gadea is thought to be the first person with the genetic disorder to join a European regional or national parliament. She has been involved with politics since she was 18, when she joined Spain's conservative People's Party. Speaking to the media, Mar Galcerán said she wants to be seen as a person, and not for her disability.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Make a list of people you find inspirational. What about them inspires you?
- > Think about some of the places you find leaders (e.g., schools, councils, clubs). For each place, how are the leaders chosen? Share how important you think it is for leaders to be from a diverse range of backgrounds and with different experiences.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments



FOWO

Save the date - Family Beetle Drive and Games afternoon – Friday 22nd March, 3.30 – 4.30pm

In place of Springo Bingo, FOWO's Easter Family games event this year will be an old-school Beetle Drive on Friday 22nd March, after school. Beetle is a fun game where you roll a dice, and depending on the number rolled, you draw part of a beetle, e.g., head, legs, etc. The first to complete the Beetle wins a prize. You can play as a team or individually. Don't worry if you don't know all the rules; we'll be providing more information ahead of the event and will run through it all on the day itself. As well as a few rounds of Beetle, there will also be some other games, plus a tuck shop. Tickets to come along will go on sale on Classlist in the next couple of weeks.



Extra-Curricular Events

Panathlon

Today, a group of key stage 2 children took part in a sporting event at Three Rivers Academy. The children played a variety of different games including boccia, target games, tennis and football. The children all earned points and came 4th out of 8 teams earning a well-deserved medal.



Pastoral News

Walton & Hersham Food Bank – Donations Request

Our local food bank is running very low on certain stock. As they are very supportive to our whole community, we are kindly asking for donations to enable them to continue to support those in need. Given the on-going cost of living crisis there is no expectation for you to donate, however if you can and would like to, we have included a list of the most needed items.

- instant noodles
- pasta sauce/ pesto
- tinned/ instant potatoes
- rice
- Ketchup/ Mayonnaise
- long-life sponge pudding
- biscuits/ chocolate/ sweets
- cereal
- vegetables- tinned sweetcorn, carrots/peas
- deodorant

Any donations to support this local charity can be brought to school on **Thursday 29th Feb** or **Friday 1st March** and the pastoral support team will ensure they are gifted to the food bank.



Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Walton Oak Primary School is recruiting:

We are looking to appoint a talented individual who can assist in providing a stimulating, creative and caring environment for children attending the After School Club (Wednesday and Thursday 3.30pm to 6pm). For more information please see: <https://www.eteach.com/job/after-school-club-team-member-1405065> or click the link to 'Jobs in the Trust' on the left hand side of Page one.



Walton Oak Primary School is recruiting:

We are looking to recruit a caring and enthusiastic person to join our Breakfast Club team. The right candidate will be willing to engage children in exciting play that makes them feel welcome and settled in our Breakfast Club (Monday to Friday, 7:25am to 8:35am). For more information please see: <https://www.eteach.com/job/breakfast-club-team-member-1405047> or click the link to 'Jobs in the Trust' on the left hand side of Page one.



Celebrations



Achievements outside of School

Oliver worked hard during the half term break at football camp. He is progressing a lot in football and during the camp he received his first football award for his dedication towards improving his skills and cheering up the whole team – well done, Oliver we are very proud of you!

Gold Leaves

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

Butterflies	Aria & Bella
Hedgehogs	Lydia, Luana, Bradley, Luke, Hattie & Isabel
Squirrels	Penelope & Eden
1A	Ava
2C	Nancy, Hayden & Ebrahim
2DO	Jasmine, Emily, Nikyle, Simon & Tallulah
4G	Ruby & Grace
5B	Matey, Maci & Mimi

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



APPLY NOW!

Doc Hearts Films, makers of the *award winning* hit series '*Reu & Harper's Wonderworld*' and '*Go Green with the Grimwades*', are looking for children **aged between 3 - 7** to take part in the second series of the hit TV series for *Milkshake, Channel 5!*

The programme takes children on a wondrous cultural journey through fun and engaging play dates, where **Reu & Harper** will be invited into the family's home to explore & celebrate different cultures.

We are looking for children of all abilities from various cultural backgrounds that would enjoy having a playdate with **Reu & Harper!**

To apply, please send a video of your child doing the following...

- If possible, please could they introduce themselves to camera telling us their name, age, cultural background, location & their interest/hobby.
- Alternatively, please do include this information in your email or via Makaton, BSL or however your child usually communicates.
- Could they tell us some fascinating facts about their culture?
For example, their favourite festival, food they like to eat, traditional games or national dress?

Video submissions should be emailed to **castingkids@dochearts.com**
The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 3rd March 2024** – but the sooner the better!

Please allow plenty of time to upload your video!





BEING OUR BEST! THE WALTON OAK WAY



Parenting Puzzle Workshop

: At Walton Oak Primary School

Come and find out how to get the best out of family life.
over the 10 week parenting puzzle programme, you will explore lots of
different topic, including:

- Understanding why children behave the way they do
- Recognise the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs)
- exploring different approaches to discipline
- finding ways to develop co operation and self discipline in children
- learning the importance of looking after ourselves

SAVE YOUR SPOT

To find out more and book yourself a place, contact Natasha Herron-Duke (HSLW) at Walton Oak on 07938 645 949

The course will be running on a Friday Morning 9:15-11:15 on the following dates- 26th April 2024, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th May 2024
7th, 14th, 21st and 28th June 2024 and 5th July 2024

if you have completed the parenting puzzle programme before but would still like to join please feel free to enquire.

