



Quick
Links

Term
Dates

School
Calendar

FOWO

Uniform

School
Meals

Pastoral
Support
Team

Trust
Jobs

Online
Forms

Headteacher's Message

We took the first step towards our revised play offer this week with play training for staff and children.

Our lunchtime staff took part in the first two, of three, two hour training sessions that explored the importance of play and got them thinking about: the characteristics of play, the benefits of play and the importance of providing quality play opportunities in a school.

They all spent time thinking about their own play memories and everyone agreed that they felt as though they had much more freedom to explore and take risks when they were children – often without the organisation or supervision of adults. We are much more aware of dangers nowadays and naturally want to keep children safe. However, in doing so it can be easy to restrict children's development as problem solving, socialising, creativity and physical development are important outcomes of play and adults have a terrible habit of intervening and interrupting this flow!

We are learning to ensure that, within the safety of school, children can have a range of experiences that adults carefully monitor and support without interrupting too much, so they can experience the benefits that purposeful play brings.

"Play is serious, yet not serious; trivial yet profound; imaginative and spontaneous, yet bound by rules and anchored in the real world. It is childish, yet underlies many of the greatest accomplishments of adults. From an evolutionary perspective, play is nature's way of ensuring that children and other young mammals will learn what they must to survive and do well" Gray P (2013) *Free to learn*

The children in Key Stage 2 had their first opportunity to explore the items in new PlayPod and involve them in their play. They were adventurous and inventive and had a lot of fun. They also tidied up brilliantly, which will be an important responsibility if this is to work successfully.

Key Stage 1 and Reception will have their turn next week, which will mean that all children will be trained and ready for the official PlayPod opening on Wednesday 6th March. This includes reopening our restocked PlayPod on the KS1 playground too.

Here are some photos of KS2 children having fun. I will be sure to share KS1's adventures next week.



Siân McCarthy





General Information

Staff News

We said goodbye to Mrs Obaid this week who has left to pursue other opportunities. We wish her well for the future.



4D - Class Name Change

Having now spent over half a term with Miss Camamile as their substantive class teacher, the children in 4D have chosen to have their class name changed to 4C. This is effective as of today.

Red Nose Day

You will have received a separate letter today, detailing information for Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March. Please refer to this for all of the key details.

Survey

Surrey County Council are consulting with all residents in Surrey regarding a new road safety strategy which aims to **cut road collisions resulting in death or serious injury, to zero by 2050**.

What is Surrey County Council's Vision Zero Strategy?

The strategy includes a new policy for introducing 20mph speed limits. We will be focusing **on schools, residential areas and town centres**. We will listen to the views of local people before we develop any new scheme. There is no intention that this will be a blanket approach to 20mph limits.

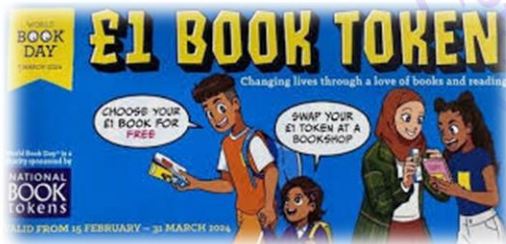
Please give us your say by completing the consultation via the link below:

<http://visionzerosurrey.commonplace.is>

Reading

Walton Oak World Book Week

We are all looking forward to the events that are planned for next week. The children will bring home a book voucher on Monday - these can be exchanged for a book in many local shops including:



- Your local independent bookseller
- Asda
- Blackwell's (selected stores only)
- Sainsbury's
- Tesco
- The Works
- Waterstones
- WH Smith

A reminder about the rest of the week including our Bedtime Stories event where we hope to see you for a story and a hot chocolate:

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March

To launch the week, Subject Revolution, a company that specialises in immersive, hands-on experiences for children in school, will be leading an escape room session for our children from Reception to Year 6. The children will need to read, infer, comprehend, spell, scan, skim and riddle their way to freedom, or face the Crow Queen and be trapped in Crow Castle! **We are requesting a voluntary contribution of £3.50 for this experience. This event is live on SCOPAY.**



Wednesday 6th March

Kimba, the rapping poet, will be visiting our school. He will perform for the whole school and then run some workshops across the day which children will be invited to attend. His book will be available to purchase - more details to follow.

Thursday 7th March

Bedtime Stories evening returns again this year. Please **join us for a story** in the hall from **5.45 - 6pm** followed by a child and parent/carer opportunity to read together from **6.00-7.00pm** in our reading dens. The dens will have been created by our reading ambassadors throughout the day, providing a cosy place to snuggle with a book. Everyone is invited to both aspects of the evening but we appreciate that time may be a factor. There is no expectation for children and parents/carers to stay for the full hour in the reading dens (6.00-7.00pm); it may be that you read a short story together and then head home ready for bed. If you are unable to attend the first part of the evening (5.45-6.00pm), you are welcome to turn up at any time between 6.00-7.00pm to enjoy a story with your child(ren).



Children are invited to come into school that evening in their pyjamas so that they can feel cosy and ready for bed. All children will be welcome to have a hot chocolate and a biscuit when attending the event. If you would like your child to have a hot chocolate whilst at the event, please bring a travel mug or children's mug/cup that would be appropriate to hold the hot chocolate in. You may also wish to bring a pillow and/or cuddly toy to support your child in feeling cosy for this special event.

Friday 8th March

The finale of our week will be a book-themed dress up day. Children will be invited to dress as a book character for the day. There will be some prizes for best costumes in each year group. This is always a fantastic day and the children enjoy not only dressing up themselves but seeing the creations of others.

100 Reads

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

Philip – Squirrels	Julia – 1H	Sidney – 1H
Harrison – 6G	Penny – 6G	Poppy – 6G

150 Reads

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

Edith – Squirrels	William L – 1A	Dylan – 1H
Ivy – 1H	Amelia – 3C	Ben – 3C
Jessica B – 3C	Kiri-Mai – 3C	Libby – 3C
Holly – 4G	Milo – 4G	Evita – 6G
Jessica – 6G		

200 Reads

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

Andy – Squirrels	Annabelle – 4G	
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Tiny Happy People

Talking about feelings with toys



Children will often play out different emotions using their toys and teddies before they know how to use words to express them.

This activity can provide your child with the important words that they will need to verbalise their feelings.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zjsgr2p>

Watch the video clip to show you some examples of how you can play with your child and their toys to discuss feelings.

Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



In the news this week

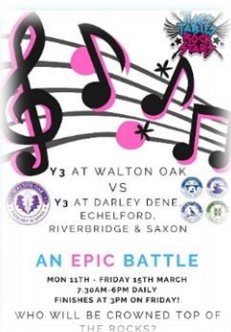
In countries across Europe, including Romania, Belgium, France, Hungary, Poland and Greece, tractors have been blocking city streets and motorways as farmers protest against certain European Union (EU) rules. Their concerns include falling incomes, rising red tape, and competition from imports. Both national governments and the EU are now under pressure to stop the demonstrations. One protesting farmer, Hugo Auge from France, told news reporters for CNN that the current system, 'makes a mockery of both farmers and consumers'.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Talk about the actions that farmers across the EU are taking and why you think they chose to block roads as one of their actions.
- > What are some of the other ways you can take action if you don't agree with something?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Extra-Curricular Events



Year 3 LLT TTRS Battle

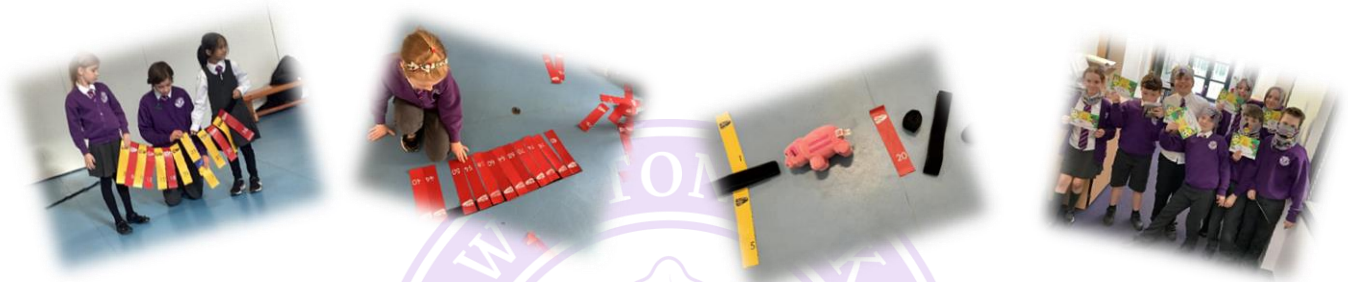
During the week commencing 11th March, the children in Year 3 will be battling it out on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) against the other Year 3 classes across the Trust. The battle will go live on Monday 11th March at 7.30am. Game play will then be open between 7.30am-6.00pm each day that week, with the competition closing at 3.00pm on the Friday. Which Year 3 class will be crowned Top of the Rocks? Come on 3C and 3N - you can do it!



Enrichment Activities

Tagtiv8 Workshops

On Monday, we were lucky enough to have the inventor of Tagtiv8 - Bryn - in school. Across the day, Bryn led workshops with all of the KS2 classes, showing them the creative ways that they can use the Tagtiv8 resources that we have in school to support them with their Maths learning and development. The children were thoroughly engaged and displayed such enthusiasm throughout their sessions. Bryn was so impressed with the children and spoke so positively about his experience working with them and seeing their creative minds working collaboratively to reach great outcomes. He was particularly impressed with our Sports Leaders who became 'Tagtiv8 Champions' for the day and supported the workshops with all of the other year groups/classes. After school, Bryn led a training session for all of the class teachers, providing them with further practical ways in which the Tagtiv8 resources and initiatives can be used to enhance our provision in school - and not just in Maths. We are really looking forward to using what we have learnt to further support more active learning in school. Thank you to Mrs. Bourne and Miss Pott for arranging this purposeful day.



Feet First - Year 3

The children in Year 3 completed their Feet First: Walking training this week. They learnt about:

- The Green Cross Code and how to cross the road safely
- How to use different types of pedestrian crossings
- Understanding different road signs
- Recognising safe and unsafe places to cross

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the children went out of school onto the local streets as they were led by a member of the Surrey County Council. The children showed off what they had learnt and walked safely outside of school.

Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

Lumen Learning Trust is recruiting: We are seeking an experienced, enthusiastic individual for the role of Governance Professional and Clerk to Directors to join our growing Trust, this is a part time role that offers flexible term time working. For more information please click on the link at the side of page 1.



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 click on the link at the side of page 1.

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 click on the link at the side of page 1.

Riverbridge Primary School 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. For more information please click on the link at the side of page 1.



Pastoral News

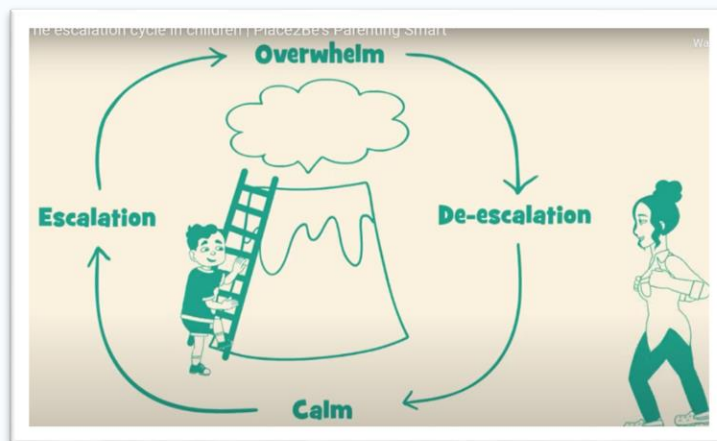


A huge thank you for all the food bank donations we received this week. The foodbank is very grateful.

Place 2 Be Parenting Smart

Place 2 Be has created a great section of their website to support parents in managing a range of topics. We will share links to different tips each week; this week the focus is on de-escalation strategies when children are having big feelings.

You can watch a short video here <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/de-escalation-techniques-with-children>



House Competitions



Spring 2 House Competition



The House Captains have been keen to link this term's House Competition to our exciting Reading Week that is taking place next week. For this reason, they came up with a fun reading challenge for all children in Reception to Year 6 to take part in. On Monday, the children will receive their very own Reading Bingo sheet which consists of 16 fun reading challenges for the children to engage with. The children will be awarded 2 house points for each challenge they are able to tick off. If they complete the entire bingo sheet, they will be awarded a bonus 20 house points and will be placed into the prize draw where one lucky child will be selected at random to win a prize! Once your child has completed all of the challenges that they would like to from the bingo sheet, they will need to place their sheet into their 'House Box' which will be located at the school office. The children will have three weeks to complete as many of the reading challenges as possible, with the competition closing on Friday 22nd March. Which house will be victorious this term?





FOWO

On sale next week - Family Beetle Drive and Games afternoon tickets – Friday, 22 nd March, 3.30 – 4.30pm

Tickets will go on sale next week on Classlist for FOWO's Easter Family games event. This year, it will be an old-school Beetle Drive after school on Friday, 22nd March. 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

Fundraising thanks

A big thank you for supporting the Y3/Y4 cake sale and costume sale last week. We're delighted to announce that we raised an amazing £170!

Celebrations

Gold Leaves

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



Butterflies	Cillian
Hedgehogs	Matthew & Cole
1A	Milena, Sienna, Phoebe, Isla, Sandy & Evie
1H	Esmae
2DO	Ilana Emily & Mary
3C	Edith & Zach
3N	Kai, Brody & Jack
4C	Eliza, Ella, Millie, Savannah, Amelie & Ariyaana
4G	Lailah-Grace, Asenath, Milo, Poppy, Freddy, Leo, Pheobe & Holly
5B	Sienna
5P	Nicolas, Eva
6G	Poppy
6P	Aaliyah, Israel, Cayden, James, Blake, Bilal Theo, Eddie, Safya, Lilly, Bilal, Zara & Lyra

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



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.

