



Walnut Tree Walk
PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

4th September 2024



Welcome Back!

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic summer and are ready for the term ahead. The staff have had a busy couple of days setting up the school and undertaking training in many areas. This letter contains lots of the key information you need for the year ahead.

A big welcome to the new Reception children (and families) who join us on Thursday, and to the new Nursery children who are starting over the next couple of weeks.

We have no new staff members this September which has helped us get off to a smooth start. Simon Codling is the only addition from last year but he is not new as he worked at Walnut Tree Walk for many years until quite recently. We are delighted to welcome him back. A slight amendment from the July letter: Antonia will be working in Year 3 now, and Fatima (who was in Reception last year) will be with Ana in Year 2.

Class newsletters from your child's class teacher will be emailed out to you on Friday this week. You will then receive weekly 'What we are doing in class' letters each Monday via email.

PE, dance and swimming will all start next week. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit for their PE or dance sessions (green t-shirts, which are available from the office, along with appropriate trainers and dark grey/black jogging bottoms, shorts or leggings). Children who do not bring in the correct kit will be provided one from our spare kit box. PE and dance days for each class are outlined on page 3 of this letter.

Our new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) has been installed over the summer and we are so pleased with it. This means that the children will be able to do their PE lessons on site rather than KS2 having to go the Adventure Playground. We have had some internal decoration work including the reconfiguring of some of the internal space.



As well as new information, I have included the information that was in the July newsletter for anyone who may have missed it as well as for all of our new families. As always, please feel free to come and see me at any time if you have something that you would like to discuss, or to the Deputy Head, Sue, or the Assistant Head, Connor.

Best Wishes, Andrew

Key Information

What day will my child have PE? (starting next week, apart from Y5 starting this Friday)

Reception (Sharon): PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Reception (Chris): PE on Wednesdays and Fridays

Year 1 (Peter): PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays

Year 1 (Aimee): PE on Mondays and Tuesdays

Year 2 (Simon): PE on Mondays (and Thursdays this half term)

Year 2 (Ana): PE on Tuesdays (and swimming on Thursdays this half term)

Year 3 (Shuhana): PE on Thursdays and (Fridays this half term)

Year 3 (Stephanie): PE on Thursdays (and swimming on Mondays this half term)

Year 4 (Joanne): PE on Mondays and Fridays (and dance on Thursdays)

Year 4 (Sue): PE on Mondays and Fridays (and dance on Thursdays)

Year 5 (Tilly): PE on Wednesdays and Fridays (and dance on Thursdays)

Year 5 (Emma/Sam): PE on Tuesdays and Fridays (and dance on Wednesdays)

Year 6 (Connor): PE on Tuesdays and dance on Wednesdays

Year 2 and 3 will also have swimming. This half term it is Ana's Y2 and Stephanie's Y3 classes who will be going, and then after half term it will swap to the other Year 2 and 3 classes. Ana's class will be swimming on Thursday afternoons and Stephanie's class will be going on Monday mornings. You will receive separate letters about this with a consent form that needs to be returned this week.

Where should children line up in the morning?

All children in Years 1 to 6 will enter via the Fitzalan Street gate. Year 1 to 6 parents will not come in the playground in the morning due to our very limited space and this system allows the school day to start promptly.

Nursery parents will come through the playground so that the children can be handed to the Nursery staff team. Reception children will enter via the Walnut Tree Walk gate. For this first week, parents can come into the playground, but from next week onwards they should be able to come through the gate and line up with their teachers. If Reception children have siblings, they can enter via the Walnut Tree Walk gate and then walk through the playground past the school building to line up.

The school gates will open at 8:45am each morning and the latest a child should arrive is 8:55am. After 8:55am, the Reception gate on Walnut Tree Walk will be locked and any late children must be brought to the Fitzalan Street gate.

Where do I collect my child from at the end of the day?

All parents can enter the playground at the end of the day to collect their children. Reception parents, please use the Walnut Tree Walk gate. You can then either leave through the same gate or walk around to the other side and leave through the Fitzalan Street gate. We ask that parents in other year groups only use the Fitzalan Street gate. The gate will open at 3:30pm once the classes get to their collection points. The Reception gate will open slightly earlier (3:25pm) for Reception parents so that parents with siblings in other year groups have time to collect their Reception child and then get round to the other playground to collect their older child(ren). Please can parents vacate the playground shortly after collection so that our after school clubs can start.

What happens if my child is late?

It is really important that children arrive to school on time, and the punctuality at Walnut Tree Walk is generally very good. If you are late bringing your child to school, please ring the buzzer at the Fitzalan Street gate and then bring your child to the main office. You will then need to register your child on the electronic sign in system in the office, giving your reasons for being late. Please note if your child is in Reception class and arrives late, you will not be able to come in through the Walnut Tree Walk gate and will need to walk around to the Fitzalan Street gate and go to the office.

Please note that if your child comes in later than 9:30am (and you have not phoned the school in advance to let us know), you will need to provide a packed lunch. This is because the kitchen are notified of the dinner numbers each morning at that time.

If you are late collecting your child at the end of the day, they will be put into after school club if there is space, or sat in the Senior Leadership Team's office if there is no space. You will be charged for this unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please do call the school if you are running late so that we know and so that we can explain this to your child.

Lunches, snacks and water bottles

All children in Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a free school meal as part of the Mayor of London's scheme. We hope that everyone takes up this offer.

A reminder that we are a water-only school. As with the children who have school dinners, packed lunches should also only contain water as a drink. For full details of our packed lunch policy, please see our school website. We will continue to provide a piece of fresh fruit for every child across the school to have as a snack at break time. Nursery and Reception children will also receive a carton of milk each day.

If your child is having a packed lunch, it must be sent in with them at the start of the day and not be brought in later in the morning.

Every child needs a water bottle in school every day. These can be bought from the school office or you can provide one from home. Please encourage your child to bring it home at least once a week, ideally at the weekend, so that it can be cleaned.

Trips

Our school policy is that all children can experience every trip, irrelevant of their parent's financial circumstances. Therefore, when your child's class goes out on a trip, you will be asked to pay a voluntary contribution, if you are able to do so. If you are able to pay, please pay via Scopay using the 'donations' section. You can of course pay more than we ask for if you are able to and would like to contribute towards another child going.

If you need a packed lunch for a school trip, you must let Sharon in the office know at least three days in advance due to regulations regarding allergens. If you would like a packed lunch made by the school for ALL trips that your child goes on this year, please email Sharon shall@wtwschool.co.uk and we will keep a register of this so that you do not need to notify us every time.

Term Time Holidays

Term-time holidays will not be authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances and there has been full attendance for the rest of the year. The government have issued new guidance about attendance, including regarding the issuing of fines, and I will include more information on this in the next newsletter.

When will we be able to book after school activity clubs?

After school activity clubs will start the week beginning 23rd September. I will write to you about what is on offer and how to apply in the next couple of weeks. They will run in a similar way to how they did last year. If you have booked after school club on a day that you end up getting an activity club for, we will amend the booking for you.

How do I book Breakfast and After School for the Autumn Term?

The booking system went live earlier this week so hopefully you have all booked the sessions you need. A reminder of the costs:

Breakfast Club: £3 per day

After School Club (up until 4:30pm): £5 per day

After School Club (up until 5:45pm): £10 per day

Reading

For full information about how we teach reading at Walnut Tree Walk, please see our website under the 'Parents' tab. This year, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will continue to have a Reading Record book that goes between home and school. A comment will be written in this book once a week by a member of staff who has listened to your child read, and we would encourage parents to write in this book weekly too. Please note that teachers will only respond to any comments parents write in these books once a week. These books should be sent in every day in their book bag as the day the book is written in may vary from week to week. Year 3 will have a similar book but the purpose of this book will be for the children and teachers to write in, rather than their parents. Year 4, 5 and 6 will have a Reading Journal, which they will be taught how to use at the start of the term, but this is also for the children and staff to write in to encourage dialogue between the child and teacher about their independent reading. Parents in KS2 who wish to comment or discuss their child's reading should speak to their child's class teacher either in the playground or via email, rather than writing in the book.

Homework

All children should be reading at home daily, which is the primary focus of our Home Learning Policy. We only set formal homework in Years 4, 5 and 6. This will be uploaded onto Google Classroom for the children to complete by the following week. We hope that this approach allows flexibility as to when the children complete their work to fit in with everyone's different out of school schedules. Year 4 and 5 will receive one piece of English and one Maths, and Year 6 will receive three pieces of work per week.

Class Assemblies and Christmas Shows

You will see some of the class assembly dates on pages 6 and 7. Each class will do two class assemblies a year - one in the first half of the year (up to Feb half term) and one after. The link to watch these will be sent via your child's Google Classroom account shortly after the assembly. New Reception parents will be sent these login details soon. For the Christmas Shows, we welcome parents to come into school to see them.

Clothing, jewellery and watches

We do not have a school uniform but it is important that children are dressed in clothing that is appropriate for practical and sometimes messy activities as well as being age appropriate. Children must always be wearing footwear that is suitable for PE or physical activities so trainers are ideal. No crocs or flip flops please.

We do advise that parents write or sew their children's names on to their clothing as we have an enormous amount of lost property each term.

For Health and Safety reasons, please no jewellery, as accidents can happen. Smart watches such as Apple Watches or any watch that can send/receive messages or that can take photos are not allowed at any time. We do not allow the wearing of any type of makeup or nail varnish.

Scooters and Bikes

We have very limited bike and scooter storage space considering the number of children we have in the school now so if you live very locally and can take the scooter home with you after drop off rather than leaving it in school, that would be much appreciated. If you live very locally, please leave bikes at home.

Nursery parents, please can you leave bikes and scooters in the racks and shelters in the main playground with all of the other bikes and scooters. Reception parents, your children will be shown where to leave their bikes and scooters along the fence to their outdoor space. Again, there is limited space around there so please take any home where possible.

INSET Days

Our 5 INSET Days for this academic year are as follows:

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Please note that there will be no after school club on Monday 31st March 2025 as we will be having staff training after school.

Parent Workshops

We have a number of parent workshops scheduled for the year ahead, including Phonics, how we teach reading, and how we teach maths. Further workshops for other areas will be added at a later date. The dates of these workshops are on the following page in the 'Dates for the Diary' section. Details about how to book a place for these will be sent out nearer the time.

Parent Conference Meetings

This year we will be doing the meetings over two evenings from 4pm to 8pm. We have a new online booking system - using Scopay - which I will write to you about nearer the time.

Birthdays

Unfortunately, we cannot give out birthday cakes etc so please do not send them in. This is due to the number of pupils with food allergies and intolerances.

Dates for the Diary: Autumn Term

Sep	<p>Wed 4th: Year 1 to 6 children return</p> <p>Thurs 5th: Reception children starting</p> <p>Tues 10th: Reception Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am. This is an opportunity for the new Reception parents to get to know each other.</p> <p>Wed 11th: Year 1 Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am</p> <p>Thurs 12th: Year 2 Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am</p> <p>Mon 16th: Year 3 Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am</p> <p>Tues 17th: Year 4 Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am</p> <p>Wed 18th: Year 5 Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am</p> <p>Thurs 19th: Year 6 Coffee Morning, 9-9:45am. This will include discussing the secondary school application process and School Journey. If you are unable to make this time and would like to discuss secondary schools, please make an appointment to see Andrew</p> <p>w/b Mon 23rd: Activity clubs start. Further details about how to apply for places will be sent out soon.</p> <p>Mon 23rd: Phonics workshop for Reception parents, 9-10am</p> <p>Wed 25th: Online Safety parent workshop 9:30-10:30am. Further details will be sent out soon.</p> <p>Fri 27th: International Day, including event after school (3:30-5pm) where all families are invited to join us. Further details will be sent out soon.</p> <p>Fri 27th: Y6 Class Assembly</p>
Oct	<p>Thurs 3rd: PTFA meeting, 9am. All parents welcome</p> <p>Thurs 3rd: Joanne's Y4 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 4th: Sue's Y4 Class Assembly</p> <p>Thurs 10th: Emma/Sam's Y5 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 18th: Tilly's Y5 Class Assembly</p> <p>Tues 22nd: Parent Conference Meetings, 4pm-8pm</p> <p>Wed 23rd: Parent Conference Meetings, 4pm-8pm</p> <p>Fri 25th: End of half-term. School finishes at normal time and after school club as normal.</p>

Dates for the Diary

Nov	<p>Mon 4th: Back to school</p> <p>Tues 5th: Flu vaccine (only for people who sign up for this). We will send you details of this nearer the time.</p> <p>Mon 11th: Parent Workshop: How we teach reading at WTW (one session at 9am and one session at 5pm). This is going to be the same session that we ran last year.</p> <p>Mon 18th: Parent Workshop: How we teach Maths at WTW (one session at 9am and one session at 5pm).</p> <p>Thurs 21st: Ana's Y2 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 22nd: Simon's Y2 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 29th: Shuhana's Y3 Class Assembly</p>
Dec	<p>Mon 2nd: Parent Workshop: Maths: Calculation strategies taught at WTW (one session at 9am and one session at 5pm).</p> <p>Fri 6th: Stephanie's Y3 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 13th: EYFS Christmas Show, 10am</p> <p>Tues 17th: KS1 Christmas Show, 10am (second show time to be confirmed)</p> <p>Wed 18th: KS2 Christmas Show, 10am and 2pm</p> <p>Thurs 19th: PTFA Winter Fair (after school)</p> <p>Fri 20th: End of term. School finishes at 1:45pm. No after school club.</p>
Jan	<p>Mon 6th: Children return to school</p>

Term Dates 2023-24

Walnut Tree Walk Primary School School Term and Holiday Dates School Year 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024: 1st half

Wednesday 4th September 2024 — Friday 25th October 2024

Please note that the New Reception children will start on Thursday the 5th September.
(Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024 Staff Inset Days)

Half Term Holiday

Monday 28th October 2024— Friday 1st November 2024

Autumn Term 2024: 2nd half

Monday 4th November 2024 —Friday 20th December 2024

(School will close at 1.45pm on Friday 20th December)

Christmas Holiday

Monday 23rd December 2024—Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term 2025: 1st half

Monday 6th January 2025— Friday 14th February 2025

Half Term Holiday

Monday 17th February 2025 — Friday 21st February 2025

Spring Term 2025: 2nd half

Monday 24th February 2025— Friday 4th April 2025

(School will close at 3.30pm on Friday 4th April)

Easter Holiday

Monday 7th April 2025 — Monday 21st April 2025

Summer Term 2025: 1st half

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 — Thursday 22nd May 2025

(Friday 23rd May Staff Inset Day)

N.B. Monday 5th May BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED

Half Term Holiday

Monday 26th May 2025— Friday 30th May 2025

Summer Term 2025: 2nd half

Monday 2nd June 2025— Friday 18th July 2025

(school will close on Friday the 18th July at 1.45pm)

Inset days are 21st and 22nd July

SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOR THE CHILDREN START MONDAY 21st JULY 2025

Low Cost, No Cost - activities this week in the local area



Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

Please look at the organisations' websites to double check times and arrangements

Folly House Beach London FREE

A little sandy river beach with views of the O2 Arena, 14 minute walk from Crossharbour station on the DLR.
Folly House Beach, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 3UX

Mudchute Park and Farm FREE

Farm: Everyday 9am-4pm (animals go in from 3pm) Park: Everyday Dawn-Dusk
Mudchute Park and Farm is a large urban park and farm in Cubitt Town on the Isle of Dogs in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, just south of Canary Wharf.
Pier St, London E14 3HP.
<https://www.mudchute.org/>

Virgin Media Gamepad at The O2 FREE

Everyday 2pm-7pm

Located at The O2 in London, the Virgin Media Gamepad offers the finest in the gaming world. It's open to everyone for free, but O2/Virgin Media customers can secure a spot through the O2 Priority app.

Address: Peninsula Square, London SE10 0DX

<https://www.virginmedia.com/virgin-tv-edit/tips-and-tricks/virgin-media-gamepad>

<https://www.theo2.co.uk/do-more-at-the-o2/virgin-media-gamepad>

Southbank Centre Unlimited Festival FREE

Wed 4 - Sun 8 Sep 2024

Celebrating the artistic vision and creativity of disabled artists, check the website for more details.

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/events/unlimited/>

Natural History Museum FREE

Open daily 10am to 5.50pm Last admission 5.30pm Open late on the last Friday of each month.

Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/whats-on.html>

Tate Modern FREE

Monday to Sunday 10.00-18.00

Tate Modern, Clore Studio, Bankside, London, SE1 9TG

<https://www.tate.org.uk/>

Coming Up

Save a shoebox for the Giant Dolls House Project at the Guildhall Art Gallery

FREE | Guildhall Art Gallery | Saturday 14 September | 11.00am - 4.00pm

<https://www.thecityofldn.com/event/second-saturday-giant-dolls-house-project/>

Brixton Windmill are running a free family bake club on Saturdays in November - check their website for more information <https://www.brixtonwindmill.org/all-events/special-events/>

Please contact Isla, Brixton Learning Collaborative (brixtonlearningassistant@gmail.com) or

Rachel Thomas, Windmill Cluster (rthomas@sudbourne.com) if you have a low cost no cost event that you would like us to feature.

