



Walnut Tree Walk
PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

23rd October 2024



Dates for your Diary

Messages

October	<p>Fri 25th: Y2 to Windsor Castle</p> <p>Fri 25th: End of half-term. School finishes at normal time and after</p>
November	<p>Mon 4th: Children return to school</p> <p>Tues 5th: Flu vaccine (only for children whose parents have signed up for this)</p> <p>Mon 11th: Parent workshop: How we teach Reading at WTW</p> <p>Wed 13th: Y3 to National Portrait Gallery (Stephanie)</p> <p>Mon 18th: Parent workshop: How we teach Maths at WTW</p> <p>Mon 18th: Y1 Transport Museum</p> <p>Wed 20th: Y6 to Imperial War Museum</p> <p>Thurs 21st: Y1 Transport Museum</p> <p>Fri 22nd: Simon's Y2 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 29th: Shuhana's Y3 Class Assembly</p>
December	<p>Mon 2nd: Parent workshop: Maths Calculation Strategies taught at WTW</p> <p>Fri 6th: Stephanie's Y3 Class Assembly</p> <p>Thurs 19th: PTFA Winter Fair</p> <p>Fri 20th: Last day of term. School finishes at 1:45pm</p>
January	<p>Mon 6th: Children return to school</p>

Keeping children safe online - parent online workshops

Lambeth will be holding three free online safety workshops for parents. This is general internet safety covering a broad range of issues, apps and safety features. Please pass on the links below for your parents to join: Pick from a range of dates and times on the [Keeping children and teenagers safe online](#) event page.

After School Club

Hopefully, you have all booked the sessions you needed for the next half-term. Just to highlight that After School Club finishes on Wednesday 18th December (there will be no After School Club on Thursday 19th or on Friday 20th December). Activity clubs run for 5 weeks after the half-term break and will finish on Friday 6th December.

Lost Property

As I mentioned in the last letter, we have an enormous amount of lost property already this term. We have four large sacks full which will be going to the charity shop next week. The school Eco Ambassadors are working hard to reduce waste and this is definitely an area we need your help with. **It would help us greatly if you could write names in the labels - particularly of coats and jumpers - as we would then be able to return them to you.** We will be putting it out in the playground at the end of the day this Friday for the final time before sending it to a charity shop.

Water only school

A reminder that we are a water-only school so children should only have water in their packed lunches.

Attendance Policy Update

For full details of our Attendance Policy, this will be added to our website soon. A summary of some important points and changes:

Why is attendance so important?

1. Impact on attainment and progress

Good attendance very closely correlates with good outcomes. Children who do not attend school regularly fall behind their peers and do not achieve as well as they should, impacting negatively on their life chances.

2. Pupil wellbeing and friendships

Children who regularly miss school can experience more difficulties with their confidence and wellbeing, including developing friendships.

3. Sequencing of lessons

Lessons are carefully sequenced across a week, meaning that if a child misses a day earlier in the week, they may find it challenging to keep up with the work their peers are doing later in the week.

4. Lessons start promptly at 9am

eg. children in KS1 have their daily phonics lesson at 9am. This is a really important lesson as it provides the foundations for children to be

How has the new government guidance changed?

Holidays can no longer be authorised during term time unless in exceptional circumstances.

Children attending visits to secondary schools are counted as an absence (previously it was not).

If children are later than 9:25am, it is marked as a code U which counts as an absence for that session. Children who arrive after 9am but before 9:25am continue to be marked as code L which counts as attending, but late.

When a school becomes aware that the national threshold has been met for an individual child, the school must work with the local authority to decide if a penalty notice should be issued. The national threshold is a child being absent for 10 sessions (5 days) within 10 school weeks for an unauthorised reason (this could be due to a holiday, lateness, unexplained absences or a combination of these).

What the school will be doing to promote good attendance?

We will continue to work directly with families where there are attendance concerns and offer support where we can.

If we do not hear from a parent when the child is absent, we will call all emergency contacts and, on occasions, may visit the family home.

We will be using something called Studybugs which will automatically notify school leaders of any specific attendance concerns or patterns so that prompt action can be taken. Studybugs will also send notification emails to parents.

We will be working closely with Lambeth's Education Welfare Service to address any attendance concerns we have.

What can parents do to support?

Ensure that your child is in school every day and on time unless they are too unwell to attend.

Keep the school informed. Please call the school each day your child is absent, giving the reason. We are not allowed to authorise absences where we are just told the child is unwell; we need to know what the illness is.

Try to avoid medical and dentist appointments during the school day (where possible). If they are during the school day, try to ensure that your child is in school for the registration at 9am (and 1pm/1:30pm).

Do not take term time holidays.

Pupil Leaders at WTW

We have a number of newly elected or appointed Pupil Leaders..



Alma, Year 3
Niamh, Year 3
Malika, Year 4
Iris, Year 4
Ethan M, Year 5
Mirac, Year 5
Noa, Year 6
Ben, Year 6



Oscar, Year 4
Moth, Year 4
Lanta, Year 4
Thea, Year 4
Natalia, Year 5
Nina, Year 5
Saffiyah, Year 5

Denys, Year 5
Sylvie, Year 5
Elly, Year 6
Aiden, Year 6
Alice, Year 6
Pearl, Year 6



Pepa, Year 3
Billie, Year 3
Eva, Year 4
Darren, Year 4
Aiva, Year 5
Eliza, Year 5
Gaia, Year 6
Emiliano, Year 6



Aiko, Year 3
Arlo, Year 3
Elida, Year 4
Keeyan, Year 4
Thomas R, Year 5
Anya, Year 5
Beatriz, Year 6
Bobby, Year 6

The **School Council** meet fortnightly with Tilly and/or Andrew to make suggestions for school events and how we can further improve our school. This term they are organising a KS2 Winter Disco as well as a 'Food Fund-raising Friday' on 15th November where we will be collecting for a local foodbank (further details to follow).

The **Wellbeing Ambassadors** help in the playground to ensure that children are happy and have someone to talk to or play with. They also help sort any minor conflicts that may happen and help direct children to adults where needed. The Ambassadors are also helping Catherine and the school to achieve the Rights Respecting School award.

The **Eco Ambassadors** are working with Aimee to make Walnut Tree Walk a more eco-friendly school environment and to encourage everyone to help with this. Their first project this year is to try and reduce clothing waste and they will be holding a clothing 'swap shop' tomorrow after school for any good condition and clean coats or jumpers.

Digital Leaders are working with Emma to encourage the wider use of the technology we already have in school to enhance learning, including green screens and sphero robots). They will also be fundraising to buy a set of VR headsets that each class will get a chance to use!

What's been happening at WTW this half-term

Year 6 visited the Houses of Parliament to learn about this historic building and how our parliament works. This included going into the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as taking part in a workshop in their education centre.



Year 6 have also been to the Garden Museum where they took part in a workshop about photosynthesis.



Year 4 went to the village of Downe as part of their Geography unit looking at how life is different in rural areas.



Year 3 went on a river cruise as part of their Geography topic on London.



What's been happening at WTW this half-term

Year 3 went to the National Portrait Gallery to develop their portraiture skills.



Year 2 and Year 6 have been to the Royal Academy. Year 6 took part in a workshop exploring the links between climate and art. Year 2's session focused on portraits.

