



## WALTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

22.03.2024

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10

### KEY DATES

**08.04.24** School reopens  
**10.04.24** Reception Tropical Butterfly trip  
**15.04.24** Robinwood Parent Meeting 5pm  
**17.04.24** Class 1 & 2 Great Fire of London workshop  
**18.04.24** Class 3 Great Fire of London workshop  
**23.04.24** Class 5 INSPIRE morning  
**24.04.24** Purple Emperors INSPIRE morning  
**25.04.24** LKS2 Victorian Schools workshop  
**30.04.24** Class 2 INSPIRE morning  
**07.05.24** Class 7 INSPIRE morning  
**08.05.24** Holly Blues INSPIRE morning  
**02.05.24** School OPEN on local election day  
**06.05.24** School closed for bank holiday  
**10.05.24** KS1 trip to Eureka  
**13.05.24** KS2 SATs week  
**24.05.24** School closes for half-term  
**03.06.24** School reopens  
**04.06.24** Class Photos  
**04.06.24** Class 3 INSPIRE  
**05.06.25-07.06.24** Robinwood Y6  
**06.06.24** Transition parents' workshop (4pm)  
**11.06.24** Class 9 INSPIRE  
**14.06.24** Sports Day (KS1 AM, EYFS PM)  
**18.06.24** Class 1 INSPIRE  
**25.06.24** Class 4 INSPIRE  
**28.06.24** Sports Day (UKS2 AM, LKS2 PM)  
**02.07.24** Class 8 INSPIRE  
**09.07.24** Class 6 INSPIRE  
**14.06.24** PTA Father's Day Secret Room  
**22.06.24** PTA Summer Fayre  
**July** Y6 trip to Lightwater Valley (TBC)  
**11.07.24** Y6 Leavers Concert (18.00)  
**17.07.24** Y6 Leavers Disco (16.30-18.30)  
**19.07.24** School closes for summer  
**22.07.24** INSET day

INSET Days in the calendar year 2024/2025 will be 02/09/24, 03/09/24, 14/02/25, 21/07/25 and 22/07/25. Wakefield Council school calendar dates for the year can be found [here](#).

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic first term I have had at Walton Primary Academy. I feel truly blessed and privileged to lead this wonderful school. Thank you all so much for helping me to get settled in – I feel genuinely supported by the families and the community of Walton to deliver the education and environment that your fabulous children deserve. I know that the staff in school feel this as well and share the same drive to continuously reflect, improve and celebrate the work that we do.

I also want to state how supported I feel by the wider team at Waterton Academy Trust. Already this term I have visited six of the schools in the trust and have had collaborative conversations with several other heads as well, all of which is supporting myself and the team at Walton to do the best for our school. I think the trust really is a place 'where success is a shared experience'. This was exemplified on Thursday evening when I attended Waterton's Got Talent, where all of the acts from all of the schools were absolutely superb, including our very own Jack Taylor in Class 6 who wowed the room with an incredible performance on the piano. I was so proud of him for representing Walton, as were his family and music teacher Mrs Vizard. Thanks as well to Mrs Upton who attended the show to perform the cello in the staff band.

#### Parent Survey Results – PE lessons

It was mentioned that some of you feel that not enough PE is being done. Class timetables are notoriously busy and it is so difficult to fit everything in. There are also some logistical challenges around the use of the hall, the MUGA and reliability of the British weather! However, as part of our work on the curriculum, we will be ensuring that when we revisit timetables enough space is left for each class to have two lessons of PE per week. Promoting mental and physical wellbeing is one of our priorities and this will be central to that.

#### INSET Day

Some of you may have seen the teachers and some of the support staff out for a walk on Friday during our INSET day. At 9am we headed down towards the canal, into the woods and along the Balk for an hour to get some fresh air, some exercise and for a chance to talk about something different to work! I think the staff valued this as an opportunity to support our wellbeing and to engage in some team-bonding. It was also intended to invigorate the conversations we had when we returned to school as we worked on reshaping our curriculum offer, with a particular focus on making use of the rich history and beautiful surroundings that we have access to. In the summer term I will set a date for a parents and carers forum on the curriculum to keep you updated and to gain your views on what you think matters for your children.

Have a lovely Easter holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Mr. Craig Thorpe  
Headteacher

<b>HOUSE TEAMS</b>			
<b>Fortis Strength</b>	<b>Doctus Wisdom</b>	<b>Verus Loyalty</b>	<b>Amicus Friendship</b>
<b>3752</b>	<b>3760</b>	<b>4373</b>	<b>4282</b>

Class	Week %	Week Pts	Term Pts
Holly Blues	94.2%	0	12
Purple Emperors	90.6%	0	4
Class 1: McDonald	96.1%	1	14
Class 2: Hockney	95%	1	13
Class 3: Hargreaves	97.8%	1	17
Class 4: Moore	93.9%	0	12
Class 5: Woodies	98.9%	3	10
Class 6: Whittaker	89.4%	0	10
Class 7: Burrow	90.2%	0	10
Class 8: Sharman	95.7%	1	8
Class 9: Bronte	94.4%	0	5

**ATTENDANCE**  
Whole school attendance this week was **94.3%**

100% = 5 points  
98% = 3 points  
95% = 1 point

Weekly winner: Non-uniform Friday  
Termly winner: Treat day

School attendance [policy](#)  
Wakefield Council attendance [link](#)

## House Points

As there was no Walton's Best this week I will use this space to wrap up the House Points for the term. Over the last couple of weeks, it was clear that it was going to be between Verus and Amicus to finish with the most points. It went right down to the last week and there were fewer than 100 points in it, but congratulations go to the red Verus house for coming out on top. Their reward will be to have a fun sports session after Easter which will be organised by SWS, a local sports company. We are also hopeful that they may be able to offer an after-school club for us – so watch this space!

## Attendance Winners

Congratulations to Class 3 who came top of the attendance league with 17 points this term. Their reward will be a class McDonalds at some point early in the next term. I am in the processing of trying to secure a deal with one of their local restaurants where we hope to receive a bulk discount on Happy Meals – thanks to Churchfield Primary School for the idea! Indeed, I took away a few great ideas from my visit to their school last month, including a fun way of promoting good attendance that we may roll out in September. We'll keep you posted!

## A message from Miss Fahy, our Eco-Council lead ...

Since December our enthusiastic eco-councillors have been attending fortnightly meetings and getting involved with lots of jobs and projects. We have been very busy working towards achieving our Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. Our first job was to carry out an Environmental Review. Every class in school completed a section of the review and after looking at the results we chose three areas to improve in. These are: Biodiversity, Marine and Energy and we have already been busy working on them.

**Marine:** To link in with World Water Day on Friday 22nd March, the Eco Council planned a wear blue day to raise funds and awareness of marine life conservation. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and brought in a donation. We raised over £200 and this money will be shared between the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and the Turtle Foundation – charities suggested by our Eco-Council.

**Biodiversity:** Roger Parkinson from the Woodland Trust also came to talk to all of the children about the importance of trees. He brought us over 100 saplings and Mr Morris and the Eco-Council planted these at the front of school. Roger also helped a group of adults and children plant a further 200 trees on Friday – thanks to everyone who got involved.

**Energy:** Our school is taking part in the Energy Heroes Project. Staff from the project came to talk to all of the children about the importance of saving energy. They taught a maths lesson to our year 5 pupils and worked with some of our eco-councillors to carry out an energy audit of school. They have helped us write an action plan and they are coming back to help us with this plan.

Thank you for your continued support Miss Fahy and the Eco-Council.

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Moving forwards together

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