



WALTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19.04.2024

ISSUE 12

KEY DATES

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,

On Monday morning I think jinxed the week ahead by declaring that the rain had cleared after a torrential start...evidently it has continued to rain intermittently since then. Indeed, it has rained on most days since January. Interestingly, though, I believe we have only had three indoor lunchtimes since I started – two for the rain and one for the snow. The rain seems to hold off for us enough to get some fresh air...although on Monday there was a mad dash inside as the heavens opened during our Y5 game of netball in the MUGA! Our first Girls' Football club after school on Wednesday was also victim to a hail shower but our future Lionesses weren't fazed in the slightest! Fingers crossed for a warmer and drier spell of weather in the coming months.

School Admissions

On Tuesday morning this week I was one of thousands of parents across the district checking their emails for news on a school place for their child. Luckily for us, our daughter has secured at a place at our first-choice school with her brother to start in September. Here at Walton, we were oversubscribed for our 45 places. It is unfortunate that there were several children who were disappointed that their first-choice of school is full, but it does illustrate how well-regarded Walton Primary Academy is in the local community. We are also full in our nursery for September intake. Credit goes to our wonderful EYFS team for creating the enticing environment that they have.

INSPIRE Mornings

We are very much looking forwards to welcoming our families in to school for our INSPIRE mornings. They will run from 9am-10am on the dates noted on this page. On these days, please drop your child off at their normal classroom door and come round to the breakfast club entrance. We will then wait in the Studio section of the school hall to give the class teachers opportunity to register the children and prepare for the session. I am sure you will enjoy the opportunity to experience your child's learning (this may be in the hall depending on numbers). Your child's class teacher will be in touch via the app to update on plans for their session.

Parent Survey

Finally, I need to finish with a gentle nudge to fill in the Waterton Academy Trust survey for parents to help us with our overall engagement percentage. I know the central team are already looking closely at the results and comments – this is a great opportunity for your thoughts on the school to be heard at a higher level. Thank you for your support with this.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Hzn4lqvG0q-MciVPY-KwLOV4-blmBtNp3j5hjY-ydUMzFNUVVSQIlaUkFWQ0c1REFTUINVNFINS4u>

Mr. Craig Thorpe
Headteacher

HOUSE TEAMS			
Fortis Strength	Doctus Wisdom	Verus Loyalty	Amicus Friendship
676	639	661	684

Class	Week %	Week Pts	Term Pts
Holly Blues	97.5%	1	4
Purple Emperors	99.1%	3	4
Class 1: McDonald	98.3%	3	6
Class 2: Hockney	97.7%	1	1
Class 3: Hargreaves	97.3%	1	1
Class 4: Moore	98.7%	3	6
Class 5: Woodies	100%	5	8
Class 6: Whittaker	94.3%	0	1
Class 7: Burrow	97.9%	1	4
Class 8: Sharman	98.4%	3	4
Class 9: Bronte	97.3%	1	4

ATTENDANCE
Whole school attendance this week was **97.8%**

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](#)

WALTON'S BEST

Congratulations to our pupils who have been recognised for their being their best selves and for making us all proud!

Holly Blue: Whole class for the trip last week!

Purple Emperors: Whole class for the trip last week!

Class 1: Daisy M & Miles W

Class 2: Lucy W & William B

Class 3: Archie N & Thea B

Class 4: Mila S & Zak M

Class 5: Ella B & Evaya H

Class 6: Harry S

Class 7: Charlie H & George S

Class 8: Isabelle C

Class 9: Absent

Swimming

We have made the decision to move swimming from being a Year 4 activity to something which is done in Year 5. There will therefore be no swimming lessons happening in school next year. The plan is to resume swimming in the 2025/26 school year with our then Year 5 cohort (the 2024/25 Year 4 cohort, who are our current Year 3s). Rest assured that no one will miss out - it is simply being delayed by a year. In my previous schools, Year 5s swimming has been the arrangement that I have been used to, but the main reasoning is a logistical one. With our intake of 45 and therefore our mixed classes, it can be tricky to run the swimming groups in a way that doesn't impact on the learning of the remaining children in school. Our new model will likely see the straight Year 5 class swim for the first half of the year. For the second half of the year our Year 5s in the Year 5/6 class will go swimming whilst the Year 6s in this class remain in school for SATs-specific arithmetic practice. I hope that makes sense!

A message from Mrs Upton on the success of our Great Fire of London workshops...

This week, our Key Stage 1 children took part in a Great Fire of London workshop thanks to Alfresco Learning. Amidst the elements, we braved the cold, wind, hail, and rain to immerse ourselves in the past. Despite the weather, the children's enthusiasm and knowledge of the Great Fire shone through, impressing us with their understanding of this significant event in history. Working collaboratively in teams, the children constructed wattle and daub walls, gaining firsthand experience of the building techniques of the era. We played a game of 'Fire of London Tig' to warm us up and then the children were given the task of creating a new bakery for Thomas Farriner. They used various materials, thinking carefully about the properties of the materials they chose. Through these hands-on activities, they engaged creatively with historical concepts, demonstrating their understanding in dynamic ways. The children's enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork made the workshop a resounding success. Their interest in learning about the past was evident in their eager participation and imaginative contributions to the activities. It was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.

Moving forwards together
