



WALTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23.02.2024

ISSUE 6

KEY DATES

19.02.24-28.02.24 Y5 Bikeability
26.02.24 Class 2 Local Area walk
27.02.24 Class 3 Local Area walk
29.02.24 Class 1 Local Area walk
05.03.24 Class 9 trip to Sandal Castle
06.03.24 Class 8 trip to Sandal Castle
06.03.24 SATs information for parents
07.03.24 World Book Day – dress up as a word
08.03.24 Class 7 trip to Sandal Castle
08.03.24 PTA Mother's Day Secret Room
11.03.24-15.03.24 Waterton Science Week
15.03.24 PTA Easter Disco
18.03.24-22.03.24 Shakespeare Week
19.03.24 & 20.03.24 Parents Evening
20.03.24 Wear Blue for Marine Conservation
21.03.24 LKS2 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
21.03.24 School closes for Easter holidays
21.03.24 Waterton's Got Talent final at NJA
22.03.24 INSET day
08.04.24 School reopens
10.04.24 Reception Tropical Butterfly trip
17.04.24 Class 1 & 2 Great Fire of London workshop
18.04.24 Class 3 Great Fire of London workshop
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
05.06.25-07.06.24 Robinwood Y6
06.06.24 Transition parents' workshop (4pm)
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,

In our Monday morning assemblies, we have been playing a different Beatles song each week. This has included Blackbird, Hey Jude and Octopus's Garden. This Monday, as we returned from half-term, we went for Here Comes The Sun as it felt very apt – the morning was brighter, it felt slightly warmer, some daffodils were on show and there was a sense that spring was around the corner. Later the same day, I had my first experience of Young Voices at Sheffield Arena. Our LKS2 children were a credit to Walton as they sang their hearts out and danced along to the music. Thank you to all the parents that made the trip to in the evening and got back late on a school night. There were some tired eyes but smiling faces at school on Tuesday morning which made it totally worth it.

ParentHub and the My Child At School app

At the end of this half-term our contract with the ParentHub app comes to an end. After discussions with the Trust, we have decided to move our communications platform to the My Child At School app which is already used by most parents for school dinners and breakfast/after-school clubs. Obviously, this will bring with it a cost saving for the school, but we hope to retain our ability to communicate with you about school life in an easy-to-use manner. From next week we will be trialling the My Child At School app with Miss Wilde's Class 4 so that we can work through any teething problems that we may find. ParentHub will continue to be used for all until Easter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Parent Survey Results – Breakfast Club and After School Club – NO DEBT POLICY

What was striking in our parent survey was how valued the wraparound provision is for our families. You were very complimentary about the staff that run the clubs and you are grateful for the service that they provide. There has recently been a cost increase from our food supplier but there will not be any change in the pricing of these clubs until September. In the meantime, I will be reviewing our offering and organisation of the wraparound care to ensure that it is run in a way that provides fair value to both our families and the school. Linked to this, we will also be operating a NO DEBT POLICY from September 2024. Essentially this means that you will need to pay in advance for school dinners and clubs rather than retrospectively. I believe this in the best interests of all concerned. If you do have a notable debt to the school, please start by chipping away at this over the remaining 18 school weeks left this year. If you are worried about being able to clear your debt in this timeframe, please do get in touch and we will look to support you where we possibly can.

A message from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Measles cases are rising in West Yorkshire. Measles spreads easily and can be serious. Is your family protected? If anyone in your family isn't yet vaccinated, you should make an appointment with your GP for the MMR vaccine as soon as possible.

Mr. Craig Thorpe
Headteacher

HOUSE TEAMS			
Fortis Strength	Doctus Wisdom	Verus Loyalty	Amicus Friendship
2539	2382	2963	2776

Class	Week %	Week Pts	Term Pts
Holly Blues	98.7%	3	5
Purple Emperors	93%	0	4
Class 1: McDonald	95.7%	1	4
Class 2: Hockney	98%	3	7
Class 3: Hargreaves	95%	1	12
Class 4: Moore	98%	3	10
Class 5: Woodies	96.3%	1	4
Class 6: Whittaker	97%	1	7
Class 7: Burrow	95.5%	1	5
Class 8: Sharman	97.7%	1	5
Class 9: Bronte	97.3%	1	2

ATTENDANCE
Whole school attendance this week was **96.6%**

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: Nola W & Sid F
Purple Emperors: Romy B
Class 1: Daisy M & Harleen BL
Class 2: Arabella T & Margot T-B
Class 3: Win F & Rudi M
Class 4: Isabella D & Annabel G
Class 5: Jenson S & Jack W
Class 6: Lucy L & Tadhg W
Class 7: Myla P & Isaac R
Class 8: Daniel H & Jensen C
Class 9: Harry Br & Harry M

Dressing up days

Please note that on the Key Dates section there are two 'dressing up days' on the horizon.
On Thursday 7th March it is World Book Day. This year the theme will be to dress up as an interesting word from one of your favourite books. The intention is for us to promote and revel in broad vocabulary choices in a way that doesn't require families hastily purchasing Willy Wonka outfits and the like from Amazon. You can be as creative, expressive or as extravagant as you like, or perhaps you'll go for a mundane, simple and ordinary outfit – the choice is yours!
On Wednesday 20th March it will be another non-uniform day with a 'wear blue' theme. There will be a suggested donation of £1 to raise money for Whale and Dolphin Conservation, as chosen by our Eco-Council.

A message from our writing leader Ms Purdy...

We are very fortunate at Walton Primary Academy School to have a PTA that is responsible for raising thousands of pounds year on year through events that they run. This year we have asked the PTA to support our purchase of some badly needed resources to support our English and cross curricular writing lessons. Thanks to the PTA funds we have been able to acquire sets of new Collins dictionaries and thesauruses for every one of our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classrooms. These reference books will make our children's learning experience more fulfilling and enable them to work independently in lessons to improve their spelling investigations and their knowledge of a wide vocabulary. We know that every child in school will feel the benefit from having access to these books in class each day - not only to improve their independent writing but to give them the skills to research word meanings too. The books we have purchased are tailored to the ages of the children in each phase and will certainly help to ensure progression in writing skills as our children advance through school. Our children have been excited to receive these books and could not wait to use them to support their writing in lessons for the first time this week; they will definitely go on to benefit from this much appreciated purchase for many years to come.

Moving forwards together
