



WALTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

08.03.2024

ISSUE 8

KEY DATES

11.03.24-15.03.24 Waterton Science Week
11.03.24 Class 4 Library Visit
12.03.24 Class 5 Library Visit
13.03.24 Class 7 Library Visit
14.03.24 Class 8 Library Visit
15.03.24 Class 9 Library Visit
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,

We said it was going to be a busy week and it certainly was! The two trips to the library were a success and there are five more of them happening every day this week. We also took our UKS2 children out on their trips on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. These days involved lots of walking – about 5 miles on each day – as well as a short ride on the train as we visited Sandal Castle and Wakefield Museum. The children embraced being outdoors and using public transport. It is one of my favourite trips as it is so varied and is quite cheap at a cost of £4 to parents to cover the cost of the train and learning space in the museum. The children's conduct was superb, with this being commented on by members of the public. Well done!

Themed Days

We really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day on Thursday this week. Children came in dressed as a wonderful array of words from their favourite books...some of the words that caught my attention included flamboyant, dazzling, casual and abducted! The main reasoning behind choosing this theme was to reduce the pressure, cost and expectation for families when preparing outfits. As a staff team we did chuckle at an online meme which joked 'Julia Donaldson brings out new book *The Amazing Adventures of the Kids in White T-Shirts and Leggings* to help parents on World Book Day! We have decided against celebrating Comic Relief this year as we had already planned two 'dressing up' days on 7th March and 20th March. As a school there are lots of days and events that we can choose to mark in different ways. Unfortunately, we cannot cover all of these days in school. We will work with our student council to plan out the days in advance for the next academic year 2024/2025.

Parent Survey Results – Effective Deployment of Teaching Assistants

Last week we welcomed Matthew Parker from Sentient Education into school. Matthew is working on a project for Waterton Academy Trust to review the use of teaching assistants across the entire trust, and we were chosen as one of three 'pathfinder' schools for him to spend the day at. This was a very useful day for us as we were able to tap into his expertise. In the parent survey some of you mentioned that you recognised it can be difficult for us to provide all of the support that we would like to be able to. This is a picture that I know is true to some extent in all schools locally and nationally for different reasons. We were enthused, though, by his input and are looking forward to embedding our learning over the coming months and years. We will continue to update you on this as we move forwards together.

PTA Events

Thanks again go to our wonderful PTA who organised the Mother's Day Secret Room this week and are busy preparing for the Easter Disco this Friday 15th March. As well as generating money to be spent on our children in school, these events are great occasions for the school as a community.

Mr. Craig Thorpe
Headteacher

HOUSE TEAMS			
Fortis Strength	Doctus Wisdom	Verus Loyalty	Amicus Friendship
3199	3105	3583	3640

Class	Week %	Week Pts	Term Pts
Holly Blues	98.3%	3	11
Purple Emperors	94.8%	0	4
Class 1: McDonald	99.7%	3	10
Class 2: Hockney	95.3%	1	9
Class 3: Hargreaves	97%	1	16
Class 4: Moore	97.3%	1	12
Class 5: Woodies	95.7%	1	6
Class 6: Whittaker	93.3%	0	10
Class 7: Burrow	98.3%	3	9
Class 8: Sharman	96.8%	1	6
Class 9: Bronte	98.7%	3	5

ATTENDANCE
Whole school attendance this week was **96.8%**

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!

Unfortunately, I was at another school today but well done!

Holly Blue: Evie H & Harry N

Purple Emperors: Oscar L & Jonah W

Class 1: Pippa M & Clayton C

Class 2: George H

Class 3: Fearne V & Francesca M

Class 4: Sam N & Isaac G

Class 5: William E & Mabel B

Class 6: Xavier C & Casey C

Class 7: *Out at Sandal Castle*

Class 8: Jack S

Class 9: Diego M & Oscar V

Curriculum Update

We are continuing to work on developing our curriculum, although much of this going on behind the scenes and will mostly be seen in practice from September – this is big work and takes time to be implemented properly. Our INSET day next week on Friday 22nd March is dedicated to working on this as we seek to provide a broad, balanced, relevant and engaging curriculum. As part of this we have identified six core values that our curriculum should promote. These are:

- Wellbeing (mental and physical)
- Personal development and strength of character
- Equality and diversity
- Community and heritage
- Citizenship
- Nature and sustainability

A message from Matthew Parker from Sentient Education Ltd ...



Dear Mr. Thorpe,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit and spend the day with your pupils and staff last Wednesday, as part of our project to explore how Teaching Assistants are used at Waterton. It was great to have the opportunity to visit so many classes, and talk with teachers, leaders and teaching assistants to see how inclusion works across the school.

I'd like to single out the quality of your classrooms, and the work your staff have done to create organised and engaging spaces across the school. It was great to see pupils in a variety of engaging lessons. Mostly I wanted to share how impressed I was by the commitment and passion of your Teaching Assistants in class, in their groupwork sessions and in our conversations throughout the day.

Please thank your staff and pupils for making me feel so welcomed, and for the environment they've created at Walton. I hope to revisit soon.

Matthew Parker

Moving forwards together
