



Prospectus

**WALNUT  
TREE WALK  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**





# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL!



Welcome to Walnut Tree Walk Primary School – a unique school with a child-centred approach to learning. We pride ourselves on our family ethos and creative curriculum which gives every child an opportunity to reach their full potential and nurture their individual talents. We offer a very broad and balanced curriculum so that children not only leave with high standards in Reading, Writing and Maths, but also experience outstanding arts provision.

Our mission is for all children to 'be the best they can be' and to leave primary school in Year 6 as well-rounded children with a love of learning, ready for the next stage of their lives, and saying, "I know who I am."

We are a happy and harmonious school where children settle quickly and become part of the Walnut Tree Walk family. Being a relatively small school means that every child is known by everyone and individual successes are acknowledged and celebrated.

I welcome you to come and visit Walnut Tree Walk to meet the wonderful children we have here and to see the work that we do.

**Andrew Chaplin, Headteacher**

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## AT WALNUT TREE WALK YOUR CHILD WILL:

Be engaged in a broad, balanced and creative curriculum relevant to the world of today and tomorrow.

Be taught by a team of experienced and dedicated staff who have your child's best interests at the forefront at all times.

Have access to a range of rich learning experiences from both within the school and outside experiences in the vibrant area in which we are based.

Receive high quality teaching that promotes challenge and excellence resulting in high academic success.

## AS PARENTS AND CARERS YOU WILL:

Know that your child's potential will be nurtured and encouraged to ensure they achieve their individual successes.

Be offered the very best of pastoral care from a caring and sensitive staff.

Be in an environment where your role in your child's education is valued and where communication between home and school is essential.

Be confident that your child is learning in a safe, secure and positive setting.







# PROGRESS AND STANDARDS

What I like about this  
school is the lessons  
**get your  
brain  
working.**

James, Year 6

We consistently achieve attainment that is line with or above the national average at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) for Reading, Writing and Maths.

We are very proud of the progress each and every child makes during their time at Walnut Tree Walk. Children make excellent progress from the time they enter Nursery or Reception to the time they leave Year 6. The broad and balanced creative curriculum complements the high standards of teaching in English and Maths, meaning that children leave with both strong academic skills as well as achieving success in creative subjects.

Our high standards of attainment and progress are due to the quality of teaching and learning within the classroom in addition to the wide range of interventions and staff who are there to offer targeted support to children who need it: be it academically or emotionally. We have a very well-established team of experienced staff who are fully committed to the values and ethos of our school.



# INCLUSION

**I love this  
school because  
everyone is  
unique.**

**Chiyo, Year 5**

**I enjoy school  
because I feel  
supported.**

**Tyler, Year 4**

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school in every sense of the word. We are made up of a diverse community with a range of strengths and needs. We feel it is important to work with families to identify the nature of any barriers to learning and support each child in a way that is tailored to their unique profile.

We use the experience and knowledge from staff within the school to support each child and ensure they have access to the curriculum. This includes a Child and Educational Psychologist and Therapist, a Drama Therapist, Specialist Support Teachers as well as a team of experienced Learning Support Assistants and Teaching Assistants. In addition to this, there are a large number of

outside professionals who complement the work of the school staff offering expertise in their areas, such as Speech and Language Therapy, Larkhall Autism Outreach and Occupational Therapy. We have also recently become a feeder school in the local Mental Health Support Team, further adding to our emotional wellbeing and mental health provision.

There is a strong emphasis at Walnut Tree Walk on challenging all children to reach their full potential. This includes ensuring that the most able children are stretched and offered a curriculum that furthers their strengths. Most of the provision for more able children is embedded into our daily classroom practice, such as our Maths Mastery curriculum.







## PUPIL VOICE AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

**All of the adults  
listen to me and I  
love coming here.**

**Thea, Year 1**

We encourage children to think for themselves, to question things and to develop as individuals. Relationships between staff and pupils are based on mutual respect meaning that children feel confident to approach adults and know that they will be listened to.



Every school year, children are elected to serve on the School Council. The job of the School Council is to meet regularly with the Headteacher to discuss important matters in the life and work of the school. School Council members are expected to listen to the views of other children and represent them in meetings.

# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Parents are always welcome in our school, and teachers and the Headteacher are always happy to see you and discuss your children's progress. We have an open door policy so you do not need to make an appointment to see us. All teachers are in the playground at the end of the day along with the Headteacher. However, if you need to talk in more detail or privately, let us know and we will arrange a time to suit us both.

Twice a year, we invite you to the school in the day or the evening to look at your children's work and review their progress with the teachers. The aim of this is to involve everyone concerned in the process that advances the child's learning and development.

We have an established PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) who support the school with fundraising and organising events for the whole school community, as well as providing a social network for parents and carers. All parents and carers are welcome at the meetings which are informal and friendly.















## OUR CURRICULUM

**This school is so inspirational! I've been coming to this school for eight years and I adore it. The staff are so nice and we are always learning about new things. Our class is like a big, huge family.**

**Ada, Year 6**

Our topic-based curriculum allows children to get fully absorbed into their learning and make links between subjects, topics and themes. We constantly review our curriculum in order for it to be relevant and of interest to the children, providing them with the knowledge and skills they need for the next stages of their lives after primary school. The curriculum is designed to be exciting and relevant to the children in our community, ensuring that each child is motivated and engaged. Our aim is to ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential.

We have families from many parts of the world, speaking many languages, with a tremendous

diversity of cultural, religious, historical and geographical experience. We aim to ensure that our curriculum draws on all this richness. As part of our wider curriculum review, and in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, we have created a curriculum that includes a greater emphasis on British and world Black history. We have worked hard to ensure that this rightly balances discussions and lessons on racism both today and throughout history, as well as celebrating the often overlooked achievements of Black people in history across all fields. This will be embedded across the curriculum all year round as Black history is part of our history.



# CURRICULUM INTENT

- 1** Children will leave school with a lifelong love of learning with high aspirations, equipped with the knowledge, skills and vocabulary they need for the next stage of their lives.
- 2** Each child is unique. Specific talents, skills and personalities will be nurtured so that children leave as confident individuals with a strong sense of identity, saying, *"I know who I am."*
- 3** Children will develop independent thinking skills, encouraged to apply their learning to different contexts and to know they will have their individual voices heard.
- 4** A lifelong love of reading and books will be cultivated from Nursery through to Year 6 with quality texts used as a focus for learning.
- 5** Our diverse and creative curriculum will be filled with memorable learning experiences in and out of the classroom, taking advantage of the rich cultural capital in our community.
- 6** All children will be supported and challenged in an inclusive learning environment to reach their full potential and 'be the best they can be'.





This school is special because we have a bit of our playground where we grow things like carrots, potatoes and beetroot. We grow the seeds and it is really interesting watching the plants grow.

Jessica, Year 5





# LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM



Children often learn a great deal out of the classroom. However good the classroom environment, there is nothing like the first-hand experience for effective teaching.

We are delighted to be part of the Edible Playgrounds project, funded by Trees for Cities. In our playground, we have a number of raised beds where every child in the school plants and grows their own fruit and vegetables – and then eats them!

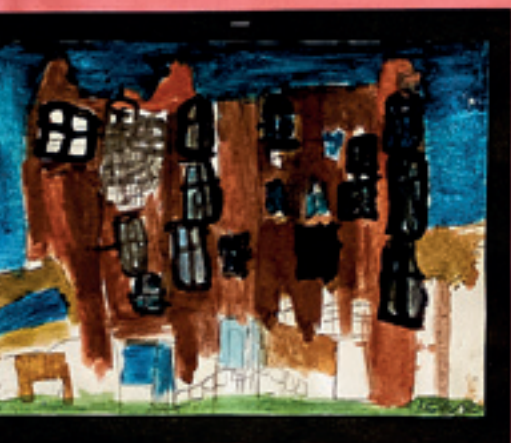
We are very keen to give children regular trips out. We are fortunate to be close to places of great historical interest, not to mention some of the leading galleries, museums and theatres in the country. Examples of trips children experience at Walnut Tree Walk include to the Imperial War Museum, Tate Modern, Royal Albert Hall, Windsor Castle, London Zoo, Godstone Farm, National Theatre, Hampton Court and the National Portrait Gallery, amongst many others.

Each year, Years 4, 5 and 6 take part in workshops with Into University, an organisation that encourages children from a young age to have aspirations about going to university. This culminates in a graduation ceremony at a real London university for Year 6.

In Year 6 the children go on a school journey residential to PGL. At this activity centre, the outdoors is used to bring learning to life. The inspiring adventures on land, water and in the air help children to experience success, grow in confidence and develop both independence and teamwork skills.

















**My favourite thing about Reception is that I have got to make lots of new friends.**

Joshua, Reception

**I like Reception because the teachers are funny.**

Tristan, Reception

## EARLY YEARS

**We focus equally on the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This allows all children to shine in the areas they are most confident while simultaneously developing new skills and passions.**

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the Early Years we support our children to develop their self-confidence. They learn that they are a valuable part of our school and celebrate their first term by performing in a welcome assembly. The children make friendships that will last throughout their primary years and beyond. The Early Years is the perfect time to learn new social skills through circle times and structured play opportunities.

## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Talking, thinking and questioning are central to our Early Years curriculum and we definitely help the children to find their voice at Walnut Tree Walk! From the moment they join, we support their language development through role play, conversation, and positive relationships.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Physical development is incorporated into our entire day in the EYFS. Children are able to access the outdoor area all day, every day. This enables them to become confident performing more complicated physical movements. Our children take part in two PE sessions a week led by our experienced sports coach, Billy.



## LITERACY

We believe in helping our children develop a love of literacy that will last a lifetime. The children take part in exciting indoor and outdoor literacy lessons every day, which are designed to capture the imagination of our youngest readers and writers.



## MATHEMATICS

We aim to provide a meaningful and exciting start to our children's mathematical journey. Our children experience an enabling mathematical environment which encourages independent exploration of concepts alongside daily teaching sessions to ensure all children can succeed.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Walnut Tree Walk is a diverse community and this allows our children to experience a wide range of events, cultures and religions. As well as engaging in religious festivals such as Diwali and Christmas, we celebrate cultural events such as Chinese New Year. Children learn about the natural world through our vegetable and edible gardens.

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

In the Early Years we believe that performance, art and design can support the whole curriculum by boosting creativity and self-esteem. Creative resources are available to access throughout the day in our classrooms. By the time children leave Reception they will have taken part in four performances to the school, which is a remarkable achievement at such a young age!

Indoor and outdoor learning across the Early Years.







## ENGLISH

At Walnut Tree Walk we recognise the importance of developing children's speaking and listening skills across the curriculum. Children are actively encouraged to express themselves verbally through paired and group work, class discussions, presentations and performances. We know that these speaking and listening skills provide the foundations needed to succeed in all areas of the English curriculum.

We are committed to promoting both a love of books and the essential skills of reading through a range of high quality experiences. This starts in the Early Years where children develop early phonological awareness and word recognition, as well as an enjoyment of sharing and listening to a wide range of stories. In Key Stage One, reading sessions are supported by a large number of additional staff so that every child reads to an adult every day. This builds on the foundations from the Early Years and supports children to develop reading fluency. As they enter Key Stage Two, the focus

moves to higher level reading skills through whole class reading lessons.

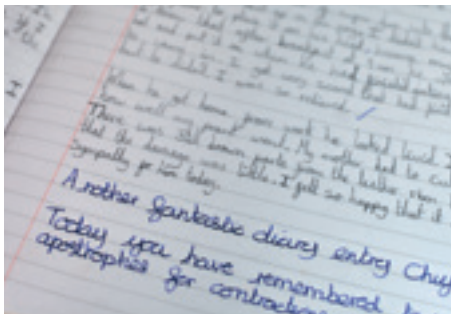
Our English curriculum revolves around key texts so that the valuable experience of learning through real books and high quality literature is deeply embedded in the way children learn to read and write. Throughout the school, teachers plan a wide range of activities linked to these books to ensure that the decoding and comprehension skills needed for reading, and the technical skills needed for writing are given a purpose. Spelling, punctuation, grammar and phonics are taught explicitly as well as through texts.

Children are encouraged to write creatively, often inspired by the texts they are reading in class, and the quality of writing produced is a real strength of the school. In the Early Years and Key Stage One, the children will work from a large number of texts. In Key Stage Two, the children will spend longer on each rich and challenging text, studying the books, characters and stories in more detail.



**I like writing stories and there's always something new to write.**

Elly, Year 3



Reading is a strong focus across the school. Above: older children reading to younger children, and children enjoying the outdoor library at playtime.



# MATHS

Maths is an essential skill to have in everyday life and it is a subject that is given high importance. Children receive daily maths lessons that focus on developing their confidence working with numbers, but also covering areas such as shape, space, measures and data handling.

We have developed our own Maths Mastery scheme of work. The main changes to the previous curriculum are that children spend much longer on a block or unit of teaching so that they can fully master that area of maths before moving on. The children spend a greater proportion of their learning time on the application of maths skills and deeper thinking.

The expectation is that the majority of pupils will move through the programmes of study at broadly the same pace. Pupils who grasp concepts rapidly are challenged through being offered rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content.

**We have divided the learning into three key areas:**

**Calculate** – this is where the children are given the opportunity to practise the skills being taught

**Apply** – this is where the children are given problems to solve in a variety of contexts, using the skills taught, giving pupils a richer and deeper learning experience. Pupils combine different concepts to solve complex problems, and apply knowledge to real-life situations.

**Think** – these questions require a deeper level of understanding and thought. Pupils explain the mathematics in full sentences. They should be able to say not just what the answer is, but how they know it's right. This is key to building mathematical language and reasoning skills.

**I love maths and the challenge of solving different maths problems.**

**Tyler, Year 4**



A range of independent and collaborative Maths work using our Mastery approach to learning.















## SCIENCE

In school we set out to help children to engage with the world in a scientific way, to develop their natural curiosity and their desire to experiment. In their everyday lives they commonly ask 'Why?', 'How?', and 'What if...?'. We harness this natural curiosity and urge to experiment into the more disciplined processes of Science – like hypothesising, testing, collecting evidence and forming deductions and conclusions.

Science learning has enormous potential for developing children's broad intellectual capabilities – the ability to analyse, to be logical, and to think things through. These essential skills are then transferable to other parts of the curriculum.

**My favourite science is investigation work, trying to find something out.**

**Daniel, Year 3**

Practical investigations are central to the Science topics the children study.



# COMPUTING

We have recently invested a lot into resourcing the school to ensure that we are able to teach and deliver the computing curriculum. We have class sets of laptops, iPads, green screening and programming equipment, in addition to the in-class computers and interactive whiteboards. Children are naturally technically very able – even more so than adults at times! The emphasis in school now is on developing programming and coding skills to equip them for an ever-changing technological world, as well as securing their digital literacy skills which they will need in the next steps of their lives.



**I like computing because we get to do coding which might help us in our future jobs.**

**Neila, Year 5**



Children learning to program and code in Computing lessons.



# MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Music and the Performing Arts play a very important and valued part of life at Walnut Tree Walk and the outstanding provision here enables children to explore a range of ways to express themselves.

We have three specialist music teachers who teach the children singing and instrumental work. In the Early Years the lessons focus on singing and use of percussion instruments and then as they move into Years 1 and 2, they start to learn to play the violin with a weekly small group music lesson. In Key Stage 2 the children choose between playing the saxophone, flute, clarinet, violin, keyboard, guitar or cello. We also have a school choir that sing at events in an out of the school.

Our Friday morning assemblies take pride of place in the life of the school. Each class in turn performs usually three assemblies a year. They may be based on current work or on a topical issue. We really welcome parents, carers and friends of the school to these important events and view the process of working towards these performances as crucial to our children's social, emotional and educational development.

**We are very lucky because each week a different class will take a week out of their normal learning and focus on their drama skills. They perform a show for the whole school on a Friday morning.**

**Jessica, Year 6**

Children taking part in their weekly small group instrument lessons.











Year 3 children taking part in a Science investigation about light and the reflective property of materials.



# ART

The greater the variety of activities children experience, the better they do in all subjects across the curriculum. A child who is encouraged to develop confidence and self-expression will clearly be one who is better equipped to learn generally. We believe in educating the whole child and we encourage children to use art as their own expressive language. From the moment children join our school, they begin to develop their artistic and expressive skills through a variety of media and techniques.

**The best thing we do  
is art. I love art because  
we can show we are all  
our own selves.**

**Edelainy, Year 6**









**Our PE teacher is  
very fun and we love  
trying new games and  
challenges.**

**Sebastian, Year 1**

## **SPORT**

We have excellent sports provision at Walnut Tree Walk, benefiting from a number of experienced teachers and coaches. Our Physical Education curriculum aims to teach and develop skills across a range of sports and games as well as encouraging children to lead more active lifestyles and to develop a sense of fair play and sportsmanship.

We have a full time sports coach, Billy, who teaches all classes from Nursery up to Year 6. Billy works on developing skills

across a number of different individual, team, co-operative and competitive sports throughout the year including football, tag rugby, cricket, athletics and gymnastics. In addition to this, each class from Year 2 up to Year 6 will go swimming at the pool in Elephant and Castle for a number of sessions each year. The Key Stage 2 children also have weekly dance lessons with our dance teacher, Emanuela, and this is something the children really enjoy. We regularly take part in sports competitions across the borough.





# WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY ABOUT WALNUT TREE WALK

This school has  
its own Eco Club  
that helps to make  
the school be more  
eco-friendly and  
to recycle.

Lexi, Year 5

I love my  
teachers because  
they read books  
with me.

Chloe, Reception

In this school it's like  
a huge family and we  
don't have to wear a  
uniform so we are able  
to express ourselves  
and our styles.

Tasnime, Year 6

Walnut Tree Walk  
allows us to go on  
awesome trips where  
we can learn cool  
things from museums  
and other places.

Mary-Jane, Year 6

The  
teachers  
always  
help me.

Aiko, Reception

The teachers  
are kind and help  
us when we don't  
understand our  
work.

Raiza, Year 5







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