



School Newsletter

18th October 2022



Dates for your Diary

October	<p>Wed 19th: Year 3 on a Thames boat trip</p> <p>Fri 21st: Elio's Y1 Class Assembly</p> <p>Fri 21st: End of half-term. School finishes at normal time.</p> <p>Mon 31st: Children return to school</p> <p>Mon 31st: Deadline for secondary school applications</p>
November	<p>Tues 1st: Vision screening for Reception children (in school)</p> <p>Wed 9th: Year 1 (Peter) to Transport Museum</p> <p>Thurs 10th: Year 1 (Elio) to Transport Museum</p> <p>Fri 11th: Tilly's Y6 Class Assembly</p> <p>Thurs 17th: Year 2 to Windsor Castle</p> <p>Fri 18th: Ana and Emma's Y3 Class Assembly</p> <p>Mon 28th Oct - Fri 2nd Nov: Y6 Into University Focus Week</p>
December	<p>Fri 9th: Y5 to British Museum</p> <p>Fri 9th: Early Years Christmas Show at 10am</p> <p>Tues 13th: KS2 Christmas Show at 2pm and 7pm</p> <p>Wed 14th: KS1 Christmas Show at 10am</p> <p>Fri 16th: Last day of term</p>
January	<p>Tues 3rd: Children return to school</p>

INSET Days

Our remaining 3 INSET Days will be on:
 Friday 23rd June
 Monday 26th June
 Friday 21st July

Messages

Breakfast and After School Club

A reminder that the booking for next half term will go live at 10am tomorrow (Wednesday). Please note that the activity clubs finish on the week 5th-9th December so please book your after school club sessions carefully around these dates.

Parent Conference Meetings

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school for the parent conferences this week. You should have all received a date and time, but if you have not, please contact your child's teacher. Elio's class will be having their meetings after half-term.

NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe.

All KS1 and KS2 children will be taking part in assemblies provided to schools by the NSPCC called 'Speak out. Stay Safe' which I emailed you about separately yesterday. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. These assemblies have been carefully designed to be age appropriate.

Secondary Schools

A reminder to Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline for applications is 31st October 2022.

Christmas Shows

We look forward to welcoming you all in to watch the Christmas Shows. See dates on left - further details to follow nearer the time.

Messages (continued)

School Policies

A reminder to you that all of the key school policies are available on our website. Some are reviewed annually by the Governing Body and these have been updated on the website today. I would like to particularly draw your attention to our Attendance Policy - some key points from this are explained below.

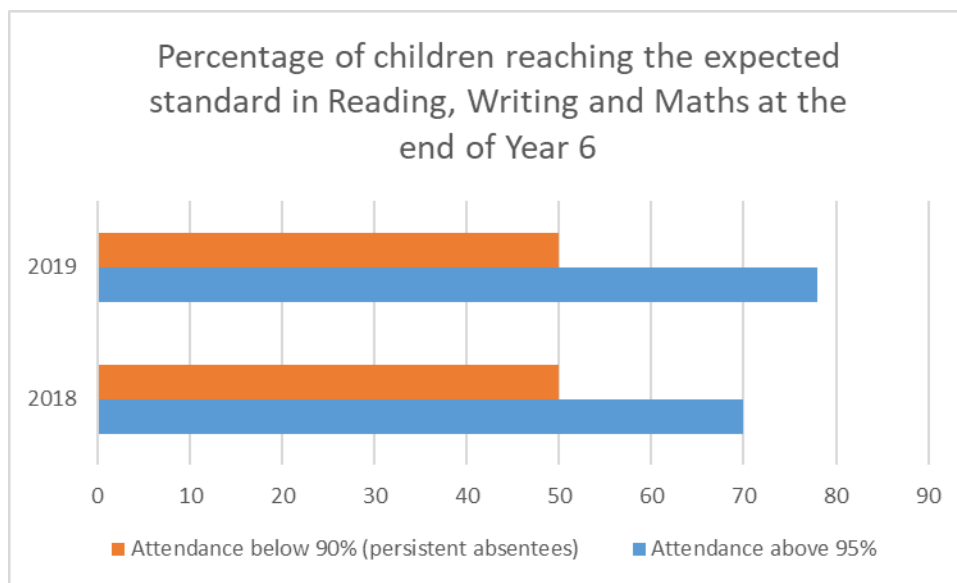
Attendance Policy

Why do we need an attendance policy?

The reason for having an attendance policy is explained on page 1 of the policy on our website, but is summarised here:

Good attendance very closely correlates with good outcomes. Children who do not attend school regularly fall behind their peers and do not achieve as well as they should, impacting negatively on their life chances. This is evidenced by national, local and our school data.

In the last two years of SATs at Walnut Tree Walk, the graph below shows the performance of children whose attendance was good (above 95%) and those who are persistent absentees (below 90%).



The figures for Lambeth as a whole show a similar pattern.

In addition, children who regularly miss school can experience more difficulties with their confidence and wellbeing, including developing and maintaining friendships.

When attendance falls below 90%, the government considers this as a 'persistent absence'. In these cases, schools have a **duty** to have discussions with parents in order to try and improve the child's attendance and to offer support or take further action, where appropriate.

Term Time Holidays

Holidays taken during term time are **strongly discouraged** due to the impact on a child's education and **will not be authorised** under normal circumstances. You should not take a family holiday while the school is open. However, we do understand that some very rare circumstances may require families to leave the country or miss some school. All requests for time out of school must be made to the Headteacher.

Messages (continued)

New Reception Outdoor Area

Over the half-term holiday, the current Reception outdoor area is being replaced. This is the final part of the school playground to be upgraded and we are really looking forward to seeing the children use it once the project is completed. The main part of this work should be carried out next week and the first week back after half-term, so it should only be one week of disruption to the children in terms of outdoor access. The sheltered area will be completed a few weeks later but this should be done over only a couple of days.

What's been happening at WTW

In the last few weeks, lots has been happening at Walnut Tree Walk...

Year 4 went on a coach trip to a village outside of London as part of their Geography field-work for their topic about life beyond London. Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum as part of their History work studying World War One. Year 5 went to see the musical Matilda in the West End, linking to their work in English. Year 3 have their sightseeing boat trip down the Thames tomorrow to look forward to.

