



# School Newsletter

5th September 2023



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic summer and are ready for the term ahead. The staff have had a busy couple of days setting up the school and undertaking training in many areas. This letter contains lots of the key information you need for the year ahead.

A big welcome to the new Reception children (and families) who join us on Thursday, and to the new Nursery children who are starting over the next couple of weeks.

As you know, we welcome a new teacher to the school this year. Shuhana joins us from another school where she has been teaching for a few years. We look forward to her being welcomed into our school and being part of our excellent teaching team.

Class newsletters from your child's class teacher will be emailed out to you on Friday this week. You will then receive weekly 'What we are doing in class' letters each Monday via email. PE will start on Thursday this week (see p2), and dance and swimming will all start next week.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit for their PE or dance sessions (green t-shirts, which are available from the office, along with appropriate trainers and dark grey/black jogging bottoms, shorts or leggings). Children who do not bring in the correct kit will be provided one from our spare kit box. PE and dance days for each class are outlined on page 3 of this letter.

**A reminder that the school day times have changed slightly for the Early Years so that the school day is the same for all year groups. The school day is as follows:**

**Start Time: 8:55am (gates will be open from 8:45am)**

**End Time: 3:30pm.**

As always, lots has been going on behind the scenes at Walnut Tree Walk over the summer holiday. We have had further work on our boiler to ensure that we (hopefully) can get through the winter without the need for the temporary boiler again. We have also had the final section of our playground resurfaced and redeveloped, meaning that the whole outdoor area has now been refreshed in the last five years. We have had some internal decoration work including flooring and reconfiguring of some of the internal space, as well as a new nursery fence installed.

As well as new information, I have included the information that was in the July newsletter for anyone who may have missed it as well as for all of our new families. As always, please feel free to come and see me at any time if you have something that you would like to discuss, or to the Deputy Head, Sue, or the Assistant Head, Connor.

Best Wishes, Andrew

## Key Information

### **What day will my child have PE? (starting on Thursday this week)**

Reception (Chris): PE on Mondays and Wednesdays

Reception (Sharon): PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays (starting next week)

Year 1 (Peter): PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Year 1 (Elio): PE on Mondays and Thursdays

Year 2 (Aimee): PE on Mondays

Year 2 (Ana): PE on Mondays

Year 3 (Sue/Catherine): PE on Thursdays and Fridays

Year 3 (Stephanie): PE on Fridays (and swimming on Mondays this half term)

Year 4 (Joanne): PE on Tuesdays and Fridays (and dance on Thursdays)

Year 4 (Shuhana): PE on Tuesdays and Fridays (and dance on Thursdays)

Year 5 (Connor): PE on Mondays and Thursdays (and dance on Wednesdays)

Year 6 (Tilly): PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays (and dance on Wednesdays)

Year 2 and 3 will also have swimming. This half term it is Aimee's Y2 and Stephanie's Y3 classes who will be going, and then after half term it will swap to the other Year 2 and 3 classes. Aimee's class will be swimming on Tuesday afternoons and Stephanie's class will be going on Monday mornings. You will receive separate letters about this with a consent form that needs to be returned this week. We have doubled the length of the swimming slots to one hour as we observed last year that there was limited progress for the children who were not swimming outside of the school sessions. We will monitor the impact of these longer sessions this year and hope to see a greater proportion of the children being confident swimmers by the time they leave Year 6.

### **Where should children line up in the morning?**

All children in Years 1 to 6 will enter via the Fitzalan Street gate. Year 1 to 6 parents will not come in the playground in the morning as the current arrangement is working very well and allowing the school day to start promptly.

Nursery parents will come through the playground so that the children can be handed to the Nursery staff team. Reception children will enter via the Walnut Tree Walk gate. For the first week, parents can come into the playground, but from week 2 onwards they should be able to come through the gate and line up with their teachers. If Reception children have siblings, they can enter via the Walnut Tree Walk gate and then walk through the playground past the school building to line up.

The school gates will open at 8:45am each morning.

### **Where do I collect my child from at the end of the day?**

All parents can enter the playground at the end of the day to collect their children. Reception parents, please use the Walnut Tree Walk gate. You can then either leave through the same gate or walk around to the other side and leave through the Fitzalan Street gate. We ask that parents in other year groups only use the Fitzalan Street gate. The gate will open at 3:30pm once the classes get to their collection points. The Reception gate will open slightly earlier (3:25pm) for Reception parents so that parents with siblings in other year groups have time to collect their Reception child and then get round to the other playground to collect their older child(ren). Please can parents vacate the playground shortly after collection so that our after school clubs can start.

### **What happens if my child is late?**

It is really important that children arrive to school on time, and the punctuality at Walnut Tree Walk is generally very good. If you are late bringing your child to school, please ring the buzzer at the Fitzalan Street gate and then bring your child to the main office. You will then need to register your child on the electronic sign in system in the office, giving your reasons for being late. Please note if your child is in Reception class and arrives late, you will not be able to come in through the Walnut Tree Walk gate and will need to walk around to the Fitzalan Street gate and go to the office.

Please note that if your child comes in later than 9:30am (and you have not phoned the school in advance to let us know), you will need to provide a packed lunch. This is because the kitchen are notified of the dinner numbers each morning at that time.

If you are late collecting your child at the end of the day, they will be put into after school club if there is space, or sat in the Senior Leadership Team's office if there is no space. You will be charged for this unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please do call the school if you are running late so that we know and so that we can explain this to your child.

### **Lunches, snacks and water bottles**

All children in Reception to Year 6 are now entitled to a free school meal as part of the Mayor of London's scheme. We hope that everyone takes up this offer.

A reminder that we are a water-only school now. As with the children who have school dinners, packed lunches should also only contain water as a drink. For full details of our packed lunch policy, please see our school website. We will continue to provide a piece of fresh fruit for every child across the school to have as a snack at break time. Nursery and Reception children will also receive a carton of milk each day.

If your child is having a packed lunch, it must be sent in with them at the start of the day and not be brought in later in the morning. We had lots of incidences last year of parents forgetting to bring the lunches in later or bringing them in too late!

Every child needs a water bottle in school every day. These can be bought from the school office or you can provide one from home. Please encourage your child to bring it home at least once a week, ideally at the weekend, so that it can be cleaned.

### **Trips**

Our school policy is that all children can experience every trip, irrelevant of their parent's financial circumstances. Therefore, when your child's class goes out on a trip, you will be asked to pay a voluntary contribution, if you are able to do so. If you are able to pay, please pay via Scopay using the 'donations' section. You can of course pay more than we ask for if you are able to and would like to contribute towards another child going.

If you need a packed lunch for a school trip, you must let Sharon or Nicole in the office know at least three days in advance due to regulations regarding allergens. If you would like a packed lunch made by the school for ALL trips that your child goes on this year, please email Sharon shall@wtwschool.co.uk and we will keep a register of this so that you do not need to notify us every time.

### **Term Time Holidays**

Term-time holidays will not be authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances and there has been full attendance for the rest of the year. The school's attendance rate has been very adversely impacted by the large number of families taking holidays during term time. Any holidays taken, which are not for exceptional reasons and been agreed by school prior to booking, will be notified to the Education Welfare team at Lambeth who may issue fines.

### **When will we be able to book after school activity clubs?**

After school activity clubs will start at the end of September. I will write to you about what is on offer and how to apply in the next couple of weeks. They will run in a similar way to how they did last year.

### **How do I book Breakfast and After School for the Autumn Term?**

The booking system went live earlier this week so hopefully you have all booked the sessions you need. A reminder of the costs:

Breakfast Club: £3 per day

After School Club (up until 4:30pm): £5 per day

After School Club (up until 5:45pm): £10 per day

### **Reading**

For full information about how we teach reading at Walnut Tree Walk, please see our website under the 'Parents' tab. This year, Reception, Years 1 and 2 will continue to have a Reading Record book that goes between home and school. A comment will be written in this book once a week by a member of staff who has listened to your child read, and we would encourage parents to write in this book weekly too. Please note that teachers will only respond to any comments parents write in these books once a week. These books should be sent in every day in their book bag as the day the book is written in may vary from week to week. Year 3 will have a similar book but the purpose of this book will be for the children and teachers to write in, rather than their parents. Year 4, 5 and 6 will have a Reading Journal, which they will be taught how to use at the start of the term, but this is also for the children and staff to write in to encourage dialogue between the child and teacher about their independent reading. Parents in KS2 who wish to comment or discuss their child's reading should speak to their child's class teacher either in the playground or via email, rather than writing in the book.

### **Homework**

All children should be reading at home daily, which is the primary focus of our Home Learning Policy. We only set formal homework in Years 4, 5 and 6. This will be set on a Monday and uploaded onto Google Classroom for the children to complete by the following Monday. We hope that this approach will allow flexibility as to when the children complete their work to fit in with everyone's different out of school schedules. Year 4 and 5 will receive one piece of English and one Maths, and Year 6 will receive three pieces of work per week.

### **Clothing, jewellery and watches**

We do not have a school uniform but it is important that children are dressed in clothing that is appropriate for practical and sometimes messy activities as well as being age appropriate. Children must always be wearing footwear that is suitable for PE or physical activities so trainers are ideal. No crocs or flip flops please.

We do advise that parents write or sew their children's names on to their clothing as we have an enormous amount of lost property each term.

For Health and Safety reasons, please no jewellery, as accidents can happen. Smart watches such as Apple Watches or any watch that can send/receive messages or that can take photos are not allowed at any time. We do not allow the wearing of any type of makeup or nail varnish.

### **Scooters and Bikes**

Over the summer, as part of our playground redevelopment work, we have had bike shelters installed creating a little more space for bikes. The scooter racks have been moved next to the Fitzalan Street gate. Despite this, we still have very limited space considering the number of children we have in the school now so if you live very locally and can take the scooter home with you after drop off rather than leaving it in school, that would be much appreciated.

Nursery parents, please can you leave bikes and scooters in the racks and shelters in the main playground with all of the other bikes and scooters. Reception parents, your children will be shown where to leave their bikes and scooters along the fence to their outdoor space. Again, there is limited space around there so please take any home where possible.

### **INSET Days**

Our 5 INSET Days for this academic year are as follows:

Monday 4th September 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Friday 24th November 2023

Friday 24th May 2024

Friday 21st June 2024

### **Parent Workshops**

We have a number of parent workshops scheduled for the year ahead, including Phonics, how we teach reading, and how we teach maths. Further workshops for other areas will be added at a later date. The dates of these workshops are on the following page in the 'Dates for the Diary' section. Details about how to book a place for these will be sent out nearer the time.

## Dates for the Diary

<b>Sep</b>	<p><b>Wed 6th:</b> KS1 and KS2 Children return to school, plus children in Nursery who are staying in Nursery</p> <p><b>Thurs 7th:</b> New Reception children start</p> <p>* New Nursery children have been given staggered start dates.</p> <p><b>Tues 12th:</b> Year 6 Parent Workshop: Secondary School Application Process and School Journey</p> <p><b>Wed 13th:</b> Year 5 and 6 going to the theatre to see the evening performance of The Lion King</p> <p><b>Thurs 21st:</b> Reception Parent Workshop: Phonics and Early Reading</p> <p><b>W/b 25th:</b> Activity clubs start. We will write to you nearer the time with what is on offer and how to apply for a place.</p> <p><b>Thurs 28th at 9am:</b> Coffee morning for Reception parents. This is an opportunity for the new Reception parents to get to know each other.</p>
<b>Oct</b>	<p><b>Mon 2nd:</b> Parent Workshop: How we teach reading at WTW (one session at 9am and one session at 5pm)</p> <p><b>Mon 9th:</b> Parent Workshop: How we teach Maths at WTW (one session at 9am and one session at 5pm)</p> <p><b>Week 16th - 20th:</b> Parents Evening for all year groups (you will be contacted nearer the time about how to book an appointment)</p> <p><b>Fri 20th:</b> End of half-term. School finishes at normal time</p>
<b>Nov</b>	<p><b>Fri 24th:</b> INSET Day. School closed.</p>
<b>Dec</b>	<p><b>Friday 15th:</b> Christmas Show for Early Years (Nursery and Reception)</p> <p><b>Monday 18th:</b> Christmas Show for KS2 (Years 3 to 6)</p> <p><b>Tuesday 19th:</b> Christmas Show for KS1 (Years 1 and 2)</p> <p><b>Thurs 21st:</b> End of term. School finishes at 1:45pm</p>
<b>Jan</b>	<p><b>Mon 8th Jan:</b> Children return to school</p>



# Term Dates 2023-24

## Walnut Tree Walk Primary School School Term and Holiday Dates School Year 2023-2024

### Autumn Term 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> half

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 — Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Please note that the New Reception children will start on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

(Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Staff Inset Days)

### Half Term Holiday

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 — Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Autumn Term 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> half

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 — Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

(Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Staff Inset Day)

(School will close at 3.30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December)

### Christmas Holiday

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 — Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Spring Term 2024: 1<sup>st</sup> half

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 — Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Half Term Holiday

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 — Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Spring Term 2024: 2<sup>nd</sup> half

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 — Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

(School will close at 3.30pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March)

### Easter Holiday

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 — Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Summer Term 2024: 1<sup>st</sup> half

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 — Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

(Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Staff Inset Day)

**N.B. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED**

### Half Term Holiday

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 — Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

### Summer Term 2024: 2<sup>nd</sup> half

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 — Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

(Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June Staff Inset Day)

(school will close on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> July at 1.45pm)

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS START THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY**