



**Walnut Tree Walk**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# School Newsletter

15th January 2024



## Dates for your Diary

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| January  | <p><b>Wed 24th:</b> Parent Workshop: Emotion Coaching and Setting Boundaries (Part 1), 9am</p> <p><b>Fri 26th:</b> Y4 Class Assembly (Joanne)</p> <p><b>Mon 29th:</b> Parent Workshop: Supporting Children with Literacy Difficulties</p>   |
| February | <p><b>Thurs 8th:</b> Y3 Assembly (Steph)</p> <p><b>Fri 9th:</b> Class Assembly for both Reception classes</p> <p><b>Fri 9th:</b> End of half-term. School finishes at normal time</p> <p><b>Mon 19th:</b> Children return to school</p> <p><b>Wed 21st:</b> Parent Workshop: Emotion Coaching and Setting Boundaries (Part 2), 9am</p> <p><b>Wed 28th:</b> Y4 to Kew Gardens</p> <p><b>Thurs 29th:</b> Y3 road safety training</p>  |
| March    | <p><b>Wed 6th:</b> Y1 and 2 Road Safety theatre show in school</p> <p><b>Fri 8th:</b> Y3 Class Assembly (Sue and Catherine)</p> <p><b>Tues 12th:</b> Y5 and 6 Road Safety theatre show in school</p> <p><b>Thurs 14th:</b> Y1 (Peter) to Natural History Museum</p> <p><b>Fri 15th:</b> Y1 (Elio) to Natural History Museum</p> <p><b>Fri 15th:</b> Year 5 Class Assembly</p> <p><b>18th-22nd March: Spring Term Parent Conference Meetings</b></p> <p><b>Tues 19th:</b> Y5 to Horniman Museum</p> <p><b>Wed 27th:</b> Y2 scooter safety training</p> <p><b>Thurs 28th:</b> End of term, finishing at 3:30pm. No after school club on this day.</p> |

## Messages

**Happy New Year!** I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful break. The children have made a fantastic start to 2024.

### Parent Information Session: Supporting Children with Literacy Difficulties

Following my previous letter in December, many of you expressed an interest in attending an information session about how to support children with literacy difficulties, led by Dr Jen Wills-Lamacq who is our school Educational Psychologist. We can now confirm that the date of this will be Monday 29th January at 9am. If you are interested in attending this information session, please call the school or email Sharon Hall to book a place: [shall@wtwschool.co.uk](mailto:shall@wtwschool.co.uk)

### School Meals

A reminder to parents that all children in Reception through to Year 6 now are entitled to a free school meal, funded by the Mayor of London. This Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January is the date that meal numbers are submitted to the government and then this in turn determines the amount of money the school receives for catering for the year ahead. We would therefore appreciate if any families who currently have packed lunch and would consider trying a school meal would do so this Thursday (or for the whole week). If you would like to do this, please contact Sharon.

## Messages (continued)

### **Parent Conference Meetings**

We will be holding our Spring Term parent conference meetings at the end of this term (week beginning 18th March). Your child's teacher will be in contact nearer the time.

### **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. For PE lessons, this half-term they are doing gymnastics inside and must be wearing their green t-shirt (available to buy from the school office) as well as shorts or leggings.

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. Only stud earrings must be worn. We do not allow the wearing of any type of makeup or nail varnish.

### **TfL's Travel for Life Scheme**

TfL Travel for Life is a free accreditation programme that offers a series of free educational programmes (from ages 3 to 17) to schools and education settings across London. The goal is to increase active and sustainable travel options when travelling to and from school, reduce car use, improve safety, and improve health and wellbeing. We are participating in this programme and this will include a number of sessions for the children this term, including road safety theatre performances in school, pedestrian training for Year 3, scooter training for Year 2, as well as cycle training.

### **Cycle training**

We are excited to be working with Cycle Confident to offer Year 5 and 6 children Levels 1 & 2 Cycle Training. This is only for children who have not received the training already as we know many of the Year 6 children did this last year.

Please click on the link below for more information about the course and to provide consent for your child to participate.

#### **Course Details & Booking**

For more detailed information about this training click [here](#).

# Who to go to if you have concerns about your child

## General questions or concerns

We have a number of people who you can go to with any concerns or questions you may have regarding your child. **Your first port of call will normally be your child's class teacher**, but Andrew, Sue and Connor are always available if you would like to speak to one of them. Connor is the member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for the Early Years, and Sue for KS1 and KS2.

## Special Educational Needs

Catherine is the SENDCo and her role is to coordinate the provision at Walnut Tree Walk for any children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Connor oversees inclusion across the school so you can also approach him regarding any specific needs.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

We have a number of professionals in the school who support children's emotional wellbeing and mental health, as well as offering support to parents. It would normally be the case that the school would identify children or parents to be supported, however, parents can also ask for support by speaking to Andrew. Please be aware that although we have an extensive range of provision, we have to prioritise according to the level of need or concerns.

### Jen Wills-Lamacq

Dr Jennifer Wills is a Child and Educational Psychologist (DEdPsy, Chartered Psychologist, Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, and registered with the Health and Care Professions Council). She has worked in this capacity for over a decade and specialises in working with schools and families to promote positive mental health and academic progress. This includes individual therapy using an array of techniques such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), play therapy and child-centred counselling. Jen works with us on Fridays and, in addition to some direct work with children, she can be available to meet with any parents who need support or advice with a particular issue they are experiencing. If this is a service that you ever feel you need, please come and speak to Andrew rather than contacting Jen directly and if this is the appropriate support, we will set up a meeting for you.

### Gardener Chalmers

Gardner Chalmers continues to work in school two days a week as a Drama Therapist, working with a number of children who we feel benefit from his sessions.

### Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Our Mental Health Support Team provide early intervention on mental health and emotional wellbeing issues, such as mild to moderate anxiety. These Mental Health Practitioners, overseen by the NHS, work directly with parents to support children with emerging and developing needs. A typical program of support will consist of 8 sessions which will identify any problems or triggers for your child and then teach you techniques and strategies to support their emotional development. If you are interested in accessing this service, please come and see Connor or email [connorbrown@wtwschool.co.uk](mailto:connorbrown@wtwschool.co.uk).

### Alicia Marku

Alicia is our Wellbeing Mentor who works under the direction of Jen and Catherine. Alicia qualified last year as an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant).