

School Newsletter

18th September 2026



Key Upcoming Dates

Next week: Activity clubs start

Wed 23rd: Parent session explaining how we teach reading, 9am

Friday 25th September: International Day event for families, 3:30–5pm

Wed 30th: Parent session explaining how we teach maths, 9am

Message from Andrew

It has been a great start to the year and the children have settled into their new year groups really well, including Reception (see pictures above). It has been lovely speaking to many of you over the last two weeks at the coffee mornings.

We are really looking forward to our International Day celebration on Friday 25th September. The children will be enjoying a range of activities all day in school and our after school celebration will run from 3.30pm until 4.30pm/ 5pm. See page 6 for more details about how you can help with this.

Weekly homework for Year 4, 5 and 6 has started. If you do not have a device and do not have the means to get one yourselves, please contact Nicole in the office as we have some to loan out. We also offer homework club on Fridays 3:30–4:30pm for children who do have the quiet space at home to do this or who have any other barriers. Please come and speak to me if you think your child would need this.

Whilst we want to actively encourage children walking, scooting and cycling to school, we have such limited outside space so please help us by not bringing bikes unless these are needed to travel in from further afield. If you live local to the school, please leave bikes at home as the large number of bikes is reducing the amount of play space the children have and is becoming a safety issue.



Walnut Tree Walk Primary School
Supporting and challenging us to be the best we can be

Messages

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy and Procedure

Benedict's Law is a set of national protections designed to improve allergy safety in schools and came into force this month. Benedict's Law introduces a consistent national framework for allergy safety in schools and at Walnut Tree Walk means:

- We have a whole-school allergy policy setting out how we manage allergies and respond to emergencies (see website for full policy).
- All staff have been trained so teachers and school staff can recognise and respond to anaphylaxis.
- We have emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) in school, available where needed.
- Individual healthcare or allergy action plans for pupils with diagnosed allergies.

Our catering provider, Harrisons, has everything in place to ensure that they are equipped to manage allergies effectively.

To further support us with this, there are a few things we need from you:

- If your child has an allergy and an EpiPen, please keep us updated on any changes and ensure that you promptly respond to our requests to get new ones when the EpiPens are getting close to expiring.
- If your child has a packed lunch, please ensure that it is always NUT FREE.
- At school events, such as International Day, please be extremely careful to make sure all ingredients are labelled and that there are no traces of nuts.

PTFA Messages

The PTFA are holding their first meeting of the year on Friday 9th October at 9am. All parents and carers are invited to this. This is an opportunity to meet new and existing PTFA members and to discuss and plan some of the events we have planned for the year ahead.

This month's attendance so far is 97.1%

Well done to Year 6 Connor and Year 3 Shuhana for 99% attendance this year to date!

Intimate Care Policy

On our website you can find our Intimate Care Policy which outlines how any intimate care will be managed, eg when a child needs changing after a toilet accident.

We will always provide intimate care for a child who needs it and follow this policy. If for any reason you would not want your child to receive this care, you must let us know. However, this would mean that you must be available at all times throughout the school day to come in if needed.

More parent helpers needed

We have a great team of parent helpers but need some more to support us with the trips we go on. Parent helpers accompany the school staff and children and would need to be able to commit and agree to the following:

- Completing a DBS check (the school would organise and pay for this)
- Reading and understanding our child protection policy and trip guidance
- Parents/Carers would not go on trips with classes that their children are in; instead they would volunteer to go with other classes. This is so that the children can enjoy the full experience that a school trip offers.
- Have some availability throughout the year, eg be not working, or part-time with availability on certain days. Please note that there would never be an obligation to help on a certain day for a certain trip, and we would send out a request to the parent volunteers in advance to see availability.
- Be prepared to be on your feet all day and walk at speed!

Please email Susan if interested:
sharrington@wtwschool.co.uk

Who to go to if you have concerns about your child - page 1

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/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). Catherine can be contacted through the school office or by emailing cthompson@wtwschool.co.uk

Connor oversees inclusion across the school so you can also approach him regarding any specific needs.

We have a number of professionals who come into the school to either work directly with children or to support school staff to better support their needs. Ming is our Speech and Language Therapist and she works one day a week in our school, typically Thursdays. We also have an Educational Psychologist in one day a week who supports children with additional learning or emotional needs. In addition to this, the Educational Psychologist offers sessions to parents who need support (see the next page).

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.

Wellbeing Mentor – Alicia Marku

Alicia is a trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). An ELSA supports children with their emotional wellbeing, helping them develop skills such as self-awareness, resilience, confidence and positive relationships. They provide targeted, individual or small-group support under the guidance of a trained ELSA supervisor, helping children manage emotions and overcome barriers to learning.

Who to go to if you have concerns about your child - page 2

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

Our Child and Educational Psychologists – Dr Lisa Sheridan & Dr Bengi Biskin

Lisa and Bengi are Educational and Child Psychologists at Lambeth Educational Psychology Service and are linked to Walnut Tree Walk Primary School. Educational and Child Psychologists (or 'EP's') use psychology to help understand how children learn, develop, and experience the world. They work with children and young people who may be experiencing difficulties with learning, behaviour, or emotional wellbeing. Their role is to support schools and parents in understanding and meeting the needs of pupils, to help create positive outcomes. This might involve observing children in school, meeting with staff and families, and sometimes working directly with children. They also offer advice on strategies and interventions and contribute to planning support that is tailored to each child's unique strengths and needs.

They are offering 30–45 minute consultation drops-in for parents, providing a welcoming space to talk through any concerns or questions, whether related to learning, behaviour, or emotional wellbeing, or any other aspects of your child's development. These sessions are informal, supportive and collaborative and aim to help parents feel heard and guided. If this is a service that you ever feel you need, please come and speak to Andrew or Catherine and if this is the appropriate support, we will set up a meeting for you. These sessions are available weekly (excluding the last week of each term). These are on Thursdays this half-term, including:

24th September

1st October

8th October

15th October

Next half-term, we have had to change some of the days so some are on other days of the week, but I will confirm these nearer the time.

Drama Therapist – 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.

Autumn Term Dates for the Diary

September	Wed 23rd: Parent session on how we teach reading at Walnut Tree Walk, 9–10am Fri 25th: International Day, including event after school (3:30–5pm) Wed 30th: Parent session on how we teach maths at Walnut Tree Walk, 9–10am
October	Tues 6th: Year 4 to Downe village Wed 7th: Year 6 to Imperial War Museum Thurs 8th: Year 3 Thames River cruise Mon 12th – Thurs 15th: Autumn term parent conference meetings 3:45–5:45pm. I will write to you nearer the time about how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. Tues 13th: Reception children vision screening Wed 21st: Year 1 Routemaster bus tour Wed 21st: End of half-term. School finishes at normal time and after-school club as normal. Thurs 22nd: INSET Day. School closed. Fri 23rd: INSET Day. School closed.
November	Mon 2nd: Children return to school. Fri 6th: Year 2 Tower of London trip. Mon 9th: Year 3 Science Museum trip (one class). Tues 10th: Year 3 Science Museum trip (one class). Thurs 26th: Year 4 Maritime Museum trip (one class). Mon 30th: Year 4 Maritime Museum trip (one class).
December	Wed 2nd: Year 5 to Lyceum Theatre to see Lion King w/b Mon 7th: Last week of activity clubs for the autumn term. Mon 7th: KS2 Disco 5–7pm Tues 8th: EYFS Christmas Show at 10am Wed 9th: Year 1 theatre trip (Southbank Centre). Thurs 10th: Reception theatre trip (Southbank Centre). Fri 11th: KS1 Christmas Show at 10am and 2pm Mon 14th: Year 6 Christmas Show at 10am Tues 15th: Year 5 Christmas Show at 10am Wed 16th: Year 4 Christmas Show at 10am Thurs 17th: Year 3 Christmas Show at 10am Thurs 17th: PTFA Winter Fair 3:30–5pm. No after-school club. Fri 18th: End of term. School finishes at 1:45pm. No after-school club.

A reminder that all our key dates can be found on our website wtwschool.co.uk



International Day

Friday 25th September

We are really looking forward to our International Day celebration!



The children will be enjoying a range of activities all day in school and our after school celebration will run from 3:30-5pm.

We are asking for your support so we can come together, share some food and celebrate our wonderful school community in true WTW fashion!

Food has to be completely nut free

We would greatly appreciate donations of food and would love dishes from as many places around the world as possible. However, please remember that:

- All ingredients must be clearly listed.
- If it is a traditional dish from a country or culture, please let us know where by labeling the dish.
- We cannot reheat any food.
- If you cannot make the after school event but would still like to contribute, food can be brought into school during morning drop off.

Food Brings People Together

Thank you!

We will have a live steel drum performance during the event which you can enjoy while sampling a range of delicious dishes and refreshments!

We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

