

School Newsletter

31st August 2026



Key Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 1st September at 10am:

Booking goes live for breakfast and after-school club for September and October.

Thursday 3rd September: Children return to school.

Message from Andrew

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready for the year ahead. This letter contains lots of important information including dates for the diary for most of the key events for the whole academic year. You can find these dates on pages 6 and 7.

We look forward to welcoming all children back on Thursday 3rd September. A special welcome to the 60 families joining our Reception classes, our new Nursery children who are joining over the next couple of weeks, as well as lots of new children we have joining other year groups.

As mentioned in my newsletter before the summer, we have one new member of staff joining us this year. We are really excited to have Hannah join the teaching team. Our SEN Inclusion Base has now been completed and will be opening this week, led by Catherine and Joanne and supported by Charles, Sharon and Ryan. See photos above.

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, dance and swimming will all start next week.

See you all on Thursday!



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

Important information for the year

Start and end of day

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 due to our very limited space and this system allows 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 this first week, parents can come into the playground, but from next week 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 and the latest a child should arrive is 8:55am.

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.

Attendance & Punctuality

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 9:25am (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.

What happens if you are late collecting your child?

Your child 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. We do understand that sometimes things will be outside of your control. However, please do call the school if you are running late so that we know and so that we can explain this to your child.

Important information for the year

PE

What day will my child have PE? (starting next week)

Class	Days for PE
Reception (Dannie)	Tues and Thurs
Reception (Chris)	Mon and Wed
Y1 Hannah	Mon and Tues
Y1 Peter	Wed and Thurs
Y2 Ana	Fri (and Thurs in ½ term when not swimming)
Y2 Davina	Fri (and Wed in ½ term when not swimming)
Y3 Aimee	Tues (and Mon in ½ term when not swimming)
Y3 Shuhana	Tues (and Mon in ½ term when not swimming)
Y4 Luke	Wed and Thurs
Y4 Shifa	Wed and Thurs
Y5 Steph	Mon and Fri
Y5 Simon	Mon and Fri
Y6 Tilly	Tues and Fri
Y6 Connor	Tues and Fri

Year 2 and 3 will also have swimming. This half-term it is Ana's Y2 and Aimee's Y3 classes who will be going, and then after half-term it will swap to the other Year 2 and 3 classes. The Year 2 class will be swimming on Thursday afternoons and the Year 3 class will be going on Monday mornings. They will go again in Spring term. You will receive separate letters about this with a consent form that needs to be returned this week.

Clubs

Breakfast and After School Club

The booking system goes live tomorrow (Tuesday 1st September at 10am). This is for all sessions in September and October (Autumn 1st half-term).

Please book all the sessions you need using your Scopay account.

A reminder of the costs:

- £7 if you book up until 4:45pm (code P)
- £11 if you book up until 6pm (code L)
- breakfast club is £4 per day and runs from 7:45am. Your child must be in by 8:30am if they need to eat breakfast.

It is really important if you use after-school club that you pick up your child and leave the premises by 6pm. You will therefore need to be at school by 5:55pm at the very latest. Late fees are charged for anyone who is collected after 6pm and if this happens on more than two occasions, you will no longer be able to use the after-school club.

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

We offer a range of after school activity clubs for children in Years 1 to 6. After school activity clubs will start the week beginning 21st September and 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. If you have booked after school club on a day that you end up getting an activity club for, we will amend the booking for you.

Important information for the year

Coffee Mornings

Next week and the week after, we will be holding a coffee morning each morning for each different year group. These are an opportunity for parents to have an informal get together as well as to meet your child's new teacher briefly. For Reception parents, this will be an opportunity for you to meet other parents as I know many of you are new to the school, as well as to find out how we teach phonics/ early reading skills. For Year 5 and Year 6, this will also be an opportunity to talk through the process of applying for secondary schools. For Nursery, we will do this later in the term once the new starters have joined.

PTFA Meeting

We will be having our first PTFA meeting of the year later this month. All parents and carers are welcome to come along to find out about the work of our PTFA and how you can further support our school.

Parent Workshops and Information Sessions

We have a number of parent workshops scheduled for the year ahead, including Phonics, how we teach reading, and how we teach maths. The dates for these are in the 'dates for the diary' section of this newsletter, and further sessions will be added throughout the year.

Parent Conference Meetings

These will be held the week of 12th to 15th October. Appointments will be from 3:45–5:45pm and details of how to book via Scopay will be sent nearer the time.

Working Together

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 uploaded onto Google Classroom for the children to complete by the following week. We hope that this approach allows 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. For any children who do not have access to a device, we can loan Chromebooks. Please contact Nicole in the office if this is the case for your child (in Years 4, 5 or 6).

Term Time Holidays

In line with government policy, 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.

Medical Appointment Documentation

Please ensure all appointments are made outside of school hours, where possible. To help us accurately record absences, please email a copy of any medical appointment texts or appointment cards to the school office for confirmation when your child is absent for health-related reasons. This ensures their attendance records are kept up-to-date. When making appointments please ask your doctors for a medical slip or appointment text to give to school.

Important information for the year

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. 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 do this on Scopay at least five days in advance due to regulations regarding allergens.

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.

Class Assemblies and Christmas Shows

Each class will do two class assemblies a year – one in the first half of the year (up to Feb half term) and one after. The link to watch these will be sent via your child's Google Classroom account shortly after the assembly. New Reception parents will be sent these login details soon. For the Christmas Shows, we welcome parents to come into school to see them and look forward to seeing you there.

Birthdays

Unfortunately, we cannot give out birthday cakes etc so please do not send them in. This is due to the number of pupils with food allergies and intolerances.

Other things...

Scooters and Bikes

We have very limited bike and scooter storage 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. If you live very locally, please leave bikes at home.

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.

Learn to ride cycle training for Year 3

We are excited to be working with Cycle Confident to offer School Learn to Ride for Year 3 children who are currently unable to ride a bike competently. This will take place on Wed 9th and Thurs 10th September. Please click on the link or scan the QR code below for more information about the course and to provide consent for your child to participate.

<https://track.pstmrk.it/3s/cycleconfident.com%2Fevents%2Fe23c5ce4-62f1-4b5a-bd95-df299d475ff7/c3Zh/4aHHAQ/Ag/7f28cbe4-27c1-4aed-9c61-43cf437275f2/14/UsaPmqB9ho>



Dates for the Diary 2026-27

September	Thurs 3rd: Children return to school Tues 8th: Reception parent coffee morning at 9–10am (including presentation on how we teach phonics) Thurs 10th: Year 1 coffee morning at 9–10am Fri 11th: Year 2 coffee morning at 9–10am Mon 14th: Year 3 coffee morning at 9–10am Tues 15th: Year 4 coffee morning at 9–10am Wed 16th: Year 5 coffee morning at 9–10am (including presentation on the secondary school application process) Thurs 17th: Year 6 coffee morning at 9–10am (including presentation on the secondary school application process and Year 6 residential to PGL) w/b 21st Sep: Week 1 of activity clubs 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) where all families are invited to join us. Further details will be sent out soon. Wed 30th: Parent session on how we teach maths at Walnut Tree Walk, 9–10am
October	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. 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.
December	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 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.

Dates for the Diary 2026-27

January	Mon 4th: Children return to school. Activity clubs continue this week.
February	Fri 12th: End of half-term. School finishes at normal time and after-school club as normal. Mon 22nd: INSET Day – school closed. Tues 23rd: Children return to school.
March	Thurs 25th: School finishes at 1:45pm. No after-school club.
April	Mon 12th: Children return to school. Activity clubs continue this week.
May	Mon 10th – Thurs 13th: Year 6 SATs week. Fri 28th: End of half-term. School finishes at normal time and after-school club as normal.
June	Mon 7th: Children return to school. Fri 25th: INSET Day – school closed.
July	Fri 2nd: Fun Day, 3:30–7pm Tues 20th: Year 6 show. Thurs 22nd: School finishes at 1:45pm. No after-school club.