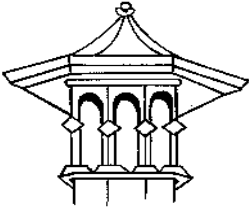


Walkern Primary School



Newsletter

Spring Term

Our topic this term "Out of this world" has stimulated the children to really engage with classwork and homework tasks. We really appreciate the time and effort that goes into the topic projects. Thank you to parents in supporting our drive to improve handwriting and presentation, there is real progress in this across the school. We would also like to thank the Parent readers have helped support our focus on reading skills. Year 5/6 attended the annual science fair at Barnwell, the class loved the variety of activities. It was good to see a number of past pupils doing so well at secondary school.

Pirates v Mermaids was a hugely enjoyable production from Year 2 and 3. Great songs and costumes and children who looked like they belong on stage. Well done to the staff and children involved.

The Easter Story and songs at St Mary's Church was very well attended on Monday morning. We really appreciate the close links with have with the village and it is always great to see the procession to and from the service.

Another Rock Steady assembly at the end of term showcased how much the children enjoy performing music and how everyone is entertained by the band performances. Thanks to Matt the music teacher.

Sports Premium enrichment – Sportzone continue to provide staff PE development on Thursday and Friday. This term this culminated in a whole school PE session on 23rd of March. Some KS2 children helped to set up and run different activities. Year 4 and Year 5/6 classes have showcased their dance/gym skills to the rest of the school in assembly time. Stevenage Borough coaches have supported lunch time play on Wednesdays, this has led to a marked improvement in attitude and behaviour. The school continues to compete at Stevenage and inter-village level. Well done to all the children involved. The year 3 / 4 football team remain unbeaten.

The Year 5/6 trip to Kingswood was a great success in developing and forging friendships in Year 5/6. The challenges they faced can be viewed on our twitter page @walkernschool. Thank you Mr Dobner and Mrs Riches for helping out for the week - it was exhausting but also very rewarding.

Staffing

Year 1 say goodbye to Mr Brown, he has enjoyed covering the class and will miss the children. We are expecting Miss Liddle to be back after Easter.

Mr Dobner is moving onto a new school in September, I know he will be missed and we appreciate all he has contributed over the years. We have appointed another teacher to the role and he is looking forward to meeting everyone in September.

Message from Governors with regard to attendance

We have had a visit from Hertfordshire County Council's attendance officer, she has advised us of the following changes that will be put into place after the Easter break.

If your child arrives after 8.55 a.m they must sign in the late register and will be recorded in the register as late, if your child arrives after 9.15 a.m then this will be entered as an unauthorised morning absence.

They have also advised us that letters with regard to consistent lateness and sickness will also be looked into by County.

Dinner money

Unfortunately there will be a price increase from 17 April 2018. The cost will be £2.45. Reception, year 1 and year 2 children will still receive their meals free of charge. As from 17th April you will only be allowed to go in debt by £12.25. Once this has been reached your child will no longer be able to have a school meal, you will have to bring a home packed lunch in until the debt is cleared. On the new school gateway app you will be able to see your dinner money debt/credit so you will be more in control of your child's account.

School comms (school gateway app)

You can now all download the new school comms (gateway) app, if you haven't already done so, you can now start to pay for dinners, milk (Rec, year 1 and 2 only) any school trips, music etc, you can even book your after school club or breakfast clubs sessions online (letters were sent out last week). Over the next couple of days we will transfer your statements for after school club and breakfast clubs where you will be able to pay online. If your balance isn't cleared you will not be able to book any sessions online. Parents who pay with child care vouchers will still be able to book online.

The link for the website is www.schoolgateway.com and click on new user. You'll receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log into school gateway. As long as you have returned your data collection forms and told us of your email addresses you will not have a problem logging on.

PLEASE DO NOT PAY VIA WISEPAY ANYMORE AS WE WILL BE CANCELLING THE CONTRACT.

Reading Books

Just a quick note to say that we are auditing all reading books in the school over the Easter holiday, therefore we will not be sending reading books home. Please feel free to listen to your child read other home books, library books or comics etc during the holidays.

2018 / 2019

Thursday 29th March - School finishes at 1.00 p.m - There will be no after school club

Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April 2018 - Easter holidays - school closed

Monday 16th April - School closed - Inset Day

Back to school on Tuesday 17th April 2018

Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018 - Half term - school closed

End of term Tuesday 24th July 2018 - Finish at 1.00 p.m

Inset days Wednesday 25th July - School Closed

Occasional days - Thursday 26th - Friday 27th July 2018 - school closed

Monday September 3rd - School Closed - Inset Day

Tuesday 4th September - Back to school

Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November - Half Term - School Closed

Friday 21st December 2018 - School finishes at 1.00 p.m - No after school club