# Walkern Primary School Autumn Newsletter

It is wonderful to have seven classes for the first time in the school's history. As a single-form entry school, we can no longer be described as a small school. Our continued growth reflects the strong reputation that has been built over many years. This success comes from our day-to-day commitment to being there for every child, ensuring they feel supported, valued and challenged. At the heart of this is a shared ethos embraced by staff, governors, pupils, the PTA and parents, all working together to provide the very best opportunities for our children.

This is highlighted by the ongoing PTA fundraising which has supported the purchase of 20 more laptops. This has significantly enhanced learning opportunities, supporting the curriculum and enabling pupils to develop essential skills across all subjects.

## Governors

As governors, we are proud to support Walkern Primary School and to act as both champions and critical friends. Our role is to challenge and support school leaders, ensuring they continually strive for the best possible outcomes for every child. We work closely with staff to monitor progress, celebrate success and encourage improvement where needed. Together, we are committed to maintaining the school's strong ethos of "**Choose Learning, Choose Friendship and Choose Kindness ,"** ensuring every child feels valued, supported and inspired to achieve their full potential.

It was lovely to meet and talk with parents during parent consultations before half term.

## Parents Evening

We were delighted by the overwhelmingly positive response to our parent questionnaire shared during Parents' Evening. Thank you to all parents who took the time to provide such valuable feedback. It is greatly appreciated and reflects the strong partnership between home and school. Our dedicated staff team remains committed to supporting and challenging every child to achieve their full potential. We will continue to provide a happy, secure and nurturing environment where children feel confident, valued and inspired to learn, grow and succeed every day.

## Fundraising

Herts Young Homeless Fund Raising Page.

During the first week of December, students from Walkern Primary School will be taking part in a Santa Run bleep test (continuous running assessment) during PE lessons to raise money for Herts Young Homeless. A fundraising proforma will be sent out shortly.

All the money raised will help hyh provide their vital services to prevent youth homelessness in Hertfordshire, including education in schools, family mediation, advice and support.

Thank you for your generosity.

## Ancient Egyptian Day

This term Year 3 travelled back in time to learn more about the Ancient Egyptians. Through a day of activities, the children were able to learn what life was like back in 3000 BC. During this day the children wrote their names in hieroglyphs, the written language of the Ancient Egyptians as well as making shadufs, a tool created to transport water from The River Nile. The children also created pyramids. In the afternoon the children had a go at mummification and went through the process of it on one another. All our pharaohs, archaeologists and mummies all worked extremely hard and enjoyed their day of interactive learning.

## Harvest Festival

We were delighted to celebrate our Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church. The children enjoyed a lovely walk through the village alongside parents and staff, making the occasion even more special. The church was packed with families and members of the community, creating a wonderful atmosphere of togetherness. Through songs, prayers and reflection, we celebrated the gifts God provides to keep us fed and cared for. Thank you to everyone who supported the service and donated so generously to help others in need. We look forward to seeing you at our next celebration.

## Bonfire Day

On the morning of 5th November, our school gathered for the traditional bonfire, with every class helping to collect sticks and branches to fuel the fire. The children worked together enthusiastically before enjoying the warmth of the blazing bonfire. A highlight of the morning was toasting bread and marshmallows over the fire, creating plenty of smiles and excitement. There was lots of laughter as everyone embraced the experience, even getting covered in smoke. It was a memorable event that brought the whole school together and helped the children celebrate Bonfire Day in a fun and enjoyable way.

# Term 2026/2027

**Diary Dates 2026/2027**

**Friday 20th November – Enterprise week- parents visit classrooms from 2.40pm onwards**

Friday 4th December – Occasional Day – School Closed

Tuesday 15th December – Reception & Year 1 School Performance

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Church Service at St Marys @ 10.00 am

**Friday 18th December End of Term – school to finish at 1.05 – No after school club**

**Monday 4th January 2027 - Inset Day – School Closed**

Tuesday 5th January – Back to school

We are hoping swimming will be starting this term for year 3s – dates to be confirmed

**Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February – Half Term – School Closed**

Tuesday 9th March – Parents evening

Wednesday 10thMarch – Parents evening

Tuesday 23rd March – Years 3&4 School Performance

**Thursday 25th March – End of term – school to finish at 1.05 – No after school club**

Monday 12th April – Back to school

**Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June – Half Term – School Closed**

Monday 5th July – Years 5&6 School Performance

Tuesday 6th July – Inter-village

Wednesday 7th July Years 5&6 School Performance

Thursday 8th July – Sports Day

Thursday 15th July Reserve Sports Day

Friday 16th December – Fun Day

Monday 19th July – Leavers assembly

**Monday 19th July – End of Term – school to finish at 1.05 – No after school club**

**Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd July – Inset Days – School Closed**

Wednesday 1st September 2027 – Inset Day – School Closed