

Walsh Memorial CE Infant School



Weekly Newsletter



2nd October, 2015

Issue 5

News

School Library Books

Each week the children in Years One and Two will have the opportunity to borrow a fiction book from our wonderful new library. Please keep your child's library book in the special plastic bag provided and return it weekly.

The books are for you to enjoy together. If the book is a particular favourite, your child may borrow it for longer.

Every effort is made to give each child the chance to change their book each week but we are reliant on the help of volunteer parents who kindly come in to help your children.

Stoptober

We understand that a few parents were concerned that the Stoptober team who came into school had someone dressed in costume and they felt this was inappropriate.

The reason that they do this is to create talking points with children. Many children will have come away from this event and had many questions about smoking. These questions create a great opportunity for parents to talk to their child, at an early age, about the long-term health implications of smoking, how addictive it can be and why they should not smoke. These methods have been proven to be more effective than avoiding a subject altogether.

We do hope that the resources that the Stoptober team had on offer were useful and have helped some of our parents to take the up Stoptober challenge!

We also wanted to remind you that the smoking ban in cars, if there is anyone under 18 present, came into force on 1st October 2015.



Playground

Please note that we try to close our playground gates promptly at 9 am every morning because until the gates are locked the school site is not secure. If you are still on the premises when the gate is locked you will need to exit via the front office.

Please could we also remind not to allow any children to play in the trim trail area outside of our Reception Class area as this is for school children only, during school time. Our Insurance Policy does not cover pre-schoolers. Thank you for your co-operation.

Similarly we have had a note from the Junior School asking us to ask parents not to let their children use the Trim Trail equipment in their playground. They have also asked that scooters and bikes are dismounted before they come into the playground because they are posing a health and safety risk. Please could parents also relay this message to anyone who maybe dropping off or collecting their child/ren.



Emerald Class Cake Sale

We are delighted to tell you that the Emerald Class cake sale raised £72.30. The children of Emerald class will now decide what they would like to spend their money on. Thank you very much to everyone who donated cakes and helped to sell them on the day.

Next up is Sapphire Class on 5th November.

Year One Workshop

Year One parents are invited to attend a Spellings, **National Phonics Screening Test** and Home Support Workshop on Thursday 8th October at 2.30pm at school. If you would like to attend please come to Reception at 2.30pm. The workshop will last 30 minutes.



Harvest Festival Assembly

On Friday 16th October we will be hosting our annual Harvest Festival Assembly and all parents are invited to join us to celebrate the Harvest Festival. Arrangements for the assembly will be provided nearer the time.

Each year we alternate our collections between local and international aid. At our assembly this year, we will be collecting monetary donations for Christian Aid who are focusing on Nigerian communities suffering from the impact of malaria.

Class of 2015 Photos

A photographer has been in to take a photo of our Reception children and the photo will appear in the Surrey Advertiser in early November. We will contact them again in a few weeks to get the confirmed date and will let you know what it is as soon as possible.

Speed Limit

Please note that we have a 5mph speed limit in the school grounds which is applicable **at all times**. We have had a number of complaints about the speed that some parents are leaving the premises after dropping their children off at Breakfast Club in the mornings so we ask

that everyone is mindful of the speed limit and drives with due care and consideration at all times whilst on the school site.

We are a very busy school and the speed limit is in operation to protect all children, staff and other pedestrians.

Year 2 Parents

We do not like to think of our current Year 2 children moving on but we would like to remind you that we are an Infant School and our Year 2 parents will need to apply for a place at a Junior School for next September. Please go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions to apply on-line. You need to do this *before* 15th January 2016.

Similarly, if you have a sibling starting school in September 2016, you will also need to apply for a space for them before 15th January. Please remember to select the 'sibling' box on the application form.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please pop into the school office and we will give you a paper copy of the application form.

PTA



Thank you so much to everyone who joined us at our PTA AGM on Wednesday. It was so lovely to see such a strong turn-out and plenty of new faces.

We thanked Becky Howells (outgoing PTA Chair) and Lyn Lowdon (outgoing Secretary) for their significant contribution in helping to raise funds for the school over the last few years. It was a very successful fundraising year for the school last year and the money that we raised went a long way in providing the children at our school with resources that they would not have otherwise had.

During the meeting we elected in our new PTA core team for this year:

- PTA Chair – Annette Cave. Annette has a daughter in Year One.
- PTA Treasurer – Samantha Ellis (unchanged)
- PTA Secretary – Louise Curtis. Louise has two children at our school, one in Year R and one in Year Two.

Thank you to all of our PTA team who helped to make our last academic year such a successful one and good luck for the upcoming year.

During the meeting we also asked for volunteers to come forward to act as Class Reps for their child's class.

The following parents volunteered to be representatives:

Class	Representative
Gold	Michelle Munro
Silver	Alison Hope
Ruby	Ali Gray
Diamond	Anna Sanders
Emerald	Vikki Walters
Sapphire	Katie Dibsfall

These parents will be responsible for organising class cake sales and being a point of contact for anyone who has any questions about the PTA. Thank you to these parents for volunteering.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm in the staff room. Please note that this meeting is much more informal than the AGM and new faces are always welcome.

Christmas Shopping Night



On Thursday 19th November from 6.00pm-8.30pm we will be holding our very popular Christmas Shopping Evening in the school hall. This year we have a large range of stalls and it is a great opportunity to kick start your Christmas shopping, or to find gifts for those who are hard to buy for. Entrance is free and we will have a craft table to keep children entertained. This coincides with our late Parent Interviews, so we hope you will come and visit us.

If you are interested in having a stall or you know someone who would like to, please contact Mrs Thorn in the school office on info@walsh-memorial.surrey.sch.uk.

Parental Guidance

Threadworms

We have had a couple of reports of Threadworms in school, so we felt it would be pertinent to cover this topic.

Threadworms often go unnoticed by people who have them.

However, they can cause intense itching around the bottom area, particularly at night when the female worms are laying eggs. This can disturb sleep.

In some cases, you may spot threadworms on your bed clothes or sheets at night, or you may notice them in your stools. The worms look like threads of white cotton and are about about one centimetre long.

Severe or persistent threadworm infections can cause:

- loss of appetite
- weight loss
- skin infection around the affected area if bacteria enters any scratches caused by itching – wearing cotton gloves while sleeping may help prevent this
- difficulty getting to sleep or staying asleep (insomnia)
- bedwetting

Treating threadworms

To treat threadworms successfully, all household members must be treated, even if they do not have any symptoms. This is because the risk of the infection spreading is very high.

The aim of treatment is to get rid of the threadworms and prevent re-infection. This will usually involve a combination of medication to kill the worms and strict hygiene measures to stop the spread of the eggs.

The main medication used to treat threadworms is available from your local pharmacy without a prescription. However, it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions as it is not suitable for everyone.

You only need to see your GP if you think:

- you have threadworms and you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- your child has threadworms and they are under two years old

This is because the recommended treatment in these circumstances usually is not the same as that recommended for most other people.

Hygiene measures

Strict hygiene measures can help clear up a threadworm infection and reduce the likelihood of reinfection.

The lifespan of threadworms is approximately six weeks, so it is important that hygiene measures are followed for at least this length of time. Everyone in the household must follow the advice outlined below.

- **wash all night clothes, bed linen, towels and soft toys when you are first diagnosed** – this can be done at normal temperatures, but make sure the washing is well rinsed
- **thoroughly vacuum and dust the whole house, paying particular attention to the bedrooms** – this should be repeated regularly
- **carefully clean the bathroom and kitchen by damp-dusting surfaces and washing the cloth frequently in hot water** – this should be repeated regularly
- **avoid shaking any material that may be contaminated with eggs, such as clothing or bed sheets** – this will prevent eggs being transferred to other surfaces
- **don't eat food in the bedroom** – you may end up swallowing eggs that have been shaken off the bedclothes
- **keep your fingernails short** – encourage other members of your household to do the same

- **discourage nail-biting and sucking fingers** – in particular, make sure children do not suck their thumb
- **wash your hands frequently and scrub under your fingernails** – it is particularly important to do this before eating, after going to the toilet, and before and after changing your baby's nappy
- **wear close-fitting underwear at night and change your underwear every morning**
- **bathe or shower regularly** – it is particularly important to bathe or shower first thing in the morning
- **ensure everyone in your household has their own face flannel and towel** – do not share towels
- **keep toothbrushes in a closed cupboard and rinse them thoroughly before use**

Children can easily pick up another threadworm infection from friends or at school, so maintaining good hygiene may help prevent re-infection.

Medication and School

A child with Threadworms does not need to be kept away from school, however, they will need to be treated first, as will the whole family. Medication can be purchased from local chemists who will be able to offer you advice. There is no exclusion period for Threadworms.



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event	Time
	Autumn Term 1	
7 th October	Year One visit to Milestones Museum	9.00am-3.00pm
8 th October	Year One Spellings, Phonics and Home Support Workshop	2.30pm
16 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly – more details to follow	
21 st October	Open Morning - English. More details to follow	
23 rd October	Last day of term	
	Autumn Term 2	
2 nd November	First day of Autumn Term 2	8.45am
2 nd November	Individual school photos – more details to follow	
4 th November	PTA Meeting – school staff room	7.30pm
5 th November	Sapphire Class Cake Sale	3.30pm
2 nd – 5 th November	Travelling Book Fair – more details to follow	
6 th November	Year Two visit to the Theatre in Woking – more details to follow	11.00am-3.00pm
19 th November	Christmas Shopping Evening	6.00pm-8.30pm
20 th November	Year One and Two Flu Vaccine (for those children with signed permission slips)	
26 th November	Pied Piper Theatre visiting the children	
3 rd December	Christmas Craft Club - more details to follow	3.00pm
8 th December	Christmas Production with Toddlers - more details to follow	
9 th December	Christmas Production - more details to follow	
10 th December	Christmas Production followed by PTA Raffle - more details to follow	
16 th December	Christmas lunch for the children – more details to follow	12.00pm
16 th December	Christmas Service at St Peter's Church – more details to follow	
17 th December	School Disco – more details to follow	5.00pm-6.30pm
18 th December	Wear a Christmas Jumper for Save the Children – more details to follow	
18 th December	Last day of the autumn term, school finishes at 1.15pm	

Inset Days (School closed to children)

6th June
22nd July

Two further dates will be announced shortly.