



Headteacher's Message

Thank you to everyone who came to the Maths Open Morning last Wednesday. We hope that you found the workshop useful.

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Mrs Whitehead our Chair of Governors will be stepping down at the end of her term of office in May 2019. She has been a wonderful governor for 15 years ensuring that our infant school remains respected and valued in the local community. She was instrumental in helping the Governors achieve an Outstanding Ofsted Grade and has overseen several large projects. She has enjoyed working with our school and wishes it the best of success as it continues to be an important part of Ash. Mr Dodd our Vice Chairman formally thanked Mrs Whitehead at the last Governing Body Meeting on 31st January. Mrs Sally Thorpe has been appointed the new Chair of Governors and we welcome her passion and dedication as she returns to our school. She can be contacted on chair@walsh-memorial.surrey.sch.uk and will be available to chat at school events.

Mrs Thorpe's first task is to invite any interested parents to consider joining the Governing Body as we have one vacancy for a parent governor. Information will be coming out shortly and she looks forward to hearing from any interested parents.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Cawson, Headteacher

Spellings

Some of our children are feeling under pressure to get their spellings right and they are changing the incorrect ones after the test so they can show their parents that they got them right. If your child's work has been marked, please do not re-mark it if your child thinks we have made a mistake. Please put a star next to it and ask your child to show it to their class teacher. Thank you.

School Lunches

Week commencing 11th February January we will be on **Week 3** of the dinner menu. The current menu will continue after half term and we will be on **Week 1** week commencing 25th February.

School Trips

Unfortunately it is becoming more and more difficult for us to find sufficient helpers to make school trips viable. We had a situation last week where we had to use our Midday Supervisors and parents from other year groups to enable one of our classes to visit the church.

In order for trips to go ahead, we have to have the correct adult to child ratio, by law, otherwise we cannot go.

This does mean that we have had to undertake a review of school trips for the remainder of the academic year and cut back on the trips that we would normally undertake.

We have sufficient helpers for our Year Two Legoland trip, but we will need helpers to come forward for our Year One trip to Alice Holt and we are planning a Year R trip to the Basingstoke Canal Centre in June.

If you have a child in Year One or Year R and you would like to help out on one of our planned trips, please speak to the school office so that we can do a DBS check in preparation.

Travelling to and from school

We have had a number of comments from concerned parents who have witnessed cars entering the school grounds without children being strapped correctly into their car seats. UK **law** states that children must use a **child car seat** until they're 12 years old or 135cm/4ft 5in tall, whichever comes first.

If you are using our kiss and drop system, please ensure that your car has come to a complete standstill and that a member or staff is ready to remove your child from the car, before allowing your child to remove their safety belt. We would also urge parents to ensure that your child is using the correct car seat for their size and that all passengers have their own seat in the car, i.e. a 5 seater car should only carry 4 extra passengers.

Parent Interviews—change to booking arrangements

On Monday 18th March (early slots) and on Wednesday 6th March (evening slots) you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress in school.

We have sent home details about how to book your appointment on-line. If you are unable to do this on-line, please call the school after 10am on Monday 11th February and we will do it for you.

Mother's Day Tea Towels

This year we have decided to make Mother's Day Tea Towels with pictures of all of our children on them, drawn by the children themselves, priced at £4 each. There is one design so if you have two children in school you only need to buy one tea towel, but you can order as many as you would like.

If you would like to buy one for Mother's Day, please send your order into school before Friday 15th February. Copies of the forms can be found in the school reception area.

Unfortunately we cannot accept an order without payment in advance.

Bag2School

We will be collecting textile donations on 5th and 6th March and sending them off to Bag2School. Bag2School will then pay us commission based on the weight of the textiles they have collected. If you are having a clear-out over the half term holiday this is an ideal opportunity to recycle any unwanted textiles and raise money for the school at the same time.

Last weeks newsletter detailed suitable donations.

Please note that, due to limited space, we cannot accept donations before Monday 4th March. Bag2School are collecting our donations on Wednesday 6th March so we are unable to accept any further donations after 3pm on 6th March. Thank you for your support.

Year One Spring Celebration Day and Farm Visit for Year R and Year One

On Monday 1st April children from Ruby and Diamond Classes are welcome to come to school dressed in spring colours. These could be any colour/s that they feel represents spring. This is a non school uniform day for children that take part.

Library

Our school library is in desperate need of a bit of a Spring clean! If anyone has some spare time and would be happy to help us clean our books, we would be very grateful. Please speak to a member of the school office for more information.

Year One Bake Sale

The Year One Bake Sale is on **Monday 11th February**. Please could Year One parents bring in cakes for us to sell. Donations could include cup cakes, Chocolate Brownies, Rocky Road or anything that the children would like to buy! We always sell out, so all donations are gratefully received!

All proceeds go directly to the two classes and the children decide how to spend it.

Please can you bring your bakes in on the morning of 11th and leave them by the staff entrance.

If you are able to help on the day please let the school office know.

PTA Smartie Fundraiser

Next week the PTA will be sending home a tube of smarties for the children. The children can then eat the smarties and we hope that they will do small jobs around the house to earn 20ps which they can fill the empty tube with.

Please could your child bring the smartie tube back to school after the half term break, then we will add up how much money each class has made and the winning class will receive a treat. Last year our winning classes chose an extra Mufti Day as their treat.

All proceeds will go towards paying for a Musician to visit us during Dance Week.

Thank you for your support.

Gardening

If you know anyone who would be interested in doing some light gardening for us, in a voluntary capacity, please let the school office know.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Chelsea Football Club (External provider)

Fee paying club—all year groups. Block 1 runs every Monday, up to and including 11th February from 3.00pm-4.15pm.

Choir Club

Choir Club for Year One and Year Two is held every Tuesday from 3pm-3.45pm.

Unfortunately there are no further spaces available at present.

World Book Day – 7th March 2019

To celebrate World Book Day, children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on **Thursday 7th March**. This is a non-school uniform day for children who would like to dress up.

We will be running a Design a Bookmark competition, which is open to pre-school children, our children and adults. If you or your child would like to take part, please return your named book mark to school before Thursday 7th March. There will be a prize for the winning designs.

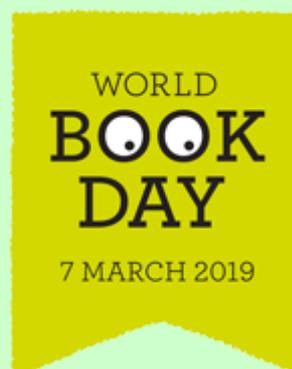
We would also like to invite parents in at 2.30pm to share their child's favourite book with their child's class or a small group of children. If you would like to come along, please come to reception at 2.30pm on this day. Pre-schoolers are welcome if you are unable to find a baby-sitter for them.

We will also be running a Book Swap where children are invited to bring in a good quality book that they would like to swap on the day. If they would like to swap a book, please ensure that they definitely do not want it anymore and send it in in their book bag that day.

Finally, Usborne Books will also be coming into school on this day and children will be able to buy books with any money they have saved in the book saving scheme.

If your child would like to save some money in the book saving scheme, please put it in an envelope with their name, class, and the amount on and ask them to hand it in to the school office or pop it in the school post box in reception.

Parents will be able to come into school and look at the range of books available from 2.45pm on this day.



WORLD BOOK DAY - Thursday 7th March

Developing Reading Strategies

During our EYFS Workshop, some of our parents asked us about strategies to help them support their child to develop a depth of understanding whilst reading.

- Ask questions where the answer is in the pictures. Encourage your child to search for information in pictures.
- Look at the cover and the title and predict what the story might be about. Go back at the end and talk about if the prediction was nearly right.
- Read a page and ask your child if they think the picture matches the story.
- Read one sentence and then ask a simple question e.g. what colour is the ball or what is the character wearing. If your child cannot answer the question re-read the sentence. Build this up until they can read a whole page and answer questions about the beginning sentences.
- Talk about the vocabulary on the page. Can your child substitute another word for the same meaning? (e.g. can you find one word that means worried i.e. nervous, sparkling i.e. glistening)
- Look for other reading information on the page e.g. posters, letters or signs in the pictures.
- Read the book together and then retell the main events or facts. Start by using first, then, next after that to help sequence events.
- Ask what your child thinks is going to happen next in the story.
- Ask questions beginning with where, when, who, why, what, which and how.
- Ask your child what is their favourite part of the book and why it is,
- Ask which character they would most like to meet from the book and why,
- Ask a question that your child has to answer true or false.
- Recall information from the book later in the day
- You start by re-telling the story and then the child takes over. Modelling good re-telling is really important so your child understands what the main parts of a story are.
- Say you have five fingers so you would like five parts of the story and fold your finger down when they have achieved a section.
- Focus on a character and talk about how they are feeling, facial expressions.
- Ask a question where the information cannot be lifted from the text but is inferred e.g. a character stamping his foot indicates they are not happy but the book might not say Kipper was cross.
- To find out if your child really understands the book they should be able to read the book to themselves and then re-tell it to you in the right sequence and using the vocabulary without referring to the book. They should then be able to answer questions you ask. Once your child gets really good at re-telling can they be challenged to re-tell the story in three sentences - beginning, middle and end.

Reading Development Strategies

Reading Development Strategies

Other ideas to help comprehension skills:-

- Try asking some of the questions above about a television programme they have just watched
- Ask your child to re-tell their day before they go to bed.
- Discuss the book asking your child for their opinion
- Having read a fact book ask a question where your child has to skim or scan for information.

Expectations for End of Year

Pink books	
Red books	
Yellow books	Early Years End of Year Expectation
Blue books	
Green books	
Orange books	
Turquoise books	Year One End of Year Expectation
Purple books	
Gold books	
White books	Year Two End of Year Expectation
Lime books	

Happy reading!

Helping your child with their spellings

Spellings

At school, we teach the children the basic principles of learning to spell using the following sequence:

Look 

Say 

Cover 

Write 

Check 

This is a good way for your child to learn their spellings at home and to identify the words that they do not know.

Some good tips for teaching your child the words they do not know include:

Leaving post it notes in suitable places at eye level

Ask your child to write the word three times in different colours
because because because

Ask your child to write the word then go over each vowel in blue
because

Ask your child to write the word then go over each consonant in red
because

Use different materials to write the word, i.e. paints, crayons, chalk

Tell your child to sound out the word (where possible) out loud as they write it

Make up little sayings to help them remember, i.e. 'because' could be **b**ecause
elephants **c**an't **a**lways **u**se **s**mall **e**xits'

RM EasiMaths Challenge

February's challenge is 100 minutes again— keep going!

Helping your child with their spellings

Top tips for praying with your child at home

Many parents want to pray with their children, but may lack confidence or struggle to find the time. Children and families adviser for the diocese, Emma Coy, shares her top tips.

Make it natural

For most adults, prayer is a natural part of everyday life; we pray in the car, in the shower or as we cook. We generally don't use special words. Try doing this out loud so children can hear and join in. Encourage your children to do this.

Make it special

As well as talking to God as we go about our day, many of us also make special times to pray. Families can make time to pray at mealtimes, at bedtimes or even in the bath. Some children might like to talk to God in a special place like a cosy corner of their bedroom or even at the top of the climbing frame in the park.

Making the most of seasons, like Lent or Easter, are a great way to kick start your family prayer life.

Make it real

Encourage your children to talk to God about things that are important to them; their favourite toys, their likes and dislikes, their fears. Ask them to pray for you and then remember to tell them when God answers.

Make it fun

Some children might like to draw or make or build what they want to say to God. Some children might not want to talk out loud and younger children will find it difficult to talk in their heads. One idea is to encourage them to whisper their thoughts to God into a cushion or into their hands.

Discover more tips

[Thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources#families](https://thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources#families)

[Godventure.co.uk](https://godventure.co.uk)—great ideas for free and resources to buy

[Parentingforfaith.org](https://parentingforfaith.org)—videos and articles to help you help your child connect with God.

Helping your child at home

Managing Medication in School

If your child needs to take medication during school hours, such as antibiotics, please ensure that an adult brings it to the office, clearly labelled with the child's name, and in the original bottle or packet. You will then be asked to complete a form informing us of the details of the dosage and the frequency. If your child needs antibiotics 3 times a day, it is better to administer it before school, immediately after school and before bed, in order to avoid disruption during the school day and to ensure that the medication is not left at school overnight by mistake.

If it is necessary to administer it during the school day, please ask your pharmacist to split the medicine across two bottles so that you can have a bottle at home and a bottle at school. We do have a fridge to keep medicines in if necessary.

If your child needs an inhaler, please ask your doctor to write you a prescription for a second inhaler to keep at school. Please ensure that the Inhaler is brought into school in its original box so that it is clear who it has been prescribed to. Any spacers need to be clearly marked with your child's name.

For Health and Safety reasons we cannot give any medication to your child to take home, or to put in their book bags. It has to be given to an adult. If you are unable to split the medication, please collect it from the school office at the end of the day.

We are unable to administer any un-prescribed medication, such as Calpol, Ibuprofen or Piriton and we do not keep these in school. If your child is likely to need these medicines on a regular basis, you will need to ask your doctor to prescribe some for your child or ask your doctor to write a letter to the school.

If these medications are prescribed by the doctor and required infrequently by your child, we will need to contact you before administering them to ensure that you have not already given it to your child before school. If you have not given them medication before school, we will notify you of the time that we have administered the medication so you know to allow an adequate window before giving another dose.

If your child needs occasional un-prescribed medication, you are welcome to pop into school and administer it yourself when needed. This is typically for coughs and colds.

Please note that cough or throat sweets are not permitted in school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ring the school office on 01252 321426 or email info@walsh-memorial.surrey.sch.uk.

Important Information

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
	Spring Term 1	
11th February	Year One Bake Sale	3pm
15th February	Inter-class Smartie Challenge (for the half term holiday—more info to follow)	
15th February	End of term	3pm finish
	Spring Term 2	
25th February	Inset Day (school closed to children)	
26th February	Back to school	8.45am
6th March	Final day to send in clothing donations for Bags2School	3pm
6th March	Parent Interviews—late slots	5.00pm-6.30pm
7th March	World Book Day and Usborne Books visiting school	
18th March	Parent Interviews—early slots (more information to follow)	3.30pm-6.00pm
21st March	Year Two SATS Workshop (more information to follow)	2.30pm
29th March	Mother's Day Assembly (for Mothers and Grandmothers only)	9.10am-9.55am
1st April	Year Two Trip to Legoland	4pm return
1st April	Year One Spring Celebration Day	
1st April	Miller's Ark Visit to School for Year R and Year One	
5th April	End of term	1.10pm finish
	Summer Term	
23rd April	Back to school	8.45am
26th April	Mufti for Garden Toys (more info to follow)	
29th April—10th May	Living Eggs in school (more information to follow)	
10th May	Mufti Day for bottles and sweets (more information to follow)	
11th May	Walsh Memorial Summer Fair	12-3pm
13th May	Class Photos (for those who have signed consent forms)	
14th June	Father's Day Celebration (for Dads and Grandads only)	TBA
28th June	St Peter's Day Family Picnic (more information to follow)	12.00pm
12th July	Sports Day (Timings to be advised)	
22nd July	Year Two Leaver's Assembly	2pm
24th July	End of term	1.10pm finish

2018/2019 Inset Days (School closed to children)

Monday 25th February and Monday 3rd June