

26th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are fast approaching the end of our first half term, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in ensuring the start to this academic year has been a smooth one. Thank you for reiterating key messages and expectations to your children. As a result of this, we have seen our children settle in and progress well with their learning. Our achievements for this half term have been captured in our Newsletter, which will be sent out this week and is accessible from the school website.

Curriculum and Wider Experiences

Staff and pupils have worked hard this half term and this has been reflected in the experiences and outcomes produced. Our Year 6 pupils have embraced their inner inventors while diving into the world of Alex Rider and reading 'Stormbreaker.' Their creativity shone as they planned and wrote non-chronological reports on gadgets of their own design. Adding depth to their writing, they channelled the emotive narrative of the main character, Alex Rider, through diary entries. Year 4 pupils have been fortunate to visit Walsall Art Gallery where they carried out poly-printing and created sculptures. Pupils were enthusiastic to learn about each piece of art and the medium used. Year 1 travelled to Twycross Zoo where they were immersed in the zoo's fascinating exhibits, exotic birds and animals. Resource Base pupils had a thrilling time at Sea Life Centre where they were captivated by the playful otters and at Lego Land where pupils could not resist the 4D cinema experience!

At Waverley, we are proud of the opportunities that we provide our pupils to understand and embrace the diverse world that we live in. This half term, Year 6 pupils visited a Buddhist Pagoda where they learnt of Buddha's life and teaching and the Triratna Buddhist Community. Year 2 pupils were in awe after visiting St Pauls Church; they explored the Church and its origins and beliefs, role of prayer and baptism and the story of the life of Christ.

Black History Month

Pupils across the school have been celebrating Black History Month. We have had a special visit from Reverend Eve Pitts, first black female vicar of Church of England. Her animated story telling based on her life was interesting and utterly engaging! Although, Reverend Eve experienced some challenging experiences in her life, one thing that was crystal clear was that nothing held her back and it was with this steel determination and gumption that she, not only achieved what she put her mind to do, but inspired others in the process. Year 5 pupils have been privileged to engage in workshops delivered by Aston Villa looking at racism and inequality within sport and beyond. Pupils learnt about how important it is to stamp out racism and inequality, not only in the realm of sport but wider.

Pupil Leadership

Year 4 and Year 6 pupils attended play leader training with the Central Sports Partnership at Billseley Indoor Tennis Centre. This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn lots of ideas for games that they can use to support younger children on the playground. To help them undertake their new duties, they were given special hi-vis jackets, badges, lanyards and lots of resources to use – congratulations to our Play Leaders!

We are also proud of our recently appointed Year 5 and 6 Pupil Peer Mediators – all pupils gained an insight into the roles and responsibilities of a Peer Mediator and discussed the qualities that are essential when taking on such an important job. They looked at the language and strategies of resolution and how to deescalate situations should they arise. This was the first ever experience of an interview for our pupils – but they did incredibly well!

Before the end of the Autumn term, we are hoping to have also recruited our School Councillors.

Harvest

Can I thank all parents for such generosity and care for our wider community; all donations will be collected on Thursday 26th October by Birmingham City Mission who will distribute to charities around Birmingham.

Poppies

Next half term, we will be marking Remembrance Day, Miss Lowes our school librarian has set a task for every child across the school to make a poppy at home and bring it in at the start of Autumn 2.

Parents' Evening & Book Fair

Details regarding the forthcoming Parents' Evening have been communicated with all parents and by now all appointments should have been confirmed. During this week, we will have Scholastic Book Fair in, which will be accessible to all pupils and parents from 3:20pm to 5:50pm on the Tuesday and Wednesday in the Primary dining hall. Please come and have a look as we want all of our children reading and developing a love of books!

Over the two evenings, our administrative team will be available to support parents with setting up/accessing Parent Pay.

Book Vending Machines

As part of our drive to further promote reading across the school we now have two Book Vending machines – pupils need to earn a token in order to exchange it for a free book of their choice. Pupils can earn these tokens by displaying the right attitudes and behaviours for reading; this can simply be showing respect towards books, talking about their favourite author or consistently completing the Accelerated Quizzes.

Primary Places

We have previously communicated that pupil places are available in our current Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. **To apply for Primary places please contact the Admissions team at Waverley School.**

Darker Nights and Colder Weather

With darker nights fast approaching it is important that all pupils are reminded of safety. With Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali looming the importance of keeping safe is crucial – please remind your child of the risks associated with fireworks and how these should only be handled by adults. It is obvious that temperatures have dropped and it is the time of year where outdoor coats, gloves and weatherproof clothing is needed. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the cold and wet weather.

Key Dates for your Diary:

Friday 27th October – End of Autumn 1 normal 3:05pm finish

Monday 6th November 2023: Start of Autumn 2

Monday 6th November 2023: Year 1 trip to ASDA -1A morning only

Tuesday 7th November 2023: Year 1 trip to ASDA -1B morning only

Tuesday 7th November 2023: Primary Resource Base visit a Local Post Office

Tuesday 7th November 2023: Primary Parents' Evening 3:20-6:00

Wednesday 8th November 2023: Primary Parents' Evening 3:20-6:00

Thursday 9th November 2023: Year 1 trip to ASDA -1C morning only

Thursday 9th November 2023: Attendance trip to Scally Wags for winning class Reception to Year 2 12:00-3:00

Friday 10th November 2023: Attendance trip to Scally Wags for winning class Year 3 to Year 6 12:00-3:00

Friday 10th November 2023: Great Fire of London Workshop for Year 2

Friday 10th November 2023: Visit from Pudsey Bear Reception & Year 1

Monday 13th November 2023: 5B Class Assembly Diwali 8:40-9:00

Monday 13th November 2023: Diwali Lunch

Monday 13th November 2023: Primary Resource Base visit Wonderland

Tuesday 14th November 2023: Primary Resource visit Wonderland

Tuesday 14th November 2023: Parents' Meeting EYFS & Year 1 Supporting Children with English 3:30-4:00

Friday 17th November 2023: Children in Need
 Monday 20th November 2023: 2B Class Assembly Universal Children's Day 8:40-9:00
 Thursday 23rd November 2023: Year 2 Safety Seymour Carbon Monoxide Workshops
 Friday 24th November 2023: Year 2 Safety Seymour Carbon Monoxide Workshops
 Friday 1st December 2023: Year 6 visit to the National Justice Museum
 Monday 4th December 2023: 4A Class Assembly Buddhism Bodhi Day 8:40-9:00
 Tuesday 5th December 2023: Year 1 pupils visit a local Post Office
 Tuesday 5th December 2023: Parents' Meeting EYFS & Year 1 Supporting Children with Maths 3:30-4:00
 Thursday 7th December 2023: Year 4 Clarinet Concert 2:20-3:00
 Monday 11th December 2023: 1A Class Assembly Christmas 8:40-9:00
 Monday 11th December 2023: Year 4 Violin Concert 2:20-3:00
 Tuesday 12th December 2023: Whole School Christmas Concert 5:30-7:00
 Thursday 14th December 2023: Flu vaccinations for Primary Pupils
 Friday 15th December 2023: Hannukah Lunch
 Monday 18th December 2023: Years 3 & 4 STAR Assembly 8:40-9:30
 Tuesday 19th December 2023: Reception Nativity Assembly
 Wednesday 20th December 2023: Years 5 & 6 STAR Assembly 8:40-9:30
 Wednesday 20th December 2023: Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
 Thursday 21st December 2023: Pantomime A Christmas Carol
 Thursday 21st December 2023: Christmas Parties (non-uniform day) and Santa visit
 Friday 22nd December 2023: Years 1 & 2 STAR Assembly 8:40-9:30

Friday 22nd December 2023: End of Autumn 2

As always, thank you for your continued support. I wish you an enjoyable and restful half term and I look forward to welcoming all pupils back safely on Monday 6th November.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Dosanjh
 Principal
Waverley School – Primary