

27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Black History Month

Thank you to the children, parents and staff who kindly shared their personal stories last week during our special assembly to recognise the contributions that have been made by black people from our community.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Just an update: the final amount we have banked for our coffee morning was **£2,747.51!!** Thank you so much to everyone who supported this enjoyable and worthwhile event.

### Food Bank

Thank you to all the families who generously donated items to support our local food bank. All the items will be passed on to St John's Church to be distributed.



### Year 4 Botanical Gardens Trip

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful day out at The Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. Whilst they were there, they had the opportunity to explore the glasshouses and the many tropical plants and trees that grow in warmer climates. We were also very fortunate with the weather and were able to walk around the grounds and meet a very talkative parrot in the aviary! But the absolute highlight for many children was meeting and handling a variety of different animals, from Rambo the bearded dragon to Toffee the corn snake. It was a day to remember!

### Art workshop for all the children in school w/c 16.10.23

WJS were very excited to welcome Darrell Wakelam (an illustrator and artist) into school again! He worked with all year groups to create new art that will be displayed around school. Paper mache was used to make large scale pieces inspired by our key artists and designers studied in class lessons – Banksy, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, William Morris and Antoni Gaudi. All children enjoyed the experience and the finished art was exceptional! Take a look at what was created on our Twitter account [@walmleyjsc](https://twitter.com/walmleyjsc).

### Halloween Disco

Thank you to all the children and parent helpers who attended our annual Halloween disco. The event helps raise vital funds which are spent directly on our children and provide them with enrichment opportunities we would otherwise be unable to fund. Our most recent opportunity came when every child in school got to work with the amazing artist Daryl Wakelam. This artwork can now be seen displayed around school.

## Sports Competitions

**Dodgeball** – On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, a group of Year 5 children attended the Dodgeball Tournament at Bishop Vesey. These children represented the school wonderfully. They all embodied our Walmley Value of perseverance and tried their best in every game.

**Cross Country** – This half term our Cross-Country team have had the opportunity to take part in two races. We were so impressed with their determination to finish in some testing conditions. In both races, we even had children finishing in the top 3 places!

**Sportshall Athletics** – On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, a selection of our Year 5/6 children went to Bishop Vesey to take part in a Sportshall Athletics competition. They competed in a variety of track and field events. They all demonstrated what capable athletes they are!

**Netball** – On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, our Year 6 Girls' Netball Team took part in their first Netball Tournament and what a team they are! We left the tournament with a bronze medal and smiles all round. They are very excited to start the league in the New Year.

## National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day took place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. At Walmley Junior School, all classes took part in celebrating the event by learning and performing a poem in front of the rest of the school during our whole school assembly time. The theme this year was 'refuge' and all classes chose a poem which demonstrated how and when they felt safe, secure and happy. Poems about home, families and books were a common theme to demonstrate refuge and it was lovely to see the children perform with confidence, remember their lines, include actions to the words and work well as a team. Some super speaking and listening skills were developed during this time.

## BBC 500 Words

Entries for the BBC 500 words competition can be submitted online through the website below up until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Children do not need to worry about using the correct spelling, punctuation or grammar and can tell the story that they want to tell. There are some fabulous prizes on offer and winners will be given the opportunity to go to Buckingham Palace to meet Queen Camilla.

For more information about the competition and how to apply, visit the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

## Start of School Day

Children should arrive anytime between **8.40 – 8.55 a.m.**

## End of School Day

Years 3 & 4 – **3.25pm**

Years 5 & 6 – **3.30pm**

## Parking

Once again, we would ask parents who drive to school to park in a considerate and safe way. We have received several complaints from local residents who are unable to access or leave their driveways, and have been spoken to in an aggressive manner when they challenge the car owner. There is a Traffic Regulation Order in place along the whole stretch of Walmley Ash Road from school to Ashurst Road. This is an official legal order made by Birmingham City Council which prohibits parking on the road and pavement between the hours of 8.30-9.30 and 15.00-16.00 Monday to Friday. Failure to comply with this could result in a fine of up to £1000.

Please remember that our children's safety is always our top priority but also that parking over a dropped kerb is illegal. If you see a vehicle parked in an unsafe or inconsiderate place, please take a photograph and forward it to our local PCSO team at [suttonnewhall@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:suttonnewhall@westmidlands.police.uk)

## Communication

Remember that you can keep up with what our children are doing in school by following us on X (formerly known as Twitter). We regularly update X with children's work, trips or special events. Our X handle is @walmleyjssc

## Payments to school

Can we please remind parents that we are a cashless school, and all payments should be made using our online payments system <https://www.scopay.com/walmley-jun> We do not hold any cash in school and therefore cannot refund any payments made in cash that subsequently need to be returned. **Please note that any cash payments made, that need to be returned will sit on your child's account for you to use for a future trip/event.**

## Clubs Autumn 2

A reminder for parents that After School Clubs will start the first week back after October half term and run for 6 weeks.

## Dinner Money

Dinner money is £13.00 per week (i.e. £2.60 per meal). If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be **£88.40** for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Please ensure that payments are made promptly using our online system. Outstanding dinner money invoices are sent by email and we wish to remind you that dinner money **should always be paid in advance not arrears**. We hope that your child will have school dinners, but please remember to give the school office one week's notice in writing of any changes to your child's lunch arrangements.

## Hotdog Lunch – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a Hotdog Lunch on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. If you would like your child to have a lunch the cost is £2.60. **Payment for Hotdog Lunch should be made using Scopay online payment system.** Hotdog Lunch can be found in 'Products' then 'Hotdog Lunch'. Payment should be made no later than **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Please only pay £2.60 for the November Hotdog lunch and refrain from making overpayments as it causes issues on our payment system.**

## Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings and a festive pudding on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like your child to have a lunch the cost is £2.60. **Payment for Christmas Lunch should be made using Scopay online payment system.** Christmas Lunch can be found in 'Products' then 'Christmas Lunch'. Payment should be made no later than **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Please only pay £2.60 for the Christmas Lunch and refrain from making overpayments as it causes issues on our payment system.**

## Water Bottles

Please provide your child with a named water bottle. The children always have access to water and they will need their bottle in school every day to keep them sufficiently hydrated. Please do not send them in with squash.

## Free School Meals

Changes have been made as to how we collect information for Free School Meals. You no longer have to come into school to complete paperwork and bring in evidence as it is all done by simply registering online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>. You only ever need to register once and school will automatically be updated of eligibility or any changes of eligibility; this information is data protected as per the terms shown.

## Earlybirds Bookings

A reminder if you need to make an emergency booking it must be made before 12 o'clock on that day. In addition, if you cancel an Earlybirds session after 12 o'clock, you will have to collect your child from Earlybirds as they may have already been taken there by a member of the Earlybirds team.

## Policies

Our updated Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies can be found on our school website. <https://walmley-jun.bham.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>

## Dates for the Diary

### **Autumn Term 2023**

27 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for Half Term
6 <sup>th</sup> November	School Open
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Pop-Up Shop
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Hour of Code Week
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 dress rehearsal for grandparents 2.15pm
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 Balaji Temple visit
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas show parents 9.15am
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Theatre trip – Peter Pan
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Week (add a Christmas item to your uniform)
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Carol Service at the church 6.30pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch Day
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Teacher Training Day

### **Spring Term 2024**

8 <sup>th</sup> January	School Open
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up
19 <sup>th</sup> February	School Open
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Break up for Easter
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Teacher Training

### **Summer Term 2024**

8 <sup>th</sup> April	School Open
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for Half Term
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Teacher Training Day
4 <sup>th</sup> June	School Open
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up for Summer
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Teacher Training Day