

21<sup>st</sup> December 2023



Thank you for your continued support this year. Our school performances were a real success and we are so proud of our talented children! It has been an extremely busy term and we hope you enjoy spending time with your families and friends over the festive season. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope that the New Year brings you happiness and success.



### Goodbye and good luck

As you all know, Mrs. Harris is leaving us this term. She'll be deeply missed and we wish her every success in her new role as Head of School at Dunstall Park Primary School. She is a kind, conscientious and caring person who always wants the best for children. We wish her every success and happiness, knowing she'll be amazing in her new role!

### Long service for staff member

We are very proud to share the news that Mrs Lynn Rudge has been working at Walmley Junior School for **30 years!** It is an incredible achievement and her dedication and professionalism are evident in everything she does. We feel lucky to still have her working with us and long may it continue! Thank you so much, Mrs Rudge.

### Christmas Pop-Up Shop

The Christmas Pop-Up Shop was a big success and raised a total of £765. We'd like to say a huge thank you to families for their generosity as the children had a wonderful time buying some lovely toys and gifts to take home.

### Year 3 Christmas Production – The Innkeepers

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Year 3 spread lots of Christmas cheer as they performed their Christmas production – The Innkeepers. All their hard work in rehearsals really paid off as they delivered their lines clearly and sang absolutely beautifully. Look out West End, there are some future stars in the making here! Well done Year 3, we are really proud of you.

### Year 5 Carol Service at St.John's Church

On Tuesday evening, the Year 5 children performed our annual Christmas production at St John's Church in Walmley. As always, the church was packed and this year's performance by the children was exceptional - well done everyone! A great start to the Christmas festivities for all involved!

### Year 5 Carol Singing at Marian House

Some of our Year 5 children visited Marian House on Wednesday. They all sang Christmas carols beautifully with such enthusiasm. I am certain the children and residents are all feeling very Christmassy now and excited for the big day next week!

### Year 4 Balaji Temple Trip

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup>/ Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of December, Year 4 visited the Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple as part of their Religious Education. They learned about what Hindus believe in, the temple itself, and about Hindu Gods. Pupils visited different shrines, observed rangoli patterns and had the opportunity to ask our guide thoughtful questions. The children represented the school excellently by being respectful and quiet whilst walking around - well done, Year 4!

## Year 6 WW2 Street Party

To celebrate the end of our History topic on WW2, Year 6 had their very own street party. We made jam sandwiches and sat as a year group in the hall to enjoy them - along with a few jam tarts! A game of musical statues was enjoyed by all, accompanied by the one and only Glenn Miller. WW2 is always a topic our Y6 children speak highly of and the street party was the perfect way to round off our learning this term.

## Hour of Code Week

Every child in school took part in the worldwide Computer Science Education Week this month. They all really enjoyed learning about famous computer scientists as well as how to use code to program a robot! Micro:bits are available to purchase online (e.g. Amazon) if your child would like to explore more about these at home.



## Year 5 Interhouse Dodgeball

Year 5 held their annual house dodgeball tournament on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. As ever, it was a keenly fought competition which the children very much enjoyed. The teams all played each other in 8 minute games, with the highlight being a thrilling 4-4 draw between Green House and Blue House in the 4<sup>th</sup> match. In the end, Yellow House proved to be worthy overall winners with three wins from their three games. Runners-up on "goal-difference" were Blue House with a win and a draw, followed by Red and Green respectively. Well done to everyone who played for their excellent standard of sportsmanship and perseverance.

## Poppy Appeal

This November we raised **£464.38** and were told that we 'topped the table for schools in Sutton!' Thank you so much to everyone who donated to this worthwhile charity.

## Cake Sale – For the whole Spring Term – 10 Weeks

The kitchen will be selling homemade chocolate sponge cake on a Friday morning break priced at **60p per week**. This will start on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Payment should be paid in advance using Scopay online payment. Cake can be found in 'Products' then 'Cake Friday'. We are asking for payment to be made in advance for the Spring Term only, which will ensure your child receives cake on a Friday. **Please do not overpay! For the whole of the Spring Term it will be £5.40. Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March is an INSET DAY so we will not be serving cake that week.** Payment should be made no later than **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Once the deadline date has passed there will be no opportunity to order, so please do not contact the school office to ask.** As we are sure you can appreciate, Mrs Bean has to ensure she has the necessary ingredients, which is why we have a deadline.



## Toast Sale – For the whole Spring Term – 10 weeks

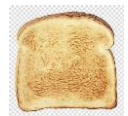
The kitchen will be selling toast at break time priced at 40p per slice (2 halves) – max 1 slice per child.

**Monday – Year 3**

**Tuesday – Year 4**

**Wednesday – Year 5**

**Thursday – Year 6**



Toast sales will start w/c Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Payment should be paid in advance using Scopay online payment. Toast can be found under 'Products' then 'toast'. We are asking for payment to be made in advance for the Spring Term only, this will ensure your child receives toast on their nominated day. **For the whole of Spring Term the cost will be £4.00.** Payment should be made no later than **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Once the deadline date has passed, there will be no opportunity to order, so please do not contact the school office to ask.** As we are sure you can appreciate Mrs Bean has to ensure she has the necessary supplies which is why we have a deadline.

### Hotdog Lunch - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a lunch on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like your child to have a lunch, the cost is £2.60. **Payment for Hotdog lunches should be made using Scopay online payment system.** Hotdog lunch can be found in 'Products' then 'Hotdog lunch'. We are asking for payment to be made in advance; this will ensure your child receives a lunch on that day. Payment should be made no later than **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Please only pay £2.60 for the January Hotdog lunch and refrain from making overpayments as it causes issues on our payment system. *If your child normally has a lunch on a Wednesday, you do not need to pay***

### 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 £65.00 for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. 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.

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.

### Pupil Collection Messages for Class Teachers

Due to the increasing number of parents sending messages via the school office regarding play dates / collection of children, we request that wherever possible a written note is provided by the parent for the child to hand directly to the class teacher. This will help to reduce any unnecessary / extra work which puts additional pressure on the school office. We appreciate that some things are last minute but wherever possible and when known in advance, please put a note in your child's bag to go directly to the teacher.

### After School Clubs

After School Clubs will start the first week back after the Christmas Holidays.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the children with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. It can be difficult to know when to keep children off school due to illness. Please visit the NHS website below if you are unsure.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Start of School Day

Children should arrive anytime between **8.40am – 8.55am**. **Please remember that children need to be in school by 8:55am and the gate then closes. If they arrive after this time, they will be recorded as late.**

### End of School Day

Years 3 & 4 – **3.25pm**

Years 5 & 6 – **3.30pm**

### 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.**

### 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.

### Lost Property

Please come into school and check the lost property rack for items your child may have lost. Unfortunately, there are some really nice coats and uniform without names. After Christmas we will dispose of all clothing, either by donating it or putting it in the skip to raise funds for the Air Ambulance.

### Dates for the Diary

#### **Autumn Term 2023**

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
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Whitemoor Lakes Meeting (current Year 4 to go in Year 5) 5.30 pm
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Hotdog Lunch
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices concert
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 Height and Weight Check
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up
19 <sup>th</sup> February	School Open
27 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Guru Nanak Niskam Sewak Jatha Trip
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Week
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 1
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents' Evening 2
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