

17th May 2024

Early retirement

Mrs. Smith has decided to take early retirement and is leaving her Deputy Headteacher role at the end of the summer term. She has worked at Walmley Junior School for 20 years and has enjoyed every minute! Her passion for French teaching will continue as she will stay on to teach French to Years 5 and 6 next year. She is conscientious, supportive of the school's values and vision and always wants our children to have the best memory-making experiences throughout their time at WJS. She'll be deeply missed and we wish her well in pursuing all those hobbies she will now have time for!

SATs Week

We would like to say a huge 'Well done!' to our Year 6 children who worked their socks off to complete their SATs tests this term. They revised hard and gave every test their best! Their positive attitude should be commended and they enjoyed a well-deserved treat at the end of the week, with a special lunch and chocolate fountain, paid for by our PFA.



Grammar School Entrance Exams – Year 5

Registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for a place at any of the grammar schools in Birmingham (entry to Year 7 in September 2025). Registration can be made online by visiting the website below. The closing date for registering is 4pm on 28th June 2024. The test will take place on 14th September 2024.

www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk

Red Nose Day

The whole school raised £582.50 for the Red Nose event with a non-uniform day!



The Great British Spring Clean

On the last day of the spring term, some of our eco enthusiasts took part on a litter pick in Walmley. We managed to fill 6 bags of rubbish as we walked through the housing estate and on to Walmley High Street. It was great to have lovely feedback from local residents, saying how our pupils have inspired them to litter pick themselves. This was part of The Great British Spring Clean, but is something we now aim to do more regularly, throughout the year.

Eco Tip of the Term

A generation ago, 70% of primary school children walked to school, now it's less than half! Our recent survey shows that 49% of WJS pupils walk, bike or scoot to school. We are aware that this is not always possible for everyone and so we would like to remind those that need to travel by car, to park a further distance away from school, if they are able. Thank you to the 40% of WJS families that already Park and Stride! We would also like to encourage car sharing where possible as this not only saves on fuel, it reduces traffic and frees up parking spaces. Our Eco councillors are passionate in promoting sustainable transport as a great way to cut carbon and protect our planet.

Beep! Beep! Day

Year 3 took part in 'Beep Beep Day' with Brake, the road safety charity. They recapped how to cross a road safely by stopping, looking and listening. They were then given different situations involving cars, other transport, parking etc. and children used their excellent problem-solving skills to find a safe solution to crossing the road and avoiding any other dangers. It's wonderful to hear feedback from the children of when and how they have crossed the road safely since having the lesson.

Year 3 Woodlands Trip

On Friday 10th May, Year 3 spent the day at Woodlands Adventure in Streetly. We had a wonderful time canoeing, orienteering, trying archery and racing down the zip line. The day was made even better by the absolutely perfect warm, dry (hurray!) weather. We are so proud of all Year 3 for embracing the activities – trying new things and overcoming their fears. Well done, Year 3 – you were absolute stars!

Year 4 Coventry Trip

We enjoyed our sunny visit to Coventry on Tuesday 30th April! Year 4 were able to explore the old and new cathedrals as well as the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery. We learned a lot from our tour guide and discussed conflict, peace and reconciliation. We were lucky enough to see Dippy the Dinosaur (a life-size replica of a Diplodocus Carnegii skeleton) and spent some time sketching. The children were respectful, inquisitive and thoroughly enjoyed the whole day!

Sports Competitions

Football – In April, The Year 6 football team faced Little Sutton in a league match. It was a keenly contested match with chances for both sides. Unfortunately, the game ended in a 2-0 defeat for Walmley but the team can be very proud of how they persevered right to the final whistle.

Cross Country – On 17th April, our cross country runners ran their final race at Bishop Vesey. This season it has been brilliant to see so many children take part and achieve success. We walked away with some super results – we even had a couple of 2nd places!

Netball – On Thursday 9th May, our Year 6 Netball Team played their next two matches. It was lovely to see their confidence grow as a team as they play more competitively. We are looking forward to playing our next match on Thursday 27th May at home!

Tennis – On Wednesday 8th May, a group of our Year 6 children went to play in a tennis tournament at Sutton Coldfield Tennis Club. Despite some tough competition, the children walked away with a third place in their group and showed true sportsmanship and perseverance – what excellent role models!

WJS Summer Holiday Club

After the success of previous summer holiday club programmes, we are pleased to inform you that we plan to run a holiday club again this year. Letters have been sent to all children so please speak to the school office if you have any questions.

Holiday Club – Monday 22nd July to Friday 26th July (one week only)

Option 1 – 8.00am – 4.00pm £20 Option 2 – 9.00am – 3.00pm Price: £16

Activities: Children will have a variety of activities to participate in, including outside games, computer time, cooking, football, rounders, tennis, basketball, a quiz, Xbox games, play on bikes and scooters and much more! We know the children like the water fun activities too!

Sports Day

Sports Day will take place during the morning of **Tuesday 25th June - Year 3/4: 9.00 am -10.30 am and Year 5/6: 10.45 am -12.00 pm**. Parents are welcome to attend. However, could we please ask you not to cross the running track or ask your child to come over to you. If the weather forecast is bad, we aim to notify you of our cancellation by text the day before if possible.

Late Notifications to school

Can we please ask parents to remember to send a note into the class teacher **on the morning** when they have made alternative arrangements, e.g. another parent is picking a child up, they are not going to Earlybirds, they are not going to a club. We are receiving messages late in the afternoon for arrangements that have been made the night before. As I am sure most parents are aware we only have one member of staff in the office who is increasingly having to deliver messages to children/staff, at late notice, that could be avoided if a note had been sent to the teacher.

Late notifications should be kept to a minimum and for emergency reasons only. We thank you for your understanding.

Lateness Procedure

If your child is late in the morning or you are late collecting them after school, please come to the office to register their arrival or collect them in person. If they walk or ride by themselves, please phone school to advise the reason why.

SEND Coffee Afternoon

Would you like to meet our Pupil School Support (PSS), Communication and Autism Team (CAT) teachers and our Speech and Language Therapist and have the opportunity to ask them questions? We are holding a coffee afternoon **2pm – 3:15pm Wednesday 12th June 2024** at school and would like you to join us. Gareth Fowler (PSS), Sarah Patterson (CAT) and Amy Marshall-Unitt (Speech and Language) will be joining us to give a brief overview of their services and the support they can offer to children, families and school.

This is also an opportunity to meet with other parents and share, or listen to, experiences in a friendly and relaxed environment. If you would like to attend, please let Mrs Conway know via email k.conway@walmley-jun.bham.sch.uk

School Timings – reminder

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

They will finish the day as follows: Years 3 & 4 – **3.25 p.m.** Years 5 & 6 – **3.30 p.m.**

Attendance

A polite reminder to all parents to keep routine appointments such as dentist and opticians outside of school hours. If your child is absent from school, you must inform the school office by telephoning to explain why your child is off that day, giving key details including symptoms of illness if they are unwell, by 9.30 am on the first day of the absence. Please help your child to build their resilience and work ethic by sending them to school if they only have a mild cough/cold.

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. Please also note that if you wish your child to have breakfast, your child must be in before 8.15 am as breakfast finishes at 8.20 am.

After-School Clubs – Summer 2

A reminder for parents that After School Clubs will start the first week back after the May Half Term Holiday and run for 6 weeks.

Hotdog Lunch – Wednesday 26th June

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a lunch on Wednesday 26th June. If you would like your child to have a lunch, the cost is £2.60. **Payment for Hot dog lunches should be made using Scopay online payment system.** Hot dog lunch can be found in 'Products' then 'Hot dog 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 **Monday 17th June. Please only pay £2.60 for the June Hotdog lunch and refrain from making overpayments as it causes issues on our payment system. *If your child normally has a lunch on Wednesdays, you do not need to pay.***

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.**

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 Tuesday 4th June to Friday 19th July. 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. Please remember if your child has a meal on a Thursday and or Friday and is going to London pay for one or two meals less across the Summer 2 Half Term.** 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. The Summer Term 2 will start on Week 1 of the menus.

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.

Sunny Weather

Now that the warmer weather is here, please send your child into school with a hat and sun cream so that they are protected at playtimes and for outdoor lessons. As always, they should also have a drinks bottle so that they can stay hydrated throughout the school day. Thank you.



Dates for the Diary

Summer Term 2024

24 th May	Break up for Half Term
3 rd June	Teacher Training Day
4 th June	School Open
24 th June	School Photographer – Class photos
25 th June	Sports Day
20 th -21 st June	Year 6 Residential trip to London
28 th June	Walmley Junior School – 50 th Anniversary
2 nd July	Year 5 Dovedale Trip
3 rd July	Year 6 Secondary Transfer day
3 rd July	Year 2 Induction to Y3 morning
15 th July	Final Parents' Evening
16 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Performance
16 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Disco
19 th July	Break up for Summer
22 nd July	Teacher Training Day

Autumn Term 2024

2nd September	Teacher Training Day
3rd September	School Open
25th October	Break up for Half Term
4th November	School Open
29th November	Teacher Training Day
20th December	Break up for Christmas

Spring Term 2025

6th January	Teacher Training Day
7th January	School Open
14th February	Break up for Half Term
24th February	School Open
11th April	Break up for Easter

Summer Term 2025

28th April	School Open
23rd May	Break up for Half Term
2nd June	Teacher Training Day
3 rd June	School Open
18th July	Break up for Summer
21st July	Teacher Training Day