

Thursday 18th July 2024

Happy Holidays!



We have all had such a busy year. It is brilliant to have such lovely children and supportive parents, and we would like to thank you all for making our school such a special place. Have a relaxing summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you fully refreshed on Tuesday 3rd September.

Mr. S. Pearson
Headteacher

Goodbye to Year 6

At the end of the year we have some fond farewells, mostly to our Year 6 pupils. We wish them the very best as they leave us to go to BIG school (secondary school). We are so proud of these children who are conscientious, intelligent, polite and great fun to be with! Remember all the things we have taught you and cherish the memories from your time at Walmley Junior School. Good luck in all that you do; be kind and try your best. We think you're amazing!



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 now has time for!

Mr Ware will also be leaving us at the end of this year as he has recently gained a promotion as a Deputy Headteacher. We are really pleased for him and this is well deserved. Mr Ware is a kind and conscientious, always wanting the best for our children. We wish him every success and happiness, knowing he'll be amazing in his new role!

Miss Smith in Year 3 is getting married next week and we would like to wish her every happiness for the future. When she returns in September, she will be called Mrs Drinkhall!

WJS 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Friday 28th June was a special day at Walmley Junior School when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of moving to our current location, on Walmley Ash Road. There were lots of activities throughout the week, including an arts project and dance sessions. We even drew self-portraits for commemorative tea towels. School looked fabulous trimmed with gold bunting and lots of balloons. All pupils were given a commemorative pin, to wear on their uniforms. The celebrations culminated in an assembly where children sang a medley of songs from the last 50 years. There was a whole school picnic on the field at lunchtime and a 'flash mob' where everyone had a chance to perform the dance routines they had learnt during the week.

Later in the day, the school was opened up to past pupils from across the decades and members of the local community. We are thrilled that so many people could attend. It was great to see some familiar faces and to hear pupils reminisce about being here when it first opened. It reminded us all of what a very special place Walmley Junior School is and how proud we are of our school community.

Year 4 Father's Day Assembly

It was wonderful to see so many Dads, Grandads and other relatives at our Year 4 Fathers' Day Assembly last month. The children really enjoyed taking the opportunity to share just how amazing their male role models are! We were incredibly proud of how well the children performed the songs and it was especially lovely to see everyone playing outside afterwards too. Thank you all for coming and we hope you had a great afternoon.

Year 6 London Trip

On Thursday 20th June 2024, Year 6 had a very exciting, action-packed overnight stay in London. Over the two days, the children visited Harry Potter World, watched The Lion King at The Lyceum Theatre, visited a range of key tourist attractions (10 Downing Street, Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and Big Ben), took a flight on The London Eye and a relaxing cruise along The River Thames. This was all rounded off with a McDonald's on the way back to school. A thoroughly enjoyable trip and a brilliant way to end their time at Walmley Junior School.



Area Sports

On Wednesday 19th June, a group of 24 children from across all year groups represented Walmley at a competitive athletics event at Wyndley. After a very successful day on both the track and field, Walmley finished 5th overall. A fantastic achievement and we are proud of every single child who represented the school. Well done!

Sports Day 2024

On Tuesday 25th June, we had a wonderful morning celebrating all things sport at our annual 'Sports Day'. All our children took part in a range of sporting activities. With the sun blazing down, it was excellent to see our children compete with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship – they made us all very proud! Yellow house continue their reign as house champions for another year! Thank you for your continued support with this event.

Visit from a Veterinary Nurse

This term, we welcomed the return of Miss Davis, a veterinary nurse and parent volunteer. Miss Davis held sessions to Years 3 and 5 showing us basic First Aid skills, such as wrapping bandages. She also demonstrated the process of an operation on an animal, amongst other wonderful interactive activities. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit and we would like to thank Miss Davis for her time. It's great to hear how, from this, pupils were inspired to consider career paths in the medical field.

School Timings – reminder

Children should arrive anytime between **8.40am – 8.55am**. The gate will close automatically after this time.

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

Lateness Procedure

If your child is **late in the morning (after 8.55 a.m. when the gate closes)** or you are late collecting them after school, please **accompany them 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.

Uniform

Please do not buy new uniform without checking the full list on the school website first. Some children are still being sent in with 'variations' that are not part of our uniform (including coloured socks!). Please do not put your child in the difficult position of being challenged for wearing the wrong uniform – a navy skirt does not include black, and leather/leather look shoes do not include fabric trainers.

Could we also give out the usual reminder about writing your **child's name in ALL of their clothing and belongings**, please, especially lunchboxes, coats and jumpers/cardigans. This will save you money by items not being lost!

P.E. Days

From September, children will need to wear their P.E. kit for lessons on the following days:

Year 3 – Thursday

Year 4 – Tuesday

Year 5 – Friday

Year 6 – Monday

Attendance

A reminder to all parents that 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 9.30am 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.

Childcare Vouchers

Can we please remind all parents who pay by **vouchers** that there are HMRC rules and regulations that providers and school have to follow regarding vouchers. School should not be receiving payments that would put a child's account in credit. As per the email that is issued with your statement each month **please only activate your voucher to match the amount owing. The statement is provided so you have the necessary information to hand when activating your voucher.**

Clubs Autumn 1

A reminder for parents that After School Clubs will start the **second** week back after the Summer Holiday and run for 7 weeks.

Cake Sale – For the whole Autumn Term – 14 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 6th September. 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 Autumn Term only, which will ensure your child receives cake on a Friday. **Please do not overpay! For the whole of the Autumn Term it will be £8.40.** Payment should be made no later than **Friday 30th August 2024. 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 Autumn Term – 15 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 Tuesday 3rd September. 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 Summer Term only, this will ensure your child receives toast on their nominated day. **For the whole of the Autumn Term the cost will be £6.00 but for Year 3 it will be £5.60 due to the INSET day on Monday 2nd September.** Payment should be made no later than **Friday 30th August. 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 25th September

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a lunch on Wednesday 25th September. If you would like your child to have a lunch, the cost is £2.70. **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 **Monday 16th September**. Please only pay **£2.70** for the **September 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**

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 – Price Increase by 10p

Dinner money will be increasing by 10p per meal from September 2024 to **£13.50 per week (i.e. £2.70 per meal)**. If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be **£105.30** for Tuesday 3rd September to Friday 25th October. 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. There will be new menus for the Autumn Term available on our website shortly and we will start on Week 1 of the menus in September.

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.

Dates for the Diary

19 th July	Break up for Summer
22 nd July	Teacher Training Day

Autumn Term 2024

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

Spring Term 2025

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

Summer Term 2025

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