

20th December 2024



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, Mr Pearson is leaving us this term. He has been our dedicated and hardworking Headteacher since 2014 and he will be deeply missed by our whole school community. Mr Pearson has always put the children at Walmley Junior School first in every decision made and we are very lucky to have had him lead our school for so long. He is caring, thoughtful and kind and will be greatly missed. We wish him every success and happiness for the future.

Year 3 Christmas Production - Baubles

Year 3 really got Christmas started with their production of Baubles, last week. We are immensely proud of how hard they worked to pull it all together on both days, delivering their lines clearly and singing beautifully. Well done, Year 3. You are real super stars!

Year 5 Carol Service at St. John's Church

On Tuesday evening, the Year 5 children performed their Carol Service at St John's Church in Walmley. The children were amazing - singing, playing instruments, dancing and speaking their lines clearly and with expression. A massive well done to all Y5 children. You should be very proud of yourselves. A great start to the Christmas festivities for all involved.

Year 5 Carol Singing at Marian House

On Wednesday 18th December, a small group of Year 5 children went to Marian House, Walmley, to sing Christmas Carols. They all sang beautifully and played Jingle Bells on the recorder. It was wonderful to spend time with our Walmley community and the residents really enjoyed watching the children's performance.

Year 6 WW2 Street Party

As part of their World War 2 History topic, children had a fun afternoon celebrating VE Day with their very own street party. We learnt about what VE Day was and how the British public may have felt when the end of the war was announced. During the afternoon, children celebrated with friends; ate jam sandwiches and tarts and had their own dance competition to wartime classics.

Poppy Appeal

This November we raised **£426.03**. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to this worthwhile charity.

Vacancy – Lunchtime Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a new member of our lunchtime team. Please find details of working hours, salary and job description on our website (under the Our School/Vacancies tab), as well as an application pack. These will also be available from the school office. If you have an hour or so to spare every lunchtime, please consider coming to join us. We look forward to hearing from you. The closing date will be midday on Friday 24th January 2025.

Cake Sale – For the whole Spring Term – 13 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 10th 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 £7.80.** Payment should be made no later than **Sunday 5th January 2025. 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 – 13 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 6th 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 £5.20. As Monday 6th January is an INSET Day Year 3 should pay £ 4.80.** Payment should be made no later than **Sunday 5th January 2025. 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 22nd January

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a lunch on Wednesday 22nd January. 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 **Thursday 9th January. Please only pay £2.70 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 £13.50 per week (i.e. £2.70 per meal). If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be £78.30 for Tuesday 7th January to Friday 14th 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.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will start the second 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 2024

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
3rd June School Open
18th July Break up for Summer
21st July Teacher Training Day