



Dear Parent/Carer

We are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays after a very long (15 week) term. The unusual pattern this academic year means that there will be a very short half term between Easter and May of 4 weeks. Please bear the dates of school holidays in mind when you are considering booking a holiday as missing school time does have an impact on educational attainment.



This year SATs exams fall in the week beginning 13th May and we do not expect any Y6 children to be away from school at this very important time. All key dates for your diary are on the school website and school app.

Within the last week the DfE has published its annual school comparison tables which enable anyone to see how well schools are doing and to compare the results of the SATs taken in May 2018. I am pleased to say that Walton Priory's results show a consistent 3 year upward trend. We came 58th out of 389 primary schools in Staffordshire on our attainment at the higher standard in reading writing and maths combined, and 106th out of 389 for the percentage of children meeting the expected standard. I am delighted with both results, which are above national figures, and especially with the 14% achieving the higher standard which compares very well with neighbouring establishments. The DfE website is found at <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england>

The new academic year in September brought with it our four new classrooms and also some new teachers due to growing numbers. Their profiles are available on our website. The new calendar year will also see some changes. Miss Kent commences her Teaching Apprenticeship through the University of Wolverhampton. Mr Brookes starts a teaching and behaviour support role. Mr Bentley starts as a Sports Apprentice and we hope to fill two Teaching Assistant vacancies. We are continuing our push on STEM subjects with an investment in a class set of Google Chromebooks and have upgraded to a new e-safety package that allows named staff to see children's computer screens live from anywhere in the school. Although we are not a high school, we take future employment very seriously and already offer many opportunities to help children identify their career path. Miss Smith is working on a project to gain formal external recognition of this work through 'Careers Mark'.

Mrs Williamson was elected as staff governor last week and will start this role at the governors' meeting in February. We also have two vacancies for parent governors which have been advertised to all parents by email. If you would like to be involved in the school but do not wish to serve as a governor there are other ways you can be involved. The PSA is doing a fantastic job this year and is always looking out for new members. Please contact the school office if you'd like to help. Remember, you can always keep in touch with the activities of the school via Twitter and on Instagram. On a final note, we are a third of the way through the school year and hope that you as parents and carers are confident on how well your children are doing. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's academic progress or wellbeing please contact your child's tutor rather than waiting for a parents' evening.

On behalf of all staff and governors at Walton Priory I wish you a happy and festive Christmas and New Year.

Diary Dates:

January 2019

7th Inset Day

8th Term Starts

24th Y8 Imperial War Museum Trip

February 2019

1st Tomorrow's Engineers Energy Workshops

5th Safer Internet Day

8th Ski Austria Depart

15th Inset Day & Ski Austria Return

18th - 22nd Half Term

25th Term Starts



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APP
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Year 5 had an amazing time at the Black Country Living Museum last week. The visit was part of our topic on the Victorians and gave an insight to the living conditions of the time and the jobs that people had to do. We investigated the life of a child who had to work in the coalmine every day and the conditions they had to endure and the school visit left the pupils wondering why the alphabet had to be recited backwards! The cinema was so small it was difficult to fit us all in and we marvelled at the way that the shops all used a strange monetary system with farthings, shillings and very large pennies. There was a whole community there, the children were fascinated throughout the day and a great time was had by all.



In November, Walton pupils from years 5 and 6 joined with pupils from schools all around Stone to sing at the Stone Christmas lights event in Stone town centre. The weather was good, the crowds were huge and dressed in our Christmas finery (antlers and bobble hats), we welcomed the beginning of the festive season. Our songs ranged from good old Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to Shine Jesus Shine, and after we had sung our hearts out many of us continued to enjoy the rides and stalls with our families. We all had a wonderful Christmassy time.

This term saw a Year 7 visit to Warwick Castle. It was a sunny day and the children made the most of the experience visiting lots of attractions. The imposing castle helped to secure their understanding of a defensive structure and they had the opportunity to experience the motte of the motte and bailey castle. In addition to this they saw the skill of falconry, getting up to the action as the birds flew over students heads. The highlight was the trebuchet, a medieval catapult that showed the power of castle sieges. The students were well behaved and we gained a compliment from a member of the public who thought they had lovely manners and were very polite. A great experience that supported the curriculum, bringing history to life.



Air Ambulance

The competition was to write a story showing how well the Air Ambulance work. My whole class entered the competition and I won! Abbie from the Air Ambulance came into school to deliver an assembly and present me with my prize. She delivered her assembly all about the Air Ambulance and shared some fantastic stories with us about how they have saved lives. I think the Air ambulance are really inspiring as without them it would be hard to save people who end up in critical situations. When I found out I had won the iPad I was very excited and also really proud that I had won the school £675. Maria Caine Year 7 pupil.

Social Media: Follow us on Twitter & Instagram



@waltonpriory



waltonpriorymiddleschool

STEM Activities

Visits to the BBC in Birmingham, the National Space Centre in Leicester and the London Transport Museum are just a few of the STEM-based outings that pupils have experienced this term. Companies and organisations are very keen to encourage young people to consider STEM careers as they progress through school towards their significant exams and option choices. A few Y8 pupils were invited to the BBC to look at engineering careers and we attended workshops at the National Space Centre on Chemistry and Geology. We even made a model of a comet – complete with dry ice, gravel and a touch of red wine!



One group visited the London Transport Museum as part of their research into urban transport solutions. They've just submitted their (top secret) entry into the Talent2030 Engineering Competition for Girls. Hopefully we'll be able to report on that next term.



We've also got four groups working towards entries into the BP Ultimate STEM Challenge, with ideas including eco-houses, wheelie-bin crushers and (our teachers' favourite) shoes with adjustable high heels.

We were lucky to have the amazing Space Dome in school for a day to help Y5 with their Space Topic. A whole class of children, plus a few adults, were sealed inside the dome while projectors showed stars, planets and constellations in 3D detail. The KS3 STEM Club is also popular, with children working toward prestigious CREST awards. We're delighted to have Ernie Prevost, a STEM Ambassador, working with a group to modernise our old waterwheel with the addition of a digital data logger.

Timetabled STEM lessons are varied, to say the least, with cooking, sewing, and aeronautics combined with the core of Maths and Science. The groups will rotate again at the start of the New Year. We're proud of our STEM offering at Walton Priory and are looking forward to even more enrichment and success in 2019.

G Taylor
STEM Technician

On Tuesday 20th November, 15 year 8 pupils visited The National Space Centre, Leicester to take part in a Chemistry at Work Event. Co-organised with Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The pupils participated in a series of short workshops delivered by industrial partners, all highlighting the use of chemistry (and science) in their roles and industries. They then had the opportunity to spend the other half of the day touring the National Space Centre's galleries and rocket tower. The pupils had a great time, especially learning about 'Comet Chemistry' and 'Spectroscopy and the stars'.

Link to a published article: <https://nationalspaceacademy.org/news/455-chemistry-at-work-now-i-know-i-want-to-be-a-scientist>



Head Boy and Girl.

Hi, I'm Adam the Head Boy at Walton Priory. I think I was chosen for the role as Head Boy because I am intelligent (I think), I'm not afraid of giving my opinion, I'm good at giving feedback and love to help others. My hobbies outside of school include, I play football 6 times a week as I play for Crewe Alexander FC. I have played with them for 2 ½ years and love it there. Before playing for Crewe I used to play for Stoke City which was equally as good.

In school my favourite subjects are P.E. and competitive sports. The qualities I bring to the role of Head Boy are; enthusiasm, intelligence and being courageous. Adam Jasper

Hello, I'm Jessica – the Head Girl. I aspire to be the best person I can be, and push myself in lessons. I enjoy swimming, cycling and dodgeball. I also like to draw in my spare time. My favourite lessons include: English, Maths and Art. I think that I was chosen for the role of Head Girl because I continually try my best and I strive to help others. In my role of Head Girl, I think that it's important for me to be here for every pupil, be a good example and represent the school by demonstrating good behaviour. Jessica Norman

Motivational speaker.

Paul Griffiths is a motivational speaker who has travelled far and wide across the world, challenging himself and achieving his dreams. We were lucky enough to invite him into school to inspire our KS3 pupils to be more resilient and confident, achieve their dreams and look to the future. He engaged all of the pupils, many wanting to stay behind and meet him after the assembly. We're hoping to invite Paul back in the near future to work with a smaller group of pupils on stress reduction and motivation.



Year 7 and 8 Bushcraft trip to Cholmondeley Castle

The Bushcraft trip at Cholmondeley Castle was very exciting. We learnt survival skills for coping in the wild. Some of the best activities in my opinion were: fire lighting, shelter building and trap setting. We played exhilarating games and everyone had a smile on their face even when covered in mud or eating fish eye balls.

On the first day we made our shelters and were able to sleep in them. Some of us slept in the tarp shelters for all 3 nights!

One of the highlights I, and I'm sure many other people, will remember about the trip is the 'Scenario SOS – aeroplane crash'. Don't worry we weren't in the crash but Mr Chandler, Mr Ball and Mrs Castree were and it was our job to give emergency help. Mr Ball had a bleeding head, Mr Chandler a broken head and poor Mrs Castree a broken arm.

After we had fun it was sadly time to go home. The cook will be missed as his food was amazing. We got back to school and life continued with the great memories of a trip we will never forget. Charlotte Whiteman Year 8 pupil.



Christmas Fair

It's that time of year again when the festivities are amongst us and the Christmas Fair is being planned. It was a task for the year 7 pupils to make, bake and create for the Christmas Fair this year and what a fantastic job they did. From gingerbread biscuits and cake to doughnuts and dog treats, everyone was catered for. The tombolas are always a popular attraction and this year was no different. The raffle also went very well because of the fabulous bundles of gifts to be won. We made over £1200 at the fair, some of which will go towards an activity for the year 7 pupils due to their considerable contributions in making products to sell. Thank you to all who donated items we really couldn't do it without the support from you all. Miss Smith.

Ski Austria

With only 50 days to go until Ski Austria 19, students are becoming more and more excited each day. Live webcam footage and the snow report is being checked daily. Mr Ball would like to thank all the parents who attended the Ski Austria 19 parents evening.



Competitive Sports has been as fantastic as usual with the weather not being on our side on many occasions. A special mention to the KS3 girls on contact rugby who have braved all conditions to enhance their skills in a relatively new game to them.

After Christmas – Spring 1 and 2

Competitive Sports

Football, Hockey, X-Country Relay, Benchball.

PE

Year 5 – Spring 1 - Problem Solving, Spring 2 – Health and Fitness

Year 6, 7 and 8 – Health and Fitness and Boxing

Swimming

5SC, 5SH and 5RMC are swimming starting Monday 14.1.19



Lost property/lost PE Kit reminder. **Mr Taylor has over 30 WPMS rugby tops. None of them have names inside them.** If your child may have lost one, please pop a note in their planner and ask them to find Mr Taylor.

Jasmine Thakkar and Lexi Turner will be competing in the West Midlands Schools Acrobatic Competition on Saturday 26th January. If the girls win their category they will qualify for the Schools Acrobatic National Finals in May. Good luck!

New Recruit

My name is Claire Rigg and I am the new Reprographics Technician.

I was one of the first pupils to attend Walton Priory Middle School, I am showing my age now and my son Joseph also attended the school. Joseph, as the result of a good education and hard work, has gone on to study for a degree at The Solent University in Southampton. Whilst Joseph was here at Walton Priory Middle School I was an active member of the PSA eventually going on to Chai the group and I also carried on being a member when Joseph moved up to Alleynes.

I am a very keen cook, I love gardening, and crafting and have recently take up fishing.

Athletics

Sportshall Athletics was the first 'School Games' event of the year and it was well received by all 40 students involved. Every single one of them did themselves and the school proud. Results below.

Year 5 and 6 finished the team event 7th

Year 7 Boys finished 2nd

Year 7 Girls finished 5th

Year 8 Boys finished 2nd

Year 8 Girls finished 3rd

The Year 7 and 8 boys and Year 8 girls were extremely close to winning the events and qualifying for the county event. Only the winning team progresses out of the 12 that enter.



Mr Ball would like to thank all children for their continued support with lunchtime and after school extracurricular clubs. He would also like to thank Miss Matthews and Mr Chandler for their support with running some of the clubs.

Notes from the office...

UNIFORM MARKING

Please ensure ALL uniform is named

TELEPHONE CALLS

Telephone calls to the office are for reporting absences and emergencies only. Please use your child's planner if you would like to contact their teacher.

ABSENCE

Please report your child's absence to the school office before 9:30am.

MEDICATIONS

The school will no longer be able to administer non-prescribed medicines

HOME TIME ARRANGEMENTS

Please ensure your child is aware of home time arrangements.

ACTIVITIES & HOMEWORK CLUB

If your child attends an after school club or homework club please ensure their planner is signed granting permission and provide details of their home time arrangements.

LETTERS

Letters home will now be emailed through teachers2parents and published on the school website.

Free donations for Walton Priory...

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Walton Priory Middle School?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/waltonpriorymiddleschool/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Dear Parent/Carer. The school has to re-imburse the catering service for school lunch debt incurred by parents/carers. Last year debts totalled over £1000, this money could have been spent on resources for the children. As a result of this debt we have made the difficult decision that a lunch will not be provided for any child whose parent/carer owes the equivalent of payment for 5 meals. If you are in this situation you will be notified and until the debt is cleared will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. If the school has concerns that a parent/carer is failing to provide a meal for a child it will treat this as a safeguarding matter and may involve outside agencies.

The introduction of Parentpay later this term should make it easier for parents/carers to check outstanding amounts and make payments.

If you think you may be eligible to receive a free school meal for your child please contact freeschoolmeals@staffordshire.gov.uk or telephone: 0300 111 8007.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you to Landywood Landscapes Ltd for the generous donation of plants for our school planters.



07795310710

**Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Primary & Middle School
Admissions**

**Applications Close: Tuesday
15 January 2019**

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