



Dear Parent/Carer

We are all (staff and pupils alike) looking forward to the Easter break after a series of long half terms! It's been a lovely Spring term with the school branching out to work with a range of other local schools as well as employers and community groups.



We have had success in several Rotary Challenge competitions and KS3 pupils enjoyed a super Careers day learning about many different employment options.

I was invited to Denstone College this term, where I met the new headteacher and enjoyed a tour of the marvellous facilities that the school has to offer. Several ex Walton pupils are now educated as day students at Denstone and it was a pleasure to see how well they are doing. Denstone offers sporting and academic scholarships and takes pupils in Year 7 (their First Year) and Year 9 (Their Third year). Their Open Morning is coming up on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, providing a good opportunity to find out about the different pathways for admission.

I am delighted to announce a new aspect to Walton Priory. Very shortly we will be a nationally accredited Forest School. Mr Ball and Mr Brookes have been on an intensive course learning about outdoor skills and bushcraft including knot tying, knife skills, first aid, outdoor cooking and shelter making. The scheme is in partnership with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and will enable pupils to study and learn outdoors in our own grounds. Lessons will be piloted in the summer term and will launch 'officially' as part of the STEM curriculum in September. Not only is this a unique offer for children of this age range in Stone, but I see this as a real advantage for our children and a great foundation for Duke of Edinburgh later on.

I'm really pleased that Walton Priory is moving forward and feedback about the quality of education we offer is really positive from parents, pupils and staff. We are full on first choice places again for the incoming Year 5 and for Year 7.

I wish you and your families a lovely Easter break and look forward to the Summer term.

Mrs Taylor Potts

## Diary DATES

### April

- 12<sup>th</sup> Term Ends
- 29<sup>th</sup> Term Starts
- 30<sup>th</sup> Junior Maths Challenge

### May

- 7<sup>th</sup> Y5 Writing Project
- 9-10<sup>th</sup> Salters Festival of Chemistry
- 13<sup>th</sup> SATS week
- 17<sup>th</sup> PSA Danceathon
- 20<sup>th</sup> Y5 National Space Centre Trip
- 21<sup>st</sup> Y5 National Space Centre Trip
- 21<sup>st</sup> Y8 HPV vaccinations
- 24<sup>th</sup> Y6 Bikefix

### June

- 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> PSA Father's Day Sale
- 27<sup>th</sup> June Y5 & 7 Parents' Evening

### July

- 4<sup>th</sup> July Y6 & 8 Parents' Evening
- 11<sup>th</sup> Y8 Presentation Evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> Y8 Rewards Trip
- 17<sup>th</sup> Y8 Prom
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Day

### Welcome back Mrs Cole.



Mrs Cole returns from maternity leave after Easter as teacher of English.

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram

Walton Priory Middle School, Beacon Rise, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0AL 01785 550040



Download our school app on Apple IOS and Android.

**Free Donations for WPMS:**

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!

**Allotment.** Our year 8 allotment team haven't let the cold weather deter them, they have been busy repairing the raised beds ready for planting in and helping our allotment neighbours to build a shed. The group were fortunate enough to receive funding from both Councillor Jill Hood, which enabled them to buy a new poly-tunnel, and from the Stone Lions to buy some much needed overalls and wellies. The group is certainly making a positive impact in the local community and it's great that they're being recognised and encouraged to keep up the good work - well

**The Danceathon is back!** On Friday 17th May we are challenging pupils to complete 1 hour of non-stop Just-Dance. The pace will be high, the energy levels will be tested and hopefully lots of funds shall be raised towards the school music department and the PSA. Keep an eye out for the sponsorship form coming home and please encourage your child to raise as much money as possible, complete the form, including a list of your favourite tunes and then bring it back to school on the Friday. All money raised (cash only) needs to be returned to school in a named envelope by Friday 7th June. Many thanks, Mrs Wallace.

**Egg decorating competition:**

There have been some great entries into this year's egg decorating competition, once again showing the wonderful creativity and talents of both KS2 and KS3 pupils. Thank you to all pupils who have taken part. Mrs Wallace.



**WPMS talent is endless.**



Year 7 student Makenzie has signed for Wolves from Stoke. The Welsh international said it was too good of an opportunity to turn down.



Chloe (from 7CW) has won through to the final of the Staffordshire Young Musician competition. This is amazing.



Huge congratulations to Alana and Harry who have been selected for the England Canoe Team, J12 class. They'll be competing at Grantully, Bala Mill and Nottingham.



Emma has been training hard for her BBO dance exams. Good luck!

**Family Learning.** Once again this term, we welcomed parents and year 4 children from one of our local first schools to join in with some cooking sessions and learn more about our school. It was Pirehill's turn in Spring. Everyone certainly enjoyed learning new skills, especially when the children, much to their parent's amazement, were able to make their own dinner to take home! Thank you to all parents who attended, we look forward to welcoming parents from Tittensor and Standon next half term.





## New Spring/Summer menus after Easter

<http://www.waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk/about-us/dinner-menu>

As the weather is warming up ice lollies will now be available at lunchtime 50p-£1



**Spring/Summer Uniform.** After Easter girls can come to school in knee length yellow gingham dresses and boys knee length black tailored shorts.



**School Shop.** Open Tuesday-Friday lunchtime.

Variety of cards: 10p  
Whiteboard pens: 60p  
Pencils: 30p  
Biros (Green, Blue, Black): 40p  
Pritt Stick 22g: £1.20  
5\* Glue Stick 40g: £1  
Rubber: 30p  
Handwriting pen: 60p  
Rulers: 40p  
Sharpener: 20p  
A4 Folder: 60p  
A5 Folder: 50p



## Stone Community Fire Station.

Y5 enjoyed a very useful addition to our PSHE curriculum when we visited Stone Community Fire Station last week. Apart from an important fire safety talk, we learned how to do CPR with the Army, found the dangers around our canals and some of us even sat in a huge lorry to see how difficult it is for drivers to see cars and people around their vehicle when they are driving. We were very surprised when we learned that electricity can arc from railway overhead lines and are far more aware of the dangers around us. When did you last check your smoke alarm?

We were very grateful for such a well organised and enjoyable morning and can be much safer now in our environment.



In November 2018, Mr Townsend and Mrs Hallows became "School-Based Mental Health Champions", along with other schools in Stone, they attended training to provide support for children while at school.

The Hope project is a school listening service which supports children and families. The project offers early intervention and promotes a whole school approach for emotional wellbeing. Sometimes children need someone to talk to about emotional, behavioural or social difficulties or advice. We aim to provide that through the Hope project. Our confidential, private 1:1 sessions and our group sessions, covering anxiety, bereavement and friendships, have been very successful and we hope that this will continue into the future.

**"Our Way to Wellbeing – Working together to help our Students to feel good and live well"**



## Year 7 The National Enterprise Challenge.

This was our fifth year taking part in the TNEC and it certainly didn't disappoint. Pupils organised themselves into groups of 4 with each person hopefully having a different strength to bring to their team. They started the day by thinking about what they wanted to get out of the challenge: teamwork, leadership, confidence and delegation being amongst the options. Teams then went on to design their product for the stationery company Ryman. We can't say too much as some schools won't have had their challenge day yet! Out of 23 groups, 11 were shortlisted to present their ideas to the year 7 cohort and a panel of 'expert' judges (Mrs Gaunt, Miss Smith and Sarah from TNEC). It was an incredibly tough decision but the winning team were finally announced. Bella, Evie, TJ and Tendo are off to the finals in July at WEMBLEY! We all wish them the best of luck.



## Careers day.

KS3 Careers day saw 25 visitors in school delivering future career choices to our pupils. The day started with Beth who runs a global security company; she inspired pupils with ideas of starting their own business and the types of security they cover – not just a security guard for a supermarket. For the remainder of the day pupils rotated around 8 other workshops covering a variety of careers from dentistry to environmental sewage works, working alongside the military, accounting, language interpreter and solicitor to name but a few. Being a STEM school, of course this was also in the mix with many engineering careers on show, including the well-known JCB and Perkins. At the end of the day, pupils left with a range of knowledge from many different careers and enjoyed their free 'goody bag' with items kindly donated by our many visitors. Thanks to all those that supported the day.

**And they're off!** Y7 have set off for a week at Colomendy and Y6 to Chasewater for 3 days. Have fun!



## New Adventures.

Well done to Jamie who has been awarded a sports scholarship at Denstone College.



**Miss Kent.** As part of Miss Kent's teaching apprenticeship she will be off to Pirehill to teach KS1 for 6 weeks. We wish you all the best.

**Welcome!** Mrs Last joined the Teaching Assistant team this term and will be working in KS2.

We have also appointed a new Teacher of Science. Mr Kilford will be joining us in September.



## Uniform Changes.

The school's Instagram account exploded on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April when it was announced that consultations were to take place on yellow skirts, trousers and blazers. Some people spotted the date, many pupils were indignant and more than a few thought it was an excellent idea. Thank you to everyone who played along. Our pupils are so funny sometimes





## BP Ultimate STEM Challenge 2019.

We entered five teams into this prestigious national competition this year. The teams' amazing ideas included a spell-checking pen with a camera attached, an attachment for crushing the rubbish in your wheelie bin, an app that checked for food allergies while you were shopping; and high heels that would adjust up and down. Whilst none of those made it to the final, we're excited that Team HIDS, who invented Hearing Impaired Dance Shoes, have been successful! Charlotte, Ryan, Danu and Mathilda have been invited to the Science Museum in London next month to present their idea to a panel of judges. Mr Ball, the school's STEM Leader, praised every team: "All the pupils involved have worked incredibly hard, in STEM lesson and at lunchtimes, to get these projects finished. Our school seems to be bursting with ideas wherever you look." Good luck to TEAM HIDS!



## Fly to the Line Glider Challenge.

Four of our most talented boys from 5RM recently had an exciting day at RAF Cosford, representing the school in this competition. Working in one of the huge hangars, surrounded by antique aeroplanes, school teams had to design and build a glider from a single A3 polystyrene sheet. It was a busy day, with twenty-five other schools there. George, Sam, Noah and Danny were doing brilliantly until an excited member of another team accidentally stood on our glider as it landed its first test flight. Out came the hot glue guns again and Miss McClarence worked wonders with masking tape, but our glider never quite reached its full potential after that accident. Nonetheless, we all had a great day out and enjoyed the experience of working at such an iconic venue. As always, our pupils were brilliant, earning comments about their smart appearance and boundless enthusiasm. Well done Glider Team!



## Rotary Technology Tournament.

We were delighted to be the hosts for the Rotary Clubs' Technology Tournament in March. Teams of four from Walton Priory, Christchurch Academy and Yarlet School competed to design and build a working machine from a mixed bag of materials. Great skill and ingenuity were needed to complete the task and Walton Priory were very narrow winners. Congratulations to Ashley and Charlie from Y8 and Katie and Lola from Y7. We really enjoyed working with pupils from other local schools and were grateful for all the support from Stone Rotary Club, especially John Sayer and Tim Joyce. Prizes were awarded by Councillor Mrs Kristan Green, the Mayor.



## Muscular Dystrophy Bake Sale.

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019, Year 6 Friendship Club members baked or bought cakes to sell at lunchtime to raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy. The whole sale was a huge success! Teachers and children alike flocked to acquire the best of the assorted confectionery. In 6CN, we also wore a pair of fetchingly-funky sunglasses, or something orange, to raise awareness of Muscular Dystrophy. Altogether, with donations and our fabulous bake sales, we raised an extraordinary £190.33! Wow!



## Tenner Challenge.

Over four weeks, eight groups of Y8 students were given the opportunity to complete The Tenner Challenge in school. The challenge was to create a successful business and make as much profit as possible from only £10! Pupils also had the chance to participate in weekly tenner challenges online such as designing a logo competition, and creating a successful pitch for the product. The teams have put effort and time into their businesses and built them from the ground up through hard work and dedication. All the lucky people that were chosen to be a part of this amazing opportunity are extremely grateful to have participated in this year's challenge. It has taught them many skills such as: money management; business skills; leadership skills; advertisement; production and social development. At the beginning, the teams had to select their business ideas to find out what their product(s) should be and the best prices. Although most of the team's products were being sold at school, near the end of the challenge some students were lucky enough to go to Wedgewood Museum with Miss Smith and Mr. Taylor in order to sell their products to the public. Everyone had an amazing time and each group has made a profit. Groups have kindly either given a donation to the PSA, or to a charity of their choice before the rest of their profit is shared out between the team members - after the original £10 is given back! The group that made the most money was Stress Headz who made a total of approximately £265 by the end of the challenge!



**World Book Day**, which this year took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, was a great success. As you know, at Walton Priory we love to read and our students really embraced the spirit of the day. There were a variety of activities and competitions.

KS2 and 3 took part in the Rotary Young Writer competition and did exceptionally well. Congratulations to our junior winner Sophie and runner up Matilda. We also had 17 Year 5 and 6 students who were highly commended for their inspirational work. Further congratulations should go to Sophie who not only won the local competition but also the regional competition and has now been entered into the national final which will be judged in May – well done Sophie and good luck!



Our intermediate winner from Year 8 was Serrinah and the runner up was Jayden both writing stories with depth and passion. In addition to this 26 students were highly commended in Year 7 and 8. Excellent.

Some other activities which took place were:

- ) Fancy dress competition – excellent participation by Year 5 and 6.
- ) World Book Day Assembly – congratulations to all the students who took part.
- ) Tutor time quiz. Literary knowledge was tested!
- ) English lesson time activities.
- ) Whole school book sale – the students raised £350 for the school library and shared over 400 books.
- ) A staff video – reading an extract from a popular children's writer...
- ) Hunt-the-book. A competition which ran throughout the day. Well done to all who completed it.



## Ski Austria 19.

'Another Unforgettable Experience' – We travelled to Austria with 40 students the week before February half term. The students completed a demanding course of skiing, as well as enjoying themselves in all après ski activities. After meeting the ski instructors on the first morning, the students embarked on 5 days of fantastic skiing and fun times. Kleinarl is a fantastic place and was a superb choice for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ski course. The resort was full of picturesque trails ranging from beginner slopes right through to the black slopes under the 'Powder' and 'Champion' shuttles for the experts, which some of our students have already set their sights on ready for next year! The snow conditions were amazing and all 40 students, even the ones who have been before, actually experienced 'PROPER' snow. Everyone was friendly, encouraging and great fun to be around. In the evenings students were kept busy quizzing, swimming, quad biking, snowmobiling, tubing behind the big snowmobile, tubing on the carousel, sledging, snowball fights and tug of war. We can't wait for next year, bring on Ski Austria 20.



## BBC Newsday.

The BBC Newsday was a great experience for teachers and students alike. Although there were times of stress and worry, everything turned out alright with the help from our fellow students and teachers. It was without a doubt the best day I have ever had at Walton Priory although I know the activities available at Walton have potential to supersede it. Dylan 7CW

The BBC Newsday was a lot of fun and we had a great time asking questions to the towns people and thoroughly enjoyed working with other students and teachers. Though sometimes a bit hectic, we successfully made it through. It gave me an experience I won't forget and an idea for a job in the future. Kah Yee 7CW



*Can we please remind all parents/carers to check ParentPay regularly and to keep your child's dinner money account topped up.*

*This saves your child from embarrassment and potential distress if a meal cannot be purchased due to lack of funds.*

*If your ParentPay account is in overdraft please make a top up payment over the holiday.*

*If you require access to Parent Pay please contact the school office.*

**Our busy school office is open from 8.15am – 4.15pm and on occasion we may not be able to answer your phone call straight away, so please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.**

**Please always try to communicate with your child's teacher through their planner in the first instance or alternatively you can email [office@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk) with your query. Thank you.**

## 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.