



THE BEACON

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A LETTER FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Mrs Taylor-Potts

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are looking forward to the Easter break, and, like all of us in school, are hoping that the cold days are behind us! As is often the case at the end of a term we have some staffing changes to share. Mrs Gaunt, our Deputy Head, has been successful in gaining the post of Principal at St Edward's Academy Leek and will leave us on Friday 31st March. She has been at Walton Priory since 2018 and has made a significant contribution to the curriculum as well as to the quality of education that your children receive. We wish her all the best in this demanding but well-deserved role. Mrs Scarrett (nee Matthews), who teaches in Year 6, has just started her maternity leave and looks forward to welcoming her baby in April.



Mrs Amanda Brooke has also finished as governor and Chair of Governors. Amanda has been a governor at Walton Priory for twenty years and has stepped down to focus on her successful business, Extra Mile Communications. Although we are up to complement for parent governors, we have some vacancies for co-opted governors. If you know of any appropriate adults who have some time to volunteer to help support and challenge the school, please ask them to contact the school office.

We have hosted a number of external visitors this term (something that has been very difficult over the last few years) and hope that these visits enhance and enrich our pupils' knowledge and understanding of a range of issues. These have included first aid from the Red Cross (KS2), drug awareness in KS3 and employment opportunities in our excellent careers week. Thanks to Miss Smith and other colleagues who worked hard to put on some fantastic interactive sessions. The school has now joined Staffordshire and Stoke Careers Hub to make Careers provision even better. The amazing author Alex Foulkes also visited on World Book Day to share her tips on creative writing and the challenges of a real-life writer!

Our PE department is going from strength to strength and we learned on Friday that Walton Priory has been awarded the prestigious AfPE (Association for Physical Education) quality mark. For PE news and updates please follow our department on Instagram (@wpms_pe).

I'm very proud of the fundraising that has been undertaken this term. A magnificent £900 was raised for the Turkey/Syria earthquake disaster and nearly £500 was raised very recently for Children in Need.

In the summer term we look forward to meeting and greeting our 148 Year 4 pupils who will become Walton Priory children in September. Miss Houlton has an excellent programme of transition planned to help them settle in and get to know us before the summer holidays. We are also working hard with our partners to ensure that Year 8 children move to their next settings with confidence and optimism. We are also launching our Arbor Student Portal after the break as a replacement for Teams for homework purposes. Watch this space!

With best wishes for the Easter holidays

Mrs Lindsay Taylor-Potts

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

Miss Richardson, Mrs Wilson
Mrs Warrilow & Ms Johnstone

First Day Back After Easter: The school reopens to pupils on Monday 17th April 2023.

Appointments & Emails: When your child has an appointment booked within school hours, which can't be avoided, please inform us by emailing the school office at office@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk and please write a note in the students planner. When sending in emails, please can you remember to include pupils full name and their class.

Change of Circumstances: If your contact details change, you need to inform us as soon as possible. The quickest and easiest way is to update the details on Arbor. If you can't do that then please email the school office informing them.

Labelling of Uniform & Belongings: Every year our lost property corner grows at an unbelievable rate. Where uniform and belongings are labelled, we can often return items to the child on the same day or at least the next day. Please can you ensure that all uniform and belongings coming into school is labelled clearly with your child's full name to help manage the problem.

Nut Free School: Just a reminder that we are a nut free school. We have a number of children with severe allergies. We ask that no nuts in any form are brought onto the premises and that everyone checks the ingredients list for any food items they may bring into school.

Parking: Please be careful when parking/collecting children from school. The area by the top gate is increasingly busy and there have been accidents relating to congestion. Remember that children can access school by the bottom gate where parking may be easier. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

WATER BOTTLES

As the weather gets warmer please ensure children are bringing their water bottles to school

UNIFORM FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Please remember with the impending nice weather we allow children in KS2 to wear yellow gingham dresses and children in all years to wear smart tailored knee length black shorts (not lycra cycling shorts) in lieu of skirts/trousers.

DIARY DATES

MAY

9th-12th Y6 SAT's Week

22nd - 26th Y7 Boreatton Residential

JUNE

5th-9th Y8 France Residential

JULY

10th-14th Y6 Barnswood Residential

TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2023

Inset Day: Tuesday 3 Jan

Term Starts: Wednesday 4 Jan

Half Term: Monday 20 Feb - Friday 24 Feb

Term Ends: Friday 31 March

Easter Break: Monday 3 April - Friday 14 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 9 April

SUMMER TERM 2023

Term Starts: Monday 17 April

May Day: Monday 1 May

Coronation of King Charles III: Monday 8th May (additional Bank Holiday)

Half Term: Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

Term Ends: Friday 21 July

Inset Days: Monday 24 & Tuesday 25 July

Summer Break: Wednesday 26 July - Friday 1 Sept



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Messages from Heads of Year Groups

Y5- MRS STRINGER

This term has absolutely flown by, no doubt because of all the many activities we have managed to cram in! We started with the residential trip to Standon Bowers in January and were so proud of our Year 5s. For many, it was their first time away from home and they rose to the challenge magnificently: whether tackling high ropes (or perhaps that should be extremely high ropes), caving, archery, map reading, they threw themselves into the tasks admirably.

After we all caught up on sleep, World Book Day came upon us. We were lucky enough to welcome a local author, Alex Foulkes who delivered a hugely entertaining assembly to all of KS2. The costumes worn by pupils were absolutely super so thank you for the effort involved!

Careers week provided a fabulous opportunity for our young people to start becoming aware of possibilities for their future. The range provided from staff and parents was excellent and children looked at careers in STEM through to Performing Arts, Law and Hypnotherapy.

We have been very proud to be able to start issuing Beacon Student awards to those that are consistently showing our Beacon values. Many Year 5s have shown me that they are very close to achieving the award, so please do encourage them to keep on working hard - they will get there! Also, remember to get in touch at the earliest opportunity if any issues arise. This can be via a note in the planner, a phone call or email to the school. Wishing you all a lovely Easter break.

Y6- MISS PATEL

It was wonderful to meet so many of our Year 6 parents at Parents' Evening. It was lovely to be able to share with you how incredibly hard-working Year 6 have been, and show what fantastic progress they have been making! The children have had another excellent half term, and shown a great level of resilience and perseverance in all lessons.

During the Spring term, they have had some wonderful opportunities to engage in a variety of activities including: Careers week, Science Week, World Religion Day and World Book Day.

Next term, we have the SATs in May, which the children have worked so hard to prepare for. There are also a lot of exciting opportunities coming up, including a danceathon, sports day, and the chance to get to meet, and spend some time with, their Year 7 teachers. We also have the week-long residential which will be packed full of adventurous activities and games, and we can't wait!

I hope you have a fantastic Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming Year 6 back for their final term with us.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Messages from Heads of Year Groups

Y7 - MR OXLEY

As another term draws to a close, it's great to look back over the many successes that have taken place. There have been several sporting accolades both individual and team; from cross-country, swimming, netball through to football. I continue to be impressed by all the hard work that pupils put in outside of school too, and love to hear the stories of their accomplishments and record-breaking performances. Monitoring pupil progress has highlighted just how hard pupils have been working in lessons and during extra-curricular activities to ensure they are maximising their full potential. This was highlighted during the career's week; pupil engagement was fantastic and the feedback from pupils a visiting presenter was equally positive. Multiple pupils have achieved Beacon Student awards, become Word Millionaires and received Head Teachers awards. I feel privileged to be part of such a fantastic year group and look forward to the continued efforts and successes next term.

HEAD GIRL AND DEPUTY HEAD BOY

During the past two terms, we have participated in many different activities as ambassadors of the school. Some of these included: representing Walton for different events such as Remembrance Day, Stone Christmas Lights Switch On, school events and parents' evenings. We have also done guided tours for new parents or possible members of staff. Students were gathered to decide on new members of staff as part of a student panel. The school creates many competitions which we have been a part of judging.

Ava & Jacob (8CW)

Y8 - MISS SMITH

As you may have seen, I have recently taken over the role of Head of Year 8 from Mrs Dudley. I have been Head of Year 8 before and it is nice to be back, ensuring that our pupils get the best out of their last year with us at Walton Priory.

It was great to see so many of you at our first face to face parents' evening in February and to be able to share your child's academic progress and pastoral achievements.

At the beginning of March, we held a fun filled Career's Week across the whole school and Year 8 got to take part in many career discussions and activities as well as a full careers day where we welcomed many visitors into school. Pupils were engaged in the sessions and were encouraged to ask lots of questions and they didn't disappoint. I am currently working on other career and enterprise opportunities for the Summer Term.

The summer term is the busiest for Year 8, we have the trip to France in June, transition tests for Alleyne's Academy, transition days at their chosen high school, final parents' evening and the leavers celebrations. Please look out for the information on the above events over the next month or so.

Behind the scenes I am planning a pastoral handover with Alleyne's and other High Schools to ensure the transition to the next stage is as smooth as possible.

As always, please get in touch should you need to speak to me or your child's class teacher. The best way to contact us is via a note in your child's planner, a message via the Arbor app, e-mail or phone call to the office.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break!

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

STUDENTS ARE NOMINATED BY STAFF MEMBERS FOR HEAD TEACHER AWARDS WHEN THEY CREATE, PARTICIPATE OR WRITE EXCEPTIONAL WORK WITHIN THE LESSON.

YEAR 5

GEORGIA H 5JS

YEAR 7

FREYA H 7AO
SCARLETT R 7AO

YEAR 6

LILLY R 6JSR
RILEY B 6JSR
PENNY H 6JSR
OLIVER H 6MP
BETSY D 6MP
JACK B 6MP
DYLAN L 6MP
NINA H 6JSR
PAIGE J 6JW
AVA S 6JW
OLIVIA H-L 6JW
REBEKAH B 6JW
MYA B 6JW
IZZY R 6JW
MEAGHAN G 6JW
EMILY B 6JW
AVA SH 6JW
KAI M 6JW
MEGAN K 6JW
HARRY L 6JW
HARRY G 6KWO
BEN L 6KWO

YEAR 8

ALICE G 8KW
LIAM F 8KW
ANYA H 8CW
AMELIA W 8MC
MORGAN S 8CW
ELLA H 8MC
JOSHUA P 8KW
OLIVER P 8CW
THOMAS F 8WP
HONEY A 8WP
MILLIE W 8WP
GEORGE W 8WP

WELL DONE EVERYONE, KEEP UP THE
GOOD WORK! WE HOPE TO HAVE A LOT
MORE NEXT TERM!



SPRING TERM SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

What have we been celebrating at Walton Priory?



We had the MOST brilliant Careers Week!

Raised a whopping £902 for ActionAid!

act:onaid



We got stuck into Forest School



The incredible Alex Foulkes visited us for World Book Day



Raised £475 for Comic Relief!

Year 5 made a 'splash' at Standon Bowers!



We took some time for our wellbeing in our PSHCE morning!

SPRING TERM SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

More.....What have we been celebrating at Walton Priory?



Enjoyed First Aid sessions
run by the wonderful
British Red Cross



Spent our Wednesday
morning doing breakfast
time Maths with Year 6



Miss Houlton worked (and
continues to work) VERY hard
to support Y4 pupils with their
upcoming transition

We heard from the
Stafford and Stone
Canoe Club



We earned the
PE Quality Mark!



Practical Science happened
everywhere - especially for
British Science Week



THE PE DEPARTMENT

Miss Woolliscroft & Mr Coughlan

SPORT-TASTIC NEWS

Spring term seems to have gone by in the blink of an eye.

January saw the start of a new after school club for KS2, Bee Active where the students have enjoyed all sorts of sports and games but they have all been, glow in the dark!



Lunch time and after school clubs have been as busy as ever, with many fixtures going ahead for various sports. For the first time ever, we joined the Jr NBA basketball league and have taken teams from Year 7 and Year 8 to various games across the county. The Year 8 girls netball team recently competed in a tournament at Penkridge Middle School.



The Year 8 boys football team are through to the quarter final of the county cup, to be held next half term and our Year 7 boys are through to the semi finals of the district cup also to be held next term. The final week of the spring term is a busy one; Year 6 girls football team, Year 5 boys football team and Year 6 boys football team all have tournaments, results to be posted next term.

PROUD



THE PE DEPARTMENT

Miss Woolliscroft & Mr Coughlan

SPORT-TASTIC NEWS

Alfie from Year 7 continued his cross-country success and came 2nd in the Country Schools Cross Country Championships, which was held at Betley Court Farm.

The mini bus got a glow up so everyone can see us coming. We welcomed back some of last years students who have volunteered to support our after-school clubs, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Thank you to Theo, Ben, Lucy J, Kah Yan and Lauren, we look forward to having them back to support in the summer term.

In core PE, students have been performing in both dance and gymnastics and we have had a great term in competitive sports, with intra house competitions in handball, tchoukball, basketball and cross country.



In core PE, students have been performing in both dance and gymnastics and we have had a great term in competitive sports, with intra house competitions in handball, tchoukball, basketball and cross country.

We are delighted to announce that we have recently achieved the AfPE Quality mark. This award cements the high quality PESSPA that is consistently delivered to all our students. We are very proud to have received this prestigious quality mark.



STEAM

Mrs Dudley

RAF COSFORD KS3 CAREERS DAY

In February a group of KS3 pupils headed to RAF Cosford for a Careers day. Upon arrival we had a quick tour about the Cold War exhibition before heading to the lecture theatre to hear some inspirational speakers from different backgrounds in the world of STEM. These included Raytheon UK, Collins Aerospace, West Midlands Police, the MET Office and an engineer who had worked on the James Webb Telescope! The presentations focussed on career opportunities within the companies and the various pathways young people can take to achieve their dream careers. Pupils had the opportunity to speak to professionals and gain an insight into the world of work.

ASPIRATIONS WORKSHOP

During National Careers week the Staffordshire STEM Ambassador Hub threw its doors open to KS2 and KS3 pupils. Their key aim was to increase knowledge, aspiration, and science capital in young people. The sessions kicked off with a challenging stereotypes activity where pupils had to guess the job of a group of STEM Ambassadors using only a few clues (what they looked like and key facts about their jobs). Their ideas about which jobs different types of people have were definitely challenged! Pupils then had the opportunity to move around different activities such as rocket building and launching with the RAF, extracting DNA from strawberries, Lego code breaking and exploring ways to make paper a stronger material. Pupils had an enjoyable time and came away with more knowledge about the relevance of STEM subjects to their everyday lives and ideas about future careers (as well as a few freebies!).



STEAM

Miss Dawson

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

During British Science week, which ran from 13th - 17th March, all science lessons were replaced with lessons that linked to this year's theme, Connectivity.

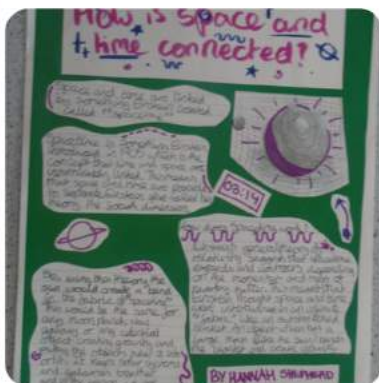
Students in year 5 built bridges, Year 6 made seismometers, Year 7 made barometers and Year 8 made gliders, all demonstrating a different method of connectivity within science.



Students were also invited to take part in the British Science Week Poster Competition, making a poster describing their interpretation of this years theme. The

KS2 winners are: Alice Norville 5JS, Connie, Esther, Darcey, Agnes and Zeynab from 5SH and Jack Burrows from 6MP. The KS3 winners are Sophie Gibbins 7KD, Halle, Zoe and Bella 7KD, Hannah Shepherd 7KD and Macey, Lucy, Lotte and Amelia from 7KD.

Finally, to round off the British Science Week celebrations, the library and the science department worked together to fund and source an new collection of interesting fact and fiction science books for the students to enjoy.



5EF SCIENCE

Mrs Fenton



5EF enjoyed designing and making their own boats within our science lesson. Our current topic is forces and therefore the children were experimenting with the concept of up-thrust, buoyancy, equal and balanced forces. They thoroughly enjoyed the practical/hands on element of their learning.



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Miss Smith

6TH-10TH MARCH 2023

Even the snow couldn't stop us acknowledging this National event in school. The whole school was involved in many different activities across the week from visiting speakers and external visits to drop down afternoon/day and dance workshops, there was something for everyone. Staff even got involved by sharing their journey into teaching, it's amazing to hear about the many different routes into the profession!

A selection of pupils from both KS2 and KS3 went off to Stafford on a careers event, completing mini activities, gaining careers information and came away with a few freebies.



A group of Year 8 girls visited RAF Cosford for the day to celebrate International Women's Day by looking at careers in these areas.

KS2 looked at family career trees, looking at what careers their family currently have or have had in the past. There were assemblies from a Barrister and Hypnotherapist and also a Performing Arts workshop delivered by Rooftops Studios. Pupils also spent an afternoon researching careers, watching career videos and playing games with a career focus.

Across the week, KS3 looked into seven different higher education pathways from University to apprenticeships, an assembly from current sixth formers and a look at the latest qualifications, T-Levels. They also had the opportunity to take part in our careers day. This was a fun filled day which involved over 15 visitors coming into school to deliver presentations and active workshops to our pupils.

We had: Performing arts (Rooftop Studios), Hypnomama (Hypnotherapist), Manufacturing, Media, Travel and Business, ODP, Paramedic, Midwifery, Law, JCB, Air Products, Digital marketing, and Teaching. Pupils gained lots of knowledge throughout the day and our visitors were certainly impressed with the questions our pupils were asking.

The Summer Term will include a few more careers activities and events and we look forward to sharing them with you in our Summer newsletter.

Miss Smith - Whole School Careers Lead

WPMS COMMUNITY NEWS

ARBOR STUDENT PORTAL

Exciting news! We are launching our 'Student Portal' area on Arbor after Easter. This means that all homework will be set by staff through Arbor and pupils will have their own access to the portal where they can see, complete and submit their homework.

How to do this will be delivered to all pupils in the first week back.

The student portal also allows pupils to see their current attendance and conduct point score as well as their timetable via the calendar.

Watch this space for further guidance and information!

UNTIL NEXT TIME...

GIVE US A FOLLOW

A goal of ours this year was to improve our social media presence so that parents/careers and the local community would be able to stay up-to-date with everything that is happening in school on a daily basis!

The school has an Instagram and Twitter page where we post daily with insights to lessons, upcoming trips and general news from within the school. The Sports department also have an Instagram page to highlight all things sports!



@WaltonPriory



@waltonpriorymiddleschool
@wpms_pe



GET IN TOUCH

We are extremely proud of our students achievements in and outside of the classroom. If your child participates in any sports or clubs, we want to hear about it!

This might be an emailing a photo of your child in their activity environment to marketing@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk or sending them into school with a recent certificate, medal or trophy!

The same goes for any previous WPMS students, even though you've left, we would love to hear about any achievements.



This serves as a great mechanism to encourage pupils to be curious about different opportunities outside of school.