



THE WALNUTS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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SPRING TERM MARCH 2018 Issue 44

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HEADTEACHERS NEWS

Looking back to when I wrote last year's spring newsletter, rain was streaming down from a grey sky and I was hopeful that, as the spring term came to an end we would be welcoming some warmer sunnier days. Today as I write, there is a full blown blizzard happening outside! Let's hope that by the time you read this the 'Siberian storm' will be a dim and distant memory...!

Sadly, Easter sees the retirement of Andrew Tomsett, our Deputy Headteacher. Andrew has been at The Walnuts for 14 years, initially as an Assistant Head and, more recently, as Deputy Head. Andrew has made a huge contribution to The Walnuts and will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and parents. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Andrew and wishing him all the very best as he sails off into the sunset!

At Easter we will also be saying goodbye to Liam O'Brien from Birch Group and we wish him good luck as he moves to join his wife and family. After the Easter break we will be welcoming Duncan Fudge, an experienced special school teacher, as the new class teacher in Birch Group.

As you are already aware, I shall also be leaving on 30th April so this will be my last newsletter as Headteacher of The Walnuts. The Governing Board, supported by the Local Authority, are in the process of finalising leadership arrangements from 1st May and will be sharing these with you soon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff and parents who have supported me during my time at The Walnuts and, of course, to thank the children and young people who make The Walnuts such a wonderful place to work. Good luck to you all!

I hope that you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter Break and look forward to welcoming our children and young people back to school on Monday 9th April.

Jo Yates
Headteacher





PI NE GROUP



Although it has been a very short term in Pine Group we have still managed to fit in lots of exciting activities! We have enjoyed listening to a wide range of stories and learning some familiar **rhymes as part of our theme 'Stories and Rhymes'**. The story **'We all go travelling by'** has been a particular favourite and has given us the opportunity to explore lots of fun activities with trains, cars and other vehicles. We all enjoyed using toy cars to print on paper in messy play. In the play area we learnt how to build train and car tracks to push vehicles round. The highlight of this term has definitely been starting swimming at Woughton Swimming Pool. Some of us had never been swimming before, but we took it in our stride and all find floating and moving around in the warm water very relaxing. Swimming also gives us the opportunity to practise our dressing skills, which helps to develop our independence. We also enjoyed exploring a wide range of activities from different cultures during multicultural week. Tasting different foods from around the world and trying out African dancing were our favourite activities. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter. Tracy, Ali, Lauren, Amie & Wendy.



CEDAR GROUP



This has been a very busy term! We have enjoyed our topic of **'Stories and rhymes'**, and the children had a **great time acting out the stories of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "The Three Little Pigs"**. In our **cooking sessions** the children enjoyed making pig biscuits and pig sandwiches. Dressing up for Book Week was lots of fun, and we listened to lots of different stories.



It has been nice to get out and about, despite the weather. Our trip to Winslow Park was enjoyed by all, and swimming

sessions at Woughton Pool have also been a big hit. It is lovely to see the children growing in confidence in the water. Some of our pupils have started weekly yoga sessions, and we have been extremely impressed with their concentration and flexibility! All the class loved the African dancing during Multicultural Week. The children also enjoyed visiting the other classes to find out about a range of countries. **Cedar Group enjoyed visiting 'America' in Ash Group best and ate lots of American food, and also enjoyed visiting Egypt.** Our class now regularly attends Lower School assemblies. The children love to join in with the singing, and get very excited when they receive well deserved certificates for all their hard work and achievements. Well done Cedar Group! Happy Easter to all from Lindsay, Jenny, Michelle, Bhavna, Chantal and Chanon.

ASH GROUP



Ash group have had a super Spring term, and have enjoyed many songs and stories. Book week was a big success; the children loved all the activities, especially **the sensory elements of "We're going on a bear hunt"**. **It was a shame Dress up day** got interrupted by the weather, but lots of fun was had playing in the snow. We have had a big focus on SCERTS in Ash group, and the children have responded brilliantly. Progress is already being seen in the **children's ability to initiate play interactions with adults** in class. It has been lovely to see so much play going on in and outside the classroom. We had a fabulous time during multi-cultural week. Our focus country America was thoroughly enjoyed

with a role play fast food shop, Disney art activities and cinema experiences. Our visits to other countries (classes) were thoroughly enjoyed too. Forest school has been at Slated Row site this year, and our weekly trips have been enjoyed by all. We have been using our slot to enhance our story focus on the bear hunt. The children have enjoyed exploring the different environments. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter from Ash group.





LAUREL GROUP



Laurel Group has had another very busy term. Our first topic was *Country*, which enabled the children to further their adventures with Captain James Scott as they learnt about Australia. We looked at famous landmarks, the climate, animals and we also watched some traditional Australian songs on the whiteboard.

This half-term our topic has been *Plants*. Laurel Group enjoyed learning about Monty Don and how he creates gardens that are friendly to our native wildlife. We also looked at how trees and plants change throughout the seasons.



The Laurel Group team would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful Easter break

HOLLY GROUP



Wow! How quickly Spring term has flown by but what a fabulous Spring term it has been! The children in Holly Group have worked extremely hard this term and have shown tremendous resilience in all areas of their learning. We thoroughly enjoyed our **'Country' topic and particularly our *Multi-Cultural week***; we explored African drumming and dancing, we carouselled across the school to visit other classes and learnt **about other countries' cultures** - a wonderful experience for all!

As well as Multi-cultural week, we became engrossed in stories, books and role play during our much loved *Book week*; where we learnt all about *The Rainbow Fish* and the importance of being kind. In Holly Group, we are welcoming Summer Term and hope to continue our learning outdoors in some sunshine!



CYPRESS GROUP

Cypress group have had a fantastic Spring term. We have been lucky enough to go to forest school where we have made clay tree faces, built dens and used binoculars to hunt for birds. It was especially fun in the snow! Cypress group loved book week, when we read the book *Jack and the Beanstalk* and did lots of lovely activities around the story including growing our own beanstalks. We loved spending time in our new book corner where we chose our favourite books to read on our own or share with an adult.



We have been going out on weekly bus trips this term to help us with our independence and life skills. We really enjoyed looking at the plants and fish at the garden centre and buying some plants to plant in the flower bed in our garden. We hope you have a lovely Easter break. The Cypress team.





SYCAMORE GROUP

We started this term learning about the seven continents of the world in the Countries topic. The class had fun finding the different continents on our giant inflatable globe. In English we used the story *We're Sailing Down the Nile* by Laurie Krebs to focus on Egypt and Ancient Egypt. The children were fascinated by the elaborate tombs, artefacts and pyramids and practised their descriptive writing skills writing captions for pictures of them. In the second half-term the children have enjoyed the Plants topic. They have planted beans, cress and sunflowers and have been fascinated to see them



growing bigger each day. They have had fun reading and re-telling the traditional story *The Enormous Turnip* using props. At Forest School they have worked together, finding and creating in a variety of fun activities led by John. Sycamore Group has worked particularly hard on their social communication and interaction skills this term. They have developed their ability to work cooperatively in activities such as this one, working together to make a toy light up by holding hands to complete the circuit. They are also learning how to be a good friend, how to listen to and respond to a peer, and even how to give a compliment. Have a relaxing Easter break! Best Wishes from the Sycamore Team.

CHERRY GROUP



Hello from Cherry Group! It has been a very busy term for us all in Cherry group and as usual we seem to have crammed a lot in. In the first half term our topic was **'Countries'** and the class really enjoyed finding out about other cultures and life styles. We had great fun exploring Poland, France and Africa. One of the highlights was trying food from Poland and France and we all had our favourites from Polish crisps to French croissants and pain au chocolate. We had a chance to explore a variety of art activities too, including painting in the style of Monet and creating a Pointillism style Eifel Tower picture. In Multi-cultural week we had the opportunity to try African dance and Cherry class showed that they had great rhythm! The class



have also spent a lot of valuable time learning about emotions and feelings in our PSHE lessons and have worked hard to recognise happy and sad. In maths we have had fun with shapes, number and measuring and in literacy we have continued to follow Jolly phonics. We had a lovely book week and focused on reading lots of short stories which were brought to life by some sensory story telling. We also looked at a variety of books to help us learn about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. The children have created some amazing Dragon masks and also used props to act out and tell the story of the Chinese Zodiac - it was lovely to see them so involved. While all this has been going on we have still found time for swimming and Forest school. We hope you all have a well-deserved rest over the Easter Break and are looking forward to what next term brings. Best wishes from The Cherry Group Team.



ROWAN GROUP

This term Rowan have been enjoying reading books about pets and farm animals. We completed comprehension and writing tasks based on our literacy stories. Our focus on pets and farm animals culminated in trips to Mead Open Farm and Thrift Farm. Our topics this term have been earth, moon and sun and classification. Rowan investigated the earth, moon and sun topic in the first half of the term, looking at facts and creating pieces of art work related to this topic. In the second half of the term our topic was classification, we explored which clothing is appropriate for particular weather. Rowan



class also looked at young and adult animals, sorted different materials, sorted animals by where they can be found e.g. farm, zoo or sea and many other classifying tasks related to specific criteria. This term we visited different pet shops and libraries and enjoyed eating snack in the superstore café after our weekly shopping. We have focused on cleaning teeth and applying deodorant in PSHE, as well as playing games with our peers and exploring what makes a good friend.

From everyone in Rowan class we hope you have a Happy Easter holidays.



HAZEL GROUP



It has been another great term in Hazel Group. Our topics have been Rivers and Mountains, Sun, Moon and Earth, China and Classification. The children have really enjoyed learning about China. We learnt all about Chinese New Year, learning about the animal race and which animal represents the year they were born in. We even tried some Chinese food and made Chinese decorations to celebrate Chinese New Year. In cooking this term the children have been developing their cutting skills as well as their ability to use a knife and fork. Last half term we enjoyed taking part in for-



est school, exploring the forest, building tents and even enjoying a mug of hot chocolate around the fire we helped to make.

We all hope you enjoy your Easter break and are looking forward to welcoming the warmer weather as we all are!

OAK GROUP

This term Oak Group have been working really hard in maths learning about money, identifying coins and notes. We role played spending money and counting out coins, then we spent the money in real life by going to the cafe one afternoon. It was a great treat! We have also been learning about planets, learning their names, making rockets and making ourselves as astronauts. We have also been learning about the skeleton in our body and about how this helps us move. Oak group do enjoy the disco and making some dance moves! This term we have started to use the big trampoline and we have been splashing in the pool. We have more adventures planned for the summer term when we hope it will be a little warmer!



MAPLE GROUP



It has been a great start to the New Year in Maple class; we have had a fantastic and fun spring term. Our favourite topic this term has been looking at the earth, moon and sun. We went to look at the sundial at Campbell Park and have enjoyed investigating shadows. Maple group enjoyed our trips to the woods and looking at the spring flowers coming out, we have seen the snowdrops and the crocuses grow and flower. In book week we looked at the book From Head to Toe by Eric Carle and learnt about different ways animals move, we really enjoyed acting and sounding like different animals.

The boys have really enjoyed our ICT topic or taking photos; it was great to take the cameras out on our trips out, but they particularly enjoyed taking selfies and editing them.

Have a lovely Easter from Georgie and the Maple team; Beth, Gwen, Lydia, Isabel and Sharon.



CHESTNUT GROUP

Chestnut group have had a very busy term! Our topic for the first half term was Sun, Moon & Earth. In literacy, we read *Whatever Next!* By Jill Murphy and used colourful semantics to describe what happened on each page of the text. We created lots of art work based on the moon and had sensory play with moon dough! We also learnt some facts about the sun and Earth and enjoyed identifying different wonders of the world.



We also had lots of fun during Multicultural week, painting African masks and then dancing to the beat of the drum! This half term we chose China as our country from Asia and learnt about the Great race and the twelve animals that became part of the Zodiac calendar. **As part of book week, we read the story of *Handa's surprise*. We commented on which animals took which fruit using SVO's and were able to taste some of those exotic fruits as part of our cooking session.** Happy Holidays - The Chestnut team.

WILLOW GROUP

In Literacy, we have been learning how to write captions. We have been looking at different pictures that relate to the topics and made short sentences to describe the picture.

We then moved on to learning about adjectives, looking at more pictures to make descriptive sentences. Most the children worked on describing with colours and then progressed to using more detailed adjectives such as big or small etc. We also continue to work on hand writing skills, phonics, punctuation and reading.

In Numeracy, we started the term learning about different coins, we mainly focussed on 1ps and 2ps but some children were able to recognise higher coins and were able to label them. We then moved on to 3D shapes. We

learnt the names of the shapes, looked at different objects in the environment, handled 3D shapes and matched them to symbols and experimented to hand out which shapes roll or stack and which shapes did both. Some children were able to look at the vertices and faces of the shapes. In Science, we looked at gravity and started off with learning about planets in space. We learnt the names of the planets and looked at how we could tell them apart. We made the solar system in Art and put it up on the display board. We learnt a little bit about space and about what gravity is. We are now learning about solids, liquids and gases.

In PSHE, we have been learning about relationships. We have had to focus on identifying who are girls and who are boys for a couple of weeks as some children struggle to understand that some girls have short hair and some boys have long hair. We learnt different family members and compared the differences between everyone in the class. Willow group are all doing well. Well done Willow group.



BIRCH GROUP

The students from Birch have had a productive term. Our English focused on Information Texts where the students produced fact files based on different countries. The students also learned about the features used to write a diary extract and used this knowledge to create their own diary accounts. Birch class maths focus this term has concentrated on the number operations of multiplication and division, where they learned how to apply a range of formal methods to solve calculations involving these operations. They also revisited areas such as place value and how to solve word based mathematical problems. This term's topics covered 'Continents and their Countries' and 'The Victorians', where the students developed their understanding of the world by learning about what countries are located in the different continents, while finding other various facts, such as what geographical features (Mountains and Rivers) are found in these regions. When learning about 'The Victorians' the students used a range of sources to find out about the life of Queen Victoria, what Victorian schools were like and famous Victorian inventors. Our science themes focused on 'Gravity' and 'Changes of State'. The class took part in a range of investigations that focused on looking at the effects of different forces such as air resistance, water resistance and friction, focusing on how different forces acted against each other. When learning about 'Changes of State' the students investigated reversible changes by heating and cooling chocolate and finding out what materials are soluble and insoluble. In supporting the development of the pupils' social skills, various opportunities were organised for the students to visit various local cafes, where they ordered their own drinks and food and engaged in group conversations while enjoying their meals. Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Happy Easter!



REDWOOD GROUP

This Spring term Redwood were working hard developing their knowledge about Sun, Moon and Earth. We have been working on extending our vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming. We have been exploring the meaning and sounds of the new words. Redwood Class enjoyed the Multicultural Week which took place between 15th - 19th of January.

A big focus has also been on understanding personal safety in the community. The students have been developing independent living skills like looking after themselves and preparing food. They have been visiting a variety of shops where they could practice their social skills. In Numeracy they have been practising sorting items by type, function, colour etc. They have been practising shape and



money skills both in the class and out in the community. Redwood have been learning about the importance of personal hygiene and tooth care. In PSHE we have been learning about feelings and emotions and different ways of dealing with them. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter.



POPLAR GROUP



Poplar class has had a brilliant but very cold term. In literacy we have been looking at different stories; looking at what the characters might be thinking or might say at different parts of the story. We have also been working on our punctuation, looking at full stops, commas, apostrophes and question marks. We have been very busy in maths learning about multiplication, money and preposition and direction words. The students in Poplar have been using toy money to pay for their snack at snack time to gain experience of handling and exchanging money.

In science we have been looking at changing states. We have looked at different solids, liquids and gasses. We have done lots of experiments in cooking changing the states of ingredients like chocolate, butter and batter. We also talked about reversible and irreversible changes by melting crayons and cooking toast.

In topic we have been learning about Victorians. We have learnt what Victorian schools were like, what sort of jobs Victorian children had and Victorian inventions.



BEECH GROUP



This term the children in Beech class have learned about organising different objects and China. Together the class celebrated Chinese New Year with party poppers, glitter cannons and traditional Chinese toys. In cooking sessions the boys have been practicing making toast,

which they have all really enjoyed! The class read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* for book week, taking part in sensory versions of the story and eating the same fruit as the caterpillar! Next term the class will be learning about dinosaurs and movement.



Ridhwan and Mabre - making toast.

UPPER 1

This term, we have been learning all about our body; focusing on basic body parts and keeping the body clean. Opportunities were created for the learners to follow a visual sequence to brush their teeth, wash their bodies, dress and undress. We also learnt about healthy living; eating a balanced diet and exercising to stay healthy.



In humanities, we learnt about Chinese New Year, different religions from around the world and the weather.



In Maths, we continued to develop our number skills by engaging in activities relating to counting sums and using numbers in familiar contexts.

We continued to improve our community participation skills by shopping for snack every week at the local shop and using the leisure centre. Upper 1 team.



UPPER 2

Upper 2 have had another very busy term. We have continued to work on social skills with all pupils, encouraging them to take turns and participate in short games **with each other.** Our topics this term have been **'My body' and 'Under the sea'.** We also focused on comprehension and language skills as well as sequencing and ordering in English. In Maths we worked on money, weight, measure, size and have continued to develop our understanding of number.



of computing opportunities including turn taking games on the interactive whiteboard.

This term we have continued our weekly shopping trips. As part of PE we have enjoyed another term

of swimming at Woughton pool. We have also been to visit Nikki's horses and feed them carrots! As part of our 'my body' topic we have looked at our body parts and the difference between boys and girls. We have also learnt about 'public' and 'private' and focused on how our bodies change as we grow older. We all complete a hygiene routine at least once a day. During our 'under the sea' topic we have explored different types of animals and have had the chance to complete a number of creative activities. Thank you for all your continued support this term. Have a lovely Easter break.

UPPER 3

It feels like this term has rushed by. Upper 3 have been very busy. We have enjoyed learning about the Romans in Britain and in Italy. We were lucky enough to be invited to a relaxed learning day at the Verulamium museum in St. Albans where we learnt lots more about how the Romans lived in this country. We have been looking at the properties of materials and solutions and dissolving in Science. We have had lots of hand on practical lessons which have been fun. Learning about sewage was a particularly interesting lesson!



In Food Tech we have been planning, shopping for and preparing meals. There were some lovely results.



In PE we have been improving our fitness with daily walks and circuit training. We are developing our ball skills in order to play basketball.

In English we have written some lovely descriptive writing about our special belongings and are now exploring different forms of poetry. In Maths we have focussed on number skills and money.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break.



UPPER 4

This term, the pupils in Upper 4 have been developing their transferable skills from structured sessions to use in realistic situations. They have been cooking a hot meal once a week, practicing safety in the kitchen, using the hob and oven. The pupils prepare their classroom and set the tables to eat our cooked meal together and work as a team to wash and dry up afterwards.



In English, some of us have been looking at memories to make a memory box and photo album. Some of us have continued to practice our handwriting and communication skills.

We have also looked at topics in science including mixtures and reactions, enjoying the practical experiments from making lemonade fountains to bath bombs. In History, we have looked at The Vikings and where they came from, looking at their homes, work and lifestyle. The class have worked extremely hard on turning Upper 4 into a company, looking at different roles in the company and logo design, producing a collection of crafts that will be displayed in our very own class Craft Fayre. We wish you all a Happy Easter, from all of Upper 4.



UPPER 5

We have been busy in Upper 5 this term. We have been working hard learning about money in maths. Some students have been practicing calculating change, and others have been learning that you can make the same amount of money using a variety of coins - this is not as easy as it sounds!

In English, we spent some time reading and writing poetry. The boys particularly enjoyed some poems by Michael Rosen. I think it is safe to say that we have mastered rhyming words - the Easter poems we wrote had some great examples of rhyming in them!



In the first half of the term we were practicing gymnastics in PE, and more recently we have been playing basketball - some of the boys are so tall they can almost pop the ball into the basket without jumping - this is indeed a sight to behold.

We have all enjoyed food technology sessions. We have been focusing on sauce based foods and have also chosen a recipe to follow independently, and the boys have, in the main, enjoyed the product of their labours!

We've all been working so hard and are very much looking forward to the Easter break for a rest. We hope you have a lovely break too.

Onwards and upwards to the summer! From Jamie and the Upper 5 Team.



UPPER 6

It has been a busy term in Upper 6. The students have been working on a range of different activities to develop their skills. In History the students have been working in small groups. One group has been learning about the Viking invasion of Britain and the other group have been learning about the development of Soviet Russia. In English we undertook a project called Memory Box and we have also looked at different types of poetic techniques whilst studying Rhythm and **Rhyme. The students have also been applying the skills they've learnt to practical projects through the Enterprise programme.**

Food Heaven has continued to be a success and we have now begun selling soups as well. Our new business, Garden Planet, has also made an excellent start. This term we made and sold bird fat balls and bird feeders. They have proved to be a great success and we have made £70 profit to invest back into the business. Thank you to those of you who bought from us. We hope to have some new products for you soon.



SIXTH FORM



Students have been working really hard over the last term completing activities in the classroom and out in the community.

We have been working on numbers in our **Math's sessions and then transferring** our learning into our Life Skills. Students have been learning to use the telephone and to give people messages. We



have been counting out the ingredients during Food Technology making some delicious puff pastries. We continue to use our money skills in the shops, café and at the leisure centre. Ryan has also been swimming in the lanes at the leisure centre and counting them.

Dominic has been visiting the RSPCA shop as part of work experience; his favourite job is sorting out the DVD's.

During our art sessions we have made a countryside wall display out of junk materials. In the English session students have been looking at different weather and appropriate clothing.

Have a good Easter from Jacqui Kelly and the team.



This term has seen some exciting new developments within Sixth Form.

We have started delivering a weekly painting and decorating course with the professional input of a qualified decorator. The whole project has been completely funded by Tesa uk who have not only provided qualified staff but also all the resources required to complete the project. We are currently decorating our art room with everyone taking an active role and learning some great skills along the way.



In partnership with Milton Keynes College we are piloting a Retail and Catering course. This is providing all students an opportunity to learn and explore a different working environment. Experiencing college as a student and learning how to adapt in different surroundings is an important part of the course. We have already learnt a great deal about customer service and next term our focus will be catering and how to work within the sector.

The growing season next term in Horticulture will provide us with a large variety of fruits and vegetables. This we will be putting to good use for a Sixth Form Enterprise opportunity. The project is currently in the development stages and we look forward to sharing the outcome with you early in the summer term.

From us all in Sixth Form Happy Easter.



WELL-BEING SCHOOL AWARD

As you may have already heard The Walnuts School is working towards achieving a whole-school award focused on ensuring effective practice and provision is in place that promotes the emotional wellbeing and mental health of both staff and pupils.



The award focuses on embedding an ethos where mental health is regarded as the responsibility of all.

With this award, schools can:

- Show their commitment to promoting mental health as part of school life
- Improve the emotional wellbeing of their staff and pupils
- Ensure mental health problems are identified early and appropriate support is provided
- Offer provision and interventions that matches the needs of its pupils and staff
- Engage the whole-school community in the importance of mental health awareness
- Capture the views of parents, pupils and teachers on mental health issues

In the first phase of working towards this award a Change Team has been appointed to complete a school self-evaluation process and then draw up an action plan to help achieve the necessary standards.

Please don't hesitate to ask for more information!

Doris Evans

Assistant Headteacher and Head of Middle School

THE THERAPY TEAM

We are very fortunate at the Walnuts School to be able to provide a unique and exciting learning opportunity for budding therapists. This term the therapy team are providing placements for two Masters Speech and Language Therapy students from City University (Jess and Antonia) and one final year Occupational Therapy student from Northampton University (Kirsty). Under the direct supervision of the therapists, the students are able to practise and develop key skills necessary for their professional careers. The therapy team benefit enormously from their enthusiasm, hard work and all the new ideas and information that they bring.

As always, we welcome you to get in contact with us if you have any questions.

Best Wishes

The Therapy Team

OTHER INFORMATION



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you a few spare hours a week, wondering what to do with your spare time? You could become a volunteer? If you are able to spare some time to help classes when they go swimming or other regular off site activities; or



able to help with reading now and again, please contact Clara McDermott - Assistant Headteacher at the main school site for further information. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE — IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL OR NOT ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL

School makes a lot of additional demands upon your child. If they are not well, they are unable to cope with the demands of a school day which can delay them getting better. In fairness to other children and staff, please keep your child at home if you suspect they are unwell.

Children with diarrhoea and/or sickness are asked to stay at home for 48 hours to help them get better and prevent the spread of the infection. This is in line with Local Authority guidelines.

If your child has transport it is your responsibility to phone and cancel the transport arrangements for the duration of the absence.



If your child has to miss school through illness/medical appointment / other reason, please let the school know as soon as possible with the reason that your child is absent by contacting the site that they are based at — Lower School on 01908 646119, Main Site 01908 563885, Sixth Form 01908 379208. If the school is not informed, you will receive a phone-call/text asking you to contact us and inform us of the reason of absence. We will continue to try to contact you to obtain the reason of the absence of the pupil, so please remember to contact us first.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

OTHER INFORMATION



ART AT THE WALNUTS

Art has been a great success at the Walnuts these last two terms. Students have **welcomed in practitioners from the 'Curious case of the dog in the night time' play**, together producing an amazing improvised piece and performing it as a group to parents/carers and friends.

A variety of different techniques have been explored such as; silk painting, 3D forms, casting, portraiture, clay modelling, ceramics, life drawing, pastel work, tone/negative space and print making. Some of the classes can confidently recall and debate the style of a variety of different artists from a wide range of mediums.

The school has also achieved a gold award from the Arts Mark! This will help our school in building more relationships with outside arts organisations.

We also had some very successful parent training on November 16th 2017. We are holding another training session before the summer holidays, so please keep a look out for the date. We are also having an Arts Week on the 8th of May. This will be a very exciting week with a chance to celebrate different art styles. The theme is Alice in Wonderland carnival, which we are very much looking forward to.

Matt Solly—Art Tutor.

FRIENDS OF WALNUTS—FOWS-YOUR PTA

We have had a couple of changes with the Friends of Walnuts this term. Clara McDermott has now officially stood down from being the chair person and I have taken on the role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Clara for all she has done for the Friends of Walnuts and the pupils over her time as chairperson. She has worked very hard and driven a lot of successful fundraising which has really benefitted our pupils. The Friends will continue to work on raising money for refurbishing the school food technology room this year - a big project that Clara started last year. We want to re-equip the room and create individual workstations so pupils can work on their cooking skills and independence in the kitchen providing them with very valuable life skills.

I would also like to thank Olivia Bull for all her hard work as secretary. Kim Harman will now take on this role but we are very pleased that Olivia will remain a member of the Friends.



While our coffee morning in March helped us to recruit a new member to our small team - a big welcome to Bella Baffour - we would still love to have more parents involved in the Friends of Walnuts. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd May at 9.30 - 10.30. The venue will be the staffroom at Lower School, Hertford Place. Please feel free to come along if you would like to be involved in our fundraising activities.

Finally, a big thank you to all our parents and staff who helped with the Easter Disco. This is such an important event for our pupils and families and could not happen without the support you give.

Best wishes and hoping you all have a good Easter break.

Karen Salamon—Chair of FOWS



OTHER INFORMATION



PARENT TRAINING PROGRAMME SUMMER TERM

As usual there is a broad range of training on offer.

The long awaited NAS Teen life course is being run again this summer, as we were inundated with applications in the Spring Term. Please note that it is already fully booked. However, we are planning to run it again in the next academic year, so there will be more chances to attend.

In June we will be running a session on SOLAR, our school assessment system. I know the way we monitor (and measure) your child's progress will be of interest to many of you.

The session on Esafety in April will be the first to be run by staff AND students. Eleanor assures me that some of her class know more about the technical side of this subject than she does! We certainly appreciate their input. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Easter break! Kim Harman, Assistant Headteacher.

DATE	COURSE	LEADERS AND VENUES
Wed 11 April 9.30 - 10.30am	Information meeting for NAS EarlyBird Plus. This 8 session course is for the parents of children with autism aged 4 - 8 years, and covers communication and behaviour issues.	Chris White and Karen Salamon Training Centre Galley Hill Stony Stratford
Tues 17 April 9.30 - 10.30am	Information meeting for NAS Healthy Minds. This course is for parents of children under 13 years who have already completed a basic course on autism (such as EarlyBird). It looks at emotional well being and resilience.	Lesley-Ann Martin and Viv Courtis, Training Centre Galley Hill Stony Stratford
Starting Thurs 19 April for 6 sessions 9.30am - 12mid	NAS Teen life - FULL	Sara Tunnicliffe and Kerry West, Main site
Friday 20 April 9.30 - 10.30 am	Toilet training and toileting issues (re-arranged from last term)	Beccy Brown Hertford Place
Wed 25 April 10.0 - 11am	Esafety: Helping your children to use the internet safely	Eleanor Attridge and students from the Upper School
Friday 27 April 10 - 11.30 am	Life after Walnuts: Some mums and an ex-student will attend to talk about their experiences (re-arranged from last term)	Della Wheal Sixth From, Fenny Stratford site, 263 Queensway
Starting Wed 2 May for 8 sessions 9.30 - 12mid	EarlyBird Plus course. Please note that places on this course are limited, and allocated after the Information meeting on 11/4.	Chris White and Karen Salamon Training Centre Galley Hill
Starting Tuesday 8 May for 6 sessions 9.30am - 12mid	Healthy Minds course. Please note that places on this course are limited, and allocated after the information meeting on 17/4	Lesley-Ann Martin and Viv Coutis, Galley Hill
Tues 15 May 9.30-10.30am	Science: Supporting learning at home	Karen Salamon and Kim Harman, Hertford Place MK3 7HE
Tues 22 May 9.30-10.30am	Forest School: Principles and benefits of outdoor education	Tracy Scannell Hertford Place
Mon 11 June 9.30-10.30am	Healthy living: developing an active lifestyle and balanced diet	Jemma Dolan and Vicky Dengel
Tues 19 June 6pm-7.30pm	Sex and relationships education: How we teach this subject at The Walnuts	Jemma Dolan and Sara Tunnicliffe, Main site
Thurs 21 June 9.30am-10.30am	SOLAR: How we assess pupil progress at The Walnuts (Y2 and above)	Clara McDermott Hertford Place
Mon 25 June 12mid-1.30 pm	3D Art: Exploring different mediums to create a project at home with your child	Matt Sully Art Room, Main site
Wed 27 June and 4 July 9.30am-12mid	Managing anger: NAS Autism for families Seminars. 2 parts	Nikki Slaughter Main site
Mon 2 July 10am-11am	Information meeting for parents and carers of pupils moving from Hertford Place to the main site in September	Doris Evans Meeting room, Main site
Tues 10 July 9.30am-10.30am	Mark making and early writing: supporting learning at home	Karen Salamon Hertford Place
Tues 17 July 10am-11.30am	Transition morning for children, parents and carers of Sept starters in the Lower School	Kim Harman and Tracy Scannell, Hertford Place

OTHER INFORMATION



THE WALNUTS SCHOOL SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2018/2019

	<u>Open on the</u> <u>Morning of</u>	<u>Closed on the</u> <u>Afternoon of</u>
<u>Summer Term 2018</u>		
All return	Monday 9th April	Friday 25th May
Staff return	Monday 4th June	
Pupils return	Tuesday 5th June	Friday 20th July

Training Days 2017-2018

Monday 4th June 2018

Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May 2018 (May Day)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019

	<u>Open on the</u> <u>Morning of</u>	<u>Closed on the</u> <u>Afternoon of</u>
<u>Autumn Term 2018</u>		
Staff return	Monday 3 rd September	
Pupils return	Tuesday 4 th September	
Pupils finish		Thursday 25 th October
Staff finish		Friday 26 th October



PARENTS EVENING SUMMER TERM DATE

THURSDAY 12th JULY

3.30-8.00pm



MILTON KEYNES
SEND IAS

Special Education Needs and Disability
Information, Advice and Support Service

For advice and/or support, please contact:

Advice Line: 01908 254518

Email: mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DATES—2018

Held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday

SUMMER TERM

Mon, April 9th-Weds, May 23rd
Tues, June 5th-Weds, July 11th

PUPILS RETURN TO
SCHOOL
AFTER THE
EASTER BREAK ON:
MONDAY 9th APRIL
2018

