

Wallace Fields Junior School Newsletter

24th January 2025

KEY DATES

- Monday 27th January 2025 Selected Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming Bring normal swim wear but please wear winter PE kit to school if taking part.
- Wednesday 29th January 2025 3.00pm 3.40pm PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale
- Thursday 30th January 2025 Parents Workshop 'Developing Independence' 9.30am-11.30am. Sign up to attend
- Friday 31st January 2025 Auriol Football Tournament A Team Football Team Playing at Auriol 1pm-3pm. No B team or girls team training after school. See SPOND for more information.

Click Here¹ for Upcoming Events Click here² for School Calendar and to Subscribe to Calendar

Head's Update

Half Term Approaching

Half term is fast approaching. If you have not sorted your holiday childcare yet, you might want to consider NS Sports Holiday Club which will be held at Wallace Fields Junior School over half term. NS Sport already run the popular football clubs and coach the football team though NS Sport, and it is much more than football. NS Sport is offering an action packed holiday club with a range of sports, arts and crafts and leisure based activities for children in safe and nurturing environment. Sign up soon before the spaces fill up. See details below.



International Schools Award presented by the British Council at the Houses of Parliament.

'I had the enormous honour of accompanying our Diversity Leader and International School's Coordinator Mrs Kidwai up to the seat of government, the Houses of Parliament. We had a pleasant afternoon talking with other schools who have benefitted from this scheme . My thanks go to Mrs Kidwai for coordinating this award that is valid now for three

¹<u>https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/events</u>

²https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/calendar

years and to all the staff who have worked tirelessly on collating the evidence to illustrate to the British Council how we celebrate and promote diversity and celebrate different cultures across the school - both formally through integration in the curriculum and also through the extra curricular events, celebrations and displays. The school has active links with a number of schools abroad and the regular diversity days and the international links drive a new level of understanding and enthusiasm across the whole school.' **Mr Lee**

'On the 20th January, I attended the British Council Award ceremony for the International School Award at the Houses of Parliament with Mr. Lee; it was truly a memorable experience and indeed a proud moment for our school. The reception offered breath taking riverside views, setting a perfect backdrop for the event. We were treated to inspiring speeches by children from international schools, showcasing their remarkable insights and perspectives. It was heartening to witness the dedication and effort of 54 schools in integrating an international dimension into their curriculums. This event highlighted the importance of fostering global understanding and collaboration among young learners, ensuring they are well-prepared for a diverse and interconnected world. We are inspired to continue bringing more international experiences and links for our learners in the future. We would also like to thank our wonderful community of parents, staff and governors whose support is invaluable in helping our school go from strength to strength.' **Mrs Kidwai.**

The local **MP Helen McGuire** has proposed an Early Day Motion (EDM) to Parliament for achieving this award and six MPs have already signed this motion: "This House congratulates Wallace Fields Junior School, Epsom, on achieving accreditation with the British Council International School Award; notes that this prestigious award recognises and celebrates schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to integrating international dimensions into their curricula and activities, engages students, staff, and the local community in understanding and celebrating international diversity; and wishes them the very best in their future endeavours educating children on key life skills."

https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/62845/british-council-international-schoolaward-for-wallace-fields-junior-school-in-epsom



1 - Copyright: DAVID POULTNEY @IN-PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY LTD



THIS WEEK

Active Surrey Sports Challenge at Nescot College

We were delighted to be invited to attend an Active Surrey Sports Challenge at Nescot College on Tuesday 21st January 2025. This was a fantastic opportunity for selected children to build on their confidence and resilience within a highly respected, fun and exciting interschool event. Eight children from Wallace Fields Junior School made up a team whereby the children rotated around 8 different multi-skills style stations to score points for their team. Although we did not win, the children thoroughly enjoyed the morning and were thrilled to be runners up. Ms White and Mrs Garsden were extremely impressed by the children's resilience, teamwork and maturity. They were a real asset to our school. The competitors received their certificates and medals in assembly today. Well done!





Stars of the Week



This week's Stars of the Week were nominated in assembly - they create an excellent role model for their fellow peers through their efforts and commitment by following the school values. Usually only one pupil per class is nominated in our Celebration Assembly every Friday. All of the Stars of the Week receive a certificate and five house points for showing one or more of the school BELIEVE values - Brilliance, Enthusiasm, Learning, Inspiration, Equality, Vision and Every pupil matters. Well done to this week's winners.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION and REMINDERS

Donate To School Funds on Scopay

We have a fantastic PTA who raise significant funds for the school. We also have our own School Fund which has also been a very important source of income over many years, providing funds to support some of the other things, which have enriched the educational experience of your children including the recent refurbishment of our IT suite converting it into two separate rooms.

Please do consider donating to our School Fund next time you are on Scopay. Select WFJS Voluntary Contribution at the bottom of your Scopay screen https://www.scopay.com/wallacefields-jun. Funding is becoming tighter and finances are being squeezed.....we're expected to do more with the same – or even less. With staffing costs making up around 85% of an average school's expenditure, balancing the budget while focusing on a broad and balanced curriculum is an ongoing challenge. Your donations make a huge difference to the offer and experience we are able to provide for your children. **Thank you** in advance for your help and continuing support.

Second Hand Uniform Sale - Wednesday 29th January 2025



Positive Parent Workshop 'Helping Your Child Developing Independence'

Practical advice and help to ensure your child develops independence at our parenting workshop at Wallace Fields Junior School. This event will be led by Lesley Lane from Home Start on Thursday 30th January 2025 from 09:30-11:30. Everyone is welcome. Lesley is an expert in positive parenting and has led many highly acclaimed parental workshops. Please complete the form below so we have an idea of numbers attending.

https://forms.gle/dwCNXwUjQmcT533dA

Happy School Bag Collection - 5th February 2025

A reminder of your upcoming Happy School Bag collection is Friday 5th February 2025. Please use this opportunity to turn your unwanted clothing into funds for the school. If you lose the official Happy School Bag do not worry - just put your clothing into a clean bin bag and drop off at the gate on that Friday morning. You can drop off your bag first thing in the morning. The collection time is expected to be 10.00 am. So please ensure your bags are dropped off outside school by 9.30am at the latest.

Thank you so much in advance for your donations - they make a real difference and you get to have a bit of an early spring clean as well.



INSET Day Reminder - Monday 24th February 2025

On Monday 24th February 2025, only staff are in school as it is a training day. Children return from half term on **Tuesday 28th February 2025**. There is no wraparound care available on that Monday so please make sure you have sorted your childcare.

NS Sport Fundraising Afternoon - Monday 3rd February



Sign Up for Adult v Children Fundraising Football Challenge – February 2025

We are fundraising for new sporting equipment for the playground, which will be chosen by the children. To help raise money for this, we are running a football event where the children take on their parents! Kids VS Adults Football Matches.

These will be after school events. We are arranging mini 15 minutes matches where the children can face their adults. These will be held for **Upper School children and parents Thursday 13th February 2025 and Lower School children and parents on Thursday 27th February 2025.** Both events run from **3:45pm – 4:30pm** and we will be asking for a donation on entry to the matches, which goes towards the new sporting equipment.

You do not need to be a great footballer, or super fit and the emphasis is on having fun, rather than beating the children! You will need shin pads and a good team spirit.

We will need to consider numbers so if you are interested in playing, please complete the **Google Form** on the link below. <u>https://forms.gle/W2pVLuUKs6BhikCBA</u>

The deadline is Thursday 30th January to register your interest. After this date, you will not be able to enter as the groups will be arranged.

On the day of your child's match, you will need to be available for a briefing at **3.15pm** in the school hall, kitted out and ready for action! Studs can be worn on the grass pitch if you have them. Refreshments will be available and QR codes can be scanned on the day to pay.

If your child usually attends an after school club on a Thursday, they can still attend this club after the football matches have finished as Mrs Day will escort them to the club. Alternatively, they may leave with you. Please indicate your preference for this on the Google Form.

Do not delay - this is a very popular fundraising event. We encourage mums to take part!

Music Performance Assembly Dates

- Year 6 Music Assembly: Tuesday 11th February 2025 2.45pm. Auditions in lesson on Thursday 6th February 2025.
- Year 5 Music Assembly: Tuesday 11th March 2025 2.45pm. Auditions in lesson on Tuesday 25th February 2025.
- Year 4 Music Assembly Tuesday 29th April 2025 2.45pm. Auditions in lesson on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.
- Year 3 Performance Assembly Tuesday 20th May 2025 2.45pm. Auditions in lesson on Monday 12th May 2025.

Parents of children performing are invited in to school to watch the music assemblies. We now hold our weekly Music Assemblies at the end of the day on Tuesday so giving a precise

start time is difficult to say as it will depend on the number of performers. I anticipate around 2.45pm and I will confirm the time in the newsletter the Friday before.

I will hold 'auditions' in the class lessons - please see dates above. As there are often so many children who would like to take part, I have to restrict performances to 1 minute maximum. Please could you ensure your child's performance fits within this time. If they are singing pop songs, they will need to be able to provide me with the YouTube backing track (no vocals) and the start and finish times of the selection they are singing. I can advise if they need help choosing the 1 minute section if they come to me in advance of the class auditions.

Looking forward to some wonderful performances.

Children's Art Exhibition Horton Art Centre 4th to 8th March 2025

Well done to all the children whose art work has been selected for entry to the art exhibition at Horton Arts Centre from **4th to 8th March 2025**. Parents have been emailed with further information about viewing the exhibition and reserving and purchasing on Scopay their framed artwork.

The Horton Arts Centre is a beautiful setting - a carefully restored chapel with exhibition spaces and an exquisite environment. It is a grade II-listed building – the former Horton Chapel – opened in 2022, following major renovation works and offers atmospheric and welcoming spaces for live performance, events, exhibitions, workshops and hospitality. You can view the children's artwork any time The Horton is open. Check their website for opening times. There is a café there too, so you can get refreshments if you want to after viewing the children's amazing art pieces.

School Stationery Shop is Open

Open to all children - Tuesday and Thursday playtimes in the 4C window. The shop is very well run by Year 6 Prefects. Please send your child in with cash in coins.

Stationery Shop	
Open to all children - Tuesday	
Thursday playtimes in the plays Shop run by Year 6 Prefects.	round.
	Shafter R
Purple pen	30p
Pencil	20p
Staedtler Pen	70р
Ruler	
Pritt Stick	£1.40
Berol Pen	40p
Barrel Sharpeners	£1.00
Whiteboard Pen	70р
Erasers	40p
Highlighters	40p

YEAR 3

Road Safety Awareness Training

We are pleased to announce that Year 3 will be participating in Surrey County Council's new road safety awareness course **Feet First: Walking Training Programme** on **25th and 26th February 2025.**

Our Year 3 pupils will be participating in activities held within the classroom as well as onroad practical training led by fully trained and DBS checked Surrey County Council Walking Instructors. There are also some at home activities to continue the learning!

We want all Year 3 children to participate but we will need all parents to give permission by clicking here³ and completing Surrey County Councils consent form by Wednesday 12th February 2025.

Feet First is a road safety and active travel skills awareness course that will be aimed at children ages 7 to 8 years old (Year 3). It will provide pupils with road safety awareness skills, providing them with a key life skill that prepares them for travelling independently in the future.

Pupils will be trained in:

³https://walkingtraining.online/public/school training/10000394/

- The Green Cross Code: Stop, Look, Listen, Think.
- Road signs and pedestrian crossings.
- Recognising safer and unsafe places to cross.
- How to cross between parked cars.
- The benefits of active travel on health, wellbeing, and the environment. There is a voluntary donation on Scopay of £6 and it is free for pupils eligible for Free School Meals. For this, schools will get access to online 'Safer Steps' training modules, lesson plans and a parent / carer worksheet that can be provided at the end of the training.
- Pupils also get a certificate, pencil, sticker and fluorescent zip clip for their school bag.

Further information about Feet First can be found here⁴ and click here⁵ for a promotional video.

YEAR 4

Year 4 Residential Trip to Ufton Court 19th - 20th March 2025

We are looking forward to our residential trip to Ufton Court in March and will send out a final letter with full details in February. In the meantime, please note **the final instalment of £70** is due by **15th February**.

YEAR 5 and Year 6

Upper School Choir Invited to Music Festival

The Upper Choir have been invited to the annual Epsom Playhouse Music Festival on **Tuesday 25th March 2025** and **Wednesday 26th March 2025**, **5pm - 7pm.** There will be a rehearsal during the day on Monday 24th March (usually from around midday) that requires your child to be collected from school and dropped off at the Epsom Playhouse - another consideration for your planning!

I intend to do the same as last year and have a different group performing each night to enable the maximum number of children to take part as we are only able to take 17 children for each performance. Even doing this, there will not be enough space for everyone in the choir to take part which I find really disappointing but unfortunately this is something out of

⁴<u>https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/teachers-and-education-staff/road-safety-and-sustainable-travel/primary/steps-pedestrian-awareness-training/frequently-asked-questions</u> ⁵<u>https://www.youtube.com/embed/XB_9YFPI8dA?feature=oembed</u>

my control. We are going to put on and record a school performance of the song with the whole choir so that everyone can still be involved.

I am going to give Year 6 priority as this will be the last opportunity they will have to be part of this event and will then select the Year 5s to fill the remaining places by drawing names out of a hat during choir practice.

So that I can organise the groups please fill in the Google form⁶ by Thursday **30th January** 2025 to let me know if your child would like to take part and which day/days they would be able to attend.

Kind regards, Mrs Johnstone

YEAR 5

Year 5 Residential trip to Marchants Hill 6th – 9th May 2025 Instalment reminders:

3rd Instalment : £130. 24th January 2025

4th Instalment : £130. 1st March 2025

YEAR 6

Year 6 Residential Trip to France

Instalment reminders:

- 2nd Instalment of £120 by 22nd January 2025
- 3rd Instalment of £120 by 25th March 2025
- 4th Instalment of £130 by 10th May 2025

Junior Citizen Scheme – Thursday 6th March 2025

As part of the Year 6 work in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in the Spring Term, Year 6 take part in a Junior Citizen Scheme at Epsom Grandstand on **Thursday 6th March 2025.** In partnership with the Police, Fire Brigade, Thames Water and other public services, pupils learn about personal safety relevant to their transition to secondary school and to help them develop their independence. The children leave school by coach at 9.15am and return to school at approximately 11.45am in time for lunch. They will eat lunch at school as normal.

In order to cover the cost of this trip, we need to ask for a voluntary **contribution of £11.50**. If your child is eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office for financial

⁶https://forms.gle/pxg2JNyHYPezps5dA

assistance in paying for this trip. Please visit our on-line payment system Scopay to make your voluntary donation.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable and informative morning.

PTA and FUNDRAISING EVENTS







SAFEGUARDING and WELLBEING



Family Learning Courses for Parents and Carers



Surrey Family Learning (part of Surrey County Council) run course that are available for families to enrol on with a few simple clicks on the website⁷. You can cut and paste this into your bulletin for parents and carers.

Click here⁸ for More Information About Safeguarding at Wallace Fields Junior School

CLUBS

Do You Need Financial Help With Clubs?

Do you, or have you previously, been eligible for free school meals?

If so, we can provide your child with the opportunity to try something new or that they have not done before. We have a number of clubs that run before school, at lunchtime and after school and if your child is interested in joining one of these clubs, we can offer some financial assistance to enable them to join. Please click here⁹ to see information about the clubs at Wallace Fields Junior School. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please do get in touch with the School Office. They will be very discreet and will let you know some of the support available. Call 0208 393 0350 or email office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk.

Girls' Football Before Half Term

The girls' football coach Tim Dowdeswell is unfortunately away the next three Fridays so there will be no football training during lunchtime and after school before half term. We are are hoping to arrange for a girls only training session with NS Sport on one of these Fridays after school in February - date to be confirmed.

⁷<u>https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning</u>
<u>8</u><u>https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/our-school/safeguarding</u>
<u>9</u><u>https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/clubs</u>

NS Sport Launches New Holiday Club - February 2025



Junior Adventure Group Wrap Around Care



Kick off the Year with Special Days & Enriching Adventures with JAG this January & February! 🚀

As the new year begins and we welcome the start of the 2025 Spring term, we're thrilled to bring a fresh wave of fun, learning, and creativity to our JAG Clubs! At the heart of our clubs is the Adventure Programme a vibrant library of diverse activities spread across seven exciting categories. This unique programme allows children to learn through play, make new friends, and enhance their education in the most engaging ways!

Our Adventure Programme comprises seven exciting categories:



Creative Inventors

By engaging in activities across these categories, we'll also celebrate special themed days in January and Pebruary, enriching children's learning, expanding their horizons, and sparking their curiosity about the world around them. Some of the celebration days include:

January

🅭 Lohri (13th Jan)

Dotri (13th Jan) Say goodbye to winter and welcome the harvest with vibrant festivities through activities in our Global Kids category. Let's embrace the lively spirit of this Punjabi celebration!

🗃 Winnie the Pooh Day (18th Jan)

Join Pooh and friends for a day of friendship and sweet wisdom through activities in our Brain Boosters category. Kids will explore the joys of friendship and curiosity.

International LEGO Day (28th Jan)

Get those creative gears turning through activities in our Creative Inventors category! Kids will build, explore, and unleash their imaginations with LEGO fun.

February

Children's Mental Health Week (W/C 3rd Feb)

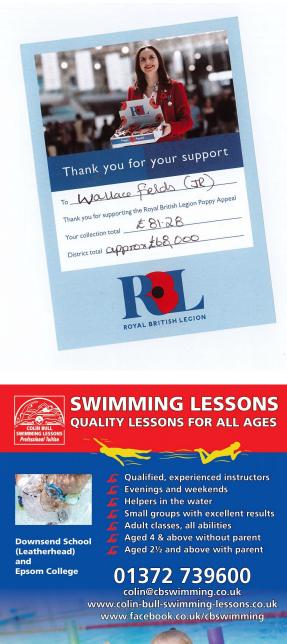
(2) Children's Mental Health Week (W/C 37G Yeb) Wellbeing is the focus this week through activities in our Wellbeing Warriors category. Kids will dive into mindfulness and self-care activities to promote a healthy mind and happy heart.

Valentine's Day (14th Feb) Show some love through activities in our Creative Inventors category! Children will make special gifts to celebrate the friendships and connections that matter most.

③ Random Acts of Kindness Day (17th Feb) Spread joy and kindness through activities in our Wellbeing Warriors category-because the more kindness, the better!

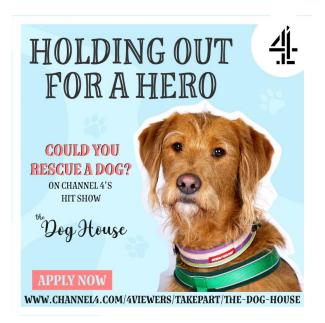
Join us at JAG this spring term for a journey filled with adventure, creativity, discovery, and joy!

COMMUNITY





* * COME AND TRY A CLASS 'FREE' * * Ring Colin today. You'll never go anywhere else!







face to face informal interview and completion of an application form that requires names and contact details for two-character references. Suitable applicants are invited to attend a mandatory volunteer preparation course and an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check is undertaken. Volunteers are usually parents themselves. All volunteers have regular support and supervision with a Family Co-ordinator and are expected to take full advantage of the comprehensive continual learning and development programme. Home-Start Surrey also need volunteers to help with other things such as being a Trustee, helping at groups and fundraising.

Key Contact Information: Home-Start East Surrey Telephone: 01737 770 220. info@home-starteastsurrey.org.uk. www.home-starteastsurrey.org.uk Home-Start Elmbridge Telephone: 0203 757 7220 enquiries@home-start-elmbridge.org.uk. www.homestartelmbridge.org.uk Home-Start Epsom, Ewell & Banstead Telephone: 01733 739 902. home-start Guildford Telephone: 01483 511181. office@homestartworg.www.homestartelmbridge.org.uk Home-Start Runnymede & Woking Telephone: 01483 511181. office@homestartsurey.eww.homestartraw.org Home-Start Spelthorne Telephone: 01784 483200 info@homestartspelthorne.org Home-Start Spelthorne Telephone: 01784 483200 info@homestartspelthorne.org Home-Start Spelthorne.org Home-Start Waverley Telephone: 01276 681121 office@home-startsurrey.heath.org.uk Home-Start Waverley Telephone: 01262 737 453. info@homestartwaverley.org.www.homestartwaverley.org



Asthma Workshops for Parents/Carers

Beating asthma together: Asthma triggers, the effects of smoking, vaping, housing and air pollution on asthma





Does your child or young person have asthma or suspected asthma? Join us on this webinar which focuses on what action we can take to reduce their exposure to triggers that can make their asthma worse.

Surrey heartlands children and young people's asthma team

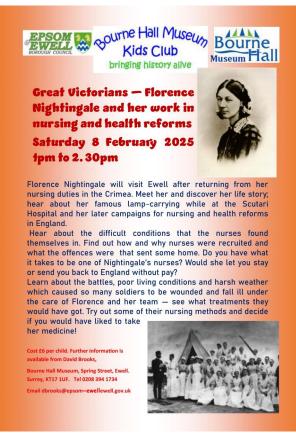




e94765faa4937c55fa287c55fa287b7bf22827bf27fae3 Are you a parent or carer whose child has asthma or suspected asthma?

Join us on at this event to look at the challenges facing children and young people with asthma and how we can help overcome them. Surrey heartlands children and young people's asthma team

Bourne Hall Museum Club



CAVE PAINTING

Thursday 20 February

11am-12.pm & 2pm-3.pm





In the deep time of prehistory early men crawled down into the darkest caves and used light from primitive candles to paint pictures of themselves and the animals they hunted.

They left behind a vivid record of their way of life and some clues of what they believed in. Discover how and why these paintings were created.

Then by flickering light try to create your own cave painting in our very own 'caves'

Cost £6 per child. Two identical sessions will be run, please book to reserve your place; maximum 16 children. Contact: David Brooks, Bourne Hall Museum, Spring Street, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 1UF. Tel 020 8394 1734. Email dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Familiarisation 11+ Test Opportunities

Tiffin School offer a series of mock 11+ tests during the Easter and summer holidays. This is to give children the chance to practise taking school entrance tests in a real secondary school environment, so as to help them feel more confident when they tackle real tests later in the year. Discounts are available for families who attract Pupil Premium funding. To find out more information go to the following website: www.11plustestkingston.co.uk¹⁰

¹⁰https://www.11plustestkingston.co.uk