



Wallace Fields Junior School Newsletter



Thursday 4th September 2025

KEY DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

- Wednesday 10th September 2025 3.40pm - **Year 5** Welcome Meeting
- Thursday 11th September 2025 3.40pm - **Year 6** Welcome Meeting

- Friday 12th September 2025
 - Helping Hands Meeting **9.30am-10.00am**
 - 3.40pm - **Year 4** Welcome Meeting

[Click Here¹](#) for Upcoming Events

[Click here²](#) for School Calendar and to Subscribe to Calendar. [Click Here³](#) for School Term Dates and INSET days

Head's Update

A very warm welcome back to the start of a new academic year. It has been wonderful to see the school come alive again with the energy, enthusiasm and smiling faces of our pupils. The children have returned fresh, eager, and ready to embrace the year ahead - and what a fantastic start it has been!

We are especially proud of our new Year 3 children, who have settled in beautifully. They've spent today getting to know their new teachers, exploring their classrooms, and becoming familiar with the routines that help our school run smoothly. Their confidence is already growing, and it is lovely to see them beginning to flourish in their new environment. They came in so well this morning and will have enjoyed two full days of school as a short introduction to junior school life.

This year, our whole-school focus is strengthening every child's sense of belonging. We know that when children feel truly part of their school community, they thrive—not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. A strong sense of belonging helps children build resilience, form positive relationships, and reach their personal and academic goals with pride and purpose.

We have said our farewells in the summer to Mrs Boddy (after 27 years with us) and she will be sorely missed. The staff roles have been filled by the team with a reshaping of administration roles, though because of this, the school newsletter will now go out on a Thursday for the remainder of this academic year. This will give you all the usual helpful diary and date reminders and the awards given in our Friday Celebration assembly will be listed retrospectively in the following week's newsletter.

We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to ensure every child feels engaged, valued, and supported. Thank you, as always, for your continued encouragement and involvement—it makes all the difference.

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

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

³<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/news/2025-03-18-inset-days-confirmed-for-next-academic-school-year>

IMPORTANT NEWS

Welcome Meetings

It was lovely welcoming so many Year 3 parents/carers for their welcome meeting today. If you were unable to make it then click here ⁴to see the handouts on the Year 3 website page. Next week we will be holding welcome meetings for the other year groups.

- **Wednesday 10th September 2025 3.40pm - Year 5 Welcome Meeting**
- **Thursday 11th September 2025 3.40pm - Year 6 Welcome Meeting**
- **Friday 12th September 2025 3.40pm - Year 4 Welcome Meeting**

Welcome Meetings will give you the opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher and hear about the trips and other exciting events that will be happening over the year. If you are unable to attend we hope to stream them as well as publish hand-outs on our website. There are no childcare facilities available, so please bring something for your child to do quietly or arrange alternative childcare.

Photos of Year 3 in Action

We showcase photos and exciting news on our website. Click here ⁵to see some photos from Year 3's first day.

Year Group Tea Parties

Later in the term we hold a year group tea party. The children will serve you tea and cake, and it is an opportunity to meet the teachers and to mingle with other parents. Hot topics will be discussed and the children usually perform a song or give a recital of some sort for the parents' entertainment. Details will follow nearer the time. The tea party dates are as follows:-

- **Wednesday 8th October 2025 2pm Year 3 Tea Party**
- **Thursday 9th October 2025 - 2pm Year 4 Tea Party**
- **Wednesday 15th October 2025 - 2pm Year 6 Tea Party**
- **Thursday 16th October 2025 - 2pm Year 5 Tea Party**

Helping Hands - Interested in Volunteering at School?

We love having parents into school to help out and if you are able to commit to a regular time, no matter how short, then this could be just the thing for you. We are particularly pleased to welcome parents to our '**Helping Hands**' scheme. This offers an opportunity to work with the children in class (not your own child's class) such as reading as well as offering other kinds of practical support. **On Friday 12th September 2025 9.30am-10.00am**, we will

⁴<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/classes/year-3>

⁵<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/news/2025-09-04-welcome-to-our-new-year-3>

be holding a Helping Hands Meeting with Mr Lee where you can hear about the jobs, responsibilities and projects where we need parent help. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more then please contact the school office on Office@wallacefieldsjun.surrey.sch.uk.

New Governors Announced

At the end of last term parents/carers were all invited to take part in parent governor elections following two vacancies which arise in July 2025. We are delighted to announce that **Dr John Burns** and **Maliha Carey** were successfully elected. We welcome them to their new posts and look forward to having them at the governing body meetings.

Year 5 and Year 6 Permission to Walk Home

Year 5 and 6 can walk home alone with permission from their parents/carers during the Autumn and Summer term. From October half term until February half term it is too dark so they will have to be collected. If you have not done so already and would like to give permission then please go to the following link. [Click here](#)⁶.

Clubs - Some Spaces Available

We offer a huge range of clubs and activities including football, Spanish, Street Dance, Cookery and Lego. **Street Dance** will not start until November due to club leader's maternity leave. Theatre Arts has also been postponed due to ill health. For **team training (netball and football squads)**, there are trials held for Year 6 (and maybe some Year 5s) in the autumn term and your child will be informed if they have a place on the team. Free teacher led clubs within school days, such as **choir** and **BSL (British Sign Language)** do not require parents to sign up and will be promoted to children in school assemblies.

[Click here](#)⁷ for the clubs page where you will find the clubs timetable for all the options and the club letters with information on how to sign up.

A few clubs are free and teacher led, most are fee paying and run by parents or external groups. **Please see the club letter for information on how to pay.** If your child qualifies for Free School Meals (FSM) or you have financial difficulties please contact the school office to discuss the situation further.

Bookings are direct with the club leader so please read the club letter on how to sign up.

Where clubs are teacher-led, free and at lunchtime no permission slip is required and your child will be informed in class or assembly how to join the club, when and where the club will run.

Do not forget to inform the club leader of any **dietary, medical or learning needs**.

⁶<https://forms.gle/mypzoRi1yizpoPp39>

⁷<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/clubs>

Please make a note in your diaries for **start and end date of the clubs** and any dates when the club is not running. Most clubs do not start until second week of term and finish the week before the end of term.

Your child can bring in a **snack to eat before their after school club** though please ensure it is healthy (not chocolate or sweets) and does not contain nuts. Children must take home their own snack rubbish and waste.

All club attendees are collected from the main front gate. Walking home is only permitted for Year 5 & Year 6 children during the light evenings from late Spring to October half term and club leaders must be informed.

Sign up for Chess Club

We are delighted to welcome back the **Chess Club** back and there are still lots of spaces in this popular club. Please sign up quickly to avoid disappointment. Chess club takes place every Wednesday (from 17th September 2025 to 26th November 2025) from 3.30-4.30pm. Whether your child is a beginner or knows how to play the club caters for all abilities. Research has shown that chess improves children's academic performance particularly their mathematical and problem solving abilities. See below the club letter. To sign up email debs.casey@outlook.com⁸ or call 07989 156996.



Chess club will return on Wednesday 17th September 2025, 3.30 – 4.30pm.

Research has shown that chess improves children's academic performance, particularly their mathematical and problem solving abilities by:

- Developing critical thinking and logical reasoning
- Improving numeracy
- Improving concentration and patience
- Promoting imagination and creativity
- Teaching children about planning ahead
- Teaching that their actions have repercussions
- Win prizes

BEGINNERS learn how to play and **PLAYERS** enhance the skills they already possess. There shall be tournaments within the club, where prizes of trophies and medals are up for grabs in different tournaments for various age groups/abilities.

<i>Time of Club</i>	-	<i>Wednesdays, 3.30 – 4.30 pm</i>
<i>Dates</i>	-	<i>17th September – 26th November (10 weeks)</i>
<i>Term Fee</i>	-	<i>£60.00</i>
<i>Contact</i>	-	<i>Deborah Casey</i>
<i>Email</i>	-	<i>debs.casey@outlook.com / tele 07989156996</i>

HOW TO JOIN

Advanced booking is essential. Chess club is popular so please send me an email **as soon as possible after receiving this leaflet** with the information below. Waiting to join until September could lead to disappointment as most parents sign up over the summer.

Child's name and Year Group (as at Sept 25)
Contact number(s) for emergencies
Whether your child has any medical issues/allergies
Level of Play (player/beginner)
Permission to walk home alone if appropriate

Once your email is received I will forward details on how to make payment. Your space is not secure until payment has been made.

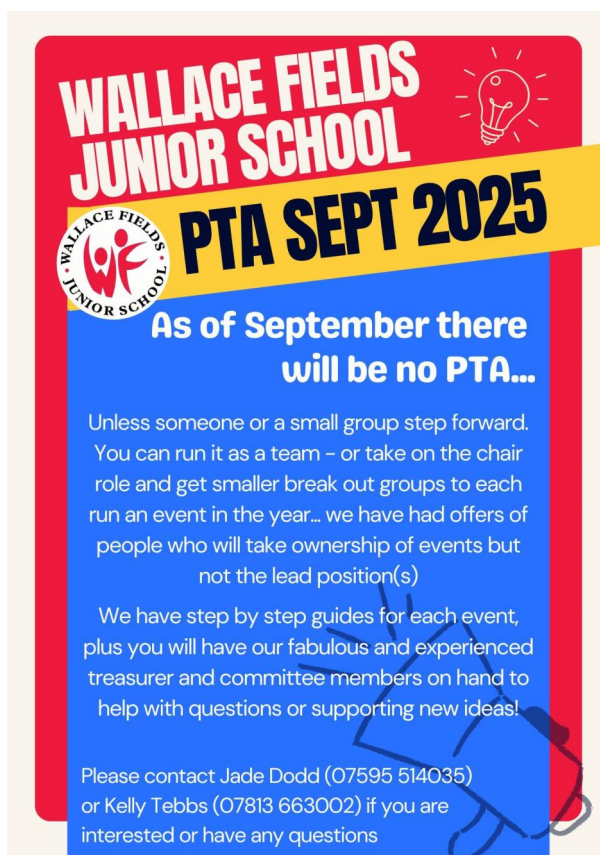
Important: Can I remind parents that if your child is unable to attend for any reason please text me **before** the club to let me know.

Theatre Arts Club Postponed

Unfortunately, Mrs Kennedy has been unwell throughout the summer remains so. Sadly this means that she needs to cancel Theatre Arts for the entire first half of term. She hopes to be fit and well soon and to start up again after the half term break. She has emailed all those concerned and will refund if individuals can send their bank details to her.

PTA Needed - Can You Help?

As you may be aware our wonderful PTA Co-Chairs Jade Dodd and Kelly Tebbs are standing down this summer. We cannot thank them enough for all the incredible fundraising events they have organised over the past few years. Although we have a fabulous and experienced treasurer and committee members, we are still looking for a Chair or Joint Chairs. Please find attached request from Jade and Kelly and do give them a call for an informal chat.

A poster for Wallace Fields Junior School PTA Sept 2025. The poster has a red top section with the school name in white, a yellow banner with the PTA date, and a blue bottom section with text. A lightbulb icon is in the top right, and a hand-drawn blue figure is in the bottom right.

**WALLACE FIELDS
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

PTA SEPT 2025

**As of September there
will be no PTA...**

Unless someone or a small group step forward.
You can run it as a team – or take on the chair
role and get smaller break out groups to each
run an event in the year... we have had offers of
people who will take ownership of events but
not the lead position(s)

We have step by step guides for each event,
plus you will have our fabulous and experienced
treasurer and committee members on hand to
help with questions or supporting new ideas!

Please contact Jade Dodd (07595 514035)
or Kelly Tebbs (07813 663002) if you are
interested or have any questions

Have Your Contact Details Changed Recently?

Make sure your details are up to date! Please contact the office if your contact details have changed this is extremely important to ensure we are able to contact you in an emergency. Email office@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk with your updated contact details. Thank you

SAFEGUARDING and WELLBEING

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**
Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.
- 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**
Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**
Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**
Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.
- 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**
Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.
- 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING**
Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES**
Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.
- 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**
If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**
Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**
Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert
This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TECHNOLOGY ATTACHMENT

In today's digital age, children are increasingly forming emotional and habitual attachments to their devices. With 86% regularly accessing the internet and nearly half engaging in live streaming or content sharing, their online presence is greater than ever. This guide explores the phenomenon of technology attachment in young people and offers expert advice on fostering healthier digital habits.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WIRED FOR REWARD

Children's brains are particularly sensitive to reward-based stimulation, and some digital platforms, especially those offering quick-hit content like short-form videos, are designed to exploit this. The instant gratification of likes, comments, and rapid scene changes triggers dopamine releases, making these interactions highly addictive. Over time, this may contribute to changes in attention patterns and a reduced inclination towards activities that involve prolonged focus or delayed gratification, such as reading, problem-solving, or creative play.

NIGHT-TIME TECH HABITS

Screen use late into the evening can disrupt natural sleep patterns by suppressing melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep. Children engaging with stimulating content may experience delayed bedtimes, lower sleep quality, and increased fatigue during the day. Additionally, fear of missing out (FOMO) on online interactions can cause anxiety and resistance to logging off, creating a cycle of late-night engagement and tired mornings.

SHAPED BY SCREENS

For many children, digital spaces have become a key arena for identity exploration and expression. Social media encourages them to curate their image carefully, with likes, comments, and shares serving as social validation. This environment can tie self-esteem to online feedback, making children vulnerable to comparison, self-doubt, and pressure to present a perfect version of themselves, even when it doesn't reflect reality.

DIGITAL WORLD DANGERS

The internet can expose children to unfiltered content, some of which may be inappropriate, misleading, or harmful. Cyberbullying, exposure to idealised lifestyles, and online predators are all risks children face, often without fully understanding the consequences. Misinformation can shape distorted worldviews, while constant comparison to others can erode self-confidence. Without guidance, children may internalise these digital dangers, impacting their emotional and mental health.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY BUILDS

Devices often become digital comfort blankets. In moments of boredom, anxiety, or loneliness, children may instinctively reach for screens to self-soothe. This reliance on digital distraction limits their ability to develop healthy coping mechanisms, such as mindfulness, conversation or physical activity. As the habit builds, their dependency may displace real-world experiences and emotional resilience.

FRIENDSHIPS & FILTERS

Technology transforms how young people socialise, often replacing face-to-face interaction with text-based or image-based communication. While messaging apps and social media enable connection, they may also limit emotional expression and the development of essential interpersonal skills, such as tone recognition, empathy, and reading body language. As a result, some children may become less confident with exchanges in person and more reliant on digital personas to navigate friendships.

Advice for Parents & Educators

READ THE ROOM

Pay attention to behavioural changes that may signal unhealthy tech attachment. This includes mood swings, increased secrecy about online activity, withdrawal from family time or hobbies, and visible distress when separated from devices. These cues can indicate deeper emotional reliance or even exposure to distressing content. Early recognition allows for proactive support and meaningful conversation.

SHAPE DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Create a balanced digital environment with clear guidelines on when and how devices can be used. This includes screen-free zones (e.g. bedrooms, dining tables), app restrictions, and time limits. More importantly, involve children in these decisions and explain the reasoning behind them, even reflecting upon your own digital use so they can see it's something we all have to manage. Turning boundaries into a dialogue, not just directives, helps build trust and encourages self-regulation.

DON'T WAIT, REACH OUT EARLY

If a child's relationship with technology starts affecting their emotional wellbeing, school performance, or social connections, don't hesitate to seek help. Open up discussions with teachers, pastoral staff, or digital wellbeing professionals. Early intervention is key, and a supportive network can provide tools, resources, and reassurance for both children and adults navigating this evolving digital landscape.

SET THE STANDARD

Children often model the behaviour they see. When adults demonstrate healthy digital habits, such as prioritising face-to-face conversation, balancing screen time with other activities, and using devices with purpose, children are more likely to follow suit. Share your own positive uses of technology and invite children to do the same. This collaborative approach helps demystify tech use and encourages responsible engagement.

Meet Our Expert

Philippa Wraithwell is an award-winning educator, author of *The Digital Ecosystem*, and founder of *Eduplans* and *Digital Bridge*. *Digital Bridge* supports the relationship between families and technology, empowering everyone to be balanced and digitally well. With over 15 years in digital education and wellbeing, she supports families, schools, and governments to build balanced and safe digital cultures.

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[Click here⁹](#) for More Information About Safeguarding at Wallace Fields Junior School

ACHIEVEMENTS

Success of Former Pupils

We like to share the successes of former pupils and we can gladly announce that Flo R and Lauren T are off to Oxford this year! Lily K is going to Bristol and most others seem to be pleased and off to the universities that they chose. If you know of the successes of former pupils please do let us know and we can spread the word and celebrate together.

⁹<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/our-school/safeguarding>

Claudia Macdonald, the rugby union player, was named as part of the England squad for the 2025 Women's World Cup and we wish the Red Roses all the very best!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxxslUVfEUI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EhUcA5rnOg>