



# Wallace Fields Junior School Newsletter

15th December 2023

## KEY DATES FOR NEXT TERM

- **Tuesday 2nd January 2024** - Return from Christmas Holidays
- **Monday 8th January 2024** - Swimming assessment session for selected Year 5 & 6
- **Thursday 11th January 2024** - EAL Coffee Afternoon 2.45pm
- **Thursday 8th February 2024** - 5pm - 6pm PTA Valentines Disco
- **Monday 12th-16th February 2024** Half term
- **Monday 19th February 2024** - INSET day
- **Thursday 29th February 2024** - Year 5 Synagogue Visit
- **Thursday 7th March 2024** - World Book Day Dressing up day
- **Friday 15th March 2024** - Comedy Night
- **Thursday 21st March 2024** - Year 3 Butser Farm Day Trip
- **Monday 25th March 2024** - Face to face parent-teacher meetings
- **Tuesday 26th March 2024** - Virtual parent-teacher meetings
- **Wednesday 27th March 2024**
  - Wellbeing day
  - 5pm - 7pm Choir performance
- **Thursday 28th March 2024** - last day before Easter break. Early finish.



[Click Here<sup>1</sup>](#) for Upcoming Events

[Click here<sup>2</sup>](#) for School Calendar and to Subscribe to Calendar

## HEAD'S UPDATE

**Head Teacher Awards for December 2023:** The children who have made an excellent effort or produced particularly impressive pieces in a lessons get a head teacher award. This recognition comes with five house points and if in lower school a mini certificate. All headteacher awards are recognised with a gold sticker on the piece produced. The awards this month go to Alice W, Annabelle S, Maddie S, Alice M, Theo L-O, Max R, Alexandra S, Celine P, Ciaran Y, Imogen D, Betty O-M, Rosha A S, Aurelia K, Millie D, Sabrina C, Grace E, Rhea J, George C, Edward PdM, Phillip M, Stasi T, Isla H, Thomas Vdl, George D, Zachary D, Clarissa W, Yiu Yiu C, Maia S, Eliana A, Leena O, Marta H, Louis L and Hannah R.

**Happy Christmas from all at Wallace Fields Juniors:** It has been a wonderful build up to Christmas and the children have been taking part in a plethora of festive activities this month including Tuesday's pantomime for the whole school - thanks to the PTA for funding that - details below. The key event in our Wallace Fields Junior School calendar is the Christmas Carol Concert, which as I mentioned in the chapel, is the culmination of a lot of hard work, preparation and rehearsal. The very beautiful Epsom College Chapel is a real treat with excellent performances by the children. Well done to those staff who got involved with their drumming skills. The children sounded lovely and my thanks to all the staff especially Mrs Johnstone for ensuring it all came together. Thanks also to the volunteers for their efforts during this term and a special thanks to those who have been in school to help out and who helped walk the children up to the chapel for rehearsals.

The children have had a very busy and enjoyable autumn term. All the teachers, support staff, admin and the premises manager have all worked so hard this term and I am proud of what they have achieved, learned and enjoyed.

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

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

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and I hope it brings respite of some sort (although obviously with children, you know that this does not always equate to calmer time of year) though it is indubitably a special time for family.

I look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Take care and I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas break.

## THIS WEEK



## Thank You and Merry Christmas

Thank you so much for your generous gifts to the teachers and the staff at Wallace Fields Junior School. The staff are a very committed team and as much as they do not expect gifts, they are much appreciated. Thanks also for all your positive feedback by email and personal comments to staff at the gate (and at parent teacher meetings) as they really do mean a lot. Your kind comments make a big difference and your cooperation and loyalty to the school are very much recognised.



### Panto Came to Wallace Fields Juniors!



The whole school enjoyed the pantomime of "The Three Musketeers" which went down a storm with an interesting twist on a classic tale. The children had a wonderful time and got fully involved - a great Christmas Show! Many thanks to the PTA for organising and funding such a fun show for the children.

### Christmas Carol Concert





Everyone enjoyed the fantastic carol concert in the wonderful Epsom Chapel. The children were beautifully behaved and the singing was fabulous. The staff drummers were certainly enthusiastic. Thank you to Mrs Johnstone for masterminding such a stunning and moving Christmas performance.

We have a long running affiliation with the Save The Children group. Thank you for your generous donation to **Save the Children**. The collection raised £506 for this really worthy cause providing support for children all over the world. If you did not have cash on the night and would like to donate then please click here<sup>3</sup> to donate via their website.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1735273551823798493>

**A Huge Thank You from Mrs Johnstone!**

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>

I would just like to say what a privilege it has been singing with your children over this last half term in our preparations for the Christmas Carol Concert. They have worked really hard on some challenging songs and whatever I asked of them, they tried their best to produce! They made me so proud on Monday and singing in the beautiful acoustics of the Epsom College Chapel made it even more special. I must also thank my wonderful choirs who have continued to show excellent commitment and enthusiasm. It's lovely seeing their confidence and sound as a group developing. It's always a pleasure working with so many who just love to sing! A huge thank you to you all! Mrs Johnstone.

### **Carol Singing in the Park**

Thank you to all the parents who joined and supported the carol singing choir at the Park Café in Alexandra Park on Thursday. We are pleased to have raised £84.80 towards the All Weather Track.



### **Christmas Fun Fair at Wallace Fields Juniors!**

Wow! The children all had an amazing time on Wednesday and Thursday mornings with the Christmas Fun event with games, biscuit making, hot chocolate, bouncy inflatable snow globe and Christmas arts and crafts. Many of the children commented that they had an amazing time and how good it was. Thank you so much to the PTA for organising such a great event and many thanks to those parents who volunteered and helped run the Christmas stalls and bases (and helped with set up and clearing away). Thanks also to the teachers and Mr Findlay who also fully supported the activities.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1735235593787863339>











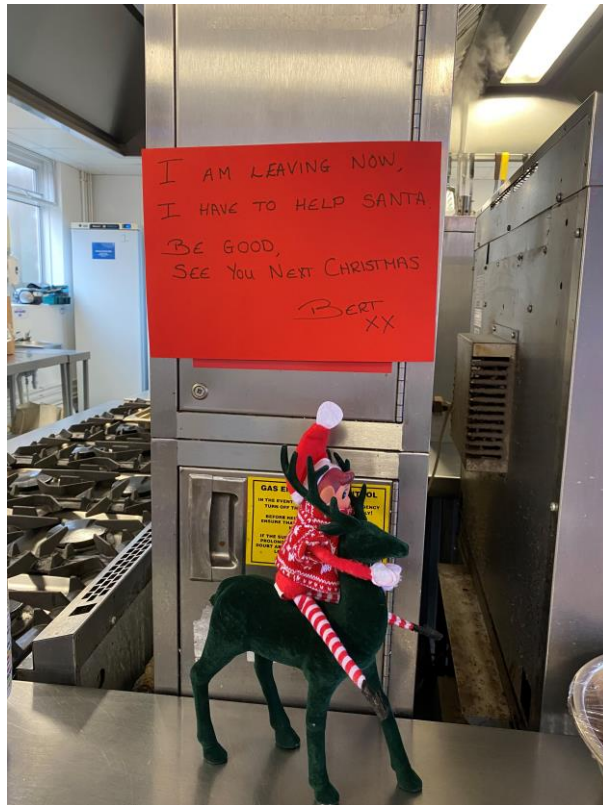




What Did the Twelve15 Naughty Elf on the Shelf Get Up To?







### Thank you to the Kitchen for Fantastic Christmas Dinner

Thanks to Chef Emma and all her team from Twelve15 for the fabulous Christmas dinner and all the delicious dinners they have served in 2023. They produced a great dinner hot and tasty and covering all the dietary requests and needs of the children. Please see Chef Emma with the naughty Elf found hiding in the inflatable snow globe (above). Thanks also to the kitchen for producing the staff Christmas dinner!





**Congratulations to Stars of the Week and Believe Award Winners**



## General Reminders and News

### Progress on All Weather Pitch Fundraising - 18 Days Left For Regular Crowdfunder

Any donations welcome as we have raised approximately £27,000 so far! We only need to raise around £7,000 more to be ready for the summer installation- please continue to help us raise more funds so we can achieve this all weather pitch dream.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/all-weather-pitch>

### Club News

You will have signed up for clubs for the Spring term by now. Any questions please contact the club leader directly. For more information about the clubs and the contact details for the club leaders please click here<sup>4</sup>.

There are still some spaces in clubs for example 3 spaces in Cooking club, French club, Art club and Tennis club.

There is a long list for Lego club so Mrs White is considering setting one up on a Thursday after school. Nothing is confirmed but if you would like to express interest in a Thursday after school lego club then please email [swhitelegoclub@yahoo.com](mailto:swhitelegoclub@yahoo.com)<sup>5</sup>

There will be **no clubs** in the first week of term week commencing **2nd January 2024**.

**Gardening Club will not start until February 2024.**

You might want to book into the wraparound care provider JAG for the sessions the clubs are not running. For more information click here.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup><https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/clubs>

<sup>5</sup><mailto:swhitelegoclub@yahoo.com>

<sup>6</sup><https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/parents/wrap-around>





### Library Book Donations Wanted - Are you having a Sort Out?

You may find that books are in some of those presents under the tree - so time to have a book clear-out of the books that have been enjoyed. This Christmas we are looking for good quality books for 7 to 11 year olds to be donated to the class book corners and library.

If your child receives duplicate copies of books at Christmas then perhaps you could donate them to the school library?

Please bring them in at the start of next term. **Thank you!**

### Swimming Year 5 and 6 Spring Term

Following the feedback provided by parents regarding their child's swimming ability, selected children who are non-swimmers or not confident in the water, have now been invited to attend a swimming assessment session on 8th January 2024. The letter of invite went out to specially selected children on Tuesday 12th December 2023. If you did not receive a letter then your child will not attend these lessons.

If you did receive an invite letter, please remember that your child will need swimming costume/trunks, a towel and a swimming hat if their hair is below their collar. They may also bring a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for after swimming. The children will be accompanied to Epsom College for the swimming lesson and will leave school at 9.00am. The first session is a full assessment.

### Coffee Afternoon for EAL families - 11th January 2024 2.45pm.

Parents/Carers of children with English as an additional language (EAL) are warmly invited to attend a coffee afternoon on 11th January from 2.45-3.30pm. Please email [THallett@wallacefields-](mailto:THallett@wallacefields-)

jun.surrey.sch.uk<sup>7</sup> if you would like to attend so she can gauge numbers for teas and coffees. this is an informal opportunity to meet up and not a formal presentation. It is great for parents and carers to meet up, share things in common and make local connections. Please do come along.

## New Support Staff

We are delighted to welcome Debbie Bracher to our support team. Debbie is currently a volunteer in school with a vast experience of working with children and she has been helping extensively supporting children's reading and helping prepare resources. She gets on well with everyone in our school community and enjoys working with the children and staff. She will start at the beginning of the spring term.

## Reminder for Parents with Year 2 Children

The closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2024 entry is **15 January 2024**.

SCC encourage online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>, however parents can also request a paper application form or seek impartial help in completing an application via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). Full information is available on Surrey's website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)<sup>8</sup>

## WELLBEING & SAFEGUARDING



<sup>7</sup><mailto:THallett@wallacefields-iun.surrey.sch.uk>

<sup>8</sup><http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions>

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

## It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

### It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssd.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



**Skips**

[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service

**Mindworks Surrey**

If you need support now, here's what to do

If you're in immediate danger: call 999

If you have an urgent need, call our crisis team on 0800 915 4644. It's open 24 hours a day - 7 days a week.

If you're not in a crisis, but still need support ...

If you do not need urgent support, you can talk to your mental health lead in school. They are there to listen and support you with your mental health and wellbeing. If you do not know who this is, talk to a member of school staff you trust and they will be able to help you.

Visit our website, [www.mindworks-surrey.org](http://www.mindworks-surrey.org) - this offers a wide range of information which can help your mental health and wellbeing. We have resources such as My Safety Plan and self-help tips to help guide you through your wellbeing during challenging times. You'll find links to useful websites, recommended reading, plus coping strategies to help you through difficult times.

We are partnered with Kooth, who are a digital mental health platform providing confidential support for all young people. Here you can access forums, activity centres, messaging and live counselling. You can get support when you need it, with no waiting lists or need to be referred by an adult. Visit [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) for more information.

Sometimes it might feel easier to message/text about how you are feeling and there are many places you can do this:

- Shout**: is a free, confidential, 24/7 text support service for anyone in the UK who is struggling to cope. To start a conversation, text the word 'SHOUT' to 85258.
- Chat Health**: is a safe and easy way for you to speak to a qualified health professional. They provide information about services near you that can provide support. Contact them through their website [www.chathealth.nhs.uk](http://www.chathealth.nhs.uk)

The CYP (Children & Young People) Haven is a safe space for any child or young people aged 10-18 to go where they can talk about worries and mental health in a confidential, friendly and supportive place. Scan the QR code for more information.

We also work closely with young people groups such as Amplify, their contact email [amplify.mindworks@sahp.nhs.uk](mailto:amplify.mindworks@sahp.nhs.uk) and Surrey Youth Voice, where your voice can help us help other young people's mental health and wellbeing services across Surrey and North East Hampshire. Contact them on 01483 519 464 or [USER.VOICE@SURREYCC.GOV.UK](mailto:USER.VOICE@SURREYCC.GOV.UK)

Mindworks Surrey provides a dedicated out-of-hours helpline for parents and carers of children with suspected or diagnosed neurodevelopmental needs such as ASD and/or ADHD. It's open 5 pm-11 pm, seven days a week. Call 0300 222 5755.

Mindworks Surrey also offers a range of groups and youth clubs for both children and young people. These are all open to self-referral and you can find out more information on our website by scanning the QR code.

The Mindworks Access and Advice Team can also provide support in signposting you to more help. Call them on 0300 222 5755.

Find out more at

[mindworks-surrey.org](http://mindworks-surrey.org)



## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Struggling to stay warm this winter?**

**Come and join us for Warm Wednesdays**

**10am - 3:30pm** Hot drinks & stay cosy  
**12 noon - 1:30pm** Hot soup and roll  
**3:30 - 6pm** Family after-school club  
with games, kid's entertainment & evening meal

Plus! One-stop advice café every week. See over for details...

**all completely.** **FREE**

- Simply drop in, no booking required
- Wednesdays from 1st November to 13th March
- Epsom Methodist Church, Ashley Road, KT18 5AQ



### Proposed Admission Arrangement Consultation for St Martin's

Both the Infant and the Junior Schools at St Martin's Epsom are consulting on their admission arrangements. Please click here<sup>9</sup> to visit the consultation pages for the Infant and Juniors Schools for full details.

The consultations will run until 3pm on 26 January 2024.

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.stmartinsepsom.school/page/?title=Consultation+on+Proposed+Admissions+Arrangements&pid=103>