November 2026 Newsletter

Helping your child develop a love for life and learning

Value of the month - Respect

A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN & MRS BASSETT-CROSS – FEDERATION NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families have had a wonderful half-term break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead! Whilst it is unusual to be sending our newsletter on a Monday, we were keen to share important information before the week begins tomorrow for your children.

We begin with the deeply sad news that Mrs Johnson-Walker, Head Teacher of Winston Churchill School since 2013, has passed away. For over a decade, she dedicated herself to the school, its staff and, above all, its students. Her lasting impact and legacy will always be remembered. Our hearts go out to her family, friends and colleagues during this incredibly difficult time.

NEED TO KNOW

Parents' consultation meetings this week

We're delighted to welcome you on Wednesday and Thursday. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress. Teachers will:

- Celebrate successes – share what your child is doing well and the progress they've made
- Discuss development areas – identify where your child might benefit from additional support or challenge, with strategies to use at home
- Talk about attendance – attendance is closely linked to learning, behaviour, and wellbeing

Understanding our attendance support

For most families, the attendance conversation at Parents' Evenings will be a celebration of your child's excellent attendance this term. However, where attendance is a concern, teachers will be keen to understand any barriers your family may be facing and work with you to provide appropriate support. We know that sometimes circumstances can make regular attendance challenging, and we're here to help.

We want to share with you how we support families when attendance becomes a concern. Our approach is based on early intervention and working in partnership with you to overcome any barriers to regular attendance.

Stage 1: Early Support (Attendance drops below 97%)

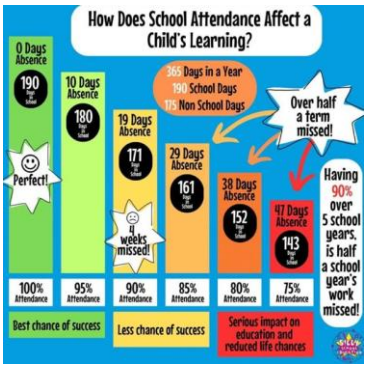
If your child's attendance drops below 97%, their class teacher will give you a call within 2 working days. This is a supportive conversation to understand if there are any barriers we can help with and to work together on improving attendance. We'll agree specific actions and monitor progress over the next 2 weeks.

Stage 2: Formal Concern (Attendance drops to 95%)

If attendance reaches 95% or below, a senior leader will send you a formal letter outlining our concerns, the impact on your child's learning, and the support available. We'll continue to monitor attendance closely over the following 2-3 weeks.

Stage 3: Meeting (No improvement following Stage 2)

If there's no improvement, a member of our Executive Leadership Team will invite you to a meeting. This is an opportunity to work together to create an action plan with specific targets, agreed support, and a review date. We want to understand any challenges you're facing and find solutions together.



Stage 4: Local Authority Referral (Continued poor attendance)
If attendance doesn't improve despite all our support, as Head Teacher, I will refer the case to the Local Authority's Attendance Team, who will work with the family to address the ongoing concerns.

We will always approach attendance concerns with understanding and support. Our goal is to work with you, not against you, to ensure your child benefits from regular school attendance and achieves their full potential.

We're really looking forward to seeing you all this week and sharing in your child's achievements.

Keeping Our Children Safe Online

As we move further into the digital age, it is more important than ever that we work together to protect our children when they're online.

At school, we take online safety education seriously. Through our computing curriculum and regular PSHE lessons, children learn age-appropriate skills to stay safe online, including how to recognise risks, protect their personal information, and report concerns. We teach them about appropriate online behaviour, how to identify trusted adults, and the importance of thinking critically about what they see and share online. Our approach to technology in school is purposeful and monitored – screens are used only to enhance learning, not as entertainment. Teachers carefully plan when and how technology is used to support educational objectives, and all internet usage is filtered and monitored through our safeguarding systems. We ensure that screen time at school is balanced, meaningful, and always supervised, so children develop healthy digital habits whilst gaining the skills they need for the modern world.

At home, we urge you to closely monitor your child's online activity – not just what they're doing, but who they're connecting with and how much time they're spending online. 'Screen time' includes all time spent on devices with screens – this means tablets, computers, gaming consoles, smartphones, and televisions. It all adds up quickly, and excessive screen time can impact sleep, physical activity, face-to-face social skills, and mental wellbeing.

While the UK government doesn't currently mandate specific daily screen time limits for children, health experts and organisations like the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health recommend that families should consider:

- **Under 2 years:** Minimal to no screen time
- **2-5 years:** No more than 1 hour per day
- **School-age children:** No more than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day
- **All ages:** No screens at least 1 hour before bedtime

Children need our guidance to navigate the digital world safely. This means having open conversations about the websites they visit, the games they play, and the people they interact with online. Set clear boundaries around screen time and ensure devices are used in communal areas of your home where you can supervise.

We have always been a mobile phone-free environment. While it may feel like every child has one, primary-aged children simply don't need mobile phones. The government has introduced measures requiring schools to be 'mobile phone-free environments', with a ban on smartphones during the school day. This decision is backed by growing evidence about the impact of early smartphone use on children's development, mental health, and ability to form healthy relationships. By delaying smartphone ownership until secondary school, we give our children the chance to develop crucial social skills, concentration, and resilience without the pressures and risks that come with constant connectivity.

I encourage you to pull together as a parent community. If several families agree to delay giving their children smartphones, it removes the pressure of "everyone else has one." Consider forming a parent group to support each other in setting consistent boundaries around screen time and device ownership. Your child will thank you for it in the long run, even if they don't appreciate it now!

Let's work together to ensure our children can enjoy the benefits of technology whilst staying safe. If you'd like support or resources on online safety, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Any child who does bring a mobile phone to school must sign it in at the office in the morning and collect it at the end of the day. This ensures that during the school day, children are fully engaged in their learning and social interactions without digital distractions.

Anti-Bullying Week

From Monday 16th to Friday 20th November, we're celebrating Anti-Bullying Week by wearing odd socks to show our support for kindness, respect and inclusion. Whilst we're proud to join schools across the country in this important week, we want to emphasise that our commitment to preventing bullying goes far beyond a single event. Through our values curriculum, we actively promote respect, empathy and positive relationships throughout the entire year, ensuring that every child at Worplesdon Primary School feels safe, valued and supported every day.





Looking ahead to Christmas

The run-up to Christmas is always such a special time across our federation of schools, and we have some fantastic events planned that we can't wait to share with you. Your children will be working hard on their Christmas plays and performances, and we're looking forward to welcoming you to our carol services. These events are always highlights of the school year, and we know the children are excited to showcase their talents and celebrate the festive season together. **Please note: Worplesdon only in red, Wood Street only in blue, both schools in black.**

Wednesday 4th November (3.30-6.30pm)	Parents' Consultation Meetings
Thursday 5th November (4.00-7.00pm)	Parents' Consultation Meetings
Friday 6th November	WSI Friends/PTA – Christmas Fair Collection (Mufti)
Friday 13th November	FoWS – Christmas Fair Collection Day (Mufti)
Friday 13th November	WSI Friends/PTA – Christmas Fair Collection (Mufti)
Friday 13th November (2.45pm)	Owls – Class Assembly
Monday 16th November	FoWS - Santa's Grotto tickets released
Thursday 19th November (2.00-3.20pm)	Worplesdon 60th Anniversary Celebrations
Friday 20th November	FoWS – Christmas Fair Collection Day (Mufti)
Friday 20th November	WSI Friends/PTA – Christmas Fair Collection (Mufti)
Friday 20th November (2.45pm)	Jackdaws – Class Assembly
Friday 27th November	FoWS – Christmas Fair Collection Day (Mufti)
Friday 27th November	WSI Friends/PTA – Christmas Fair Collection (Mufti)
Friday 27th November	WSI Friends/PTA – Happy Bags Collection
Friday 27th November (5.30 – 6.30pm)	WSI Friends/PTA – School Disco
Friday 27th November (2.45pm)	Robins – Class Assembly
Sunday 29th November	FoWS – Christmas Fair
Thursday 3rd December (2.00pm)	WPS Reception – Nativity
Thursday 3rd December (5.30 – 6.30pm)	WSI Cocoa Evening
Friday 4th December (9.15am)	WPS Reception – Nativity
Saturday 5th December	Wood Street Infant School – Christmas Fair
Monday 7th December (9.15am)	Wood Street Infant School – Christmas Production
Tuesday 8th December	WPS - Phyllis Tuckwell – Reindeer Run
Tuesday 8th December	WSI – Phyllis Tuckwell – Elf Run
Tuesday 8th December (9.15am)	WPS Year 1 – Christmas Production
Wednesday 9th December (2.00pm)	WPS Year 1 – Christmas Production
Wednesday 9th December (2.00pm)	Wood Street Infant School – Christmas Production
Thursday 10th December	WPS Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 10th December	WPS Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10th December (9.15am)	Wood Street Infant School – Christmas Production
Friday 11th December	WSI Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th December (9.15am)	WPS Year 2 – Christmas Production
Tuesday 15th December (2.00pm)	Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert
Wednesday 16th December	WSI Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th December (am)	Year 3 & 4 Carol Services (St Mary's Church)
Wednesday 16th December (2.00pm)	WPS Year 2 – Christmas Production
Thursday 17th December (4.00pm)	Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert
Friday 18th December (1.15pm & 1.30pm)	Finish for Christmas Break
Monday 4th January	School Closed – Inset Day (WPS & WSI)
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school (WPS & WSI)

Best wishes,

Kareen O'Brien
Executive Head Teacher

Laura Bassett-Cross
Deputy Head Teacher

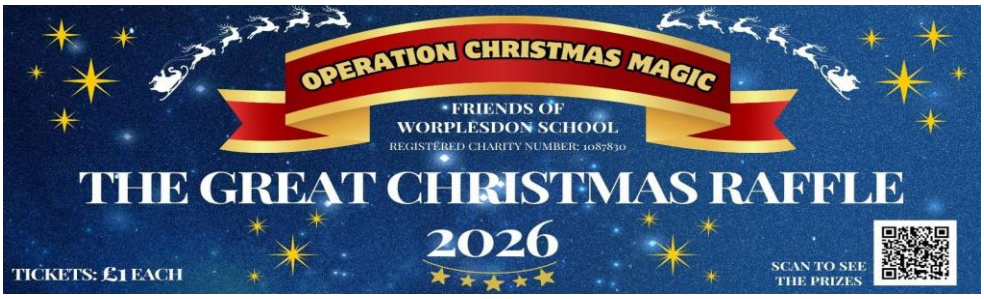
GOOD TO KNOW

FRIENDS OF WORPLESDON SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES
Christmas Card artwork - Deadline tomorrow
Tomorrow is the deadline for returning your children's Xmas4Schools artwork. **Please complete the back of the form and return it to your child's class teacher on Tuesday 3rd November.**

Completing the form does not mean that you are committed to ordering any products but simply gives you access to the ordering portal. Xmas4Schools will send order codes by text / email to those who have returned their form during w/c 9th November.

Remember every item you go on to purchase raises £1 for the School!





MISSION 2 HAS ARRIVED – THE GREAT CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!
Our young North Pole recruits have a brand-new mission!

Following the fantastic success of our Hamper Mission, it's time for **Mission 2 – The Great Christmas Raffle!**

Raffle ticket envelopes will be sent home in children's school bags on Wednesday.

YOUR MISSION
Help sell your £1 raffle tickets to family and friends for a chance to win some fantastic Christmas Fair prizes!

Please return your completed ticket stubs, money and any unsold tickets to your child's class teacher or the school office.

📅 **Please aim to return everything by Thursday 12th November**, to help our Christmas Fair Team begin counting and organising the entries.

Need a little longer? No problem! Returns will continue to be accepted at the school office right up until the fair, and extra raffle tickets are available from the school office or on the day.

Every ticket sold helps raise funds for our school! ❤️

🎁 **Curious about the prizes?**
Take a peek at the wonderful prizes donated by our generous supporters!

View our Raffle Prizes on PTA Events.

🍾 **COMING NEXT – MISSION 3!**
Our next mission is already on the horizon!

Friday 13th November – Bottle Mufti Day!
Children are invited to wear non-uniform in exchange for a bottle donation for our Christmas Fair.

For full mission details and updates, visit our **North Pole Portal** on PTA Events.

The Christmas magic is gathering pace! 🎄✨

FoWS Christmas Fair Team

Break the Rules Day - Can you help us match last year's fundraising total?
We are still hoping to match last year's Break the Rules fundraising total of £964. So, if you haven't yet had the chance to make a donation, there is still time to donate online https://wonderful.org/fundraisers/NMQym or hand in cash to the school office.

Thank you for your support,

Your Friends of Worplesdon Primary School
worplesdonprimarypta@gmail.com
https://www.instagram.com/friends of worplesdon school/
https://facebook.com/worplesdonprimarypta

HELP FOR FLGCA TREASURER



The Fairlands Liddington Gravetts Lane Community Association (FLGCA) is run by volunteers who work to provide the best they can to make the local community the best it can be. In particular they manage and maintain the Fairlands Community Centre. The voluntary Treasurer's role is to manage the finances of the FLGCA, paying invoices, ensuring best choices from such as energy providers and reporting.

As a registered charity we are obliged to have our accounts annually validated for submission to the Charity Commission. Having completed the report for 2025 it has been raised that our accounting practices are not as good as they should be. There are no financial irregularities of concern, just the clarity and quality of reporting.

So, in short, HELP! The ask is if anybody is willing to volunteer some time to support the Treasurer role? Support in any form would be welcome.

Many thanks.

M Bruder
Treasurer FLGCA
Tel. 07850 765025

NICE TO KNOW

Ewbank's

SIME GALLERY

Heritage Fund

The Sime Gallery Chris Ewbank's Memorial Annual Lecture: Julia Margaret Cameron

Free Parking



Tickets £12

A talk by award winning author Jody Cooksley.

Inspired by her novel The Glass House, Cooksley will explore the life and work of Julia Margaret Cameron, one of photography's earliest and most celebrated female photographers. Discover her techniques, her circle, including Surrey artist G.F. Watts, and the determination that drove her work.

Sunday 15th November 2026
15:00

St Mary's Church, Worplesdon, GU3 3RE

For Further Information:
enquiries@sidneysimegallery.org.uk, 07908 458138