



Wallace Fields Infant School & Nursery



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 12th January 2024



We hope you all had a restful Christmas break. We would like to wish all our families a happy new year.

We have had a brilliant start to our Spring term with the launch of our Spring Term theme 'Zoom to the Moon'. I have seen some super learning from the children over the last two weeks including naming, singing and describing emotions in Nursery, problem solving and critical thinking in Reception when working together to build a rocket in the outdoor area, learning of number patterns, the number system and number lines in year one, and in year two some fantastic learning in art during task time when children were learning about the different grades of pencils when learning the skill of shading. We would like to say a big congratulations to Mrs Male and her family who welcomed her baby girl arriving early on the last day of the Autumn term.

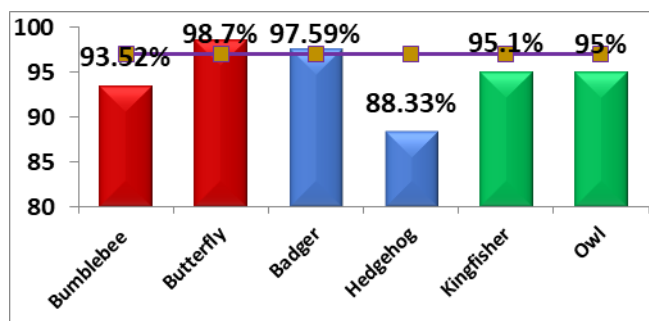
Before Christmas we said farewell to Miss Watson who started as a assistant teacher in Year one, she left to find a role closer to her home. We have welcomed Mrs Vimal who will be working as an assistant teacher in Hedgehog Class.

Mrs Muir – Headteacher

WFIS Attendance

Please make sure your child attends school regularly
WFIS Attendance (%) Fortnight Ending 08.12.23

Overall School Attendance: 94.7%



Class Attendance Trophy

Congratulations to our Class Attendance Trophy winners **Badger** and **Butterfly** for having the best attendance over the last two weeks. Keep up the great work!





Nursery

Big Stars have been joined by some aliens who have crashed landed in the classrooms. Gold Stars have called their alien Dave and Silver Stars have named their alien Max. The children have also made their own alien which they have called Martin the Martian.



Reception

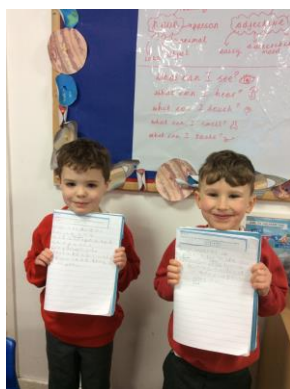
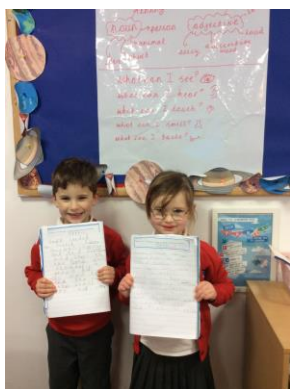
Over the last couple of weeks, Bumblebee Class has been making planet Earth out of papier mâché. We carefully made some paste with the grownups, then learnt that we needed to put some paste on a balloon and then some newspaper on top of it. Once our planets were dry, the papier mâché was then ready to paint which we loved doing. This activity has been great for our understanding of the Earth and creating something using materials. All our planets are now hanging up in our classroom. We are very proud of our work!





Year One

This week in Badger class we have been writing amazing setting descriptions for the story 'Beegu'. We have been learning lots of new writing skills including writing noun phrases and using exciting adjectives. We also learnt to include our senses, including what the character might smell and see, to make our writing exciting for the reader.



Year Two

In this term's yoga lessons so far, Owl class has been focusing on creating positions. We thought of various animals and objects that might be found in different places, and followed specific instruction to move our bodies into the correct positions before rearing and taking deep breathes between each one. Some of the positions were called 'the boat' and 'the bear'. We created a flow of positions and held each one for ten seconds before allowing our bodies to recover. We discussed how yoga makes our bodies stronger because our muscles must tense in each position.





Staff Spotlight Julie Luck



I joined Wallace Fields 12 years ago after taking a break from full time class teaching to have my two children. There have been many changes since I started teaching music here, including the location of the music room, which has changed five times! I absolutely love my new room, in the blue cabin next to the chickens!

There have been so many memorable moments during my time at Wallace Fields. Christmas is definitely my busiest time of year, and I have had a lot of fun over the years preparing for all the performances and concerts. The Epsom and Ewell Music Festival is also one of the highlights of the year and more recently the choir performances at Ewell Yule. One of the times I hope not to have to repeat is music lessons in the playground during Covid times because we weren't allowed to sing indoors!

On the days I am not working at Wallace Fields, I teach general musicianship and piano lessons at various schools in Merton and accordion and music theory classes at Morley College.



Chicken Care

A heartfelt Thank You to the families that helped look after our chickens over the Christmas Holidays. We are extremely grateful for your help and support. There were only a few slots available this time round, however we will be asking for help over the Easter Break with many more slots for those families that missed out.

Thank
you for
your
support



Astronaut Training Day

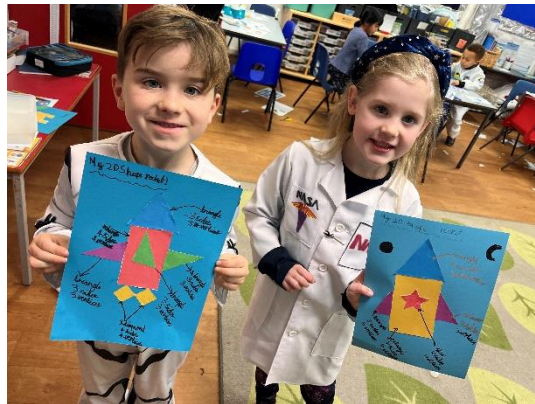
On Friday the children in Year Two took part in an astronaut training afternoon. Staff in the Year 2 classrooms opened up their rooms to a range of activities that allowed children to explore different aspects of life as an astronaut.

We know astronauts are very intelligent people so a quick space knowledge quiz kicked off the afternoon. This was followed by mimicking zero-gravity with the use of a ping pong ball and a hairdryer.

Next children looked at images of Earth taken by the British astronaut, Tim Peake, whilst he stayed on the ISS. The children used these images to locate famous landmarks in London and their local area.

We put on space gloves and had a go at building some fiddly things from small Lego pieces and the children commented on how hard it was when the gloves were so thick. This showed the children that the spacesuits astronauts wear are for their own safety but not always the most useful thing, when jobs in space are tricky!

Finally, the children designed their own spacesuits. They used their knowledge of materials from last terms science lessons to think about what material would be best suited for an astronaut.



WFIS Has Got Talent!

Please bear with us while we work with our new website team to update this section. Please do keep sending through your children's achievements as we are saving these on file ready to publish in the New Year.



coming soon!

10% Off Uniform in January

Have your children had a growth spurt over the Christmas break?
You can save 10% off uniform orders at Mapac until 31st January 2024.

Use Code JS2024 at the checkout to enjoy the discount.

Click [here](#) to browse the available uniform items.



Shining Stars Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new starters in Little Stars and Big Stars - **Emily, Marley and Sienna!**

We hope you enjoy your time with us, we can't wait to watch you shine!



KadsQuest

For Safety, please could all Parents/Carers collecting children use the allocated buzzer to ensure that a member of staff is notified of your arrival. Please avoid tailgating other Parents/Carers as staff will not be aware that you have arrived and therefore will not have your child ready for you.

Behaviour Policy

Last term we launched our new behaviour policy. This involves our new 'Golden Rules'. Miss Kelly (Deputy Headteacher) led a workshop to inform parents of our new principles and the research behind the policy. Please click here to read our new policy.

[Behaviour Policy](#)

Golden Tickets

Congratulations to our Golden Ticket winners!



Well done to **Prisca W, Leo D, Ben H, Iha C, Divena K, Isla H, Dikshya S, Roman S, Maisie M, Sophie B, Leo S and Ethan J** who won a golden ticket for their efforts and achievements!

Keep up the great work everyone!



New Year Celebration Lunch

On Thursday 18th January, children will enjoy a special menu to celebrate the New Year. This meal will be provided to all Infant School children, including those who have a packed lunch. All dietary requirements will be catered for. We therefore ask that you do not send in a packed lunch on this date.

If your **nursery child** normally has a packed lunch on a Thursday and would like to have the celebration menu on 18th January, please **complete [this form](#) by Monday 15th January**.

Unfortunately, nursery children who do not normally stay for lunch on a Thursday will be unable to have the celebration menu due to staffing ratios.



Useful Upcoming Dates

Tue 16 th Jan	Reception Curriculum Workshop 09:00 in the Hall enter via playground
Wed 17 th Jan	Year 1 Curriculum Workshop 09:00 in the Hall enter via playground
Thu 18 th Jan	Year 2 Curriculum Workshop 09:00 in the Hall enter via playground
Thu 18 th Jan	New Year Celebration lunch (please see Celebration Lunch page above)
Mon 29 th Jan	'Brush like a Dentist' Reception visit
Mon 5 th Feb	Mindful Mini's Workshop – Details to be confirmed
Mon 12 th – 16 th Feb	Half Term
Mon 19 th Feb	INSET Day – School Closed
Mon 4 th Mar	Space Dome – Reception, Year One & Two
Fri 8 th Mar	PTA Mother's Day Shop – Details TBC
Fri 22 nd Mar	PTA Easter Disco – Details TBC
Thu 28 th Mar	End of term 13:15 Infants, 15:30 Nursery and 16:30 KidsQuest
Mon 15 th Apr	Summer Term Begins – Children to wear Summer Uniform
Thu 25 th Apr	PTA Circus
Fri 17 th May	PTA Race Night
Fri 14 th Jun	PTA Father's Day Shop – Details TBC
Fri 14 th Jun	PTA Quiz Night
Sun 30 th Jun	PTA Summer Fair

You can now subscribe to our school calendar via our website. Please [click here](#) to view our calendar, and click 'Subscribe' to sync the calendar with your own device.

Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Attendance

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authorisation for five or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a Penalty Notice. Currently the amount payable under a Penalty Notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the Penalty Notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that Penalty Notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents/carers and two children will receive four Penalty Notices.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

[Attendance Policy](#)

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance \(slides\)](#)





Governor of the Month visit from Carolyn Devereaux

Tuesday 12th December 2023



Firstly, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy new year on behalf of myself and all the Governors at Wallace Fields Infant and Nursery School. On 12th December, I was in school for my Governor of the Month visit, so I thought I would update you on my day.

The morning started with an opportunity to see the wonderful KS1 Christmas Production. This was always one of my highlights of the school calendar as a parent when my own children were here. All the children did so well and impressed me with their singing, dancing and acting.

After the Christmas show, the remainder of the day involved meeting with various staff and a selection of pupils from Reception to Y2. It was an informative day and gave me a real insight into the busy life of the school. It was a lovely time to visit in the run up to Christmas. I was impressed at how calm the children were despite only having a few days left until the end of term.

I met with Mrs Male to discuss the school's equality and diversity plan and hear what actions were in place after a recent review. Mrs Male talked through accessibility for wheelchair users and what adaptations would be needed in the future. It was good to hear that all lessons and assemblies promote equality and diversity. Recently many more books in various languages have been purchased to reflect the current school community. It was interesting to learn that the school website can now be translated into different languages.

I then interviewed a selection of pupils from Reception to Y2 to find out what they knew about internet safety. It was reassuring that all the children I met with mentioned that E-Safety was taught in school. They all told me that they enjoyed using the iPads and Chromebooks but knew what to do if they saw something that upset them. The children I spoke to said they would talk to a grown up at school or at home if they saw something worrying online. The apps they mentioned they used were appropriate for their age groups. It is definitely worth chatting to your children about how to keep safe online at home too, and always check that settings on devices that children are using are secure.

During my visit, I also met with Mr Vinall who explained how he does daily inspection walks to ensure the school environment is safe for everyone. The new gates around the school are a great addition and the school was all in good order. We discussed the plans for more lighting in the playground in the future. I then completed some statutory safeguarding checks that are undertaken on every visit.

My visit concluded with a meeting with Mrs Amos and Miss Mumford to hear about plans for reading and writing across the school. New books have been ordered to inspire the children's writing and help them with the new theme. There was a discussion about possibly inviting authors in to talk to the pupils or children writing to authors. Mrs Amos mentioned there will continue to be a focus on reading this term. Children are receiving regular handwriting and spelling lessons and different ways to teach spelling are being explored. Both teachers felt they had already seen an improvement in how children were editing and improving their writing in class. The day ended with sharing my observations with Mrs Muir. I would like to thank all the staff and pupils who made me feel very welcome on my visit.

Carolyn Devereaux, Co-opted Governor

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or nursery when they're unwell.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Please follow this advice for other illnesses:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If you do keep your child at home, it is important to phone the school each day to let us know that your child won't be in and to give us details of the illness so that we can take any necessary action (i.e. informing vulnerable members of staff or advising on exclusion periods).



Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

We are seeing a significant number of families taking term-time leaves of absence, with some absences of two or more weeks. Children have an average of seven individual lessons each day.

A week off school equates to 35 missed lessons which your child will not be able to repeat.

Important information about attendance and term-time absences is detailed in our Attendance Policy which can be found on the School Policies page of our website:

<https://www.wallacefieldsinfantschool.co.uk/page/?title=School+Policies&pid=40>

The Inclusion Officer from Surrey County Council has already made a visit to the school this term and will continue to do so as he monitors children's attendance. For further information, please read this [letter](#) regarding attendance which Surrey County Council has asked us to make available to all parents/carers.



WFIS PTA
SAVE THE DATE
2024

**MOTHER'S
DAY SHOP**
8 MARCH

**EASTER
DISCO**
22 MARCH

CIRCUS
25 APRIL

**RACE
NIGHT**
17 MAY

**FATHER'S
DAY SHOP**
14 JUNE

**QUIZ
NIGHT**
14 JUNE

**SUMMER
FAIR**
30 JUNE



KidsQuest



NEWSLETTER

Dear KidsQuest Parents and Carers,

Friday 12th January 2024

This week has been Superhero week and the children have enjoyed making their own Superhero shields and masks. We have all had so much fun!

With very best wishes,

Ms Bowyer and Miss Kelly and the KidsQuest Team.

