

Newsletter Spring Term – 22.03.2024

What happened this week in school?

Spring is in the air and Summer is on its way. This has been a very short half-term.

We are very excited, as we received a “present” in the post this week - The UK Government has provided us with an official portrait of His Majesty King Charles III.



Our Ofsted report is now published. Parents were informed thereof on Monday alongside a letter from school. We are happy with the many positive responses in the published report. We can celebrate these and know that we have come a long way. We are committed to further improve, by addressing the areas identified.

Next week will be a fun-filled week as usual:

- There will be a bonnet parade on Thursday at the church. One prize per class will be up for grabs.
- Raffle tickets will be on sale for a prize!
- The prefects is also arranging a Bake Off competition with prizes.
- Parents are invited to attend the church Easter service on Thursday at 1.15pm.
- School will end at 14:30 next Thursday.

Picture News – This week’s Big Question...



What's the best way to handle disappointment?

Roots and Fruits







This term's focus will be on Holy Week and Easter

British Value of the term





Mutual Respect










Attendance target:
95%

	Reception class 96%
	Yeas 1 and 2 93%
	Years 3 and 4 84%
	Years 5 and 6 90%
Whole school	90%

House Points

Ants		1737
Badgers		1515
Locusts		1569
Lizards		1452

Value Awards

	Reception	Jake	For actively engaging in his Ambassador role.
 COURAGE	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Florence	For successfully taking ownership of her learning.
	Years 3 and 4	Hugo	For getting on with things even when difficult.
	Years 5 and 6	Barney	For asking for help when tasks are complicated.
 CREATIVITY	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Lincoln	For coming up with witty advert slogans.
	Years 3 and 4	Cassidy	For asking great questions in our PSHE discussion.
	Years 5 and 6	Lillie	For writing a lovely section to a classic story.
For  RESPECT	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Madison	For being a lovely and honest friend.
	Years 3 and 4	Jude	For showing respect to his peers.
	Years 5 and 6	Freya	For being respectful to all adults and peers.
 COMPASSION	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Evie-May	For always helping her friends.
	Years 3 and 4	Phoebe	For helping another friend when they felt sad.
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy Dou	For being a great friend to all.
 PERSEVERANCE	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Eila	For carrying on with her learning even when it is hard.
	Years 3 and 4	Kai	For trying his best even when it is hard.
	Years 5 and 6	Archie	For working hard in readiness for SATS.
 RESPONSIBILITY	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Nellie	For making sure that her friends are happy.
	Years 3 and 4	Harleigh	For helping the teacher.
	Years 5 and 6	John-James	For taking an active role when completing jobs.
 HOPE	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Luna	For being a good example to the rest of the class.
	Years 3 and 4	Eva	For always doing the right thing.
	Years 5 and 6	Paul	For working hard on his understanding of maths tasks.

Classroom News



Reception Red Class

As part of Understanding the World, we have been on a nature hunt on our Reception area ... we found a range of fauna and flora! The children were excited to see more signs of Spring and new growth too!

Have a look over the weekend at the nature in your surroundings. Discuss if there are similarities and differences to the school environment.



Unfortunately, our Science morning photos were not included on last week's newsletter but have now been added to the website gallery [here](#)



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

This week in science we have been discussing the similarities and differences among various animal groups. The children found out that animals are divided into vertebrate and non-vertebrate and that fish and tadpoles are the only animals that breathe by using gills.

We had a lot of fun discussing misconceptions and we managed to create a fair bank of similarities and differences of each animal group.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class

In English we have been working on adverbial clauses and phrases.



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

In Science we have been looking at the similarities and differences between the life cycles of birds and mammals.

First, we gathered our evidence:



After that we used the information and hula hoops to create a Venn diagram:



Did you know... not all mammals give birth to live young! There are only two egg-laying mammals in the world: Spiny anteater and the Duck-billed platypus.

Information

Easter Bonnets & Easter Church Service & Cards



Following the visit from Cllr Mclvor last week, the children were asked to design an Easter card, which will be printed and sent to the residents of Fyfield, Ongar.

The card designs that were chosen were designed by the following pupils:

- Jake
- Harry
- Gabby
- Daisy
- Alice Cus
- Amber
- Cassidy



All the other fabulous cards will be given to the Residents of care homes within our community, which I am sure you will agree is a very kind thought. Well done to all our students for contributing to our wonderful community, we are so very proud of our wonderful pupils.

Easter Bonnets are to be made and brought to school for Thursday 28th March 2024. We will be holding an Easter Raffle, tickets will be £1 per ticket or £5 for 6, please ensure you send your child to school with some money should you want to purchase tickets, all proceeds will go to the Schools Fund.

The Church Service will be held at St Nicholas Church on Thursday 28th March at 1.15pm. Children will return to school after the service and be dismissed from their classes. We do hope that you and your family will be able to attend as we prepare to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary and observe Holy Week.

Pastoral Care

At Dr Walkers we endeavour to support all pupils in achieving their maximum potential in all aspects of school life. Our role is to guide and support the development and progress of each individual pupil in our care. Pupils are supported by key staff members including our SEN Mrs How, Mrs Spanton and our attendance officer Ms Morgan.

Everything we do in our school is aimed at helping our pupils realise their potential, whatever their starting point, so that they can grow into informed, thoughtful and responsible young individuals.

We firmly believe that all pupils have a role to play in the smooth running of our school therefore they have the opportunity to express their opinions through the School Council. By encouraging student participation we aim to empower them to manage any difficulties they may have and to develop high self-esteem which enables academic and social success.

As a school we are firmly committed to developing and maintaining strong home school links therefore we welcome and encourage parents/carers to be closely involved in all aspects of their child's life in school. We know that this supportive partnership is invaluable as it can enable us to better meet the individual needs of each pupil.



Clubs

Dear Parents and Carers

We will be running the Arts and Crafts Club again after the Easter break. The Club will run from 22.04.24 to 15.07.24 a period of 11 weeks and will cost £38.50.

The Gardening Club will run after the Easter break until July the cost will be £38.50 for all 11 weeks.

We are hoping to run a Lego Club after school, please register your interest with the School Office via email, we can only run these clubs if we have enough children to participate.



We would need to receive payment for the class to secure your child's place.



Red Nose Day Fundraising

A Red Nose Day fundraising poster. At the top, it says 'THANK YOU FOR BEING AMAZING' in large, bold letters. Below this, a man with a red nose and a crown is shown in a superhero costume, holding a red cup. A large sign in front of him reads 'Together we have raised an incredible £38,760 for Red Nose Day 2024'. At the bottom, it says 'Get more posters at comicrelief.com/downloads' and 'COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY FRIDAY 15 MARCH'. There are also logos for the Financial Conduct Authority and the Charity Commission.

Well Done, we managed to raise

£38.76

on Red Nose Day!

Thank you to everyone who did
"Something Funny For Money!"

The Children had a fantastic time.

Ofsted

Our Ofsted report is now published. Parents were informed thereof on Monday alongside a letter from school.

We are happy with the many positive responses in the published report. We can celebrate these and know that we have come a long way. We are committed to further improvement, by addressing the areas identified.

Positive feedback include:

- *Leaders have been highly resilient.*
- *Governors are committed and supportive.*
- *Pupils are proud to attend Dr Walker's School.*
- *Pupils attend and behave very well.*
- *The school has a strong sense of togetherness; everyone looks after each other.*
- *Pupils act in line with the Christian ethos of the school.*
- *Pupils are respectful, courteous and kind.*
- *Pupils feel happy, safe and cared for.*
- *The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.*
- *Pupils are keen to learn and are ambitious to do well.*
- *The school has made important changes to its curriculum, the school environment and to the early years' provision.*
- *The school has adopted new programmes that identify what pupils need to know and break down knowledge into clear steps.*
- *Teachers adapt tasks to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.*
- *Interventions are often confidently delivered by knowledgeable staff. As a result, weaker readers become more accurate and fluent.*
- *The school promotes and celebrates reading. Pupils read widely and teachers read to pupils every day.*
- *Pupils enjoy the many visitors and events that ignite their interest in learning and broaden their knowledge of the wider world.*
- *There are many opportunities for pupils to develop their confidence and can take on leadership roles.*
- *Children in Reception become increasingly confident and independent.*
- *All pupils learn musical instruments such as the ukulele and try out a range of sports including rugby.*
- *Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.*
- *Pupils, and their parents, appreciate the support and encouragement that pupils receive from staff.*
- *Staff feel supported with their well-being and workload.*

Parent discussions with Parent Governor

Graham Laurence (Parent Governor) offered to be available at school for parents to have a chat with him as parent governor, like a drop-in clinic. Please let us know if you would like to speak to Graham.

On Tuesday, 19.03.24, Graham met with three parents. The following was discussed:

- What Ofsted is.
- How judgements on schools are made, namely comparing schools alongside a set of criteria and to help schools to improve even further.
- That the school met all of the previous three key priority points identified by Ofsted.
- Safeguarding is effective and that pupils are happy in school.
- Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development have good judgements.
- EYFS had a good judgement, which is evident of the commitment of the school to invest and develop areas.
- The Leadership and Governance of the school are supportive, committed and resilient.
- That the school is supported by the Local Authority (SEP) and C of E Advisor.
- The school is working alongside the Local Authority (SEP) and C of E Advisor to improve the school.
- The LA has supported the school by adding additional capacity to the governing body with two experienced governors.
- The Governing Body is to support and challenge the school to make it even better.

Parents feel that the overall parent community is very supportive of the school and that they are glad for the many positives reflected in the report.

- One parent commented that it is unfair to judge the school based on only two days and that parents and staff really know the school well.
- One parent asked if there is a plan to address the areas identified in the new Ofsted report and how the school will be improving on these points. And how this will be shared with parents.
- One parent asked about numbers on roll and the impact of this for the future.
- One parent wanted to know when the school would be re-inspected.
- One parent asked if the school could consider the uniform policy to have purple tops for PE and for pupils to wear these to sporting event.

Easter Bake-off competition



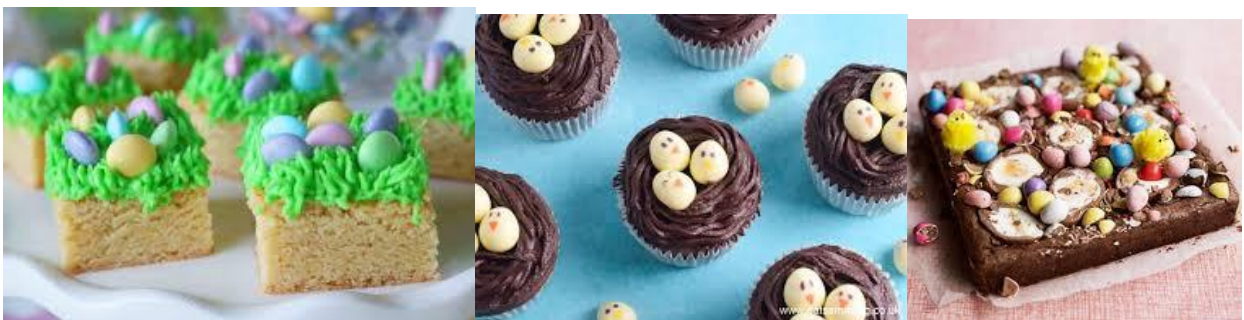
Our prefects and school council members are challenging the children of Dr Walkers to a Bake – Off competition!

Bake anything you would like at home. The only challenge is that it has to be Easter related. Bring it in to school on Wednesday 27th March 2024. The prefects and staff will then look at all the amazing creations brought in to school. The items will be judged on taste and presentation. Please remember to include a list of ingredients as well as photos of you baking. We would definitely encourage parents/carers to assist their children, but please don't do all of it for them. Be as creative as you would like to be.

PLEASE REMEMBER: WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL!

We can't wait to see (and taste) all of your Easter creation.

Happy baking!!



Early School Closure

On Thursday 28th March 2024, the School will close at 2.30pm for Easter. We do hope that you will have a wonderful and restful break.



Swim Award



Well done to Lucas for completing Stage 1!



Information

CALENDAR

28.03.24	Maundy Thursday
28.03.24	Easter Service at St Nicholas Church
28.03.24	Break Up for Easter
15.04.24	Back to School
16.04.24	National Offer Day For Primary Schools
19.04.24	Green/Blue Class Assembly
19.04.24	Curriculum Newsletter For Parents
22.04.24	Arts & Crafts Club Recommences
26.04.24	Indigo/Violet Assembly
03.05.24	Orange/Yellow Assembly
06.05.24	Bank Holiday Monday
10.05.24	Assembly Art Exhibition - More Information To Follow
13.05.24 to 16.05.24	SATs Week
17.05.24	Assembly Red Class
17.05.24	Summer Census Day – Please Have A School Dinner
24.05.24	Break Up for Half Term
03.06.24	Inset Day – No School
04.06.24	Inset Day – No School
05.06.24	Back to school
27.06.24	Class Photos to be taken



Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
							30	31													

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29			

March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

School closed: Holidays	School closed: Bank Holiday	School closed: Staff training (INSET)	School days	Weekend
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In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term	Monday, 4 September 2023 – Wednesday, 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term	Thursday, 4 January 2024 – Thursday, 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February – 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term	Monday, 15 April 2024 – Tuesday, 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday – 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

You are strongly advised to check with the school before making any holiday or other commitments.



Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2024-2025

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		
30																					
December 2024							January 2025							February 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
						1			1	2	3	4	5							1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			
30	31																				
March 2025							April 2025							May 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31			
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June 2025							July 2025							August 2025							
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30																					

	School closed: Holidays		School closed: Bank Holiday		School closed: Staff training (INSET)		School days		Weekend
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In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated.

Autumn Term	Monday, 2 September 2024 – Friday, 20 December 2024 <i>Half Term: Monday, 28 October 2024 – Friday, 1 November 2024</i>	days
Spring Term	Monday, 6 January 2024 – Friday, 4 April 2025 <i>Half Term: Monday, 17 February 2025 – Friday, 21 February 2025</i>	days
Summer Term	Tuesday, 22 April 2025 – Tuesday, 23 July 2025 <i>Half Term: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 – Tuesday, 22 July 2025</i>	days
		195 days

You are strongly advised to check with the school before making any holiday or other commitments.