

Walton Church of England Voluntary Controlled

Primary School Newsletter

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.

"I have come that they may have life and have it in all its fullness" John 10:10



Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and successful few weeks at Walton. Pupils from Key Stage 2 recently represented the school at the cross-country event at Millfield, and we were delighted to have such a large number of children taking part. They certainly had a long distance to run, but they showed great determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout, doing both themselves and our school proud. Across the school, all classes continue to work incredibly hard, and I have particularly enjoyed seeing the fantastic learning taking place in Wagtails, where pupils have been conducting an engaging science experiment.

A quick reminder that Parents' Evenings will take place on 20th and 21st October. If you have not already signed up for an appointment, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Lucas Upham
Headteacher

Walton CEVC Primary School

2027/2028 New Intake

School Tours

Please join us for a tour if your child is due to start school September 2027

We warmly welcome all families, whether you are in catchment for our school or not, to come and see what Walton CEVC Primary school can offer your child.

Tuesday 6th October: 9.15 - 9.45am
Monday 12th October 5.15- 5.45pm
Thursday 15th October: 9.15-9.45am

- ✓ Village School
- ✓ Excellent Results
- ✓ Forest School
- ✓ After-School Provision
- ✓ Wonderful Children
- ✓ Caring Staff

Contact Us to book a place

Phone Number: 01458 443875
Website: www.waltonprimary.co.uk

Spread the word

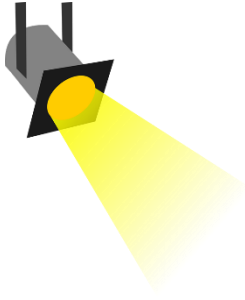
School tours for children starting in
September 2027

Tuesday 6th October 9:15 – 9:45

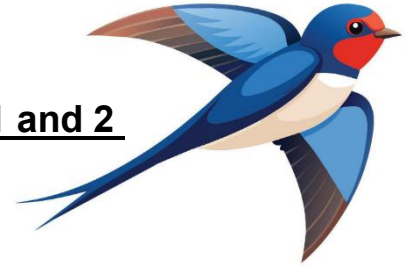
Monday 12th October 5:15 – 5:45

Thursday 15th October 9:15 – 9:45

If these days and times are not convenient,
please call the school to arrange an
alternative.

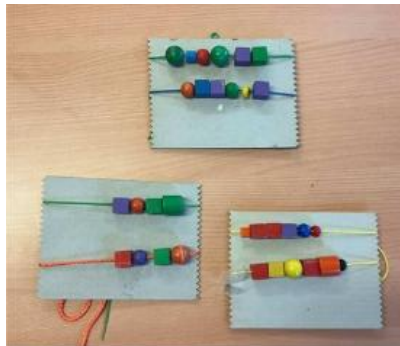


Spotlight on Swallows class - Years 1 and 2



It has been a very exciting and busy start to the new term. The children have settled in well and are getting use to the new structures and routines of the Year 1 and 2 class. The children have been enjoying learning about place value in Maths and writing about lost hats in our English text 'I want my hat back'. We have investigated the properties of materials in Science and compared Walton school to schools in Victorian times.

I hope the children's positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning continues throughout the year and I look forward to seeing their progress.



Reducing the spread of seasonal illness in our school this autumn/winter



Illness is the largest cause of school absence. Over 50 million days were lost in schools in 2025/26 due to illness, almost half of all absence.

Simple things like regular hand washing, opening windows and supporting vaccination help keep children and staff healthy and support attendance.

[Read more from Professor Russell Viner on the Education Hub blog.](#)

Doing these things now will reinforce good habits before illnesses start to circulate.

Not sure if your child is well enough for school? Watch this video from the DfE:

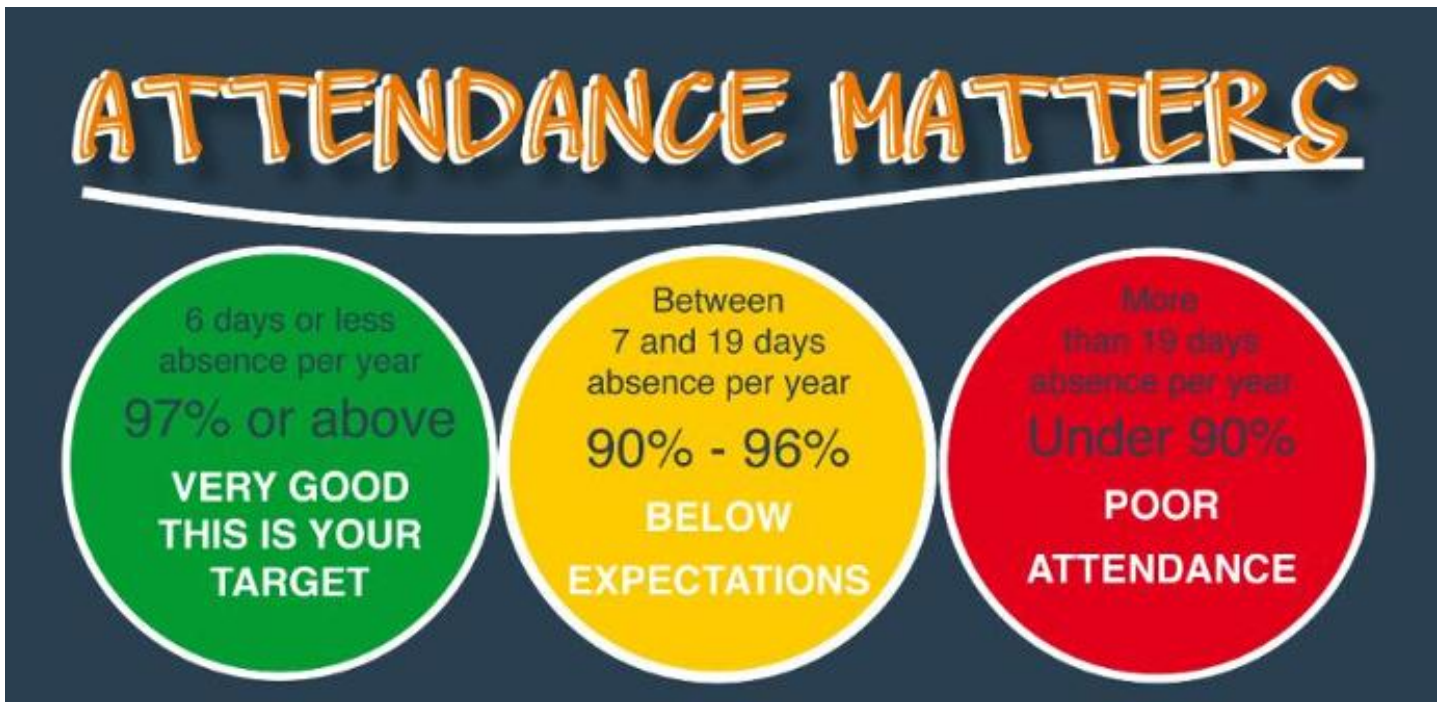
[Illness absence and staying healthy](#)

Attendance matters

Our school's attendance is 93.6%

Last week it was 95.6%

Our target is 97%



Safeguarding – YouTube ‘What parents and educators need to know about’



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

Safeguarding at Walton CEVC Primary School

Keeping Children Safe

The safety and wellbeing of our children remains our highest priority. At Walton CEVC Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment where every child feels valued, respected and protected.

We encourage all children to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried, upset, frightened or concerned about themselves or someone else. We regularly teach children about personal safety, healthy relationships, online safety and how to seek help when needed.

How Families Can Help

- Talk regularly with your child about their day and any worries they may have.
- Monitor your child's online activity and discuss safe internet use.
- Remind children that they can always speak to a trusted adult at home or at school.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the school as soon as possible.

Online Safety Reminder

As children spend increasing amounts of time online, please continue to supervise internet use at home and ensure that parental controls are in place where appropriate. Encourage children to tell an adult if they see anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Need Support?

If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please contact the school. Our safeguarding team is always available to listen, support and take appropriate action when required.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mr Lucas Upham, Head Teacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Kate Tidmarsh, Deputy Headteacher

Alternatively, if you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger please contact:

- Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224
- Children's Social Care at childrens@somerset.gov.uk
- The Police.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/safeguarding-children/report-a-child-at-risk/>.