

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 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week has flown by. Time certainly flies when you're having fun!

It has been a busy and rewarding couple of weeks. I have had the pleasure of showing prospective parents around the school alongside some of our Year 6 pupils. One parent commented that the children were excellent and a real credit to our school. I couldn't agree more.

I also had the pleasure of joining Kingfishers Class on their visit to our church coffee morning. The children had a wonderful opportunity to practise their oracy skills and, once again, they represented the school brilliantly. I firmly believe it is important for children to meet new people, engage in conversation, and share their learning and experiences. Developing effective social interaction is an essential life skill, and our pupils continue to demonstrate these skills with confidence and maturity.

A quick reminder that Parents' Evening takes place next week. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so as soon as possible. Our Year 6 pupils will also be visiting Wells on Tuesday 20th October to take part in a Literacy Festival, which promises to be an exciting and enriching experience.

Before we know it, it will be half term. During the break, work to improve our school environment will continue, with Owls Class, The Nest, and the staff room all scheduled to be redecorated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Lucas Upham

What you will find in this newsletter:

1. ClassDojo communication
2. Key reminders/notices
3. Puffins – Breakfast club
4. Attendance matters
5. Safeguarding spotlight - Roblox

1. Class Dojo Communication



Class Dojo is a valuable communication tool, and I hope you are enjoying this addition to our school community.

Regarding the messaging feature, I have taken the decision not to use the chat function as a primary means of communication. In my experience, this feature can sometimes become misused, and it is important that we protect staff wellbeing and maintain clear communication channels.

If you need to share information or discuss something important with your child's class teacher, please use one of the following methods:

1. Speak to the class teacher in person at drop-off or collection time.
2. Contact the school office by telephone or email, and any relevant information will be passed on promptly.

There may be occasions when a teacher asks for information or photographs to be shared through Class Dojo, such as holiday photographs linked to learning. In these circumstances, using the platform would be entirely appropriate.

However, I would encourage families to avoid using the chat function for routine questions, such as enquiring about PE days or reporting lost property. Staff are not expected to monitor or respond to messages sent through the chat feature.

If a member of staff contacts you directly through Class Dojo regarding a specific matter, replying through that conversation is, of course, appropriate.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain effective communication while protecting staff wellbeing.

2. Key Reminders and Notices

- **Trim Trail:** Children are not permitted to use the wooden trim trail before or after school. This area is not supervised during these times, and we want to ensure that all children remain safe and avoid the risk of injury.
- **School Uniform and PE Kit:** Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform and PE kit each day. We have noticed that some children are wearing trainers instead of the required footwear, and a small number are wearing very short cycling shorts that do not meet our uniform expectations. If you would like any further guidance regarding our uniform requirements, please do not hesitate to speak to me. Thank you for your support in maintaining our high standards.



3. Puffins

I am delighted to share some exciting news about our wraparound care provision.

From January, we will be introducing a Breakfast Club, running from 7:40am to 8:40am Monday - Friday, providing families with additional childcare options before the school day begins. A staff member will not be collecting children from the pre-school.

We are also pleased to announce that the cost of our after-school provision will be reduced from January, making our wraparound care even more accessible for families.

If you would like to book a place or find out more information, please contact the school office.

4. Attendance matters

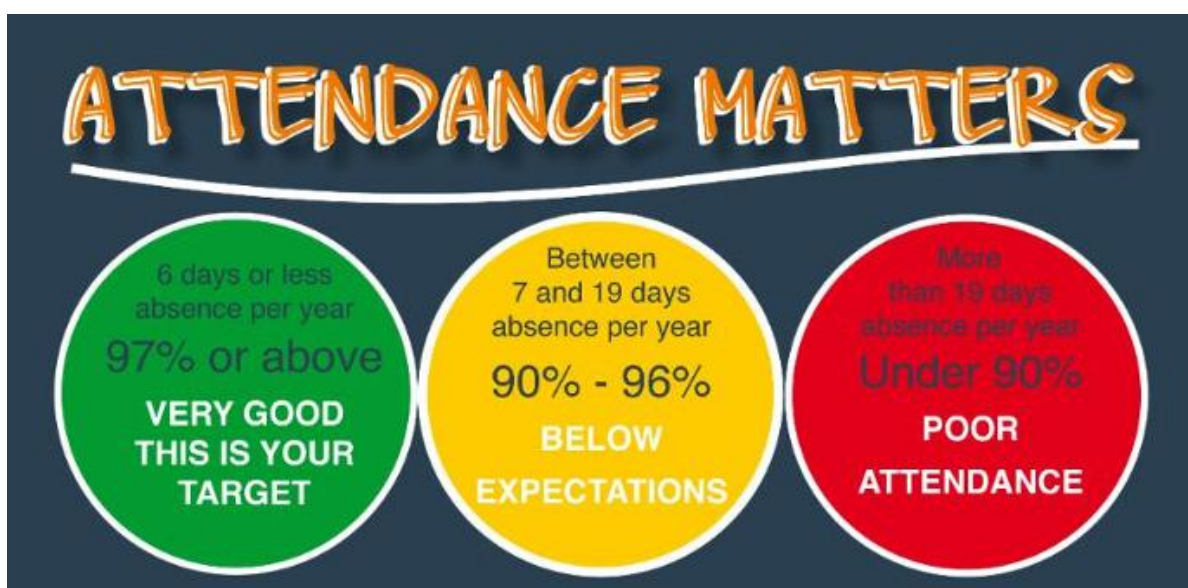
Our school's attendance is 94.5%

Last week it was 93.6%

Our target is 97%

We have made a small amount of progress which is great!

Let's see if we can continue with this for next week!





5. Safeguarding Spotlight – Roblox



Roblox: What every parent needs to know

Roblox is one of the most popular online gaming platforms for children, with millions of young players logging in every day. Unlike traditional video games, Roblox isn't just one single game – it's a whole virtual universe where users can play, create and share games with others around the world. This makes it exciting and engaging for children, but it also introduces some important safeguarding concerns that parents need to be aware of.

What is Roblox?

- 🎮 A gaming platform – millions of user-made games ('experiences') to explore, from obstacle courses to role-play adventures.
- 🗣️ A social space – players can chat, make friends and join groups, making it as much about socialising as gaming.
- ✂️ A creative tool – children can design their own games and characters, sometimes learning coding along the way.

Why children love it:

- sparks imagination, teamwork, and problem-solving. Children enjoy playing with friends, creating unique games or characters, and being part of a huge online community.
- But because it can be open and social, risks include strangers contacting children, age inappropriate content, and the games being so immersive that switching off can be hard.

The risks parents should know about **Online grooming** – strangers can use chat to

befriend children with harmful intentions, often starting with friendly messages, gifts or in-game help before encouraging private chats elsewhere.

Inappropriate content – despite moderation, some games may include violence, scary themes or sexualised material.

Over-absorption – Roblox is designed to keep players hooked, which can impact sleep, schoolwork and family time.

In-game purchases – using 'Robux,' children may feel pressured to spend on costumes, upgrades or items, leading to overspending.