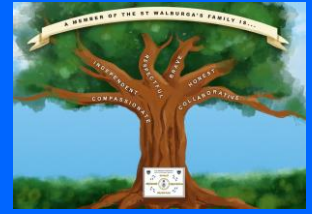




St Walburga's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



Friday, 12th September 2025

Number 2

Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been so lovely getting to know our new Reception children this week – we are looking forward to them all joining us full-time from next Thursday! It was great to see so many of you at our 'Meet the Team' drop in session on Wednesday.

RE learning - 'God Matters' Topic

'Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us." Then God blessed them....' (Genesis 1:26-28)

Next week we will be starting our first RE topic of the term – Creation. This topic will focus on scripture, including the Creation story from the book of Genesis. The children will also identify God's creation in the world around us and explore our responsibilities. We will also learn how the Church works to value and respect differences in one another.

Hair!

Just a reminder about hair styles, which should be suitable for school. Hair should not be coloured in any way, this includes with extensions. Children should not have any lines, swirls or shapes cut into their hair. If your child's hair is longer than their collar, they must wear it tied up for school – this is for safety during active lessons, and for hygiene. Hair accessories should be relatively small, and in the school colours of blue, yellow or white. This applies to all children, boys and girls. Please save the flamboyance for your child to enjoy during the school holidays!

Coats

Please can you make sure your child has a coat with them when they come to school, as we get them outside for playtime whenever we can. The weather is very changeable at the moment. Thank you.

Collection from Key Stage 1 playground

Please can I remind you to leave promptly with your child at the end of the school day, and not to let your child play on the play equipment. Staff are waiting to lock the gate so that after-school club children can safely access the playground. Pre-school children should not play on the equipment at any time, as its use must be supervised by school staff. Thank you.

Year 1 information evening

We have an information evening for parents of children in Year 1, to support them with their child's transition from Reception. The meeting is at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 17th September. **Children should not attend this meeting.**

Parish Mass

On Sunday, 28th September, we will be leading the Parish Mass at the Annunciation at 11.00am. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and help us celebrate Mass with the whole community. Children should attend in their uniform, and we invite all the children to sit together at the front of the church (away from their parents, but with school staff). If your child is able to attend, please complete the form below as we will need to know how many to expect! If your child is in KS2, and would like to undertake a ministry such as reading in Mass, there is space to indicate this on the form (not guaranteed, but we will try our best). Please complete the form by Friday, 19th September. Many thanks.

<https://forms.office.com/e/QtuPhTWjwn>

Year 6

Just a reminder for Year 6 parents that the closing date for applications for secondary schools is **31st October 2025**. You will need to apply via the BCP website, but some schools may have individual requirements so please check the relevant websites! Please see the attached flier with information about an Open evening at St Peter's school.

Starting school in September 2026

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they are due to start in Reception in 2026! Please join us for a 'stay and play session' with your child from 3.30- 4.30 on either Thursday 2nd October or Thursday 6th November. We are also booking places on our Open Information sessions for parents - please contact the School Office on 01202 528811. **It is really important that you attend**, even if you have a sibling at the school, as the Admission Process is explained. Please spread the word among your friends who may have children due to start school.

Music lessons

Guitar and violin lessons will begin again next week for students who have signed up in Years 4-6. Please make your Autumn Term payments through WisePay, and ensure that your child brings their instrument on the correct day. For more information, please refer to the letter sent to you earlier this week.

We still have a couple of spaces for beginners' violin lessons, open to children in Years 4 or 5. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Also, a reminder to parents and carers of Year 3 children to buy their recorders via WisePay before lessons start on Tuesday.

Clubs

Clubs start again next week. Your child must be booked onto a club, and cannot just turn up!

Monday	Yoga Football	Years 1,2,3 Years 4,5,6
Tuesday	Tennis French Multisport Art Club	Years 4,5,6 Years 1-6 Years 1,2,3 Year 3
Wednesday	Zumba Kids with Bricks	Years 1, 2 Years 2,3,4,5
Thursday	Dodgeball Zumba French Forest School Art Shed	Years 4,5,6 Years 3,4,5 Years 1-6 Year 3 Year 1
Friday	Choir Football Kids with Bricks	Years 4,5,6 Years 1,2,3 Years 2,3,4,5

All clubs end at 4.00pm. Please ensure you are on time to collect your child. Thanks.

Malvern Road, Bournemouth, BH9 3BY

Tel: 01202 528811

email:office@stwalburgasprimary.co.uk

Website: stwalburgas.bournemouth.sch.uk

We do have some spaces left in our Year 3 Art club on a Tuesday – the cost is £30 for the 6 weeks of this half term. If you would like to book a place for your child, please do so via WisePay.

Flu immunisation

You should have received a letter from us this week with information about the flu immunisation which will be administered in school on 1st October. The link to access the online form is <https://www.schoolimmunisation.dhc.nhs.uk/Forms/Flu> and the school code is DT113898. The deadline to complete the form is 26th September 2025.

PSA/ School Council

Our first PSA/School Council event this academic year will be our Macmillan cake sale on Friday, 26th September at 2.50pm. The school council were keen to support cancer charities – so this is a great place to start. We will need donations of cakes on the day, and helpers to cut and plate up from 1.30pm on Friday 26th September. Please let us know via the office or let the PSA know via your WhatsApp groups. Please come along and join us if you are able to!

School Attendance

Our whole school attendance was **96.53%** by the end of the last academic year (2024-2025). We are delighted to have exceeded our 96% target. Here is a breakdown of the final attendance for each year group:

Year Group 24-25	Attendance 24-25	Year Group 24-25	Attendance 24-25
Reception	96.40%	Year 4	96.59%
Year 1	96.79%	Year 5	96.46%
Year 2	96.48%	Year 6	96.61%
Year 3	96.40	Whole School	96.53%

The DfE continues to make it clear that pupil attendance is a national priority. Regular attendance and good punctuality are vital for children’s education, well-being, and their overall long-term development. The expectation is that pupils should have 96% attendance and any child whose attendance is 90% and below is considered a persistent absentee. If your child had 90% attendance at the end of last year, this equates to 3 weeks + 4 days of learning missed. Those who had 96% attendance missed 7 days of learning. We do understand that children do get poorly, and we would not expect, nor want, your child to come to school if they were really unwell, but it is important that you are aware of the expectations so that you can avoid unnecessary absences.

Please remember, if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you must contact the school office no later than 9.00am to report your child absent. You can do this by phoning the school office on **01202 528811**. If we don’t hear from you, we will contact you ourselves and if unsuccessful, we will then contact the other emergency contacts we have for your child. If we are still unable to confirm a child’s whereabouts, we are required to make a welfare visit to the child’s home. This is to maintain confirmation of our pupil’s safety & wellbeing at all times – and this is set out in our attendance policy. You can find a copy of our Attendance policy on our school website.

Gates open at **8.25am** and the bell goes for the start of the school day at **8.40am**, if your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late. Registers close at **9.10am** – lateness after this is recorded as an ‘unauthorised late’, which is an unauthorised absence for the morning session, affecting your child’s overall attendance rate. I would also like to remind you that the government guidance states that children **must not** take holiday during term

time. Headteachers are only able to authorise time out of school in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences will result in a penalty notice. If you need to request time out of school in term time, whether you think it can be authorised or not, you must write to me with 10 days’ notice, explaining the reason for the request and the dates. Penalty notices can also be issued if you take your child out of school without putting in an application beforehand.

We have regular meetings to monitor pupil attendance and identify ways in which we can support children and families in achieving regular and punctual attendance. If at any point in the year you feel that you could benefit from support from our Pastoral Team with regards to your child’s attendance, please do not hesitate to ask at the school office.

Mission Statement hero and Stars of the Week

Our Mission Statement hero this week is Emberly Heppenstall, a young hero from Bournemouth was honoured by the BBC with a Local Hero Make a Difference award for her selfless efforts caring for her mum. Her mother, who has a congenital heart problem, fell five years ago and suffered a debilitating head injury and stroke. The 10-year-old helps her daily with tasks like taking medication, cooking, cleaning and looking after their pets. She has even taken it upon herself to help other young carers by taking part in cycling, swimming and hiking events to raise £2,000 for the charity Mytime Young Carers.

Well done to our Stars of the Week – first ones of this school year!

Super Role Model:

1JC: Remi; 1WH: Josephine; 2NW: Freya; 2MS: Natalia; 3NL: Florence; 3BN: Joshua; 4CM: Ayra; 4PM: Emily; 5JC: Navish; 5RH: Finn; 6KB: Takondwa; 6HT: Zack.

Learning Champion

1JC: Sofia; 1WH: George; 2NW: Elisia; 2MS: Jude; 3NL: Ryan; 3BN: Luca; 4CM: Isaac; 4PM: Harley; 5JC: Clara; 5RH: Gabby; 6KB: Ozan; 6HT: Beatrix

Dates for your diary:

Wed 17 th Sept	6.00pm	Year 1 workshop for parents and carers
Thurs 18 th Sept	8.40am	Reception children start full time
Fri 26 th Sept	2.50pm	Macmillan cake sale – more info to follow
Tues 30 th Sept	3.15pm	Reception Parents’ Workshop – more info to follow
Thurs 2 nd Oct	3.30-4.30pm	Stay and play session for children due to start school in September 26
Mon 6 th Oct	2.15pm	5JC Celebration of the Word – parents and carers welcome
Tues 7 th Oct	2.15pm	5RH Celebration of the Word – parents and carers welcome
Thurs 9 th Oct	All day	Harvest celebrations and Food Bank collection – more info to follow
Mon 13 th Oct	2.15pm	3BN Celebration of the Word – parents and carers welcome
Tues 14 th Oct	2.15pm	3NL celebration of the Word – parents and carers welcome
Mon 20 th Oct	2.15pm	6KB Celebration of the Word – parents and carers welcome
Wed 22 nd Oct	2.15pm	6HT Celebration of the Word – parents and carers welcome.
Wed 22 nd Oct	3.30-7.00pm	Parents’ Evening – more info to follow
Thurs 23 rd Oct	3.30-7.00pm	Parents’ Evening – more info to follow
Fri 24 th Oct	2.50pm	Children break up for half term

Wishing you a lovely weekend with your family.

Veronica Woodward

Veronica Woodward
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