

NORTH WALKDEN PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER – 10th May 2024

Headteacher's Weekly Awards - WELL DONE TO OUR STARS OF THE WEEK							
All the children get a special mention in the Achievement assembly on Friday and will bring home a certificate detailing the reason for their award.							
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Susie Christian	John Kurtis	Luna Robyn	Brantley Saleh	Keeley Lucia	Grace Jamie	Darvidas Joely	Alfie Layla D

Year 6 SATs week: As you are aware, our Year 6 children will be taking their SATs test next week.


Any support you can provide for your child in the run up to their assessments is greatly appreciated by all of the Year 6 team. There are some very practical things that you can do to help prepare your child:


- **It is vitally important that pupils have a good night's sleep and arrive at school on time each day.**
- If your child wears glasses, please ensure they bring them to school each day.
- We will be holding our breakfast club in class starting at 8am. **ALL CHILDREN NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL BY 8AM.** The children will be provided with a range of breakfast cereals, toasts/bagels/crumpets/pancakes and fruit to help them ensure they are prepared fully for their assessments.
- Ensure that they continue to take part in their normal range of activities as well as having plenty of time for rest and relaxation.


We will continue to emphasise that all the children can ever do is to try their best and this is what we expect them to do. We also stress how important it is to be proud of their achievements, whatever 'standard' they may achieve.

Navigating exam season Supporting your child to beat exam stress

Exams can be a challenging time for young people, and many young people can feel worried and stressed in the lead up to exams. As parents and carers, it can be difficult to know what we can do to support them. We've shared some tips on supporting your child if they're feeling stressed about exams.

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Look for signs of stress
Stress can present differently in everyone. Signs of stress could include not sleeping or sleeping more than usual, losing interest in food or eating more than usual, being irritable, having headaches or stomach aches, being negative, feeling hopeless, or not enjoying activities they previously enjoyed.
If you notice your child is struggling, ask them what you can do to help them.
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Talk about stress and nerves
Remind your child that it's perfectly normal to feel worried or stressed about their exams. The key is to put these nerves to positive use.
Talk openly about how you cope with your own stressful situations, so your child has a positive role model for managing their emotions and time.
Practice relaxation techniques with your child, we love [these ideas from from NHS Scotland](#).
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Support your child to create a routine
Routines and rituals can help your child keep healthy habits, and can help you ensure your child is getting enough sleep and eating well.
If they haven't already, encourage your child to create a revision plan or timetable, splitting their day up into chunks. Encourage them to take regular breaks - which they could use to have a meal, get some exercise or unwind - and try to discourage them from staying up late revising.

place2be.org.uk



Navigating exam season Supporting your child to beat exam stress

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Try not to add to the pressure
Many young people feel pressure to do well in their exams to make their teachers, or families proud. Try not to add to this pressure. Be reassuring, positive, and help put things into perspective. Remind them that there is more to life than their grades, and their results don't define who they are. Reassure them you will be proud of them 'no matter what'.
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Make yourself available to listen
Sometimes your child may not want to talk, and it's important we don't force them to have a conversation they don't want to have. Make yourself available but don't pressure them to talk.
You may find that your child opens up in situations where they feel less pressure - for example when you're in the car on the way home from school, or during a walk
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Help them unwind after exams
Find ways to help your child unwind after each exam, so they don't dwell on things they could have done better or differently. After each exam, you and your child could watch a film or enjoy your favourite meal together, before they start revising for the next test.
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Seek additional support
If you're concerned about your child's stress, or find they don't want to talk to you, encourage them to seek support elsewhere. This could be someone at their school, or an organisation such as Shout or Childline.
 - Text CONNECT to 85258 for free to speak to Shout
 - Call 0800 1111 to speak to Childline, or visit childline.org.uk for their free online chat
 - Visit place2be.org.uk/theja for more advice

place2be.org.uk



School Inspection: I am now in a position to advise you that the inspection report has been published on the school website.

There are many positives in the report which we are extremely pleased about and although there are areas in which we are required to improve, we must not forget the positive things about our school and how happy our children are at North Walkden.

We are delighted that our children’s excellent behaviour, positive attitudes and sound personal development has been recognised- this is a strength of our school and this is testimony to the staff and the children upholding and demonstrating our schools ethos and values.

Whilst we are disappointed with the overall judgement, we feel this does not reflect the sheer hard work from staff and children that goes on every single day in our school.

Therefore, we acknowledge and take on board the actions within the report and will continue to work on them as part of our ongoing school improvement plan.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. If you have any questions about the report please do not hesitate to contact school.

Bottle Donations: Thank you to everyone for your generous and kind donations this week. If you have any further donations please do send them in next week so we can have a fantastic bottle tombola at the summer fair.

Year 4 – Residential trip September 2025: Next week you will receive a letter regarding the current year 4’s trip for when they are in year 6 in September 2025! I know this seems a long time away but we want to give as much notice as possible to support parents with the payments.



Well done to Reception and Year 4 who arrived on time every day!

Children should be in school by 8.45am if you arrive after this time you are late!

Well done to Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 who all achieved the attendance target this week!

Punctuality and Attendance

Please remember school starts at **8:45am** – Doors will be open from 8.35am. Children arriving after 8.55am must enter through the school office and be signed in.

Last week’s attendance – Our School target and individual pupil target is 96%

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
Class attendance award	90	97 SILVER	98 SILVER	99 GOLD	93	95	97 SILVER	99 GOLD	96
Late arrivals	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	10

Online Safety: We have some helpful advice below about online safety and we will share different supportive advice each week in the newsletter.



Suggested Apps and Games For 7-11 YEARS



Learning



MAGIC PIANO BY SMILE

While Magic Piano doesn't strictly teach you how to play the piano, it does teach hand-eye coordination and can help spark creativity in young minds. Users can play along to a variety of popular songs on a range of difficulty levels in an attempt to get through the song with as few mistakes as possible, increasing dexterity and reaction times. Free on iOS & Android, the game does contain some ads and in-app purchases, so be sure to check these out before letting younger players unleash their musical side. Magic Piano is PEGI 3 rated but requires slightly more nimble hands to master so older kids will get the most from this.



AZOOMEE

Azoomee houses over 1,000 games, videos and activities for kids of all ages to play, have fun and most importantly, develop their key skills in. The app is award winning, BAFTA nominated, supported by the NSPCC (according to the description on their app page) and comes with a suite of parental controls built in. As well as educational games, activities and kid's favourite TV shows, the app also has a built-in chat feature where they can talk to their friends safely. A nice little touch is that if you buy a subscription to Azoomee for unlimited premium content for £4.99 a month, a portion of the money raised goes towards supporting the NSPCC. The app is available on iOS, Android and Amazon.



POLY BRIDGE

While Poly Bridge could be easily enjoyed solely as a game, it's actually an incredibly clever way to learn critical thinking and engineering skills in a kid friendly way. It's set in a colourful, cartoony world and has extremely simple gameplay. In Poly Bridge, it's your task to get cars, buses, trucks, boats and more safely to their destination by designing bridges that are safe and practical. How those bridges are created is entirely up to you. With over 100 levels, a sandbox mode and almost infinite playability, Poly Bridge is available on PC, Android, iOS and Nintendo Switch at various price points, so be sure to check which is the best option for you.



CROSSWORD PUZZLES (WUBU APPS LTD)

Crossword puzzles might not immediately seem like a learning game for younger kids, but they're incredibly effective at building strong word skills and problem solving. This one by Wubu Apps Limited is exclusive to iOS and constantly changes its roster of daily crosswords and challenges, although there are a whole bunch of apps available out there which do similar things. The app is rated 4+ but would likely be suited to kids a little older as the crosswords are designed for adults as well. As mentioned, Crossword Puzzles is only available on iOS devices and is free to download but does contain in-app purchases.



SCRIBBLENAUTS UNLIMITED

Scribblenauts is a game like few others in that it actively encourages children to use their intuition to solve a variety of puzzles. Armed only with their imagination, players must complete levels by conjuring potentially useful items for main character Maxwell to collect the Starites and achieve his goal. The game helps create strong vocabulary and word association to a fun 2D backdrop. While any version of Scribblenauts is good, Unlimited is the most readily available, being released on Wii U, PC, Nintendo 3DS, iOS and Android devices, PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch.



SUPER MARIO ODYSSEY

Widely regarded as one of the greatest games Nintendo have ever made, Super Mario Odyssey provides family friendly fun and a challenging environment for kids to learn new skills in a video game. Rated PEGI 7, Odyssey can be enjoyed by almost any age range, even those who are young at heart. The caveat is that the game is only available on Nintendo Switch, so some investment will need to be made, but the console boasts a host of other child-safe titles and the ability to play on the go as well as at home.



NETFLIX

As obvious as it may sound, Netflix's children's section is ideal for keeping young ones and toddlers out of trouble on long journeys or at home. The specific profile for kids allows them to only view content appropriate for younger audiences which lets you and them watch their favourite shows and movies anywhere, at any time. Curated playlists, easy navigation through TV series and movies, and no-hassle auto-play means a stress-free guarantee. The only downside to the app is that it requires a Netflix subscription in order to use it but if you're happy to pay the monthly cost, it's an absolute must for any parent.



MINECRAFT

Minecraft is one of those rare, timeless classics that can be enjoyed by every age group. Coming in both a console version and a pocket edition for mobile devices, the sandbox world-building fun in Minecraft can be an amazing place to let your imagination run wild. The game can be played online with friends and supports cross-play, meaning that no matter what device everybody has, it can be played together. While the game isn't free, it will undoubtedly provide hours and hours of fun for the whole family so it's worth the investment of a one-time purchase. As one of the most popular games ever released, it inspires critical thinking, problem solving and above all, fun.



LEGO MOVIE MAKER 2

The LEGO Movie Maker 2 app lets users create their own stop-motion movies and upload them for others to watch online. Kids can create a short LEGO movie in whatever genre they like using a range of easy to use tools and are able to add in sounds and visual effects to make the videos look super realistic. All movies are moderated before they make it online so you can be sure no sensitive information is uploaded or viewed by third parties. The app is free to download on both iOS and Android devices but does require creation of a LEGO account to upload videos. The only information needed for an account is the country you live in, your email address and date of birth. While it's rated for 4+, kids of 8 and up will get the most out of this one.



ADVENTURES OF POCO ECO: LOST SOUNDS

If something more slow-paced and chilled out is on your radar, Adventures of Poco Eco should be able to scratch that itch. With an emphasis on creating a rich and inviting musical soundscape over hardcore gameplay, the puzzle action is perfect for unwinding young minds, as opposed to challenging them. The single-player game is available on all iOS and Android devices, as well as the Amazon Kindle Store and you can also nab yourself a free copy of the soundtrack with the purchase.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



School communication: Please ensure you are logged into your school spider app so that you receive all the important messages we send out. If you need to download the app again, its 'School Spider' and then you can simply go to the log in page and click forgot password to reset your log in details.

Contacting School: If you wish to contact school then you can email us on NorthWalkdenPrimary.PupilContact@salford.gov.uk and we will respond the same day or call 0161 921 2921.

DIARY DATES: Whilst we aim not to change dates once set sometimes circumstances mean we have to, please always check the dates each week and update your plans accordingly. Any changes will be highlighted.

DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	TIME	CLASS
WEEK BEG 13 TH MAY	YEAR 6 SATS WEEK	ALL WEEK	YEAR 6
THURSDAY 16 TH MAY	YEAR ONE CLASS VISITNG CHURCH	1.30PM	YEAR ONE CLASS
MONDAY 20 TH MAY	WORLD BEE DAY BY SCHOOL COUNCIL £1 DONATION	ALL DAY	ALL
TUESDAY 21 ST MAY	WORLSEY SWIMMING GALA – We will be asking for consent and support wc 7 th May 2024	9AM	YEAR 4,5 & 6 – SELECTED CHILDREN
TUESDAY 21 ST MAY	WORSLEY SPORTS EVENT – INFORMATION WILL BE SENT HOME WC 7 TH MAY	4PM	YEAR 3,4,5&6 SELECTED CHILDREN
THURSDAY 23 RD MAY	YEAR TWO LAST SWIMMING SESSION	1.30PM	YEAR 2
THURSDAY 23 RD MAY	SINGING SHOWCASE FOR YEARS 1-6	1.15PM	YEARS 1-6- CHILDREN ONLY
THURSDAY 23 RD MAY	GAMES SESSION – children can bring in a non-electronic game to play in exchange for donations for the summer fair colour stall. Donations can be sent in any day in the week before Thursday. Classes should try to bring an item in the following colours. Nursery – pink Reception – green Year 1 – yellow Year 2 – blue Year 3 – red Year 4 – white Year 5 – brown Year 6 – purple Donations can be, toiletries, jewellery, chocolates, vouchers, hand bags, make-up, wine, bubble bath or any other gift. Thank you	PM	ALL
THURSDAY 23 RD MAY	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM	3.15PM	ALL CLASSES

MAY HALF TERM

DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	TIME	CLASS
TUESDAY 4 TH JUNE	SCHOOL RE-OPENS	8.45AM	WHOLE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 5 TH JUNE	CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS	9-11AM	NURSERY TO YEAR 6
FRIDAY 7 TH JUNE	Y5 WATERSPORTS – SALFORD WATERSPORT CENTRE	ALL DAY	YEAR 5
WEEK BEGINNING 10 TH JUNE	PHONICS SCREENING CHECK WEEK	ALL WEEK	YEARS 1 AND 2
WEDNESDAY 12 TH JUNE	GOVERNORS OPEN DAY	9-3PM DROP IN	GOVERNORS
WEDNESDAY 12 TH JUNE	YEAR 5 FAMILY TIME WORKSHOP	9-10AM	YEAR 5 PARENTS

THURSDAY 13 TH JUNE	YEAR 3 SUMMER TRIP TO THE LAKE DISTRICT- PROVISIONAL DATE	8-5	YEAR 3 CLASS- MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW
THURSDAY 13 TH JUNE	NURSERY STAY AND PLAY	9-9.45 AM	NURSERY PARENTS
THURSDAY 13 TH JUNE	YEAR 2 VISITING CHURCH	1.30PM	YEAR 2 CHILDREN
FRIDAY 14 TH JUNE	CHOCOLATE DONATION FOR EXTRA PLAY IN THE AFTERNOON	PM	ALL
FRIDAY 14 TH JUNE	Y5 WATERSPORTS – SALFORD WATERSPORT CENTRE	ALL DAY	YEAR 5
WEEK BEGINNING 17 TH JUNE	POLLINATOR WEEK LED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL	ALL WEEK	DETAILS TO FOLLOW
WEEK BEGINNING 17 TH JUNE	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT WEEK	ALL WEEK	YEARS 1-5
FRIDAY 21 ST JUNE	Y5 WATERSPORTS – SALFORD WATERSPORT CENTRE	ALL DAY	YEAR 5
SATURDAY 22ND JUNE	SUMMER FAIR – please bring along friends and family	11-1	EVERYBODY WELCOME
MONDAY 24 TH JUNE	NEW NURSERY PARENTS MEETING	5PM	NEW NURSERY PARENTS
TUESDAY 25 TH JUNE	NEW RECEPTION PARENTS MEETING	5PM	NEW RECEPTION PARENTS
WEDNESDAY 26 TH JUNE	FRONT ROW CONCERT – children who have guitar lessons at lunch will perform for the whole school and parents of those performing	2.45pm	Whole school and parents of those performing
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 27 TH AND 28 TH JUNE	YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAYS TO HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOLS TO ARRANGE	YEAR 6 CHILDREN
MONDAY 1 ST JULY	NEW TO NURSERY PHONECALLS TO PARENTS	TIME TBC	NEW NURSERY PARENTS
TUESDAY 2 ND JULY	NEW TO NURSERY PHONE CALLS TO PARENTS CONTINUED	TIME TBC	NEW NURSERY PARENTS
WEDNESDAY 3 RD JULY	RECEPTION CLASS ASSEMBLY	9AM	RECEPTION PARENTS WELCOME
THURSDAY 4 TH JULY	YEAR 6 CHURCH VISIT	1.30PM	YEAR 6 CLASS
FRIDAY 5 TH JULY	SUMMER HAMPER DONATION IN EXCHANGE FOR EXTRA PLAY	EXTRA PLAY	WHOLE SCHOOL
MONDAY 8 TH JULY	SUMMER HAMPER TICKETS GO ON SALE	9AM	ON SALE TO ALL FAMILIES
MONDAY 8 TH JULY	NEW NURSERY CHILDREN TO VISIT NURSERY WITH PARENTS	9.15-10.15AM	NEW NURSERY CHILDREN – DETAILS TO FOLLOW
TUESDAY 9 TH JULY	NEW NURSERY CHILDREN TO VISIT NURSERY WITH PARENTS	9.15-10.15AM	NEW NURSERY CHILDREN – DETAILS TO FOLLOW
TUESDAY 9 TH JULY	NEW TO RECEPTION CHILDREN PHONECALLS	TIME TBC	PARENTS OF NEW TO RECEPTION CLASS
THURSDAY 11 TH JULY	NEW TO RECEPTION CHILDREN VISIT DAY	9.15 – 11.15	CHILDREN ONLY
FRIDAY 12 TH JULY	SCHOOL REPORTS ISSUED TO PARENTS	3.30PM	WHOLE SCHOOL

WEEK BEGINNING 15 TH JULY	OLYMPICS WEEK	ALL WEEK DETAILS TO FOLLOW	WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
MONDAY 15 TH JULY	MEETINGS WITH CLASS TEACHERS REGARDING REPORTS IF REQUESTED	ALL WEEK	OPEN TO ALL PARENTS
MONDAY 15 TH JULY	YEAR 6 SUMMER SHOW- DRESS REHEARSAL FOR SCHOOL	10AM	WHOLE SCHOOL TO WATCH
TUESDAY 16 TH JULY	YEAR 6 SUMMER SHOW FOR PARENTS	2PM	YEAR 6 PARENTS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 17 TH JULY	KEY STAGE 1 BUMP AND BOUNCE FUN TIME	ALL DAY IN GROUPS	KEY STAGE 1`
WEDNESDAY 17 TH JULY	YEAR 6 SUMMER SHOW FOR PARENTS	5.30PM	YEAR 6 PARENTS
THURSDAY 18 TH JULY	KEY STAGE 1 SPORTS MORNING – OLYMPIC THEME	9.15AM-10.30 APPROX	KEY STAGE ONE CHILDREN – PARENTS INVITED TO WATCH
THURSDAY 18 TH JULY	KEY STAGE 2 WATER PLAY FUN	1.30-3PM	KEY STAGE 2
FRIDAY 19 TH JULY	EYFS SPORTS MORNING	9.15AM-10.15 APPROX	EYFS CHILDREN – PARENTS WELCOME TO WATCH
FRIDAY 19 TH JULY	KEY STAGE 2 SPORTS AFTERNOON – OLYMPIC THEME	1.30PM TO 3PM	KEY STAGE 2 CHILDREN – PARENTS WELCOME TO WATCH
MONDAY 22 ND JULY	CHILDREN MOVE UPTO NEW CLASSES	9.15-10.30AM	YEARS N TO YEAR 5
MONDAY 22 ND JULY	KEY STAGE 2 TALENT SHOW	1.30PM	OPEN TO ALL KEY STAGE 2 WHO WISH TO SHOWCASE A TALENT!
MONDAY 22 ND JULY	YEAR 6 LEAVERS MEAL	5PM-RESTAURANT TBC	YEAR 6 CHILDREN
TUESDAY 23 RD JULY	SUMMER HAMPER DRAW	2PM	
TUESDAY 23 RD JULY	SPONSORED COLOUR RUN EVENT	1PM DETAILS TO FOLLOW	WHOLE SCHOOL- DETAILS TO FOLLOW
WEDNESDAY 24 TH JULY	LEAVERS ASSEMBLY	9AM	YEAR 6 PARENTS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 24 TH JULY	SCHOOL CLOSES FOR SUMMER	2PM	WHOLE SCHOOL

More dates may be added so please keep your eye on the diary dates each week.

Kind regards, Mrs Warburton