



# Warden House Primary School

Irresistible learning for all...

Newsletter – Thursday 25 January 2024

## Headteachers' Message

I cannot believe that we are now over half way through Term 3! It has certainly been an incredibly busy and exciting start to 2024 here at Warden House.

There have been many highlights from the past few weeks: Our Year 5 and 6 school councilors have visited London and The Palace of Westminster; our school choir have performed at Young Voices in the O2 arena in London, and all of our children have been visited by the amazing *Teach Rex* for workshops. There have been some fantastic new topics being taught in our classes too that have really captured our children's interest.



One thing to make you aware of is our set of new term dates for 2024-2025. We have made the decision to move to a two-week October half term break during the next academic year. Full details around the rationale for this change are included later in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at parents' evenings next week. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes  
Mr. Hackett

## "Teach Rex" day

We had a 'GRRRRREAT' day on Tuesday this week working with the amazing **Teach Rex**! Teach Rex are an educational organisation that work across the country delivering inspirational activities and workshops with children and adults of all ages.

Thank you to our PTFA for organising this inspirational event as a special treat for our children. We are so indebted to them for their ongoing support for all that we do here at Warden House. The children's faces when the dinosaur appeared were just fantastic!



Thanks to Sam and "Jam" (the T-Rex) for being such amazing visitors.

[Click here](#) to view a lovely little video clip of just some of things that we got up to that has been posted on our school Facebook page.

## Term dates 2024 - 2025

Our school and Trust leaders have looked carefully at the Kent schools' calendar and agreed term dates and have decided in the next academic year to adopt a 2-week October Half Term holiday.

The rationale for this decision is to break up the learning in Terms 1 and 2 which would have otherwise presented two long Terms. We recognise that some of our youngest learners have struggled during September and October with health and wellbeing and this has impacted on our attendance.



In an attempt to mitigate this, we are trialling the 2 week half term holiday. Trustees and Governors have given this their full support in the interest of staff and children's wellbeing. We have also spoken with colleagues in other schools and Trusts who have adopted this model and have listened carefully to their feedback.

## "Carols on the Green"

It seems quite a while ago now, however after we had broken up for the Christmas holiday, our school "Christmas Choir!" took part in the Walmer Town Council 'Carols on the Green' event on Saturday 16 December.



The children performed beautifully and we received a large number of very positive comments from those who came along to take part. The Town Council were so impressed that they have asked to come to one of our assemblies next week to present the children with special certificates to thank them for their hard work. Well done to all who took part.

## Year 4 History learning

Our Year 4 historians have had an enjoyable term learning about the [legacy of William the Conqueror](#) in their history lessons. As part of their work, they have been looking in detail at the Bayeux Tapestry and finding out about life in the period around 1066 by looking at the evidence presented.

Here are some of the children's own responses to this fascinating period in history.



Year 4 Sharks class had a shock following their singing assembly on Wednesday this week. They returned to class to find that their learning space had been "invaded" by the children from our Year 4 Zebras class!

## Staffing updates

This term we have been pleased to welcome new Year 6 teacher Mr. Whittle to our team. Mr. Whittle has taken over the teaching of Ravens class this term. We are pleased to welcome new Early Years TA Miss Wood to the team based in Hedgehogs class.

We also welcome new breakfast club assistant Mrs. Smith along with new midday supervisors Ms. Cory and Mrs. Edwards.



Following the departure of our SENCo Mrs. Alldis, Mrs. Watson has taken over the role of acting SENCO until we are able to recruit a new Assistant Headteacher/SENCo on a permanent basis.



## Young Voices 2024

On Monday 15 January, our school choir made up of 50 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils travelled up to the O2 arena in London to take part in Young Voices 2024.

The children performed alongside over 8500 children, singing with amazing acts such as jazz singer Natalie Williams, 13 year old drumming sensation Nandi Bushell and rap artist MC Grammar.

All had an amazing day and the children behaved perfectly. Well done to all who took part. [Click here](#) to view some photos and videos on our school Facebook page.



## Parents' Evenings

We are looking forward to welcoming all parents and carers into school next week for our Term 3 parents evening sessions. Year R meetings take place on Tuesday 30 January and Thursday 1 February. Meetings for children in Year 1-6 take place on Wednesday 31 January and Thursday 1 February. Please visit our ["Parents' Evening Booking System"](#) to book your appointment.



We will also be welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair back to school this week.

## School Council Trip to Westminster

Our Year 5 & 6 school counsellors, along with our head boy and head girl, had a real treat on the first day of Term 3 as they visited London for a tour of Parliament and the Palace of Westminster.

After a (very!) early start, the children had an in-depth tour of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords before meeting with our local MP [Natalie Elphicke](#) for a question and answer session. The children had the opportunity to actually stand at the benches in the House of Commons and the House of Lords and retraced the King's footsteps following the route he had recently taken during the state opening of parliament in the autumn.

Mrs. Elphicke was very impressed with the children's incredibly thoughtful and thought-provoking questions and posted a lovely response on her own [social media page](#) regarding the children's visit.



After lunch, the children had time to visit Buckingham Palace, Horseguards Parade and the entrance to Downing Street before returning to school.

The children were a real credit to our school and behaved fantastically well. We were very proud of them. The children have been tasked to prepare a special assembly to the rest of the school to take place towards the end of this term to share their experience with their peers.





## Winter weather update



Although we are not routinely affected by significant snowfall here in Deal, I just wanted to take a moment to remind you of what will happen in the event of severe winter weather in our local area .

Schools are expected to do everything possible to remain open unless it is considered unsafe to do so. This means that the school site would need to be unsafe or inaccessible in order for us to close. Obviously, we are unable to make a judgement about every child's journey and whether or not it would be safe for them to try to get to school; this is for parents and carers to decide and we will respect your decision.

In the event of heavy snow, site staff and senior leaders will come to school early and a decision will be made as to whether or not it is safe to open the school. We will try to make this decision as early as possible. The decision may be to:

- Fully open the school to all year groups on time
- Delay opening until later in the day to allow for snow to clear before opening
- Open only for children of 'Key Workers' and vulnerable children (in a way similar to what occurred during the Covid lockdowns)
- Close completely (which will always be a last resort)

This decision will be communicated with you via text message, so please ensure that the school has an up-to-date number for you. We will also post our plan on our school Facebook page, so do make sure that you "like" and "follow" this feed. You can also use the Kent Closures website: <https://www.kentclosures.co.uk/> However, this can sometimes crash during periods of high use, so it is better to look out for a text or check social media. We would ask that you wait to hear from us rather than telephone the school in the morning as receiving a high volume of calls can slow us down in making and communicating our decision.

## Key Dates for Terms 3 & 4 2024

### Term 3

<b>Scholastic Book Fair in School</b>	Tuesday 30 January 2024 to Thursday 1 February 2024
<b>Parents' Evenings</b>	Wednesday 31 January 2024 and Thursday 1 February 2024
<b>Safer Internet Day</b>	Tuesday 6 February 2024
<b>Whole School Pfizers Science Day</b>	Friday 9 February 2024

### Term 4

<b>Swimming for Year 5</b>	Thursday pms for 5 weeks
<b>World Book Day</b>	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day</b>	Friday 15 March 2024
<b>Rocksteady Concert</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Year 6 PGL Trip</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Bold As concert Nye Hall</b>	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>PTFA Easter Egg Hunt (TBC)</b>	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 2pm

# Warden House Primary School



## Term Dates 2024-2025

Term	School Days	Start Date	End Date	Bank Holidays that fall within the term
1	35	03/09/2024	18/10/2024	
<b>Two week half term holiday - 21/10/2024 to 01/11/2024</b>				
2	35	04/11/2024	20/12/2024	
<b>Christmas Holiday – 23/12/2024 to 03/01/2025</b>				
3	30	06/01/2025	14/02/2025	
<b>Half term holiday – 17/02/2025 to 21/02/2025</b>				
4	30	24/02/2025	04/04/2025	21/04/2025
<b>Easter holiday – 07/04/2025 to 21/04/2025</b>				
5	23	22/04/2025	23/05/2025	05/05/2025
<b>Half term holiday – 26/05/2025 to 30/05/2025</b>				
6	38	02/06/2025	24/07/2025	

Staff Training Days
<i>Children do not attend school on these days.</i>
30/08/2024
02/09/2024
04/07/2025

*Please note that Warden House is classified as a polling station and is likely to be closed to all staff and pupils in the event of a local or general election. In this instance, pupils will be set work to complete remotely at home. We do not yet have confirmation of when these dates will be during this school year.*



# Menu November 2023 - February 2024

## Week One

30th Oct, 20th Nov, 1st Jan, 22nd Jan

## Week Two

6th Nov, 27th Nov, 8th Jan, 29th Jan

## Week Three

4th Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb

Monday

Option 1  
Option 2  
served with  
Option 3  
Dessert

11th December Christmas Week (tbc)

Cheesy Pasta  
Tomato Pasta  
Garlic Flatbread  
Sweetcorn & Green Beans  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Frozen Dessert  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Pizza Pinwheel  
Pasta Provencale  
Wedges  
Baked Beans & Peas  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Frozen Dessert  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Home-made Pizza  
Vegetable Pasta Bake  
1/2 Jacket Potato  
Peas & Baked Beans  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Frozen Dessert  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Tuesday

Option 1  
Option 2  
served with  
Option 3  
Dessert

Chicken & Cheese Quesadillas  
\*Mexican Bean Wrap  
Rice  
Carrots & Peas  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Chocolate Cake & Chocolate Sauce  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Chicken Pie & Gravy  
Veggie Pie & Gravy  
Creamed Potatoes  
Broccoli & Mixed Veg  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Marble Sponge & Custard  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Breaded Chicken Steak  
\*Cheese Puff  
Herby Diced Potatoes  
Mixed Salad  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Syrup Sponge & Vanilla Sauce  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Wednesday

Option 1  
Option 2  
served with  
Option 3  
Dessert

Roast Chicken with Stuffing  
Winter Vegetable & Potato Bake  
Roast Potatoes  
Local Seasonal Vegetables & Cooks Choice  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Cookie  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Sausages with Yorkshire Pud & Gravy  
Quorn Sausage with yorkshire pud  
Roast Potatoes  
Diced Carrots & Cooks Choice  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Cookie  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Roast Pork  
\*Veggie Meatloaf & Gravy  
Roast Potatoes  
Local Seasonal Vegetables & Cooks Choice  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Cookie  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Thursday

Option 1  
Option 2  
served with  
Option 3  
Dessert

Burger in a Bun  
Quorn Sausage  
Wedges  
Cucumber & Coleslaw  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Fruit Crumble & Custard  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Bolognese  
Veggie Bolognese  
Pasta  
Sweetcorn & Broccoli  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Fruit Crumble & Custard  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Meatball Sub  
Meatless Sub  
Cucumber & Peas  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Fruit Crumble & Custard  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Friday

Option 1  
Option 2  
served with  
Option 3  
Dessert

Fish Fingers  
Veggie Nuggets  
Chips/Pasta  
Baked Beans & Sweetcorn  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Cooks Choice of Dessert  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Fish Fingers  
Veggie Nuggets  
Chips/Pasta  
Baked Beans & Peas  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Cooks Choice of Dessert  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly

Fish Fingers  
Veggie Nuggets  
Chips/Pasta  
Baked Beans & Sweetcorn  
\*Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Cooks Choice of Dessert  
Fresh Fruit/Jelly



Suitable for Vegetarians



Suitable for Vegans & Vegetarians



Contains Fish

All items are subject to availability

Bread, Salad and fresh drinking water are available with every meal

All vegetarian dishes with \* can be made suitable for vegans

[www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.wholeschoolmeals.co.uk)