

Welcome to the Autumn Term

Welcome back to West Walton Nursery School and a very warm welcome to all of our new children and their families joining us this September.

The start of a new term is always an exciting time. Some children will be settling into nursery for the first time, while others will be moving rooms, developing new friendships and taking on new challenges.

We are looking forward to a term full of **learning, exploring, playing and making memories together.**

Welcome to Our New Starters

A very special welcome to all the children joining us this September.

Starting nursery is a big milestone for both children and their families. Our team will work closely with you to make sure your child's transition is as positive and reassuring as possible.

Please remember that every child settles differently. Some children may feel confident straight away, while others may need a little more time, reassurance and support.

Our team is always available to talk if you have any questions or concerns.

Our Autumn Learning

Autumn provides so many wonderful opportunities for children to explore and learn.

Over the coming weeks, children will have opportunities to investigate:

-  Changing leaves and seasonal colours
-  Conkers, acorns and other natural treasures
-  Weather and seasonal changes
-  Autumn wildlife and minibeasts
-  Harvest and seasonal foods
-  Nature and our outdoor environment
-  Autumn-inspired creative activities
-  Seasonal stories, songs and rhymes

We encourage children to learn through hands-on experiences, exploration and play.

Supporting School Readiness

For our children preparing to start school, this is an important year.

School readiness is not simply about knowing letters and numbers. We support children to develop the **confidence, independence, communication, social and emotional skills** they need to thrive when they move on to school.

Throughout the year, children will be encouraged to:

- ☆ Listen and follow instructions
- ☆ Develop positive relationships
- ☆ Take turns and share
- ☆ Express their feelings and communicate their needs
- ☆ Become increasingly independent
- ☆ Manage everyday routines
- ☆ Develop early literacy and mathematical skills
- ☆ Solve problems and think creatively
- ☆ Build resilience and confidence

We will work closely with families and schools to support a smooth and positive transition.

EYFS Update – September 2026

The updated **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework** comes into effect for group and school-based providers from **1 September 2026**.

Our team has been preparing for the changes and reviewing our policies, procedures and practice to ensure we continue to meet the latest requirements. Our revised policies are available on our website and on the documents section of Tapestry.

Safeguarding, children's welfare, wellbeing and providing a safe, nurturing environment remain central to everything we do.

We will continue to keep families informed of any changes that may directly affect you or your child.

Healthy Eating & Packed Lunches

We encourage children to enjoy a variety of foods and develop healthy eating habits from an early age.

For children bringing a packed lunch, please remember that **West Walton Nursery School is an allergy-aware setting**. To help safeguard all children, we kindly request that **lunch boxes do not contain nuts**.

Lunch boxes should provide a balanced selection of foods and include a drink of water. Please see our **Packed Lunch Policy** for further information and guidance.

Outdoor Learning

We believe outdoor learning is an important part of children's development.

Our children will continue to have regular opportunities to explore our outdoor environment, whatever the season.

Autumn gives us a fantastic opportunity to investigate the natural world, collect and sort natural objects, develop physical skills and talk about the changes we can see around us.

Please ensure your child has **suitable, named clothing and footwear** for outdoor play.

Screen Time – Supporting Healthy Digital Habits

Screens are now part of everyday life, and we recognise they can have a place in children's lives. However, the [UK Government's updated guidance for England](#) recommends that **children under 2 avoid screen time**, except for shared activities such as video calls. For **children aged 2–5 years**, the guidance advises families to limit total screen time to **no more than 1 hour per day**.

The guidance also recommends avoiding screens during mealtimes and in the hour before bedtime, choosing age-appropriate, slow-paced content and, where possible, watching together and talking about what children are seeing.

At nursery, we carefully consider when and why screens are used. Screen use will **never replace active play, outdoor experiences, creative activities, books, social interaction or opportunities to talk and communicate**. Our aim is to ensure that any screen use has a clear educational purpose and supports children's learning and development.

To support transparency with families, **we will display a notice for parents and carers showing how much screen time their child has had at nursery and the reason for this screen use**. This will help families understand how screens are being used within the nursery and enable us to work together to promote healthy and balanced screen habits both at nursery and at home.

Our approach reflects the latest government guidance and the importance of ensuring that screen use does not replace the experiences young children need most – **play, movement, conversation, relationships, creativity and sleep**.

Autumn Clothing Reminder

As we move into cooler and wetter weather, please make sure your child has:

- A named coat
- Named wellington boots
- A waterproof all-in-one suit
- Spare clothes
- Suitable layers
- Indoor shoes

Please check your child's spare clothing regularly and replace anything that no longer fits.

Keeping Your Details Up to Date

As we begin the new term, please take a few moments to check that we have your **current contact and family information** on file.

It is particularly important that we have up to date:

- Telephone numbers
- Email addresses
- Home address
- Emergency contact details
- Details of anyone authorised to collect your child
- Medical, dietary or allergy information
- Any changes to your child's circumstances that may affect their care

Please let us know promptly if any of your details change. Keeping this information accurate helps us to **communicate effectively with you and, most importantly, ensures we can contact the appropriate person quickly in an emergency.**

If you are unsure whether the information we hold for your child is current, please speak to a member of the nursery team and we will be happy to check this with you.

2026–2027 Bookings

We are currently receiving a high number of enquiries for the 2026–2027 academic year. If you would like to amend your child's current attendance pattern during 2026–2027, please email us at office@westwaltonnurseryschool.co.uk so that we can review your requirements and let you know what sessions may be available.

Collection of Children

If you need to inform us of a change to the person collecting your child, please let us know when dropping your child off or by telephoning the nursery on 01945 580359. For anyone who is unfamiliar to the nursery and is collecting your child, we will ask them to provide the password from your child's registration pack before we allow your child to leave the setting. This is an important safeguarding measure to help keep all children safe.

First-Day Absence Calls

Please remember to contact the nursery on the first day of your child's absence. Regular attendance is important in supporting your child's learning, development and sense of belonging at nursery. If your child will be absent, please contact us on 01945 580359 or text 07825 575 225. Please continue to keep us updated each day.

Important Dates

Throughout the Autumn Term, we will be sharing information about special events, celebrations and activities through our usual nursery communication channels.

We are holding a bake sale in aid of Cancer Research on **Wednesday 23rd September!** Please come down to support us, buying lots of yummy cakes and treats!

If anyone would like to donate cakes and treats for the bake sale, please let a member of staff know. We politely ask that all ingredients and allergens are highlighted.

Nursery Photographs – Thursday 22nd October from 9am

BBC Children in Need: Friday, 13 November 2026 – The classic Pudsey Bear pyjama day we will take part in to raise donations charity.

We will also make the most of opportunities in our local community and support children in learning about important events and celebrations.

Supporting Cancer Research UK

This year, West Walton Nursery School will be supporting **Jordan Vick**, Sarah and Barrie's son and Hannah's brother, as he takes on the incredible challenge of running a marathon in **April 2027**, raising funds for **Cancer Research UK**.

Over the past 12 months, cancer has touched our family personally, with Sarah being diagnosed with **Gallbladder Cancer in February 2026**. This cause is very close to our hearts, and we are incredibly proud of Jordan for taking on this challenge to help raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK.

Throughout the year, we will be organising a variety of fundraising activities and events to help Jordan reach his fundraising goal. We would love our nursery families to get involved, have some fun and help us raise as much as possible for this important cause.

Working Together with Families

We believe that children thrive when nursery and home work together.

Please continue to share your child's achievements, interests, experiences and anything that may help us support them at nursery on Tapestry.

Whether it is a new skill they have learned, something they have enjoyed doing at home, or simply something they are particularly interested in at the moment, these conversations help us build meaningful learning experiences for your child.

Your child's key person is always happy to talk.

A Thank You to Our Families

Thank you for your continued support and for trusting us with your children.

We are incredibly proud of the relationships we have built with our children and families, and we look forward to another wonderful term together.

We can't wait to see what the Autumn Term brings!

 **Here's to a happy, healthy and exciting new term!**

The West Walton Nursery School Team 



West Walton
Nursery School

West Walton Nursery School Term Dates 2026 - 2027



September 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

October 2026						
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November 2026						
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December 2026						
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January 2027						
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February 2027						
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March 2027						
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April 2027						
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May 2027						
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June 2027						
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July 2027						
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August 2027						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

INSET Day /
Closed to Children

Bank Holiday /
Closed

School Holidays

Weekends

Please note: These dates are for West Walton Nursery School only.
All dates are subject to change.