

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

• Visits & Visitors Contributions Please

• Attendance - New Guidance in Place
• EW Merchandise - Get Yours Now!

• Clubs Pick up - Waller Rd Only

Edmund Waller WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17th January 2025

Attendance Matters!

We want to start any conversation about attendance and time keeping with a HUGE THANK YOU to the vast majority of families who support, guide and sometimes cajole (!) their children in to coming in to school, on time, every day. We appreciate the fact that this reflects the importance and value that you place on your child's time here at Edmund Waller. Of course, life will throw the odd spanner into the mix and there will be days that for reasons beyond your control you don't quite make the 9:00am start. This is totally understandable. However, we wanted to appeal to those families who are routinely missing the gates in the morning, to use January as a new beginning and make that new year's resolution about getting out of the house 10 minutes earlier! As you will see from the graphic here, being late by *just* 5 minutes per day, equates to missing 3 full days of school per year...

Did you know that a two week holiday in term time means the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.5%?

As of September 2024, new statutory attendance guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) means that there is no entitlement for children to have time off from school for holidays or leisure. There is now a national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered for unauthorised absence: this is 10 sessions or 5 days within a 10-week period. Lewisham and the DfE now have access to our attendance records and the school has no discretion when it comes to fining parents. Illness and medical appointments will be authorised, but we will ask for evidence so that we can ensure our records are up to date. This is a measure we have put into place to support our families as attendance records are now monitored by Lewisham. With over 400 children on roll we need a fair system that we can apply consistently across the school.



Visit and Visitors

As we start a new term, it's the perfect moment to make your contribution for Spring's visits and visitors. We ask for a suggested contribution of £15 per term. You can make the payment via your child's ParentPay account, under the 'Educational Visits and Visitors 2024-25' item.

EW pens: still available from the main office

Clubs - Pick up

Please note that due to safeguarding concerns, we cannot let parents enter or leave via Rutts Terrace for club collection. This entrance is for Ewrap/ Afterschool club collection ONLY. Last week, we had a child who nearly left the site, without supervision, as the gate had been left open by a parent collecting from enrichment clubs. All club collections are via the Main Gate on Waller Rd @4:30pm. If you need to collect a sibling/another child from EWrap, please ask the adult on the Main Gate, who will radio over and organise for your child to be brought to the main gate for you. Thanks for your understanding and support with this.

Totes Amaze!

Forget your Daunt Books & your I ♥ NX totes - the Edmund Waller tote bag is the only one to have! You can get yours from the office for a mere £7.50.

And, for those seeking to add a little uniformity to our non-uniform playground, you can also now get snazzy EW fleeces - available in a range of sizes for both children and adults alike. Pop into the main office and find out how you can get yours.



SPRING TERM 1
Monday 6th Jan - School Reopens
Friday 17th Jan - Y6 Assembly
Tues 11th & Weds 12th Feb - Parents Evening
17th - 21st Feb - HALF TERM (+ EWrap Playscheme)
2024/25 Term Dates





Spring 2025 - Key Dates

Year Group Assembly	Date (Friday)
Year 6	17th January
Year 5	24th January
Year 4	31st January
HALF	TERM
Year 3	21st March
Year 2	28th March
Year 1	4th April
Reception	<i>Summer Term (date tbc)</i>

All year group assemblies take place on a Friday, @2:45pm, in Rosen Hall.

Other Key Dates:

Parent Teacher Meetings

3:50 - 7:00pm - Tues 11th & Weds 12th Feb

Waller Book Week:

w.b. 3rd March

World Book Day - Thurs 6th March

Year 5 Swimming Starts

w.b. 24th March