



School Newspaper

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WALMLEY
INFANT SCHOOL

WALMLEY INFANT SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MEMORIES

This year, Walmley Infant School proudly celebrates the 70th anniversary of its current school building, which opened in 1956. As the third incarnation of the school, it has stood at the heart of the community for seven decades, welcoming generations of children and providing them with the foundations for lifelong learning and success.

Over the years, thousands of pupils have passed through our doors, creating memories of friendships, favourite teachers, school productions, sports days and playground adventures. While education has changed greatly since 1956, the school's commitment to nurturing, inspiring and supporting every child has remained constant.

To mark this special milestone, we are delighted to host a 70th Anniversary Celebration and Summer Fair, bringing together past and present pupils, families, staff and friends of the school. The event will feature a raffle, games, inflatables, food and refreshments, along with opportunities to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate our shared history.

This commemorative newspaper has been created as a lasting keepsake, capturing the story of Walmley Infant School from its beginnings through to the present day. As we celebrate 70 wonderful years, we thank everyone who has been part of our journey and look forward to creating many more happy memories for future generations.



Walmley Infant School 2026.

Summer Fair & 70th Anniversary

Join us for lots of fun, Bouncy Castle, Helter Skelter, Penalty Shootout, Games and much more

July 10th
1:00 - 3:30

Burgers and Jacket Potatoes
Inflatable's
Wristbands £6.00

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER MRS MURPHY

It is with great pride that I write to you as Headteacher of Walmley Infant School, a role I have been privileged to hold since 2014. Over the years, I have seen first-hand what a truly special place our school is, filled with happy, enthusiastic children, dedicated staff and supportive families who make our community so strong. This year is particularly special as we celebrate the school's 70th birthday, giving us an opportunity to reflect on our rich history and the many successes achieved over the decades. Our anniversary celebrations have brought our community together to honour the past while looking forward with excitement and ambition for the future. Together, we continue to make Walmley Infant School a warm, caring and inspiring place where every child can flourish and reach their full potential.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST



Image courtesy of Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group.

Before a permanent school building was completed, a temporary school opened in 1825 in the home of Mrs. Short, the first schoolmistress. Her house, later known as Jessamine Cottage on Fox Hollies Road, served as the first location for education in Walmley. The school initially accommodated ten boys and ten girls, reflecting the Corporation's commitment to providing education for local children from less advantaged backgrounds.

In 1826, construction began on a purpose-built school in Walmley. This building, which was known as The Old Schoolhouse at the corner of Fox Hollies Road and Webster Way, became the permanent home of the school. The Corporation carefully managed the school's development, providing funding

A significant milestone came in 1827 when Sarah Ann Adams, daughter of a Maney shopkeeper, was appointed as the first teacher of the new permanent school. She later married local farmer Henry Brookhouse, whose family had longstanding connections with the Walmley area. Throughout its early years, Walmley School played a vital role in educating local children and became an enduring part of the village's history, reflecting the growing emphasis on education and social improvement during the nineteenth century.

The area known as "Walmley and Beyond the Wood" covered a large rural district, but as Penns Mill expanded and new housing was built for its growing workforce, the population of Walmley increased rapidly from the 1830s onwards. As new homes were built around the developing village, Walmley School soon became too small to meet demand.

Henry Bronthhouse of _____ Parish
and Sarah Ann Adams of _____ Parish
were married in this Church by _____ with Consent of
this _____ Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and _____
By me _____
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Henry Bronthhouse
Sarah Ann Adams
In the Presence of { Elizabeth Adams
James Bronthhouse
No. 233.

*Marriage certificate of Sarah Adams and Henry Brookhouse.
Information collated from documents shared curtesy of Sutton Coldfield
Local History Research Group.*



The area known as Walmley and Beyond the Wood Quarter - the base map is Greenwood's 1822 map of Warwickshire. The shaded area, later occupied by Walmley Village, was then open common; houses are shown on the map as black dots. Henry Brookhouse's farm is near the top of the large letter L (the whole word is Hemlingford, this part of Warwickshire lying in Hemlingford Hundred).

Courtesy of Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group.

The Journey Continues

1800s



Walmley School at Walmley Village. The bell visible on the right was used to call the children to school each day. This is now the site of Ashfield Surgery. The headteacher at the time, Miss May is just visible by the doorway and can be seen with children. The school was built in 1851 and demolished in 1975.

Image courtesy of Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group.

INCREASE IN LOCAL CHILDREN

In 1851, a new Walmley School was built to provide improved educational facilities for the growing local population. The school served the community for more than a century before significant changes took place in the twentieth century. In 1956, Walmley Infant School was built on Walmley Ash Road, and the infant pupils transferred to the new premises while the junior pupils remained at the original school in Walmley village. This arrangement continued until 1974, when a new junior school was completed on the same site as the infant school. Following the move, the old school building in Walmley village, which had played an important role in local education for over 120 years, was demolished in 1975.



A Bright New Future

1950s

WALMLEY OPENS A BRAND NEW INFANT SCHOOL IN 1956

Excitement filled Walmley in 1956 as the doors opened on the brand new Walmley Infant School. The school was built to provide more space for the growing number of young children in the village, as the existing school had become overcrowded. Parents, teachers and pupils were delighted to see the modern building, which offered bright classrooms and improved facilities for infant children beginning their education.

Surrounded by open fields and beautiful countryside, the new school quickly became a proud landmark for Walmley. Everyone looked forward to the opportunities it would bring for future generations, and the new infant school was seen as a symbol of Walmley's growth and bright future.

MEMORIES FROM DOREEN HARRISON

I was teaching at Walmley Infant School in 1956. In fact, I was a member of staff who moved down to the school from Walmley Primary School in the village on June 14th 1956, one of the original staff. We were accompanied by a large number of cardboard boxes and thrilled by our new building which seemed wonderful after the old building!

I also remember the country outlook and the spacious field behind the school which was, I believe, earmarked for a future Junior School. When I left in July 1964 to go and teach in an army school in Germany, the country outlook still remained.

I remember details of activities during the years, outings to Dudley Zoo and later to Twycross, Sports Days on the field and also the Nativity plays which were ambitious projects involving every child, about 80, in the two top classes.



Picture of the first staff of Walmley Infant School.
Left to right: D. Harrison, B. Cook, K. Rowley, V. Beaumont, D. Parker and P. Johns.

WALMLEY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL,
Infants Department,
Walmley Ash Road,
Sutton Coldfield.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO PARENTS.

SCHOOL HOURS: Morning - 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Afternoon - 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Please allow your child enough time to get to school by 9.25 a.m. and 1.55 p.m., at which time the bell goes.

DINNERS.
If you wish your child to stay dinner, money for the week is payable on Monday morning - charge 10d per day. Correct money is appreciated.

NATIONAL SAVINGS are collected on Wednesday morning.

CLOTHING.
All clothing should be clearly marked with child's name, especially wellingtons, gaberdines and pumps.
Each child requires a pair of pumps to keep at school - in a shoe bag if possible.

Badges and ties are available:-
Cap Badges ... 1/- each.
Blazer Badges ... 2/6d each.
Ties ... 2/3d each.
I would like the school uniform - navy blazers for boys, navy tunics for girls, navy gaberdines, caps or berets to be worn whenever possible.

BISCUITS are sold to children each morning. Each child is limited to 1d per day.

REQUESTS TO PARENTS:

1. Please leave your child at the School gate.
2. When you wish to speak to the Teacher, please see me first.
3. Please see that your child has a handkerchief every day.
4. If your child is absent please let me know the reason.
5. Please do not let your child bring surplus money to school.

B. S. Cook
HEAD MISTRESS.

A letter to
parents
from the
Head
Mistress
B. Cook in
the 1950s.

A Family Legacy

1960s



Lesley and her twin sister in Mrs Beaumont's class, 1960s.

THREE GENERATIONS, ONE SPECIAL SCHOOL

Walmley Infant School has been at the heart of family life for generations, and few families illustrate this better than the Porter family. Current grandmother Lesley Porter (née Ames) first walked through the school gates in the 1960s alongside her twin sister, Jackie, while her sisters Christine and Susan also attended the school before moving on to Walmley Junior School. Lesley remembers being taught by Mrs Beaumont in what is now known as Y1.2, and she still speaks fondly of her time here more than sixty years later.



Lesley and her sisters.

Among Lesley's happiest memories is seeing the beautiful wooden figure of a pine marten positioned at the school entrance, a much-loved feature that continues to welcome visitors in our reception area today. She also recalls presenting a bouquet of flowers to the Lord Mayor during a visit to the school and walking home independently with her sister to Orton Avenue, something that was much more common in those days. Not all of her memories are quite so comfortable, however; one unforgettable incident involved catching her finger in a door and losing a fingernail! We have it on very good authority that Lesley was an exceptionally well-behaved pupil who never once needed a visit to the Headmistress.

She also remains friends with former classmate Lorraine Williams, demonstrating the lasting friendships that can begin at Walmley Infant School.

The family's connection with the school continued into the 1980s and 1990s when Lesley's own children, Steven, Jennifer and Adam Porter, followed in her footsteps and attended Walmley Infant School. Like their mother before them, they became part of the school's story, creating their own memories and experiences within the same classrooms and playgrounds.

Today, a third generation of the family has proudly attended the school, with Steven's daughters Margot and Chloe, and Jennifer's children Connie and Clark, all becoming part of the Walmley Infant School community. Spanning more than six decades, the Porter family's story is a wonderful example of the special place Walmley Infant School holds in the lives of local families. We are proud to have played a small part in the lives of three generations and look forward to welcoming many more in the years to come.



Image of the Porter family, who attended in 1980s/1990s.

Memories of a Jubilee Year

1970s

MRS THATCHER OPENS NEW SCHOOL BLOCK AT WALMLEY INFANT SCHOOL

Children, staff and parents at Walmley Infant School enjoyed a special day this year when Education Secretary Mrs Margaret Thatcher visited the school to officially open a newly completed block added to the site.

The visit attracted considerable interest from the local community, with pupils eagerly gathering to welcome the distinguished guest. During a tour of the new facilities, Mrs Thatcher met teachers and children and viewed examples of the pupils' work displayed throughout the building.

Among the exhibits that particularly caught her attention was a striking winter display depicting a snow scene. The artwork featured a number of three-dimensional elements, giving the impression of depth and bringing the scene vividly to life.

Pausing to admire the display, Mrs Thatcher remarked with enthusiasm: "Ah, I must stand right back to get the full impact, glorious." Her comment delighted both staff and pupils, who had worked hard to create the display.

Following the tour, Mrs Thatcher formally opened the new block, praising the importance of providing modern facilities to support children's education. The extension was built to provide valuable additional classroom space and improved resources for the growing school community.

Headteachers, governors and guests expressed their appreciation for Mrs Thatcher's visit, which marked an important milestone in the school's history. For many of the children present, the occasion will be remembered as a memorable and exciting day.

The block still stands as a significant addition to Walmley Infant School and a lasting reminder of a notable visit from one of Britain's most prominent political figures of the time.



Margaret Thatcher, the education Secretary, tries her hand at a xylophone watched by five-year-old Kenneth Lindsey during her visit to Walmley Infants' School, Sutton Coldfield. Kenneth was the xylophonist in the school's band.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip celebrating the Jubilee by visiting local communities.

DECIMAL CURRENCY

When Britain changed to decimal currency in February 1971, it marked one of the biggest changes in everyday life for generations. For many adults, the move from pounds, shillings and pence to the new decimal system seemed confusing and unfamiliar. At Walmley Infant School, however, the children were guided through the change with patience and reassurance, thanks in no small part to the school's much-loved member of staff, Mrs Siddall.

In the weeks leading up to Decimal Day, excitement and uncertainty filled the school corridors. Pupils arrived with old pennies, threepenny bits, sixpences and shillings, eager to discover how the new coins would work. Questions came thick and fast, and Mrs Siddall was always ready with a smile and a full explanation.

JUBILEE 1977

In the summer of 1977, Walmley Infant School proudly joined communities across the nation in celebrating The Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, marking twenty-five years of her reign.

The school was decorated with colourful bunting and flags, creating a festive atmosphere throughout the playground and classrooms. Children took part in special activities, producing artwork, making paper crowns and learning about the history of the monarchy.

The Silver Jubilee celebrations reflected the strong sense of community that existed at Walmley Infant School during the 1970s. For those who were there, the sight of flags flying, children laughing and families coming together remained a treasured memory of a very special year in the school's history.

Tracks and Trophies

1980s

ROYAL WEDDING

The summer of 1981 will long be remembered across the United Kingdom as a season of celebration, marked by the historic royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on July 29th. While millions tuned in across the nation to witness the grand ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, communities everywhere found their own special ways to join in the festivities and Walmley Infant School was no exception.

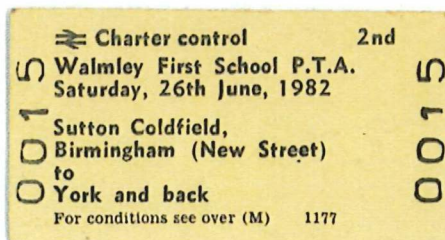
At Walmley Infant School, the royal occasion was transformed into a joyous and memorable event for pupils, staff, and families alike. The school grounds were brought to life with colourful decorations, capturing the spirit and excitement of the day. Union Jack flags fluttered proudly, and classrooms were adorned with vibrant displays celebrating the newly married royal couple.

Teachers and pupils worked together to create beautiful, themed displays, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. Artwork featuring crowns, carriages, and portraits of Prince Charles and Princess Diana lined the walls, while handmade bunting added a festive touch throughout the school. The effort put into these decorations reflected the sense of national pride and unity felt across the country.

The event served not only as a festive gathering but also as a way to help children understand the significance of the royal wedding within British culture and history.



Royal Wedding display.



Ticket from the train ride 1982.

THE PTA TRAIN ADVENTURE

Members of the Walmley Infant School PTA organised a memorable day out in the 1980s, treating families and pupils to a special train journey to the historic city of York.

Laughter and chatter filled the carriages, as families shared the occasion and admired the passing countryside.

Adding to the celebrations, a birthday was marked during the journey, making the day even more special. Fellow passengers joined in to offer their wishes, creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere that reflected the close knit spirit of the school community.

The outing remains a fond memory for those who attended, capturing a time when simple experiences and shared celebrations brought the Walmley Infant School community closer together.



Birthday celebrations whilst on the train journey.

ART DISPLAYS

Throughout this decade, Walmley Infant School impressed visitors with a series of stunning displays highlighting the dedication and creativity of its pupils. Classrooms and corridors were transformed into vibrant exhibitions,

showcasing a wide range of work completed over recent weeks.

The displays reflected not only the children's learning but also the time and effort invested by both pupils and staff. From colourful artwork to carefully presented projects, each exhibit demonstrated enthusiasm, imagination and pride in achievement.

SPORTS DAY

Walmley Infant School's annual sports days in the 1980s were a much anticipated highlight, marking not only a day of fun and competition but also the beginning of end of year summer celebrations. Pupils took to the field with excitement, ready to take part in a range of traditional events that brought the whole school community together.

Children eagerly competed in running races and obstacle courses, cheered on by classmates, teachers, and proud families gathered along the sidelines. The day was filled with laughter, encouragement, and a strong sense of teamwork.

As part of the wider summer celebrations, sports day often signalled the approaching end of the school year. It was a time for reflection, achievement, and shared memories before the long summer holidays began.

Though times have changed, the traditions of sports day at Walmley Infant School continue much as they did in the 1980s, with running races and obstacle courses still delighting new generations of pupils each year.



Sports Day in the 1980s.

Beyond the classroom

1990s

CHILDREN EXPERIENCE SOME HANDS ON LEARNING

The 1990s were a memorable and exciting time at Walmley Infant School, filled with unique experiences, special visitors and proud achievements. Pupils enjoyed a rich variety of activities that brought learning to life and helped create lasting memories.

One of the most talked-about visits came from the famous Animal Man, who delighted children with an array of animals. The biggest surprise of all was the appearance of a fox, which fascinated pupils and staff alike. The decade also saw the arrival of the school's first nursery children, marking an important milestone in Walmley's history.

Music played a significant part in school life. Children were treated to a lively performance by a steel drum band and many pupils learned to play the recorder, proudly performing for parents and friends. Visitors also included Spin Dummy, who taught important road safety lessons in a fun and engaging way.



Spin Dummy visited to teach the children about road safety.

Learning extended beyond the classroom with trips such as a visit to the Black Country Living Museum, where pupils experienced what life was like in years gone by. At Easter, colourful Easter Garden plates created by the children were displayed along the path at the front of the school, providing a beautiful showcase of their creativity for families and visitors.

The school grounds were also transformed during the decade. The pond at the front of the school was expanded, creating an even better environment for wildlife and outdoor learning. Children worked with artist Ann Carrington to create a remarkable sculpture of an owl that stood taller than the children themselves, a project that encouraged creativity and teamwork.



The local dentist visited to teach the children about teeth.



Children learnt to play recorders.

MORE THAN JUST THE CURRICULUM

Walmley pupils demonstrated their generosity by raising an impressive £1,250 for Birmingham Children's Hospital through a sponsored spell. The school also welcomed parents into classrooms on special occasions to share in their children's learning and achievements.

Community events were an important feature of school life. Children enjoyed shared bonfire celebrations with Walmley Junior School, complete with fireworks and plenty of excitement. A particularly memorable occasion was a Teddy Bears' Picnic, during which the then headmistress, Mrs Phillips, discovered that her teddy bear had been "kidnapped" by a group of mischievous pupils and held to ransom. Fortunately, after much negotiation, the beloved teddy was safely returned!

The school also gained wider recognition. In 1994, Walmley Infant School became the first school in Sutton Coldfield to receive an Ofsted inspection. Inspectors praised the school's work, noting that "teaching in all classes was sound or good" — a testament to the dedication of staff and pupils alike. Adding a touch of celebrity to school life, one of Walmley's teachers even took part in MasterChef.

Looking back, the 1990s were a decade full of adventure, creativity, community spirit and achievement at Walmley Infant School. From foxes and fireworks to fundraising and Ofsted success, it was a period that remains fondly remembered by all who were part of it.



A Walmley School pupil helping to prepare for Bonfire Night on the field. The flames could be seen from miles away.



Mrs Philip's teddy held to ransom.

A New Millennium 2000s

WALMLEY INFANT SCHOOL WELCOMES A NEW MILLENNIUM OF LEARNING

The arrival of the new millennium brought many exciting opportunities for the pupils of Walmley Infant School, with technology, environmental awareness, science, music and cultural celebrations all playing an important role in school life. A highlight of the decade was a visit from Councillor John Alden, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who led a special assembly, toured the nursery and spoke to pupils about his role. Reflecting on his visit, he praised the children and staff, commenting on how polite, well-behaved and smartly presented the pupils were.



Councillor John Alden, Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

The school also enjoyed memorable experiences that enriched the curriculum. The Little Big Band from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra introduced children to the world of music through live performances and demonstrations of different instruments. In 2004, pupils celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, by dressing in colourful traditional clothing, sampling foods and creating masks, with parents helping to make the event a real community celebration.



Staff and pupils celebrate Diwali.

Science and technology featured prominently throughout the decade. In 2005, a fascinating assembly led by Mr Calvin brought scientific concepts such as gravity, levers and pendulums to life through practical demonstrations. At the same time, computers became an increasingly important part of learning, while visitors from industry helped children understand emerging technologies, including the role of robots in modern car manufacturing.

Environmental awareness became a major focus for the school. In 2003, pupils met Cyler, a rapping robot who delivered an entertaining message about reducing, reusing and recycling. This learning was reinforced through visits from environmental experts and assemblies such as Charlie's "Let's Talk Rubbish", which combined important environmental messages with engaging magic tricks and demonstrations.



Technology experiences.



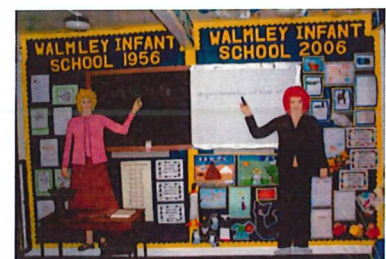
Learning extended beyond the classroom through visits to local recycling centres and practical projects in school, including the creation of a model landfill site to help children understand waste management. These activities gave pupils a greater appreciation of environmental responsibility and encouraged habits that would benefit both their community and the wider world.

Looking back, the early years of the new millennium were an exciting time for Walmley Infant School. Visits from civic leaders, musicians, scientists, technology experts and environmental campaigners enriched the curriculum and provided memorable learning experiences. Through these activities, pupils not only developed new knowledge and skills but also gained a greater understanding of the world around them, helping to make Walmley Infant School a vibrant and forward-looking place to learn.

50TH CELEBRATIONS

The year 2006 was a very special one for Walmley Infant School as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. The milestone was marked with a memorable celebration that brought together pupils, staff, former staff members and past pupils to reflect on the school's rich history and achievements.

Children created displays representing each decade of the school's history, while former staff and past pupils gathered for a commemorative afternoon tea and contributed memories to a special memory book. Pupils entertained guests with Maypole dancing and handbell performances, and the celebrations were even filmed by the BBC. The school was also honoured to welcome Cherie Blair, wife of then Prime Minister Tony Blair. Her visit was a memorable occasion for both pupils and staff and reflected the growing recognition of the school's work and achievements. Children were delighted to meet such a distinguished visitor, making it one of the decade's standout moments. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to celebrate Walmley Infant School's past, present and future, creating memories that continue to be treasured today.



A display created by pupils and staff to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Making Memories

2010s

STAFF AND PUPILS SHARE IN MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

The 2010s were a memorable decade for Walmley Infant School, filled with celebrations, new opportunities and special community events. In 2012, pupils joined the national celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. To mark the occasion, every child was given a commemorative book about the Queen and her remarkable reign. Later that year, the school also said a fond farewell to long-serving headteacher Ceinwen Allen, who retired in December. Former headteachers Lorna Thompson and Carole Phillips returned to the school to help celebrate her achievements and wish her well for the future.



Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012.



Snow in 2013.

School life remained exciting and creative throughout the decade. Popular Wow Weeks were held at the beginning of new topics to inspire children's learning, while outdoor activities became an important part of daily lessons in Early Years and Year 1. Pupils also enjoyed PE sessions led by coaches from Aston Villa Football Club. In 2013, children had great fun

playing in the snow during a spell of wintry weather, and later that year a travelling pantomime company brought Beauty and the Beast to the school, delighting pupils and staff alike.



Teachers performed a special snowman dance for children at Christmas 2013.

The year 2014 was particularly significant. A new classroom was added to the school and a separate library was created, providing improved learning spaces for pupils. During the same year, the school community came together for a heartfelt balloon release in memory of beloved member of staff Linda Harper, who sadly passed away. The event gave pupils, staff and families the opportunity to remember and celebrate her life.



World Book Day 2014.



The Easter Bunny visited each Easter.

Another cherished tradition continued to grow during the decade. Bedtime Stories, which had started a few years earlier, became a firm favourite with families. Teachers, parents and children gathered together in their pyjamas to share stories while enjoying cookies and milk, creating lasting memories and encouraging a love of reading. The event remains a popular tradition today.



Bedtime stories 2014



Mrs James and Mrs Sunderland on Comic Relief 2015.

In 2016, the school once again joined national celebrations, marking Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday with activities and festivities that brought the whole school community together, rounding off another memorable chapter in Walmley Infant School's history. continue to be treasured today.



Plates created by pupils for the queens 90th birthday 2016.

Inspiring a New Generation 2020s

THE 2020S: A DECADE OF MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES AND NEW TRADITIONS AT WALMLEY INFANT SCHOOL

The 2020s have been a vibrant and exciting decade at Walmley Infant School, with pupils enjoying a wide range of enriching experiences both inside and outside the classroom. From educational visits and residential adventures to special celebrations and performances, the school has continued its tradition of creating lasting memories for its children.

One of the highlights of each year has been the much-anticipated annual theatre trip. Pupils have travelled to see spectacular pantomime productions, including favourites such as Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella. The colourful costumes, lively music and audience participation have delighted children and brought classic stories to life in a truly magical way.

The end of each school year is marked by special celebrations for the departing Year 2 pupils. Leavers' parties have become a firm favourite, with giant inflatables covering the school field and plenty of treats for everyone to enjoy. Children have celebrated with slushies, candy floss and games, creating happy memories with their friends before moving on to junior school.

A particularly emotional occasion each year is the Year 2 Leavers' Assembly. Families, staff and pupils gather together to reflect on the children's time at Walmley Infant School, celebrating their achievements and wishing them every success as they begin the next stage of their education. The assemblies are often filled with laughter, pride and a few tears as pupils share memories of their infant school years.



NSPCC Number Day 2023.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Educational visits have continued to play an important role in learning throughout the decade. Pupils have enjoyed trips to local zoos, where they have learned about a variety of animals and their habitats. Visits to the Black Country Living Museum have brought history to life, allowing children to experience what life was like in the past. Other popular destinations have included Cadbury World, where pupils discovered the story of chocolate-making, and Sudbury Hall, a National Trust property, where children explored history through interactive exhibits and activities.

For many Year 2 pupils, one of the most exciting experiences has been the opportunity to take part in an overnight residential visit. Spending a night away from home with friends has helped children develop confidence, independence and teamwork while enjoying a range of outdoor activities and adventures.

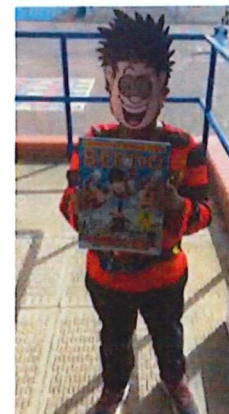
NATIONAL EVENTS

The school has also continued to celebrate national events that promote learning and enjoyment. Number Day has encouraged pupils to explore mathematics through fun challenges, games and practical activities, while World Book Day has transformed the school into a celebration of reading, with children and staff dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing their love of stories.

COVID 19

The start of 2020 brought unprecedented challenges for everyone at Walmley Infant School as the COVID-19 pandemic led to a national lockdown. The school community quickly adapted to new ways of learning and staying connected, with many children learning from home through daily maths sessions and recorded phonics lessons. Staff supported pupils and families by sharing afternoon stories and providing engaging learning opportunities remotely.

Key worker children continued to attend school, where social distancing measures were carefully maintained, including exercise sessions in the hall inspired by Joe Wicks. Teachers also made weekly phone calls to parents and carers to check on the wellbeing of families and ensure everyone felt supported during this difficult and uncertain time.



A Year 2 child dressed as Dennis the Menace for World Book Day.

Throughout the 2020s, Walmley Infant School has remained committed to providing memorable experiences that inspire, educate and bring joy to its pupils. Whether through exciting trips, special celebrations or unique learning opportunities, the decade has been filled with occasions that have helped children grow in confidence, develop new interests and create treasured memories that will stay with them long after they leave the school.

A Final Message

2020s

For seventy years, Walmley Infant School has been much more than a school, it has been a cherished part of the local community. Since opening its doors in 1956, generations of children have taken their first steps in education within its classrooms, creating a rich history filled with learning, laughter, friendship and achievement.

As the school approaches an exciting new chapter. It is a fitting time to reflect on the remarkable legacy of a place that has touched the lives of thousands of families. Former pupils have returned as parents, and in some cases even grandparents, sharing stories and memories that span decades. The school's history is woven into the history of Walmley itself.

Throughout its seventy years, Walmley Infant School has remained true to its core values of kindness, care and community. It has always been a welcoming and friendly place where children are encouraged to feel safe, happy and valued. Dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to nurture not only academic success but also confidence, curiosity and compassion, helping every child to flourish.

The school has embraced change over the decades, adapting to new ways of teaching and learning while maintaining the warm and caring atmosphere for which it is known. From traditional classroom lessons to new and exciting experiences, Walmley Infant School has continually prepared its pupils for the future while celebrating its proud past.

Seventy years on, Walmley Infant School remains a place where young minds are inspired, lifelong memories are made and community spirit shines brightly. Its past is something to be proud of, its present is full of success, and its future is filled with exciting possibilities.



Children's artwork in 2020.

A HEART FELT THANK YOU

This special 70th Anniversary Newspaper would not have been possible without the contributions, support and enthusiasm of so many people. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped bring together the stories, memories and history that celebrate the remarkable journey of Walmley Infant School.

A special thank you goes to Lesley Porter for her beautiful photographs and for taking us on a wonderful walk down memory lane through the school's rich history. We are also incredibly grateful to Ann Woffinden for sharing her personal experiences of Walmley Primary School, providing a valuable insight into school life over the years. Their contributions have helped bring the story of our school to life and made this publication even more meaningful.

We would also like to thank the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group for generously allowing us to use their historic images and information. Their support has enabled us to showcase and preserve important aspects of our local and school history, helping us to celebrate this milestone with a deeper understanding of our past.

Thank you all for helping us create a lasting tribute to this very special milestone. Your contributions have made this anniversary publication a truly memorable celebration of Walmley Infant School's past, present and future.

Information collated and presented by
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