

# WALTER INFANT SCHOOL JANUARY 2018

*'To be the best I can be'*



Issue 1/18

Tel: 0118 978 0825

[www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,



Happy New Year everyone and welcome back. I would also like to welcome our new families to Walter Infant School. I would like to thank all those of you who sent us Christmas Cards and gifts for the festive time; we all very much appreciated your sentiments and generosity. Mrs Karen Day has joined our school as our new School Business Manager; some of you may know her as her three children all attended Walter Infant School some years ago; we are delighted to have her on our school team and know we will benefit from her knowledge and experience as she has been a School Business Manager before at a school in Bracknell Forest.



## ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Many of our children have excellent attendance at school and our overall attendance is 95.6%. However, this is much lower than we would like it to be. All our children are expected to have 100% attendance, although we know that sometimes children become unwell and are unable to attend school. Attendance at school is also affected by term time holidays and special events. We would like to celebrate the children who have managed to come to school every day since the start of the school year in September by awarding them a 100% attendance certificate.



These will be presented on Friday of this week; we are aware that being unwell is unavoidable but we will be offering the children, who have not managed to have 100% so far, the opportunity to achieve it in the spring and summer terms. We had an assembly for all the children last Friday to talk about how important it is to come to school each day and to share the things they could have missed out on.

Children can come to school with a cough or a runny nose or if they have been prescribed medication that we can administer at school. If your child has a sickness or diarrhoea bug, they cannot come to school for **48 hours** after the last bout of illness. If you need advice or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Please can we also request that you inform the school office or the teachers on duty as soon as possible if your child is unwell; this does not have to be in writing.

## CENSUS DAY

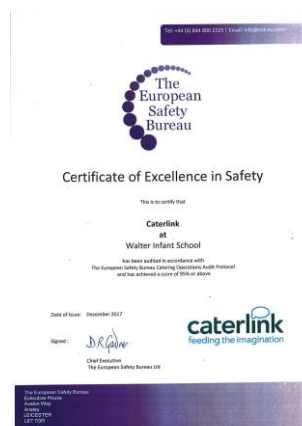
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January is Census day at school; it is very important that all our children come to school on that day as it impacts on our funding! We have a special menu choice for the day so please could all children choose a cooked lunch if possible.

The choices will be hotdogs and potato wedges or cheese and tomato pizza, there will also be a jacket potato option.



## CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Our catering staff, Ms Louise Fisher (our cook) and Miss Zoe Shilton (general assistant), have been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from Caterlink, the company who provide our school lunches. We are delighted to have such excellent provision on our school and I would like to thank Louise and Zoe for all their hard work and for their lovely attitudes towards the children. The children really enjoy their school lunches.



## GRAPES IN PACKED LUNCHES

Please can we ask that any grapes brought into school have been cut in half; this is because children have been known to choke on grapes as a whole grape can completely 'plug' a child's airway. Grapes need to be cut in half lengthways or even into quarters so that they are smaller enough not to be a choking hazard. Thank you for your co-operation.



## NSPCC



# NSPCC

## Speak out. Stay safe.

As you all know, we are working in partnership with the NSPCC to raise awareness of keeping safe; we launched the Speak Out Stay Safe campaign on Wednesday and the children will be taking part in a sponsored circuits course with Jack Dillon and a 'Dance-a-thon' on Friday!



We had a PANTS assembly for Key Stage 1 and the Foundation Stage staff will ensure that the children in F1 and F2 have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

This information is also available for parents:

### TV Advert

As you may be aware the NSPCC have been broadcasting a TV advert to raise awareness of how parents can help their younger children keep safe from child sexual abuse. If you've missed it, you can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/nMIKUsZjirA>

### Parents' Pack for PANTS message

The TV advert directs parents to the PANTS campaign, used in schools for many years. There is now a pack for parents to use, to encourage them to have a conversation that many might feel uncomfortable about having. Information is also available in Welsh and for children with a hearing impairment. The link to the parents' PANTS pack is here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule>

### Pantosaurus App for iOS and Android

The NSPCC have also teamed up with award-winning animators, Aardman to create a free app, for both android and iOS, featuring the Pantosaurus characters. There are four mini games where players test their skills against Pantosaurus. The app is great fun to use, although I'm rubbish at mobile games and struggled with the basketball game! Get the app by going to the relevant App Store below:

Find on Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.org.nspcc.pantosaurus>

The sponsorship money can be returned to school by the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## BALANCEABILITY

The children had a wonderful time learning to balance on the bikes last week; it was very exciting and extremely professional. There are some photographs on the school website. Unfortunately there are no more spaces available but we will try to book another course as soon as possible.





## THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

The thermometer to measure our fundraising success is now on display in the playground; we have received quotes from a number of companies and we will soon begin planning when the work will take place. If you have any great ideas for fundraising, or would like to make a donation to the fund, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would like to submit a lottery funding bid, so if you have any experience in this or any other sponsorship we would very much welcome your expertise and advice. Thank you to all of you who made a donation at the end of the Year 2 singing celebration; we raised £170!



## HEAD LICE

We have had a large number of reported cases of head lice in school, please could you check your children's hair daily to ensure they do not have nits or lice. We recognise that it is an on-going childhood ailment but regular checking and combing with conditioner can reduce the number of infestations. We have some head lice combs in school, if you would like one; please go to the school office at the start or the end of the school day.

Please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/treatment/> for more information.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM AND P.E. KITS

All our children in Key Stage 1 have an outside and an inside P.E. lesson each week; this means they need two types of P.E. kit.



Every child needs a t-shirt and shorts for inside P.E. and jogging bottoms or leggings and a sweatshirt or hoodie for outside P.E. They also need trainers or pumps. If girls have come to school in tights, they will also need a pair of socks. Please can you ensure that your child has a P.E. kit in school all week. Please make sure all items are named. Please can you also ensure that your children's school uniform is labelled too as it can be very difficult sorting out cardigans and jumpers at the end of the day, or polo shirts when changing for P.E.!

## **IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR THE PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT?**

Pupil Premium Funding is an extremely valuable resource for our school and can hugely benefit the children who qualify for the grant and many other children too as we can use it to fund classroom support and resources.

If your family circumstances have changed recently, such as a loss of or change to your employment or sadly a relationship breakdown leading to sole parenting, you may be entitled to the funding. The identities of the families who qualify for the grant are protected.

If you qualify for any of the benefits below, the school (through the local authority) may be able to claim additional funding to support your child's education. This funding is very beneficial for your children and the school as a whole. If you wish to register please call at the School Office for a form or download one from the website.

To be eligible at least one parent must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit

We use the funding for many things, including a free extra-curricular club for every PPG child; we can also use it to supplement school trips and even uniform, when a need has been identified. We do understand that no money actually comes into the household, but the benefits to the school and are children are huge.

## **MATHEMATICS WORKSHOPS**

The parents and carers in Year 2 will receive an invitation to attend two workshops on mathematics; the places will be limited to 30 adults (1 per family) and each adult must be available to attend both workshops. Each session will last 45 minutes:

- Addition and Subtraction - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2:30 - 3:15
- Multiplication, Division and Fractions - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 2:30 - 3:15

If more than 30 people request a place, we will run additional workshops in March.

## **READING WITH YOUR CHILD AT HOME**

Research shows that children who are supported with their reading at home make better progress in school. Most children at Walter Infant School are supported at home with their reading; we would like to ask that you find a few minutes each day to read with your child, to ask them questions about what they have read and discuss the characters and events, sharing preferences. We would also like to request that you record in the reading diary each time you read with your child. We hold reading meetings with our parents at the beginning of the school year (in the autumn) however, if there are parents who would like to attend a meeting now because they missed the autumn meeting, please let us know. Your child can change their book every day; please remind them to change their books as they come into school. If your child forgets to change their book, they can come in at the end of the day to do so. Your child will be told which colour band to take home; please only take home the colour band dictated by the class teacher.

If you would like more information: this website might be quite useful

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/supporting-you/families/reading-tips/how-to-read-with-your-child/#!?sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1>

## **PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

All our parents are invited to join the Parents' Association; if you would like more information, please contact [walterinfantspa@gmail.com](mailto:walterinfantspa@gmail.com) .

If you do any online shopping you can go to the shopping site via the 'Easy Fundraising' site <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterinfantpa> - the school will receive a cashback amount on every purchase. There are lots and lots of companies that will donate a percentage of your spend to school and it is very easy to set up.

If you are thinking of buying a micro-scooter you can raise money for the school by purchasing it on their website <http://www.micro-scooters.co.uk/> - the school can earn 10% 'cashback' for every purchase if you enter our URN number **109869** in the 'Apply School Code' box.

## AND FINALLY...

We are looking forward to having a fun-filled and exciting term. If you have any questions, queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me on [head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk) or by telephone on 9780825. You can always catch me or Mrs Prickett on the doors in the morning and all our class teachers are available at the end of the day.

Judy Wheeler  
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	NSPCC assembly for all children in school
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Balance-ability (60 F2 and Y1 children)
15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Sponsored circuits events and Dance-a-thon
24 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	NSPCC sponsor money into school
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Mathematics Workshop 1 (Year 2 parents)
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Valentine's Disco (Year 1 @ 4:00 pm and Year 2 @ 5:30 pm)
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Start of Half Term break
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Back to school
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Mathematics Workshop 2 (year 2 parents)
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Book Fair arrives
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	World Book Day - sharing bedtime stories (come to school in pyjamas)
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Last day of Book Fair
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Mother's Day Celebration in Foundation Stage
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Foundation Stage Stay and Play
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	3:30 - 7:00 pm Parent Consultations
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Parent Consultations with Crèche (School Closed)