



Friday Flyer!

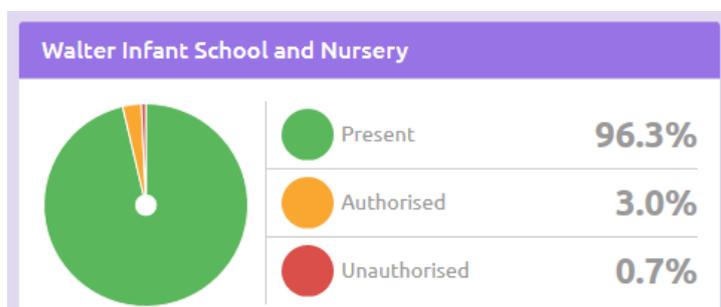
Dear Walter Families,

Happy New Year one and all and welcome back to school; we had an amazing day on Monday with our children coming happily into school. One or two found it hard to say goodbye to their mummy but were soon happily chatting with their friends and their teachers. Many of you reported that your children were excited to come back to school and all the staff have said the same. It makes me so proud to know what a happy school we are!



Attendance

All our children are expected to come to school every day; that is 190 days of the year. Of course, we understand that some children will be unwell, we have cases of chicken pox at the moment and there are many childhood illnesses that will result in children being too unwell to come to school. We also recognise that there may be unforeseen circumstances when children are unable to come to school as well as religious events and other special occasions. Please ensure that you complete an absence request if your child needs to have time away from school. Every request will be considered on its own merit. We regularly monitor attendance and today our attendance is:



We also monitor individual attendance and become concerned when a child is attending less than 95% of the time. If a child's attendance is below 90% the local authority would classify them as a persistent absentee. We will be writing to all families who have a child who has attendance at less than 90% unless we are aware of a health reason that would result in an extended absence from school. Please try hard to ensure that your child comes to school every day unless they are poorly. If you oversleep, please bring your child into school as soon as you can.

We have awarded 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term; if your child has not received one, don't worry because all children have the chance to win a certificate for the spring term.

Pine Class has the highest level of 100% attendance in school, with 12 children coming to school every day.



Pine also had the highest attendance for the whole class:

Class	Attendance %
Pine	96.5%
Magpie	96.4%
Beech	96.2%
Larch	95.7%
Sycamore	95.5%
Woodpecker	95.1%
Oak	94.8%
Dove	94.3%
Robin	93.2%
Willow	92.1%

So as you can see, it is very close!

Late arrivals

Some children are regularly late for school; this can be very unsettling for our young children and they also miss out on the start of the school day. This is a time when the children are registered, choose their lunches, change their reading books, chat informally with friends and staff and play with the table top activities. It is also an opportunity for teachers to catch up with children about mistakes or misconceptions they may have had the day before. We keep stringent records of arrival times and we will be issuing letters to the families of children who have been late 10 times or more. I recognise that parking around the school is very difficult and I know that the traffic can be very heavy so please allow a little longer for your journeys to ensure that your child is in school by 8:50 am at the latest. Thank you so much for your cooperation with his matter.

Thursday 16th January: Census Day

Thank you to everyone who has returned their dinner order for next Thursday 16th January. Our funding is very much dependent on the number of children on role, in school and having a lunch provided by our kitchens. Please try hard to ensure that your children come to school on Thursday (even if you have overslept) and that they have a school lunch. We are providing a school packed lunch on this day too. Thank you so much for your anticipated support with this.

Crossing Murray Road

Since the installation of the puffin crossing, we have noticed a number of families crossing the road dangerously, walking in front of parked cars or behind cars and also crossing by the corner where approaching vehicles will not be able to see pedestrians. We have had several near misses where drivers have been reversing their cars as pedestrians have stepped behind moving vehicles. I would strongly like to advise you that you cross at the two crossings only so that you are all safe. Thank you.

<https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/rules-for-pedestrians-crossing-the-road.html>



Lunchtime Controller Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Key Stage 1 lunchtime controller in school; if you are interested in finding out more information please speak to Mrs Prickett or email Mrs Day on finance@walter.wokingham.sch.uk for an application pack. We are a very happy place to work and our children are wonderful and very well behaved. It is an excellent opportunity to work term time only and a good starting point if you are interested in having a career in a school.

Spanish Lunchtime Club – Places still available

It's not too late to sign your child up to join our Tuesday lunchtime Spanish Club this term. The club is open to all Year 1 and Year 2 children and no prior knowledge of Spanish is required.

'**BilinguaSing**' runs sensory bilingual music classes that stand out from the usual language clubs on offer and our '**¡Vamos!**' ('Let's Go!') programme is specifically designed for Primary Schools. Our songs are infectious, the props we use are engaging and really capture the imagination.

The club will run **every Tuesday lunchtime from 14th January – 24th March (12.15pm – 12.45pm)**. The cost is **£6 per week, so £60 in total for the 10 week course**.

To sign your child up just visit <https://bilinguasing-wokingham-schools.class4kids.co.uk/> or email Kate@bilinguasing.com with any queries.

Rise and Shine Club

There are still places available for children in KS1 and F2 to attend the Rise and Shine Breakfast Club which is open from 7.30am and the start of the school day. We do not provide breakfast, but the children can bring a snack and a drink.

We offer a variety of activities, including table top games, drawing, colouring and reading; they are a calm, quiet and enjoyable start to the school day. The cost of the club is £5.50 per day and the sessions are bookable in advance via the School Gateway portal.

Robin Lunch Club

Children who attend Robin Nursery are able to attend Lunch Club either at the end of their morning session or before their afternoon session. The children can bring their own packed lunch and share the lunchtime with their friends. The cost of the club is £5.50 per day and the sessions can be booked in advance. Children who attend for 30 hours can have an additional hour, until 3:30 pm for £5.50 a day.

If you are interested in either club, please

email finance@walter.wokingham.sch.uk. If children have not attended either club before, their name will need to be added to the relevant club booking system before parents are able to book and pay for their sessions.

Pupil Premium Funding

What is it?

Pupil Premium funding was introduced in 2011; it is a sum of money (£1320) given to the school, for any child who qualifies for Free School Meals or for any child who was eligible for free school meals from Reception to Year 6. Pupil Premium funding lasts for 6 years of a child's school life from the date it begins.

Do you have an income that is less than...

£16,190!

Or are you in receipt of any of the benefits below?

Universal credit (provided you have a net income of £7400 or less)

- **Income support**
- **Income-based jobseekers' allowance**
- **Income-related employment and support allowance**
- **Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of state pension credit**
- **Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less**

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called Universal Credit.

Universal Credit is being rolled out, with an expected completion date of March 2022. All pupils who were eligible for free school meals up to April 2018 will continue to receive free school meals during this period. This is a useful link that will tell you more about it; <https://www.theschoolrun.com/the-parents-guide-to-the-pupil-premium>

Please speak to Mrs Janes in the school office. Every enquiry is completely confidential.

We use the money to provide extra-curricular clubs, additional adult support and resources. We can use it to help with school uniform including coats and shoes. We have sometimes used it for school trips or as a contribution for school events. Every child and family has different needs and we will do everything we can to help.

Dates for you diary

16th January 2020	Willow Class Assembly for Willow parents at 9:00 am in the hall.
22nd January 2020	F2 Eye Tests
11th February 2020	School Photographer
4-9th March 2020	Book Fair
1st April 2020	Parent Consultations
30th April 2020	Y1 Birdworld Trip
4th May 2020	Maypole Dance Workshop

And finally....

If you have any concerns that you might need help with please remember that you can contact me on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk at any time. Have a wonderful weekend.

Judy Wheeler
Headteacher