

WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2017

'To be the best I can be'



Issue 11/17

Tel: 0118 978 0825

www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

We are very much looking forward to our Parent Consultations this week and hope that you have found the online booking system helpful. If you have not made an appointment there is still time; please contact your class teacher or Mrs Janes in the school office to see which appointments are still available. If you are unable to make an appointment on the days available please speak to the class teacher to arrange a convenient time on a different day.

The next two weeks are going to be very busy at school with lots of wonderful opportunities for us all to learn together and to celebrate our school values and British Values. Please check the dates and add them to your diaries.

It has suddenly become much colder; we have noticed that some children are arriving at school very early, often before 8:30 am; we would recommend arriving at school after 8:30 am so that the children are not waiting in the cold for too long. Please ensure your child has a warm coat, gloves, a scarf and a hat as we will still be playing outside.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We sent out our annual Parent's Questionnaire at the end of the school year in July and would like to thank all of you who responded. We have now analysed the responses and made some changes to what will happen at school from now on:

- 99% of children are happy at school
- 99% of children feel safe at school
- 88% of parents think the school is well led and managed
- 43% of parents do not know how effectively we deal with bullying
- 11% of parents did not like the early parent consultations in the first month of the new term
- 11% of parents would like more information about their child's progress
- 5% parents think there should be more homework
- 3 parents expressed a concern about staff changes at Walter Infant School

The safety and happiness of the children are the main priority for the staff at Walter Infant School; happy children become happy and successful learners and this is reflected in our successful data and in the progress and attainment of our children. We have lots to celebrate and feel proud of. Wokingham Borough Council agree with us and have awarded us a gold grading which means we are an outstanding school. We have worked hard to ensure that the school is safe, making a number of significant changes; our children know how to articulate that they feel safe at school which is wonderful.

We have moved the parent consultations to later in the Autumn Term and will be sharing the children's English, Mathematics and Science work in the classrooms. We will have two days for consultations in the Spring Term, as we did last using the last day of term so that as many parents as possible will be able to attend. We will share our information in the form of a written report at the end of the academic year and we are looking at ways in which we can improve the reports further.

As 95% of our families are happy with the expectations for homework, we will not be making a change. Reading will continue to be our main focus along with spellings in Key Stage One. We have introduced some mathematics homework in Year 2 this year and will continue to ask for your support with topic work, such as World War One and Famous People.

We will continue to work as hard as we can to improve the way in which the school is led and managed and will have suggestion boxes available during our consultation evenings.

There will always be staff changes within any work place as people's circumstances change; we are hopeful that these will be kept to a minimum at Walter Infant School and that the changes will not have a negative impact on our school community.

Please see below to see what we have put in place with regard to bullying at Walter Infant School.

ANTI-BULLYING AT WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

The week beginning the 13th of November is National Anti-bullying week; you will have already received an email sharing this information. The children will be learning what bullying behaviour looks like, how it impacts on how people feel and what to do if they think they or someone they know is experiencing bullying behaviour. We would like to invite parents to a session to share that children's work and the strategies the children are learning on Wednesday 22nd of November at 2:45 pm. Please come along if you are able to.



<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/news-insight/news/theme-anti-bullying-week-2017-has-been-announced-%E2%80%98all-different-all-equal%E2%80%99>

CHILDREN IN NEED

We sent an email home last week sharing our ideas for Children in Need; we feel that it is important for our children to be aware of the fund raising for Children in Need as it is all around us. This is our second year supporting Children in Need; last year we raised £304 which was amazing. Our theme this year is to 'Dress up, Dress down, Dress Fancy'. We would also like the children to share jokes in our assembly on the day, so if your child has a funny joke to share with their teacher, please help them to write it down and bring it into school in the week beginning 13th November so that the class teachers can choose some jokes to share on the 17th November. We will have some buckets available at the beginning and end of the day to collect any donations you wish to make.



REINDEER IN SCHOOL

On Monday 13th November reindeer will be coming to school; this is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn all about reindeer (building on their knowledge from last year) and for us to have a VERY exciting day at school. The reindeer visit was so memorable and so successful we very much wanted to repeat it. The Parents Association paid for half of the cost of the visit last

year and has kindly agreed to do the same again. We would therefore like to ask for a voluntary contribution of £1:00 per child which will be collected by the staff in the classroom on the day. At the end of the day there will be an opportunity for older and younger siblings to come in and meet the reindeer and we will have other activities such as 'Guess the Name of the Reindeer'.



POPPIES

I will be selling poppies and other items, such as 'snap bands' and wrist bands, to raise money and awareness for our armed forces today and in the past. The children in Year Two have been learning about the First World War and selling poppies is a reminder for all of us to consider the sacrifices made by others. Please remember to come early as the 'snap bands' sell out very quickly.



SCHOOL LUNCH TASTER SESSION

On Tuesday 28th November, at the end of the school day, we will be holding a school lunches taster session for parents and carers to taste the food that is on the menu for the children at Walter Infant School. Caterlink, the company that provides our school lunches, will be sending further information soon.



caterlink
feeding the imagination

SITE CONTROLLER AT WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

I am delighted to announce that we have successfully recruited a new full time Site Controller for our school. Mr Fennell will be joining us on Monday 4th December and we are all very excited as it will make a huge difference to everyone. Mr Fennel is experienced in Site Controlling and joins us from another school. Sadly, this means we will be saying farewell and Good Luck to Mr Palterman and Mr Prickett. I would like to thank them both for their hard work and dedication and wish them every success and happiness in the future.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We are hoping to have lots of additional fund-raising this academic year to raise money to further development outside environment, including resurfacing areas of the playground. We are also hoping to buy a wooden outside teaching area. If you have any good ideas or would like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact the Parents Association or myself.

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

There are lots of exciting events and fund raising opportunities coming up with Christmas just around the corner and you can support our school whilst doing your Christmas shopping!

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 cash back 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 buy anything from a company called Yellow Moon www.yellowmoon.org.uk who specialise in craft activities you can enter the code **SWA1274** at the checkout to get 10% cash back for the school. 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% 'cash back' for every purchase if you enter our URN number **109869** in the 'Apply School Code' box.

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**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**

We also receive funding for children in care, looked after children and children who have a special guardianship order in place.

Service Children

Children of armed service personnel are also eligible. Service children are children and young people from families where one or more parents is currently in the British armed forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria:

- **one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces**
- **one of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years**
- **one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)**

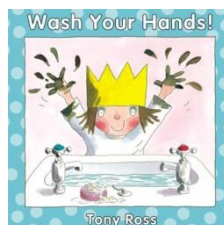
We use the funding for many things, including a free extra-curricular club for every PPG child; we can also use it to supplement school trips and even uniform, when a need has been identified. We do understand that no money actually comes into the household, but the benefits to the school and are children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

HEALTH MATTERS

We now have a school inhaler and a school EpiPen that we will be able to use in the case of an emergency if we are directed to do so by a medical professional, for example a paramedic on route to school; this reflects a change to national Health and Safety expectations.

Please check the use by dates on any inhalers or auto-immune injectors that we have in school for your children and that you replace them if required.

May I remind you that if your child has suffered from sickness or diarrhoea that they remain absent from school for 48 hours after their last episode of illness.



AND FINALLY...

We operate an 'Open Door Policy' at Walter Infant School; this means that all our teachers are available at the end of the school day to talk to parents about any concerns at all. If you need more time than a few minutes, you are welcome to make an appointment through the school office or with myself or Mrs Prickett. Any messages for the day can be shared with the adults on duty on the doors or in the school office. We will always make time for you to discuss anything that you need to or things that you are worried about so please do not hesitate to contact us.

I am happy to be contacted directly on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk if there are any matters that you would like to discuss. I am also available at the beginning and end of nearly every school day.

We have added some dates for your diary below; there will be further events added to the school calendar as the year progresses.

Judy Wheeler
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
14 th September 2017	Phonics and Reading Meeting for Key Stage 1
20 th September 2017	School Photographer
23 rd September 2017	Talk like a Pirate Day
11 th October 2017	Book Fair
20 th October 2017	Harvest Festival
6 th November 2017	Parent Consultations and Robin Open Evening
8 th November 2017	Parent Consultations and Robin Open Evening
13 th - 17 th November 2017	Anti-bullying week
13 th November 2017	Reindeer in School (£1 contribution per child please)
17 th November 2017	Children in Need - Dress up, dress down, dress fancy!
22 nd November 2017	Anti-bullying meeting for parents at 2:45 pm
4 th December 2017	Year One Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal
5 th December 2017	Year One Christmas Production for Beech Parents
6 th December 2017	Year One Christmas Production for Larch Parents
7 th December 2017	Year One Christmas Production for Oak Parents
8 th December 2017	2:30 I-Rock concert for I-Rock parents
8 th December 2017	3:15 Cake Sale for Parents Association
11 th December 2017	Foundation Stage Play and Stay week
13 th December 2017	Christmas Lunch for pupils
14 th December 2017	Open Box Theatre Christmas Show for all children

15 th December 2017	Christmas/Seasonal Jumper Day
15 th December 2017 8:45 am	Foundation Stage Christmas Celebration for parents
15 th December 2017 2:45 pm	Year 2 Christmas Celebration for parents
18 th December 2017	Children's parties
18 th December 2017	9:00 am Violin Assembly for Violin Parents
19 th December 2017	Last day of term (finishing at 2:20 pm)
3 rd January 2018	INSET DAY
4 th January 2018	First day of Spring Term