

WALTER INFANT SCHOOL MARCH 2018

'To be the best I can be'



Issue 3/18

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Dear Parents,

Well! What an exciting few days we have been having; thank you everyone for your patience and understanding during the clash between 'The Beast from the East' and 'Storm Emma'. It is never easy making the decision to close the school, but we feel the right decision was made, in partnership with St Paul's for the safety of our children, parents and staff. The children certainly enjoyed their snowy days with family and friends and the Year 2 children have produced some amazing writing about their personal experiences and adventures. Today, although it remains cold, the sun is shining brightly on Walter Infant School and 'Spring' has definitely 'Sprung!'



Our eight lovely chicks were collected on Thursday 1st March and carefully delivered to their new homes! The two little girls have gone to live with Mrs Lloyd!

WALTER BOOK DAY

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the book fair; we are sorry that some of you missed out as it was collected during the day on **Tuesday 6th March**; however, all good book shops will accept the £1 vouchers that your children brought home. **WALTER BOOK DAY** will now be on Tuesday 13th March and we would like the children to come to school in their pyjamas (as you know many of the staff will be doing the same) we suggest that the children wear trainers with their pyjamas as they will still be playing out and running around. Please send your children to school with their favourite bedtime story to share with their teachers and their friends. The local newspaper reporter will be visiting at 11:00 a.m. so hopefully we will be in the papers!



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT OFFICER for WALTER

Mr Jim Mathieson, our School Improvement Officer from Wokingham Borough Council came to visit our school in February; in his report he said he was:

“...delighted to be invited to join a Year 2 class assembly at 9a.m. The contents of this assembly further cemented the SIO’s belief that the school is an outstanding setting. As the parents waited for the assembly to begin individual pupil’s work was displayed on the screen. This included examples of mixed media art work completed at Christmas time of a high standard. The assembly included:

- *Work undertaken to understand the cold lands of the Antarctic, and the penguins that live there*
- *Art work of high quality depicting Antarctic landscapes*
- *Work undertaken to understand the warm lands of Africa, and the animals that live there*
- *A study of the life of Nelson Mandela and the fight for equality in South Africa*
- *Quality writing based on the book, ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’. The individual pupil’s writing was projected onto the hall screen so that parents could read the writing as well as listen to it read*
- *Key Stage 1 gymnastic movements performed to a high standard*
- *Delightful singing with enthusiasm and interest*

Pupils’ behaviour was impeccable whilst individual characters were able to shine through. This was a classic Key Stage 1 assembly of a high standard, with pupils sharing a rich and age-appropriate curriculum which underlines the belief by Jerome Bruner that you can teach anything to any child at any age if it is taught in an age-appropriate manner. “



BEECH CLASS ASSEMBLY

Beech Class had their assembly today (Thursday 8th March) – all the children read their poems about what they would put in their Magic Boxes and all recited ‘Now we are six’ by A.A. Milne beautifully.



Thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents who were able to attend.

DARCEY AND TEAZLE AND MR HOLMES

We were very lucky to have a very special visitor in school on Wednesday 7th March; Mr Holmes, Darcey’s daddy came to see us to talk about the guide dog puppy, Teazole, that they have been caring for at home. She is a wonderful puppy and has now left home to be either a guide dog or to have

guide dog puppies as she is a perfect dog! The children loved meeting Teazole and hearing all about her. They asked lots of very sensible questions and we learned an awful lot from Mr Holmes about how important it is for guide dog puppies to be trained; it costs £50,000 to train one puppy! As you know we are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 9th March to raise money so that we can sponsor up to three guide dogs, the school council are hopeful that we will have one for Year 2, one for Year 1 and one for Foundation. We will need to raise at least £300 so please do make a contribution if you can. This sponsorship supports our British Values in school and the Walter Infant School Respect Agenda. Here are some photographs of Teazole and Darcey and Mr Holmes (and Oliver and Mrs Prickett meeting Teazole).



Once we have sponsored our guide dog puppies we will be able to share regular 'Pupdates' with you!

MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP

We will hold another parent workshop for Mathematical Mental Methods and Written Strategies on Monday 19th March 2018 at 6:00 pm. The session will last approximately 45 minutes. This session is for parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2; places are limited so we are offering one place per family. If you have not yet replied and would like a space please contact Mrs Janes or Mr Lee. We will hold a meeting for Year 2 parents about SATs at the beginning of the Summer Term. We will be sharing the resources and information, for parents who are unable to attend, on the school website after the 19th March. We are looking forward to seeing you.

MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

All staff and visitors at Walter Infant School follow our no mobile phone policy in school; we do allow photographs to be taken during performances on cameras and tablets but we insist that no phone calls are made and that phones are turned off and not in view during lessons or within the school environment. This is to ensure that we follow our strict commitment to safeguarding and keeping our children safe. We have noticed that some parents are using their phones in the school playground and are sometimes on their phones when collecting their children from their teachers. We would like to request that you refrain from doing so unless there is an emergency. The children are so excited to be collected from school and to see the smiling faces of the people picking them up at the end of a long day!



RISE AND SHINE CLUB



We sent out a letter asking if parents and carers would be interested in using a 'Rise and Shine Club' from 7:30 a.m. until the start of the school day. We have had a few responses, but not as many as we had anticipated. However, we have decided that we will start the club after the Easter holidays for the children who have returned their responses. The club will cost £5.50 per session (we will not be providing breakfast but parents can send their child with healthy food and drinks). We will provide access to craft activities, reading activities and the Computing Suite. We hope it will be a calm, quiet and relaxing start to the school day for our children. If you are interested in using the club please contact Mrs Janes in the School Office.

SIGNING CHILDREN OUT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Please could you remember to sign your children out if you are taking them out for a dental or doctor's appointment or if they have become ill or suffered an injury during the school day. We have a pink folder in the reception area of the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

REQUESTS FOR HOLIDAY DURING TERM TIME

I have received a number of requests for holidays during term time; whilst I appreciate that there may be a number of reasons why you might wish to take your child out of school during term time, I will not be able to authorise any holiday, for whatever reason during the school term. Requests for absence for other reasons will all be considered on an individual basis. Any holiday taken during term time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Any unauthorised absence in excess of 5 days will be reported to the Local Authority Educational Welfare Officer, as we are bound by the policies put in place by the Local Authority. Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website; we have just produced a new policy in partnership with all the schools in our local cluster which is awaiting approval by the Governing Body at the next meeting. We will share this as soon as it is available; if you have any questions at all about attendance, please speak to myself or Mrs Janes.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

You will have all seen our thermometer in the playground and we have now displayed our dreams for the new playgrounds. During the Easter holidays some big improvements will be made to the Foundation Stage 'Outside' Classroom; including new 'no mow' and playground markings! This is being paid for by money raised by the Parent's Association. Thank you so much. We would like to carry out further improvements as soon as possible so would very much appreciate donations to the playground fund. If you have any good ideas for fundraising, such as sponsored events we would love to hear about them. Some of you may work for companies who make donations to local schools or who would like to sponsor the school in some way; if so we would love to hear from you. Sadly, Wokingham Borough Council is the lowest funded authority in England and budgets at our school are becoming increasingly tight so we will need to look at new ways to raise money for our school. Our parents association are amazing but I am sure we can do more!

SCHOOL LETTINGS

As we now have our wonderful new Site Controller, Mr Fennell we are in the position to start letting the school out to clubs and organisations in the evening or even at weekends. We have a new lettings policy which will be managed by our equally wonderful new School Business Manager, Mrs Day. If you

would like to discuss letting our facilities at a very reasonable rate, which will be used to boost the school's budget, please contact Mrs Day via the school office.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association are holding their Spring Bake Sale on Friday 23rd March at the end of the school day; they have already sent out the Walter Warbler to parents asking for 30 volunteer bakers to bake a batch of cupcakes or a large cake, or sausage rolls, savoury muffins, pakoras or pizzas. Please remember that we are a nut free zone! The last bake sale raised more than £350!



We would also like some volunteers to help with setting up the bake sale or selling the cakes. We will also be holding a second hand uniform sale so need volunteers to help with that too!

AND FINALLY...

We will be having our Parent Consultation meetings during the last week of term; please ensure you make an appointment with your child's class teacher. If you have a child with Special Educational Needs and would like to see Mrs Ambler, she will be available on Tuesday 27th until 6:00 pm for a drop in appointment. If the days we have arranged our appointments for are not convenient, please speak directly to your child's class teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Judy Wheeler
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
10 th January 2018	NSPCC assembly for all children in school
11 th January 2018	Balance-ability (60 F2 and Y1 children)
15 th - 19 th January 2018	Sponsored circuits events and Dance-a-thon
24 th January 2018	NSPCC sponsor money into school
5 th February 2018	Mathematics Workshop 1 (Year 2 parents)
8 th February 2018	Valentine's Disco (Year 1 @ 4:00 pm and Year 2 @ 5:30 pm)
9 th February 2018	Start of Half Term break
19 th February 2018	Back to school
19 th February 2018	Mathematics Workshop 2 (year 2 parents)
27 th February 2018	Book Fair arrives
5 th March 2018	Last day of Book Fair
9 th March 2018	Mother's Day Celebration in Foundation Stage
13 th March 2018	Walter Book Day - sharing bedtime stories (come to school in pyjamas)
19 th March 2018	Foundation Stage Stay and Play
27 th March 2018	3:30 - 7:00 pm Parent Consultations
29 th March 2018	Parent Consultations with Crèche (School Closed)
Monday 16 th April	Start of the Summer Term
Thursday 26 th April	New parents to Robin meeting
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed

Monday 28 th May to 1 st June	Half term holiday
Monday 4 th June	Inset Day - School Closed
Tuesday 5 th June	Back to school