

WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

APRIL 2018

'To be the best I can be'



Issue 4/18

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Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful spring break; we have been having such a busy, but wonderful time at school and now at last the sun has started to shine. So much has happened since my last newsletter, including our wonderful Walter Book Day in March when all the children and teachers came to school in their pyjamas and shared their favourite books; it was a day filled with fun and laughter. We have placed some of the photographs on the school website for you to see.



FUND RAISING AND DONATIONS

We had a very successful Easter Bake Sale and Second Hand Uniform Sale organised by the Parent's Association after the I-Rock concert on the Friday before we broke up; we raised an amazing **£577.00!** Thank you to everyone who baked delicious cakes and savoury items and to everyone who bought them – I am sure you enjoyed them. We also had our first chocolate tombola, organised by our school council members; we raised **£362.50** which was wonderful and the children felt so proud of themselves. Thank you to everyone who donated chocolate and we would like to apologise to those of you who were unable to buy tickets. We were delighted to receive chocolate donations from four local supermarkets and would like to thank them also (our school councillors have written directly to the stores to let them know how much money was raised). We have been able to add another red block to our school thermometer!



We would also like to say a huge thank you to one of our families who made a very generous donation of £400 to the school funds; they would like to remain anonymous and we are extremely grateful. We

will be using the money to develop and improve the learning environment inside the school so that as many children as possible can benefit.

TESCO BLUE COUNTERS

We are very excited as you can now begin to collect blue counters at Tesco in Wokingham to fund our Foundation Stage Playground: this is part of the Tesco Bags of Help Programme; please support the school by visiting Tesco and collecting blue counters for our school appeal. Our box will be in the Wokingham store during May and June. The top prize is £4000 for the box with the most counters in it – we would love this to be us! Please let all your friends, family and neighbours know too.

Find out more using this link;

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/the-tesco-bags-of-help-programme-tes2>



TESCO

Bags of Help



FOUNDATION STAGE PLAYGROUND

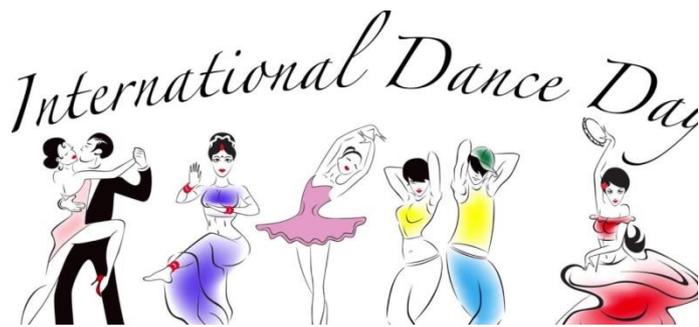
We have had some work done in the Foundation Stage Playground to improve our environment; this was funded by the Parents Association and looks fantastic. The children love the new target and snake and they are using mathematical vocabulary to discuss their play. We would like to thank Mr Cole (Oakland Tree Services) for his help in making this possible by donating his time, skill and energy to grind down the unsightly tree stump that had been left behind some years ago. It looks wonderful now and we are hopeful that the money we raise through Tesco and the Summer Fair will help us to improve the environment even more.



INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

We will be celebrating **International Dance Day** at Walter Infant School; Miss Joanna Wright, from The Wright School of Dance will be visiting to teach every child a new and exciting dance, which we hope to perform at The Summer Fair on 16th June 2018. Miss Joanna came last year on World Music Day and we all had a really wonderful time.

Please could every child bring in a voluntary contribution of £1 to go towards the cost of the day; we are very excited as last year was amazing.



STORY BOXES

We also received a very generous donation from the employer of one of our governors, of £420! As we are a school which fosters a love of learning for literature we have decided to use the money to produce a collection of story boxes to promote the curriculum. Every teacher has resourced a story box to develop a love of reading in our children. Everyday the children come into the classroom to an array of exciting activities, the story boxes will support this, as well as our daily guided reading sessions and our curriculum. Each story box will have good quality fiction and non-fiction books, as well as toys, games, puppets, activities and much more. If you would like to know more about our story box collection or would like to produce a story box to donate to school, please do not hesitate to contact us. Here are some photographs of just four of our growing collection of 15!



RADIO TIMES COMPETITION

As you all know Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are getting married; we have entered a competition with the Radio Times to have a picture of the wedding on the front cover of the edition published for the Royal Wedding. All the children produced their designs and we sent many of them off to the Radio Times to be judged! We were so impressed by the children's work and are keeping our fingers and toes crossed that one of our children will win. We will be displaying some of the designs in the school garden and entrance hall in time for the wedding. Here are a few of our favourites!



SCHOOL GARDEN PARTY

We will be celebrating the Royal Wedding by having a Royal Garden Party; we would love the children to come to school in bow ties and tiara's with red, white and blue clothes. We would like to have a picnic, along with songs and dances, like the parties we held for The Queen's 90th birthday and our One Love celebration last summer. We would very much welcome contributions to the picnic, such as cakes, samosa, pakoras, pizza slices, biscuits, crisps etc. There will be a list available in the office from Monday for families to sign up offering to bring a donation on the day. The party will take place on Friday 18th May in the afternoon. It should be great fun and a wonderful way for our whole community to celebrate a national event. There will be more information nearer to the time.

RISE AND SHINE CLUB



Our Rise and Shine Club began last week and is already very successful; we are full on Fridays but still have some spaces on other days during the week. The children are really enjoying the club and we have had very positive feedback from our parents. If you are interested in using the club, please speak to Mrs Janes or Mrs Hemmings in the school office. It is our intention to expand the club to 24 places in September, so if you would like to reserve a place, please speak to the school office also.

SCHOOL FAIR

The School Fair is taking place on Saturday 16th June at 11:00 am; this is our biggest fund-raising event and we would appreciate everyone's support. Please come along, with your families and friends to help raise money to improve our school grounds. There will be lots of fun to be had and lots of delicious food and drink to enjoy. If you would like to be part of the team, look out for the Walter Warbler to find out more about our Parent's Association; we always need more members and more expertise and ideas. If you have a good idea or would like to run a stall or activity, please let us know as soon as possible. We are also interested in any entertainers, such as puppet shows or circus skills who would be interested in publicising their businesses such as children's parties. We are hoping to

improve our football and basket ball area over the summer holidays, so we will need a lot more red blocks in our thermometer!

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

I am delighted to announce that our parent consultations were a huge success again this term; our teachers have been able to ensure that they have made an appointment with every family or spoken to parents at the beginning or end of the school day; We still have a couple of appointments to complete; but we are happy to note that everyone has had the chance to find out how their children are getting on at school and to learn about their successes, challenges and targets. Well done everyone.

SATS WEEK

SATS week will begin on Monday 14th May; please ensure that your Year 2 children come to school every day that week. Thank you to everyone who came to our SATS meetings last week; we were very pleased to see so many of you. If you were unable to attend, you will be able to find all the information on the school website. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please try to ensure that your children have a good night's sleep, a healthy and filling breakfast and a smooth and stress-free start to the day.

NSPCC PARENTS WORKSHOP

We have been able to book an NSPCC workshop for parents on Online Safety for children; it is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9th May at 2:00 pm. Some parents have already said they will be attending, but we need 30 parents or more for the event to go ahead. You will learn a lot about the dangers and hidden pitfalls of internet access and learn how to ensure your children are safe when accessing the internet. So, if your children play online games, this is a must for you. Please let Mrs Janes know if you will be coming along, it would be a great shame if we are not able to run the workshop due to lack of interest; we had to book it 18 months ago as it is in such demand nationally.



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.

AND FINALLY...

Year One will be going on their first school coach trip to Bird World on Thursday 10th May, you will have received all the paperwork this week, so please complete it as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the trip, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We have attached a flyer about an up and coming free tennis event that may be of interest to some of our families.

If you have any questions or queries about school please remember our open door philosophy, our teachers are available at the end of every school day, or contact us via the school office or directly on my school email address head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk.

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
Wednesday 2 nd May	International Dance Day with Miss Joanna Wright
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Wednesday 9 th May	NSPCC Meeting for parents - re: Online Safety
Thursday 10 th May	Year One trip to Birdworld
Monday 14 th May	SATS week in Year Two
Friday 18 th May	Garden Party for the Royal Wedding
Wednesday 23 rd May	Phonics Screening meetings 2:50 pm and 6:00 pm
Thursday 24 th May	Oak Class Assembly
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
Week beginning 11 th June	Phonics Screening for Year One and some of Year Two
Friday 15 th June	Key Stage 1 Sports Morning on St Paul's field Foundation Stage Father's Day Celebration
Saturday 16 th June	Summer Fair
Friday 29 th June	Foundation Stage Sports Day
Thursday 5 th and Friday 6 th July	Year 2 trip to Woolley Firs
Week beginning 16 th July	Year 2 Leaver's Concerts
Monday 23 rd July	Leaver's Disco
Tuesday 24 th July	Last Day of Term - finish 1 hour early