

WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

MARCH 2017

'To be the best I can be'



Issue 3/17

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Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy few weeks at school and this half term is flying by; there are lots of things to look forward to before the Easter holidays and lots of successes to celebrate. The sun is shining brightly this morning; however, it is still very cold so please ensure that your children have warm clothes to wear.

Friday 24th March will be an extremely busy day at school; it will be Red Nose Day, as well as our Mother's Day Celebration for Foundation Stage. We will also be having an I Rock concert at 2:30pm for the parents of the children in the rock bands and a cake and second hand uniform sale at the end of the school day.

Wednesday 22nd March is our annual Governor Day – we will be holding our Star of the Week assembly on that day and the governors will be available in the school playground at the beginning of the day.

MRS LUCIDO AND SYCAMORE CLASS

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that Mrs Lucido is leaving us on Friday 28th April; she has made a decision to take a break from full time teaching, but will hopefully be able to do some supply cover for us, so we are not saying goodbye to her completely.

I am delighted to say that we have successfully appointed a new teacher, Miss Alice Mills, who will be joining our team on Tuesday 18th April; this will allow lots of time for a smooth handover. I have just heard today that Miss Mills will be visiting on Wednesday 15th March so we will organise for the parents of the children in Sycamore to meet with her before the end of the school day.

I would like to thank Mrs Lucido for all her hard work, dedication and commitment to the children of Walter Infant School over many years; she will be very much missed by the children and the staff.



WOODLEY FESTIVAL AND THE SCHOOL CHOIR

On Saturday 4th March the School Choir took part in Woodley Festival at The Emmbrook School; our school choir is led by Mrs Morris and were accompanied on the piano by Mr Waterman. The performance was absolutely amazing; the competition was stiff, however, Walter Infant School sang and performed beautifully. They were in complete unison and their singing was perfect. We were announced the well-deserved winners and I would like to thank Mrs Morris for her dedication

and expertise. I would also like to thank Mrs Lucido, Mrs Ball and Mrs Clarke for helping at the festival and supporting the children and the organisers. It was also lovely to see so many parents, sibling, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends in the audience. We are all looking forward to the trophy arriving in school so that we can display it in our library. I would also like to thank Mrs Bates who spent the whole day helping in the car park (and she got very wet!)



EXCITING EVENTS

The Open Box Theatre company came in twice last week; on Monday 27th February they worked with all the children in Year 1 to support the English curriculum and the work the children have been doing on fairy tales and story writing. On Wednesday 1st March they came into work with Year 2 to support the history curriculum and the children learned more about the Great Fire of London. Each event was very exciting and provided a memorable experience for the children and teachers alike.



World Book Day was a huge success with nearly every child and adult coming to school dressed as a book character. We had two school assemblies, where the children were able to parade in their costumes. There were also lots of opportunities for the children to talk about their favourite books and stories. The book fair has also been hugely successful and we are hopeful that we will be able to buy lots of lovely new books for the Foundation Stage with the commission we make.



CHARITY EVENTS

We had a wonderful day wearing blue clothes to remember Ollie Young and were quite overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our families; Sarah Young, Ollie's mummy, collected the four heavy collecting buckets and let us know that we raised a whopping £467.22, which is amazing and she was absolutely delighted. The money will be used by the Foundation for further research. Find out more by following this link: www.ollieyoungfoundation.org



Red Nose Day is fast approaching; it will be on 24th March and we are asking that we show our support by wearing something red to school. You can come dressed head to toe in red or just wear one or two accessories – it will be a non-uniform day so the children can wear whatever else they like. We will be sharing our favourite jokes throughout the week, so perhaps you would like to help your child choose a joke to share with their class. We will be selling red noses after school during the week to raise money and awareness.



GOVERNORS CORNER

I am pleased to announce and welcome two new governors to the Governing Body - Shelia Donohoe as the newly elected Parent Governor and Stuart Gale as a Co-opted Governor. I look forward to working with them both. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a governor or what we do then please contact me through the school office.

The Governors have been working with the school on updating the website so you may have noticed a new look home screen. If you have any comments on the website and its contents then please let us know.

Finally we are looking forward to our annual Governors Day on 22nd March and spending the day in school. We will also be available in the playground at school drop off too if there are any questions that parents would like to ask us.

Karen Hampton
Chair of Governors

SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS

Many of you will be aware of the fact that the government is proposing to cut funding to schools drastically. You may also be aware of the fact that Wokingham is one of the lower funded boroughs in the country. In fact, a look at the funding for neighbouring authorities, as well as nationally, tells us that we have been the lowest-funded authority for some time, in spite of all efforts to rally MPs. The rationale for this is not entirely clear, although some of it may be based around the need to take into account areas of deprivation and challenge; Wokingham is deemed a socially privileged area.

The Chair of Governors, Karen Hampton, and I would like to raise your awareness of our on-going concern with the reducing levels of funding in schools, and most specifically into Wokingham schools.

You can email your MP at: <http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/#/email-your-mp>

HEALTH MATTERS

There have been several cases of Scarlet Fever reported over the last few weeks in Walter and St Paul's school; this is a condition that needs to be diagnosed by the doctor as antibiotics are required for a good recovery. If your child presents with a rash, please contact your GP as soon as possible. We have also had several cases of rashes which have been viral and did not require medication so it is important to seek advice. Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling unwell, but if they are in recovery and the rash is still present they can come to school if you think they are fit enough. Please may I remind you that if your child experiences sickness and/or diarrhoea (for whatever reason) they must not come to school until at least 48 hours after their last bout of illness?



VOUCHER COLLECTION

Sainsbury's are once again issuing their Active Kids vouchers in store and we have a collecting box in Reception for these. We are able to replenish our playground games and equipment each year with these so please remember to pick yours up if you shop at Sainsbury. If anyone would like to help count the vouchers, please speak to the School Office. Thank you.

AND FINALLY....

You will have noticed some improvements in our play ground – we now have a lovely new stage, built for us by our caretaker, Mr Prickett. This will provide hours of fun for budding performers in school. We have also moved the tyres on to the astro-turf as one little girl had fallen from them before school began. May I please take this opportunity to remind you that we do not allow the children to play on the playground equipment before or after school due to Health and Safety regulations?

Kind regards

Judy Wheeler
Headteacher

LETTERS SENT HOME

The following letters were sent out since the last newsletter. If you have not seen any of these you can obtain another copy from the School Office or download from the Newsletter section on the website (most letters will be stored there)

Sent out	Title	To
9.2.17	Scarlet Fever	Whole School
20.2.17	Meet new teacher for Oak class (not on website)	Oak class
27.2.17	Beech Class Assembly (not on website)	Beech class
28.2.17	Ltr regarding Mrs Lucido leaving (not on website)	Sycamore class
2.3.17	Parent Consultations (individual letters)	Yr 2, 1 and F2
2.3.17	F1 Open Evening and Morning (individual letters)	F1
6.3.17	Stay and Play week (individual letters)	F2 and F1
6.3.17	Mother's Day Celebrations	F2 and F1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6 th March	Last day of Book Fair - 3.20pm - 4.00pm in School Hall
Wednesday 8 th March	4pm to 5pm F1 Open Evening for prospective new parents in September
Wednesday 15 th March	9.00am Beech Class Assembly - parents invited
Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th March	Foundation Stage Stay and Play sessions
Monday 20 th to Thursday 23 rd March	Red Noses for sale after school in playground
Wednesday 22 nd March	Governor Day in School
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day - wear something red to school
Friday 24 th March	8.45am - 9.15am F2 Mother's Day Celebration 11.00am F1 morning Mother's Day Celebration 2.50pm F1 afternoon Mother's Day Celebration
Friday 24 th March	3pm - 4pm Easter Bake Sale and Used Uniform Sale
Tuesday 28 th March	Orthoptist visit to conduct eye tests for F2
Wednesday 29 th March	Parent Consultations for F2, Yr 1 and 2 - 3.30pm to 7.00pm F1 Open Evening - current parents 4.00pm to 5.30pm
Thursday 30 th March	Last Day of Term finishing 1 hour early
Friday 31 st March	Parent Consultations - F2, Yr 1 and 2 - 8.30am to 1.30pm F1 Open Morning - current parents 8.30am to 1.30pm
Tuesday 18 th April	First Day of Summer Term
Tuesday 18 th April	Year 3 and F2 places for September 2017 announced
Monday 1 st May	May Bank Holiday - School Closed
Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June	Half Term - School Closed
Monday 5 th June	Inset Day -School Closed
Wednesday 7 th and Thursday 8 th June	Year 2 Trip to Woolley Firs Environmental Centre (half year going each day)
Friday 16 th June	Year 1 and 2 Sports Morning 9am-11am on St Paul's Field
Saturday 17 th June	Summer Fair
Wednesday 12 th July	F2 Parents' Evening 4pm to 7pm F1 Morning parents Open Evening 4pm to 5.30pm
Thursday 13 th July	F2 Parents' Evening 4pm to 7pm For new starters in September F1 Afternoon parents Open Evening 4pm to 5.30pm For new starters in September
Friday 14 th July	10.20am Class Changeover Day for F2 and Year 1 pupils
Friday 14 th July	3.00pm F2 and Year 1 parents invited to meet the their new teacher for September
Tuesday 18 th July	2pm Pine Class Leavers' Concert - parents invited
Wednesday 19 th July	2pm Sycamore Class Leavers' Concert - parents invited
Thursday 20 th July	2pm Willow Class Leavers' Concert - parents invited
Friday 21 st July	Year 1 and 2 Reports sent home
Monday 24 th July	Talent Show
Monday 24 th July	Year 2 Leavers' Disco
Tuesday 25 th July	End of Summer Term - finishing 1 hour early