

WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2017

'To be the best I can be'



Issue 10/17

Tel: 0118 978 0825

www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

We are having a very busy and enjoyable time at school; all the children seem to have settled in to their new classes and are starting to make new friendships and build good relationships with their teachers and learning support assistants. We have had a number of changes which are detailed below, some of which will take a little time to embed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Talk like a Pirate day was very exciting and we all had a wonderful time!



We also held our school council elections on Talk like a Pirate Day when this motley crew were elected!



It looks like they might be getting ready for someone to walk the plank!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We had a very successful election for our new school council and our new councillors are:

<p>Pine</p>  <p>Mahathi and Archie</p>	<p>Sycamore</p>  <p>Edward and Zoe</p>	<p>Willow</p>  <p>Darsh and Zoe</p>
<p>Beech</p>  <p>Harry and Ruby</p>	<p>Larch</p>  <p>Lola and Harrison</p>	<p>Oak</p>  <p>Teddy and Emily</p>
<p>Dove</p>  <p>Sophia</p>	<p>Magpie</p>  <p>Aarna</p>	<p>Woodpecker</p>  <p>Nathan</p>

We followed a democratic election process and the children in Key Stage 1 produced their own manifestos which they presented to their classes. They all feel very proud and I am sure they will be excellent representatives of the child's voice in school. Well done all of you.

ALIEN SPACESHIP CRASH LANDS IN PLAYGROUND!

News Flash! An alien spaceship crash landed in a tree in the playground early this morning; we are conducting a series of investigations to try to find out what has happen. The area has been cordoned off and 180 detectives have been asked to investigate what has happened. There are underpants and knickers strewn around the landing site and what appear to be alien eggs all over the ground. Scientist Lisa Palmer has collected samples of the eggs to examine! We will keep you posted. Please be on the lookout for aliens in and around the school!





FIRE PRACTICE

We had a fire practice on Wednesday 4th October at 10:25 am; it went very smoothly indeed and we broke our record for evacuation by completing all the registers in 3 minutes and 50 seconds. The children all behaved very sensibly and we were very impressed by their behaviour and attitudes. Well done Walter Infant School.



LOCKDOWN PRACTICE

The most important thing we do at school is to keep the children safe; it is now common for schools to practice 'Lockdown Procedures' to ensure we know how to keep children safe inside the school should the need occur. We will be having our first practice on Wednesday 11th October just after registration; this will not be a frightening experience for the children, it will be calm and very well organised. The children will be secured in one of the teaching areas they are familiar with for a short period of time so that myself and Mrs Prickett can check that they are all safe and out of sight. We will inform you after the event how things went.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

We have shortened the lunch hour to one hour in Year 1 which has had a very positive impact on learning and first aid! Year 2 now only have an hour for lunch on a Friday too. Year 1 have their lunch between 12:15 and 1:15 pm and Year 2 between 12:00 and 1:00 pm. Lunchtime clubs are organised to accommodate the changes. We now have a new team preparing and serving the school lunches and we are able to offer more choice; we now offer a baked potato each day with fresh salad, a vegetarian choice as well as a meat or fish choice. The children are also offered a variety of desserts including yoghurt and fresh fruit. If you are choosing to send your child to school with a packed lunch please ensure that it is a healthy lunch with no sweets or fizzy drinks. Please also remember that we are a nut free school.

SITE CONTROLLER AT WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

We are trying to recruit a new Site Controller for Walter Infant School, starting as soon as possible. We would like to have a colleague who can open the school each day at 7:00am and ensure that the site is safe, as well as taking delivery of our fruit and milk before the day begins. We are happy to be very flexible about hours; we will consider applicants who want to work part or full-time over 5 days. The role would be very varied, no day is ever the same at school, but would involve taking care of the school environment and making sure we are safe and compliant. We need someone who is capable at gardening, DIY, decorating and working with the public along with our dedicated team. It needs to be someone who doesn't mind getting their hands dirty on occasion and who is willing to attend training to work at height and conduct safety checks. If this sounds interesting to you or you know someone else who might be interested; please contact Mrs Foster either by phone or email on finance@walter.wokingham.sch.uk for more information or an application pack.

BOOK FAIR

The book fair will begin on Wednesday 11th of October until Monday 16th October. It will take place after school from 3:20 until 4:00 pm. We would really appreciate help selling the books; if you are able to spend 40 minutes after school helping us, please let Mrs Janes in the office know. All profits made from the book fair go towards books for our school, this year we would like to choose good quality picture books to support the teaching and learning in all our classes so please buy lots and lots of books.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be having our Harvest Festival on Friday 20th October. Father Richard, from St Paul's Church in Wokingham will be coming to celebrate with us during the assembly. We would like to collect donations on behalf of the Wokingham Food bank for the third year as we want to support our local friends and neighbours. We will attach a full list of the products that they are collected with the newsletter. If you would like to help, please bring your donations into school from Wednesday 18th October.



GAMES FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parent's Association have recently bought some amazing games to support learning in school, especially during guided reading. These are already being used to support English and Mathematics as well as social skills. We have a very active Parents Association and as a school we rely on the money raised to provide additional resources for inside and outside as well as wonderful experiences for the children. We are trying to raise more money to improve the playground and outside learning environment so we would welcome lots of support from our families. If you have any good ideas for fund-raising or would like to make a donation to the Parents Association please get in touch with the Co-Chairs Lucy Wood and Emma Leigh. We would also be very keen to work with companies who would like to support us in developing our outside environment or who could offer sponsorship for landscaping, climbing equipment or an outside classroom.



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.

GOVERNORS

Have you ever thought of becoming a school governor? We are looking for parent governors to join our governing body. Please see the flyer that has been sent out this week. It is a very rewarding role and would enable you to be involved in helping our school to continue to be a successful school and a happy place for children to learn.

TOYS ON FRIDAY

The children in Key Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2) are allowed to bring a toy in on a Friday to play with at playtime, lunchtime and during 'Friday Fun' in the afternoon if they would like to. Please do not bring hand-held electronic devices or anything requiring batteries. We have limited storage space, so please don't send in anything too big. The children will be responsible for their own toys; we will endeavour to make sure they are well looked after, but we cannot guarantee that things will not be lost or broken.

PARKING AND IDLING CARS

It has been brought to my attention by a number of parents, grandparents and residents that parking around school has become very dangerous and inconsiderate. Last month a car was spotted parked diagonally across the corner of the junction for Murray Road and Oxford Road, making many people late to school and to work. You will see from the photograph below that parents have been parking on the double yellow lines in St Paul's Gate as well as across driveways preventing residents access and egress to and from their properties. We now have a new Police Community Support Worker (PCSO) who will be regularly patrolling the area at the beginning and end of the school day. Wokingham Borough Council has responsibility for civil parking enforcement; details of this can be viewed on their website.



There have also been concerns raised by parents and local residents about parked cars 'idling'; which means parked with the engine still running. An idling engine can produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion. Exhaust emissions contain a range of air pollutants such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide which can affect the air quality of the surrounding environment and the air we breathe; one parent noted that a child had commented on the smell and the smoke from the parked car as they passed the vehicle.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS AND OPEN EVENINGS

Some of our parents shared that they felt we had held our consultation meetings too early last year so we will now be holding them a little later in the term; on Monday 6th November from 3:30 pm until 6:00 pm and Wednesday 8th November from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. The parents of children in our Robin classes will have open evenings on Monday 6th November 4:00 pm until 5:50 pm and Wednesday 8th November 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. We will provide more information closer to the time. If you have a child who is on our Special Educational Needs register, Mrs Ambler our Inclusion Manager, will be available on Wednesday 8th November.

Please remember that we have an 'Open Door' Policy to meet with parents as the need arises; all our class teachers are available at the end of everyday if you wish to speak with them. It is also possible to arrange an appointment if you feel you need to have a private, more formal discussion.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Some parents have had difficulties contacting Gooddies by email; the admin team at school are liaising with Gooddies to try to understand what the issues are with correspondence, such as no replies within 48 hours, so we would welcome your feedback. Unfortunately we are not able to contact them directly on behalf of a customer, but we do need to monitor the efficiency of the service. Some parents have posted on Social Media sites that they are unhappy with the quality; we met with a number of uniform providers and considered Gooddies to be the best quality and value for money available. Gooddies also provide the uniform for St. Paul's Junior School and other local schools. We would also very much appreciate any feedback (negative or positive) on the quality of the uniform you have received. Some parents have asked why we have changed our procedures: this is because we no longer have the funds to buy uniform in advance and hold it in stock, so like most other local schools have gone down the online purchasing route. Hopefully things will become smoother in the next few weeks.



The badge is now bigger to include the full name of our school and because we now have a digital image of the school crest.

You can order from this address: <http://walter.gooddies.co.uk> (some parents have experienced a difficulty logging on; we recommend using Chrome or Firefox).

If you wish to contact us via email please use this email address:

purchasing@walter.wokingham.sch.uk

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

There was a mistake made by the photography company on the order forms; the school had not requested home delivery. We are very happy for all photographs to be delivered to the school free of charge and we will distribute them to the children. We are very sorry for any worry caused over the error.

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

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.

SCHOOL CLUBS and SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have changed our system for booking extra-curricular clubs; from now on the clubs will be bookable on line on a 'first come first served' basis. The place in each club will be secured by the online payment, through our online cash office Tucasi, using Scopay.



As you will know from our recent correspondence; we have changed our school uniform provider; after very careful consideration our uniform will now be provided by Gooddies; it will be available to purchase online to have a home delivery or to be delivered to the school for collection. You can order from this address: <http://walter.gooddies.co.uk> (some parents have experienced a difficulty logging on; we recommend using Chrome or Firefox). We still have some very small jumpers and polo shirts available at a reduced price and some very large ones! Please ask in the school office if you are interested. Please be aware that we will only be holding a stock of book bags from now on. We hope that you are all pleased with the quality of the new uniform; I particularly like the new book bags.

HEALTH MATTERS

If your child receives a head injury or a bump to the head at home, please could you inform the school so that we can take care to monitor them in school throughout the day.



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.

Please can I remind all parents that we are a '**NUT FREE SCHOOL**'; please ensure you do not include any food that contains nuts in your child's packed lunch, for example, **Nutella, peanut butter** or **pesto**. Thank you.

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

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.

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
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
13 th December 2017	Christmas Lunch for pupils
14 th December 2017	Christmas Parties
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
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

Walter Infant School



Have you thought about becoming a School Governor?

We are looking for governors to join the governing body here at Walter.

School governors have a vital role in working with the school to ensure that it delivers a high quality education. Together with the Headteacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, the governing body sets the school's aims and policies.

School governors have three key roles: to provide strategic direction for the school, provide challenge and support to the Headteacher, and ensure the school's performance is accountable to the community.

School governors come from all backgrounds reflecting different cultures, communities, work skills and life experiences.

As a School Governor....

- ★ You will be actively helping a school to be a successful school.
- ★ You will be involved in making decisions affecting the education and well-being of children.
- ★ You will provide an important link between a school and the wider community it serves.
- ★ You will be rewarded with the knowledge that you are making a difference by doing something positive for the next generation and for your local community.

All governors are expected to attend one full meeting per term (usually held in the evening). Governors also attend committee meetings Walter has three committees Policy and Review, Strategic and Planning and Finance committees as well as occasional school visits. The school governors make a substantial and valuable contribution to our school and community.

So if you would like to find out more about becoming a school governor, please contact:

Karen Hampton – Chair of Governors
Email: admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Tel: 0118 978 0825

Harvest Festival



This Harvest Festival please help local people in need by donating items from the list below as part of your thanksgiving.

Urgently Needed Food Items:

- Sugar
- Fruit Juice (Long-life)
- Fruit Squash
- Milk UHT or Powder
- Tinned Carrots
- Tinned/Packet Custard
- Ready Meals
- Instant/Canned Potato
- Sandwich Meats
(Ham, Corned Beef, Spam, etc.)
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned Peas

Thank You!

