

# WALTER INFANT SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2018

*'To be the best I can be'*



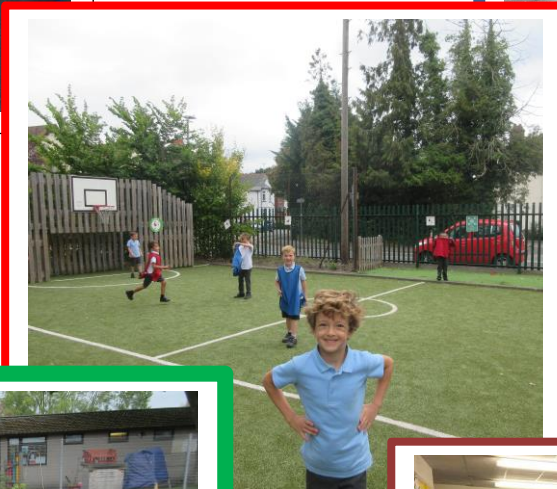
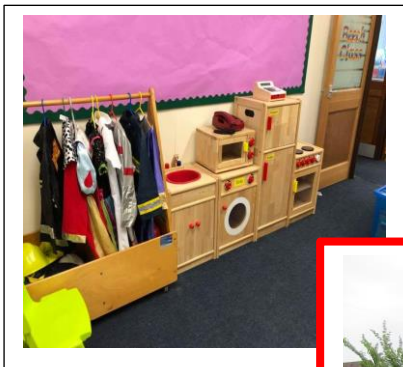
Issue 8/18

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[www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

Dear Walter Infant Families,

Welcome back after the summer, and a very special welcome to our new families. What a busy summer we have had at Walter. We have made some wonderful improvements to our school and we are all very excited about the changes! We have a new Beech Classroom, a fantastic new Learning Hub and a Thrive Room for small group work and therapy sessions. We also have our fantastic new sports pitch which has been partly funded by a huge donation of £11,000 from our Parents Association! We have lovely bright and cheerful playground markings and three new running tracks to keep our children fit. We have brand new toilets for our Foundation 2 children, as well as a lovely new floor and kitchen area. And, best of all, we have some wonderful new children, all settling in very quickly and enjoying themselves at school.



There are more photographs on the school Facebook page and on the school website.

## PARENT CONSULTATIONS AND OPEN EVENINGS

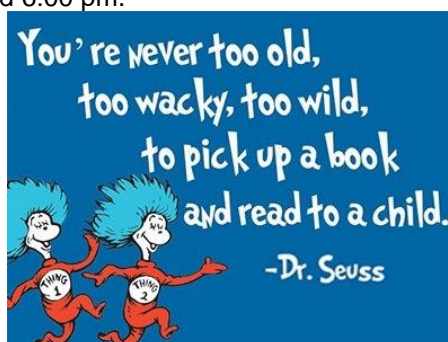
We will be holding our Parent Consultation Appointments on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 3:30 until 7:30 pm and on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 3:30 pm until 6:00 pm for all our children from Foundation 1 to Year 2. We will provide more information closer to the time. If you have a child who is on our Special Educational Needs register, Mrs Ambler our Inclusion Manager, will be available on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## PHONICS and READING MEETING for YEAR 1 and FS2

We will be holding meetings for Year 1 parents and those parents who have children who have just joined Year 2 to explain how Phonics and Reading are organised at Walter Infant School. The meetings will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2:50 pm and 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you then.

We will be holding Phonics and Reading meetings for Foundation Stage 2 parents on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2:45 pm and 6:00 pm.



## UP AND COMING EVENTS

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September the School Photographer is coming in to photograph the children individually. There will be an opportunity for parents to come into school from 8:00 am to have photographs taken with older or younger siblings (if they do not come to this school). All sibling group photographs for Walter Infant School pupils will take place during the school day. Further information will follow this week.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September will be the day of our School Council Elections.

We will be having a Fire Evacuation Practice on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September and a 'Lockdown' Practice on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October – we believe these are very important to ensure that we know how to keep all our children safe at all times. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Flu Immunisations for Reception (F2), Year 1 and Year 2 children will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and our Harvest Festival, led by Reverend Julie Minter, will take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October, when we will be collecting for the Wokingham Food Bank.

*If you are facing hardship and require Foodbank Vouchers, we are now able to supply them; please speak in confidence to Mrs Janes in the school office.*

## OUR BIG CURRICULUM

Walter Infant School is a larger than average three form entry infant school with a 52 place nursery; we consider ourselves to be a "BIG School for LITTLE PEOPLE". We have designed a 'BIG' curriculum to excite, inspire and foster a desire to learn; we want our children to know more about the world around them and to be happy, confident and successful.

We want our children to have very positive behaviours for learning and to ask BIG questions and we want our staff team to support our children in finding authentic, age-appropriate answers to questions which stimulate them to want to learn more.

The children will learn through real-life and practical experiences, as well as through wonderful, awe inspiring fiction texts and exciting non-fiction texts. Our children will learn inside and outside the classroom, fulfilling and exceeding the requirements of national age-appropriate curriculums in a broad and balanced way.



Our Big Curriculum will be available to download from the website by the end of this week; if you require a paper copy from September 17<sup>th</sup>, please make a request via the school office.

If you would like to support our school in enhancing the curriculum further; we are launching a link on our School Coms site which will enable our families and neighbours to make a voluntary donation to our school fund. We would like to use these donations to buy equipment to further improve our learning environments and experiences for the children.

## WALTER INFANT SCHOOL VALUES

We have been working for some time, as a whole school, to agree the values that are most representative of our school and our community, and through a democratic process have chosen values which reflect the ethos of our school; The Walter Infant School High Five!



Over the next few weeks we will be working hard to develop everyone's understanding of what these values look like in practice and then begin to embed them through our day to day learning, our curriculum, our behaviours and our environment. If you would like to be involved in developing our values or if you have some good ideas; please do not hesitate to contact me on [head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

## UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Our school lunches are provided by Caterlink; we have a fantastic team working at Walter Infant School; all our children in Foundation Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a universal free school meal which they can choose each day from the menu. There is always a vegetarian option available. We will also be offering a jacket potato option each day (apart from Wednesday); these fillings are available:

Monday	Cheese and Beans
Tuesday	Tuna Mayonnaise
Wednesday	
Thursday	Tuna Mayonnaise
Friday	Beans

The jacket potatoes are served with fresh salad.

We are able to cater for many dietary requirements such as gluten free choices; please speak to the school office if you have any enquiries.





If you choose to send your child to school with a packed lunch; please can you ensure that it is a healthy lunch which includes a savoury option such as a sandwich or a pasta salad, as well as fruit or desserts. Some children have brought in lunches with only sweet food and fruit. The children will need protein and carbohydrates to keep them going throughout the day.



**According to NHS choices a balanced lunchbox should contain:**

- Starchy foods like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta.
- Protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans.
- A dairy item, like cheese or yogurt.
- Vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit.

**WE ARE A NO NUTS SCHOOL! THAT INCLUDES ANY FOODS THAT HAVE NUT IN THE TITLE OR IN THE INGREDIENTS – FOR EXAMPLE PESTO, CHOCOLATE AND HAZLENUT SPREAD AND COCONUT. We have a new child joining our school with a very severe nut allergy so if he comes in to contact with any sort of nut he could become very ill very quickly. Please help us keep him safe.**



## PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT

The Pupil Premium Grant is a valuable resource for our school and hugely benefits the children and their families who are entitled to receive this. The identities of the families who qualify for the grant are protected. The money enables us to provide additional support and/or resources for both the children in receipt of the grant and the other children in our school. 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 (please note this funding has no impact on your current benefit claims). 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

## SAFEGUARDING AT WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

Safeguarding our children is our priority at Walter Infant School and it is very important that we work in partnership with our families, our neighbours and all agencies involved with the school. Since the beginning of term one or two issues have arisen that I would like to address:

- Please ensure that you close all gates when leaving the premises; we check all gates regularly and have a complete maintenance package, however, visitors (including delivery drivers) come on to site at all times of the day so we would like to urge everyone to be vigilant at all times.
- If your child is in Dove, Magpie or Woodpecker and you arrive at school after the staff have gone inside, please bring your child to reception. Please do not leave them in the Foundation Playground or come in through the Foundation Gates as there may not be members of our school staff available.
- Please ensure that you inform the office if your child is going to be absent from school; our office staff will contact you if we do not know the reason why your child is not in school.
- If you have a medical, dental or hospital appointment, please complete a medical absence form, unless the appointment has been made on the day or is an emergency. Please can you sign your child in/out if they attend a medical appointment during the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation with these matters.

## AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS AND BIRTHDAY TREATS

As a school we are working hard to gain the Healthy Schools Award; we have invested in our playground and P.E. facilities and we now need to ensure that our children understand that to be fit and healthy, they need to have a balanced diet. We have noticed a huge increase in the number of children eating snacks, often very sugary snacks, in the school playground at pick up time: we would like all adults to stop giving their children snacks at the end of the school day in our playground as we do not feel the varied choices would meet the requirements of a Healthy School Award. In addition to this, it is recommended that children only have two 100 calorie snacks per day and often the snacks we see the children eating have far more calories than this. Last week we saw chocolate doughnuts, hot packets of chips and lots of sugary sweets!

Many of the sweets we see children eating are given as birthday treats if a child is celebrating a birthday; this means that a child could receive as many as thirty (30) packets of sweets or bars of chocolate in a year, many more than a lot of parents would see as healthy. Also, many of our children are vegetarian so cannot eat gelatine, or have allergies or intolerances, so cannot enjoy the treats with their friends. We would therefore like to politely request that you no longer provide birthday treats (of any sort) for the other children in the class and save these for parties and out of school activities.

I realise these two requests are a significant change for our established families; but I am sure you will all understand the reasons behind the decisions. Thank you.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>



## TOYS IN SCHOOL

There has been a long tradition allowing the children in Year 1 and Year 2 to bring toys in to school on a Friday. This tradition causes many problems; some children can become very distressed if they have forgotten a toy, toys get lost, broken and in some case stolen. Children trade cards and stickers, which usually ends in tears or arguments, and the toys can distract from children learning. Some children are also bringing in spinners or stress toys, which are a constant distraction. We have therefore made the decision to stop children bringing toys to school; we have hundreds of wonderful toys and games for the children to play with and every Friday afternoon is devoted to having fun and playing games with friends that are suitable for a school environment.

## SCHOOL CLUBS

Many of our Extra Curricular Clubs still have places for our Key Stage 1 children; if you are keen for your child to take part in a club before or after school please look on our school website, under 'Parents' in Club Information. We have Tennis, Football, French, Dance, Gymnastics and many more. All places are booked directly with the club leaders and not through the school office but we are happy to help answer questions and to point you in the right direction. If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant we are happy to fund a club place for them, so please speak to Mrs Janes or Mrs Lewis.



## HEALTH MATTERS

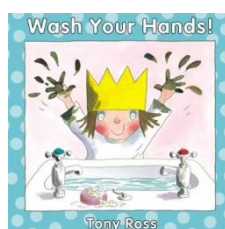
If your child receives a head injury or a bump to the head at home, please could you inform the school so that we can take care to monitor them in school throughout the day.



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

Please check your children for head lice or nits daily so that we can avoid whole school infestations. If you find headlice or nits, please treat your child immediately and let the school know if you have any concerns about untreated cases in school.



## SCOOTERS AND BIKES IN SCHOOL

Please can I politely request that no wheeled vehicles are ridden in the school playground, including balance bikes, scooters and bicycles. Thank you

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION and FUND RAISING

All our parents are invited to join the Parents' Association; if you would like more information, please contact [walterinfantpa@gmail.com](mailto:walterinfantpa@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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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	
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Phonics and Reading Meeting for Key Stage 1
19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	School Photographer
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Book Fair
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Harvest Festival
30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Parent Consultations
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2018	Parent Consultations
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2018	Year One Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Year One Christmas Production for Beech Parents
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Year One Christmas Production for Larch Parents
6 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Year One Christmas Production for Oak Parents
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Christmas Lunch for pupils
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Christmas Jumper Day
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 9:00 am	Foundation Stage Christmas Celebration for parents
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 2:45 pm	Year 2 Christmas Songs for Parents
17 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Christmas Parties
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Last day of term (finishing at 2:20 pm)
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018	First day of Spring Term