



Friday Flyer 2021

Dear Walter Families,

This week we had Census Day (7th October 2021) ~ this is a very important day for our school as it informs how we will be funded over the next academic year. Thank you to all of you who supported us by ordering a school hot dinner or packed lunch. Altogether we served over 230 lunches. The fish fingers were very popular, there were so many, Mrs Hemmings said she could smell them from her house!

Walter had lots of assessments on Thursday and he passed with flying colours, as did the staff. Well done Walter, we are all so proud of you.



Fire Alarm Drill

Today we had our first fire drill of the school year; we will practise our evacuation procedures once every term. Today went extremely smoothly and we were able to evacuate the whole school in:

03:34.63

Timed by Mrs Prickett! The children behaved impeccably and all the adults were very proud!

Value of the Week

This week our value has been honesty; please talk to your children about what honesty means and why it is important to be honest. I shared the Aesop Fable: The Little Boy who Cried Wolf with the children in assembly today. Perhaps you could ask your child to share what they learned.



Parking Problems at School

As you are aware, we are continuing to have parking issues at the start and the end of the school day. This is because there are three educational settings trying to receive well over 700 children at the same time. On Monday there was a great deal of beeping and honking horns, which was extremely frightening for some of the children. I watched as cars did multi-point turns in the road, others drove onto the pavements, turned around in the West Oak entrance and stopped on the pelican crossing! I was so concerned that I positioned myself next to the road so that I could see exactly what was happening in order to keep the children safe.

Children do not have the conceptual skills to cross a road until they are ten years old as there are so many risks to consider. Therefore, we all have a duty of care to keep our children safe. I would like everyone to follow the same rules to make our school much safer:

- Please walk, cycle or scoot to school if you can
- Please park away from the school and walk the last few hundred metres if possible
- Please do not park on private property such as Murray House or West Oak
- Please do not park at the school gates on Oxford Road
- Please do not obscure the pelican crossing or the zig zag lines
- Please put the safety of our children before everything else.
- If you do park near to the school please ensure you turn your engines off.



Snacks at the end of the school day!

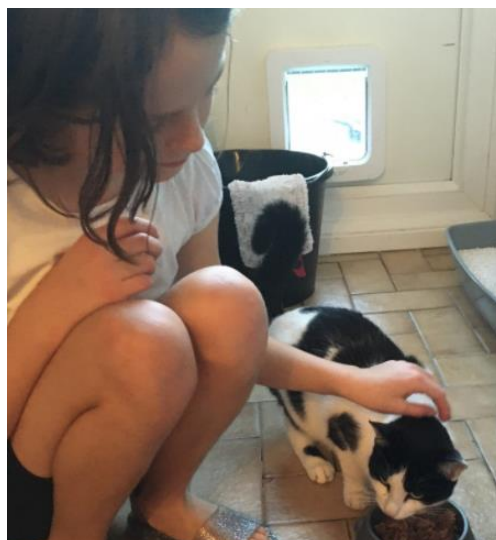
I have noticed that many of you are giving your children snacks at the end of the school day; we have Healthy Schools Status which is very important to us a school and we will soon be ready for a reaccreditation:



We stopped having snacks on the playground at the end of the day in 2018 but due to so many changes, including COVID and lots of lovely new families I have seen them returning; some children are eating sweets, chocolates biscuits, crisps or items from their lunch boxes. Please can you ensure that you refrain from giving your children snacks on and around the school site? We have seen a huge increase in the number of foxes and pigeons as well as litter. This morning I picked up a Maryland Cookies bag and was handed a plastic water bottle that a parent saw another parent drop! If you are bringing younger or older children onto the school site, please can you ensure that they are not eating on our site either? Thank you for your support.

Luna has been found

Just to let you know that the cat we messaged you about has been found safe and sound! Hooray.





Cases of Covid 19 (Coronavirus) are rising rapidly nationally and very specifically in Wokingham; there is a considerable amount of confusion about the new rules and regulations with regard to positive test results from a PCR.

As Headteacher, with the requirement to keep everyone as safe as possible, I am following the direction of other schools and making the decision that if there is a positive Covid 19 PCR test result for a person living in the same house as a pupil or a member of staff that no one from the house can come to school even if they tested negative.

It has been recommended that the household members test on day 3 to day 5 after the positive test result has been received. If they still test negative they can return to school if they do not have any symptoms of Covid 19 (including cluster symptoms).

Early on in the pandemic, the NHS promoted awareness of three main symptoms of COVID-19, sometimes referred to as the 'classic triad':

- Persistent cough
- High temperature (fever) 37.8C or greater
- Loss of smell (anosmia)

Now there are six clusters of symptoms of COVID 19 which are as follows:

1 ('flu-like' with no fever): Headache, loss of smell, muscle pains, cough, sore throat, chest pain, no fever.

2 ('flu-like' with fever): Headache, loss of smell, cough, sore throat, hoarseness, **fever, loss of appetite.**

3 (gastrointestinal): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, **diarrhoea**, sore throat, chest pain, no cough.

4 (severe level one, fatigue): Headache, loss of smell, cough, fever, hoarseness, chest pain, **fatigue.**

5 (severe level two, confusion): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, cough, fever, hoarseness, sore throat, chest pain, fatigue, **confusion**, muscle pain.

6 (severe level three, abdominal and respiratory): Headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, cough, fever, hoarseness, sore throat, chest pain, fatigue, confusion, muscle pain, **shortness of breath, diarrhoea, abdominal pain.**

Please do not put the health of others at risk. Thank you.

Star of the Week

Here are our amazing stars of the week; 10 children who have tried their hardest to be the best they can be in so many different ways...



Helping our Friends and Neighbours

As you will be very aware, the Government have stopped the additional payment of £20 to the most vulnerable of families on Universal Credit ~ this means that families in our community will be £1000 a year worse off as we move into the most expensive season of the year.

Our vulnerable children will need hot meals, warm clothing and bedding, hot water and heating. Many families will need to decide if they are "heating or eating". More than 10% of our community rely on benefits to provide all they need for their children.

If you would like to help and can afford to without causing personal financial difficulties for yourselves, I would like to politely ask for a donation of twenty pounds in cash (or a lesser amount), anonymously given to the office staff at Walter, to be put into a fund to help our parents who are facing such difficult times.

We will securely save the money and give it in £20 amounts to our parents in need when they are facing crisis.

Please do not feel obliged in any way, but any donations will be gratefully received.

If you are a parent who will benefit from a donation to help pay for your food or heating bills; please contact Mrs Hemmings or Mrs Janes on admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk. All requests will be completely confidential and arranged with utmost sensitivity.

Walter's Pantry

We will be opening our new **Walter's Pantry** to help our families in need due the significant cuts to their benefits (as mentioned above). The staff team of Walter Infant School and Nursery have set up a pantry of breakfast and tea staples to help out families who may be struggling to put food on the table and money in the meter. If you are one of those families and need a helping hand, from Monday 11th October you will be able to collect cereal and tinned foods so that you can provide breakfast and lunch for your family when there is nowhere else to turn. We will keep all requests completely confidential and you will be able to arrange a private collection time during the school day if you wish. I know many of you will want to donate but we are limited by space so we will manage the groceries in house. You will be able to make donations to the Foodbank during our harvest festival week in November.



Wokingham Foodbank vouchers and Fuel Vouchers

Our school is able to provide foodbank vouchers to use at Wokingham Foodbank as well as fuel vouchers so that you can heat and light your homes; if you need this help, please contact the school office on admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk again all requests will be completely confidential.

Morrison's ~ "It's Good to Grow!"

We have registered for Morrison's "It's Good to Grow" Campaign:

FREE gardening equipment for your school

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help your school get everything they need to get growing. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose the school you'd like to donate them to.

Your chosen school will be able to exchange their Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment to get kids growing.



What's been happening in school this week?

Today I visited the Robin Lunch Club; it was so lovely to see them all enjoying their time together with their friends. They all had such delicious things to eat and were having a lot of fun! I then came across a lot of little pigs who were also having a great deal of fun all over school! The work that has been produced by our Foundation Stage 2 children about the Little Red Hen is phenomenal.





Learning Support Assistant for SEND children in Foundation Stage

We are advertising for a Learning Support Assistant in Foundation Stage 2 to work with some of our children with special educational needs; if this interests you and you have experience of working with children please contact the school office for more information.

Non-Uniform Day 15th October 2021



As you know we will be raising money for the elderly residents of Wokingham who attend WADE; please send your child to school in anything they fancy wearing (along as it is safe to wear and warm enough) and make a donation into the buckets that will be in the

playground on arrival and collection. This supports our values of kindness, empathy and respect as well as the universal value of tolerance and recognising people's differences and needs.

Contacting Teaching Staff

We decided to keep the system of contacting teachers directly via email as it had proved to be very successful during the pandemic; it is our intention to continue. However, there have been a couple of unpleasant emails, in the evening, complaining about things parents have been told by their very young children. Please can I request that emails are sent during regular working hours, certainly no later than 5:30 pm and that if there is a concern it would be better to request a phone call or a face to face meeting? May I also request that if you have a complaint that you contact me directly so that I will be able to investigate the matter thoroughly. Thank you.

Class and Teacher	Email contact
Robin Miss Samantha Potter	Samantha.Potter@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Dove Mrs Jessica Bennette	Jessica.Bennette@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Magpie Miss Rebecca Prickett	Rebecca.Prickett@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Woodpecker Miss Lauren Rose	Lauren.Rose@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Beech Miss Jasmine Veale	Jasmine.Veale@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Larch Miss Lisa Palmer	Lisa.Palmer@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Oak Mrs Amy Stevens	Amy.Stevens@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Oak Ms Stephanie Rees	Stephanie.Rees@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Pine Mr Justin Lee	Justin.Lee@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Sycamore Mr Andrew Herlihey	Andrew.Herlihey@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Willow Mandy McDonough	Mandy.McDonough@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Heather Pimm	Heather.Pimm@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Mrs Louise Walker SEND	Louise.Walker@walter.wokingham.sch.uk

Pupil Premium Funding

Some of our families are entitled to Pupil Premium Funding for their children; this is a wonderful addition to our school's budget and helps us to provide curriculum enrichment and support for our Pupil Premium children and all other children too!

Your child may be entitled to this funding which can be used to pay for clubs, uniform, additional support, one to one sessions, Canine Assisted learning etc.

If you are in receipt of one the following benefits you may be eligible for free school meals or the pupil premium:

- 1) Income Support.
- 2) Income based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- 3) Income related Employment and Support Allowance.
- 4) Child Tax Credit - Where the family's annual income is not more than £16,190 and Working Tax Credit is not in payment.
- 5) Guarantee Pension Credit.
- 6) Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- 7) Universal Credit.

Please contact Mrs Janes in the office to find out more or follow this link
<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/>

And finally

We are all so excited about our Year 2 Trip to Legoland! If you are having trouble meeting the costs please contact the school office for support. Please contact me if you need to on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes

Judy Wheeler: Headteacher

Walter Infant School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2021-2022

15th October	WADE Non Uniform Day
19th October	Year 2 Legoland Trip
21st October	Year 2 Legoland Trip
25th-29th October	Half Term
10th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
17th December	End of Term – finishing 1 hour early

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

There will be other exciting events that are not yet in the diary. We will let you know dates as soon as we can.