



New Parents Information for F1 starters

Welcome to Walter Infant School

We warmly welcome you to our school. We hope that this information booklet will cover many aspects of school life, but if you need any further information please check our website or contact the school office.

Best wishes,

The Foundation Stage team

Walter Infant School

Murray Road • Wokingham • RG41 2TA

Tel: 0118 978 0825

www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk

admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Judy Wheeler

Foundation Classes

In the Foundation Stage we have 3 classes of F2 children (aged 4-5) and 2 classes of F1 children (aged 3-4). We provide morning, afternoon and 30-hour places. A lunch club is also available to children attending morning or afternoon sessions.

The Foundation Stage is led by Mrs Corinne Lewis.

The F1 Class Teachers are Mrs Karen Herman and Mrs Lisa Parfett. The children are also supported by an Early Years Practitioner and a Learning support assistant.

The children will start by spending a lot of their time in the Robin classroom and the Foundation garden. They are able to mix with the F2 children both in the Garden and in the F2 Learning spaces as they feel more settled at school.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage? How will they be learning?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is a statutory requirement for all schools, it applies to children aged 3 to 5. It comprises of 7 areas of learning and development

The prime areas are

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional

The other 4 specific areas are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World & Expressive Arts and Design.

The children will be learning through a mixture of adult led activities and child initiated play. Children learn best through spontaneous self-initiated play. It fosters Self confidence, Perseverance, Resilience, Co-operation, Conflict resolution, Problem solving, Decision making and Risk taking.



Every day your child will have a phonics session, time for free play inside and outside, group work with a teacher focusing on literacy and maths. The children will have lots of time to play, make friends and learn in our busy learning environment!

Robin session times

Morning session

8.30am Robin doors are open, children to be brought to the Robin classroom via the entrance on the Oxford Road.

11.30am Session ends, please collect the children from the Robin classroom. We will release the children to you as you wait outside the classroom.

There is no access to the Robin Classroom via the Murray Road entrance. Please use the entrance on the Oxford Road.

Afternoon session

12.30pm Session starts, children to be brought to the Robin classroom via the entrance on the Oxford Road.

3.20-3.30pm Robin doors are open for children to be collected between these times, please collect the children from the Robin classroom.

There is no access to the Robin Classroom via Murray Road. Please use the entrance on the Oxford Road.

30 Hours

8.30am Robin doors are open, children to be brought to the Robin classroom via the entrance on the Oxford Road.

2.30pm Session ends, please collect the children from the Robin classroom. We will release the children to you as you wait outside the classroom.

Additional hour available from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at the additional cost of £5.50 per hour.

Lunch club

11.30-12.30pm Available for children attending morning or afternoon sessions. Additional cost of £5.50 per session. Parents need to provide a packed lunch. Limited places available, please speak to the class teacher or the school office if you are interested in your child attending.

Uniform

We encourage the children to be active in their learning. Please can they wear jogging bottoms, shorts or leggings, navy/white/blue polo shirt and the school jumper. Please can they wear trainers, no need for school shoes for another year and no open top shoes/sandals. Long hair needs to be tied up and no jewellery please.



Summer—suncream applied before school and a hat. Shorts but no summer dresses please.

Winter—hat, gloves named please.

It would be really useful if your child has a spare set of clothes in school which can be in a bag left on their peg. This will really help as our school supplies of changes are limited!



Coats: Please make sure your child has a coat with a hood in school everyday.



Wellies: it is useful if we can have a spare pair at school as we do like to go out in all weathers!



Please make sure that everything is named; it really helps us when we are trying to reunite 90 jumpers with 90 children.

Please find the information to order uniform as a separate document in your pack.

Food and Drink

Water The children need to bring in a named water bottle, which stays in their class room which they can access through out the day. Filled with water only please.



Snacks We provide a piece of fruit or a vegetable for every child daily. Please do not send in your own snacks.



Milk Every child is entitled to a free carton of milk until they turn 5. Please register for your child to receive milk.

registration@coolmilk.com

www.coolmilk.com or call 0844 854 2913

Alternatively please fill in the form in this pack.



Allergies/Dietary Requirements It is very important for us to know about any allergies or food intolerances when your child starts school. If you have any concerns please speak with your class teacher.

Partnership with Parents

We would like to work in partnership with you to make sure that we give your child the best start to their Education. We are available to speak with at drop off or pick up times. Please come and talk to us about your child, let us know if there is anything we should know or if anything changes. We love having parents in to help, so if you can spare some time please speak with your class teacher. Throughout the year there will be times to meet more formally at parent consultations and also times to come in and play with your child. We also will hold special assemblies during the year.



Health and Wellbeing

First Aid notes—we will send home notes if your child has an accident at school.

We may need to contact you - please make sure your contact details are kept up to date. Please regularly check your phone in case we need to contact you.

Sickness: Please keep your child at home for 48 hours following the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Head lice: Please regularly check your child's hair and treat if necessary. Please could you also let your class teacher know.



Absences

If your child is unwell please call the school as soon as possible; you can leave a message and tell us why your child is absent.

Please let your class teacher or the School office know if your child needs to attend a medical appointment.

Forms to apply for leave are located outside the school office.

Phonics in Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage we provide an environment designed to develop the language, listening and literacy skills needed to enable your child to become a confident communicator. An integral part of this provision is a daily phonics session. The sessions last for approximately ten minutes in F1 and fifteen minutes in F2 and all children take part in activities tailored to their stage of development.

Initially, children are taught using language play, alliteration, rhythm and rhyme and a variety of different ways of making sounds. There is a strong focus on listening skills so children in Foundation learn a range of songs and rhymes as an enjoyable means to develop their auditory memory.

Next, we introduce individual sounds (phonemes) alongside Common Exception Words (such as I, the, to, no) in the order set out in the Letters and Sounds scheme. This promotes "phonemic awareness" (the point at which children realise that you can take a word apart and put it back together again (eg /d/o/g/ = dog). Common Exception Words are those words which are needed for early reading and writing but which follow phonic rules that have not yet been taught.

Once children can hear, say and remember a range of phonemes (s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d) they can begin to blend them to read simple words and segment words into sounds in order to spell them. **It is very important when teaching the articulation of phonemes that the sound is pure (ss not suh and mm not muh) to enable blending.** Following on from the teaching of single letter phonemes, we introduce a range of digraphs and trigraphs (2 or 3 letters making one sound that cannot be broken down into smaller sounds: eg ch,th,sh,ng,ai,ee,igh,oa,oo). This ensures that children are equipped with at least one possible spelling for all of the sounds we use in English.

The emphasis is on phonic sessions which are quick, engaging and fun. We use an online resource called Phonics Play, which includes phonic games to help children read and distinguish between real and non-sense words as well as consolidating a range of other skills. A free version of Phonics Play is available to access at home (www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

We shall be holding a session on **How We Teach Phonics in the Foundation Stage** in the Autumn. This is aimed at helping parents and carers to support their children at home.

The Early Years Pupil Premium

From April 2015, nurseries, schools, childminders and other childcare providers have been able to claim extra funding through the Early Years Pupil Premium to support children's development, learning and care. We wanted to write to you to explain what the Early Years Pupil Premium is, explain who is eligible for this funding and, importantly, to ask you to fill out the enclosed forms so that we as a provider can claim the extra funding.

National data and research tells us that children eligible for free school meals tend to do less well, for example in 2014, 45% of children eligible for free school meals achieved the expected level at the end of the early years foundation stage compared with 64% of other children. The Early Years Pupil Premium will provide us with extra funding to close this gap.

The Early Years Pupil Premium provides an extra 53 pence per hour for three and four year old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or who were formerly in local authority care but who left care because they were adopted or were subject to a special guardianship or child arrangements order. This means an extra £302 a year for each child taking up the full 570 hours funded entitlement to early education. This additional money could make a significant difference to us.

We can use the extra funding in any way we choose to improve the quality of the early years education that we provide for your child. This could include, for example, additional training for our staff on early language, investing in partnership working with our colleagues in the area to further our expertise or supporting our staff in working on specialised areas such as speech and language.

It is well documented that high quality early education can influence how well a child does at both primary and secondary school so we do want to make the most of this additional funding. You may be aware if you have older children that a pupil premium has been available for school-age children and it has proved to have given a real boost to the children receiving the funding. We want to do the same for our early years children entitled to this funding.

Eligibility criteria—If you feel the following criteria applies to you please let the school office know; we will be able to support you with your application.

If you are in receipt of - the Guarantee element of State Pension; or Income Support; or Income based Jobseekers Allowance; or Child Tax Credit (but not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and annual taxable income does not exceed £16,190; or income based employment and support allowance; or support under part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 you may qualify.

If you have any questions please contact the school office (or your class teacher).

Walter Infant School

Safeguarding Policy & Procedures

We are committed to safeguarding children and have a duty to refer any suspected cases of neglect or harm to the appropriate agencies.

The Role of

the Designated Person for Safeguarding

- Listen and act when adults report concerns
- To make referrals to Social Care if necessary
- Ensure confidential records are kept
- Attend case conferences and provide reports
- Ensure all staff are aware of school's Safeguarding Policy and procedures
- Ensure unexplained absences are referred to the Education Welfare Officer
- Keep themselves up to date with knowledge to enable them to fulfil their role and attend training every two years
- Provide an anonymised report to the Governors once a term
- Notify Social Care when a child is privately fostered
- Ensure that any concerns about a pupil who leaves the school are forwarded to the next school.

The

Safeguarding Children Team at Walter Infant School

Designated Person for Safeguarding is the Head Teacher, Judy Wheeler 0118 978 0825. Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding is the Deputy Head Teacher, Fiona Prickett. The Inclusion Manager is Lucy Ambler.

Your Safeguarding Children Team also links with the Nominated Governor for

The welfare of the child is our paramount concern. If you are concerned, report your concerns to the Designated Person for Safeguarding — Judy Wheeler

or Chair of Governors - Karen Hampton
0118 978 0825

For a copy of our full Safeguarding Policy please go to www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk or ask at the School Office

Walter Infant School

Term Dates 2018 -2019

Spring Term 2018

Inset Day – School Closed

Start of Term

Half Term

End of Term

Wednesday 3rd January

Thursday 4th January

12th to 16th February

Wednesday 28th March – finishing

1 hour early

Inset Day –School Closed

Thursday 29th March

Summer Term 2018

Start of Term

Bank Holiday – School Closed

Half Term

Inset Day –School Closed

End of Term

Monday 16th April

Monday 7th May

28th May to 1st June

Monday 4th June

Tuesday 24th July – finishing

1 hour early

Autumn Term 2018

Inset Day – School Closed

Start of Term

Half Term

Inset Day – School Closed

End of Term

Monday 3rd September

Tuesday 4th September

22nd to 26th October

Monday 29th October

Wednesday 19th December – finishing

1 hour early

Spring Term 2019

Start of Term

Half Term

End of Term

Thursday 3rd January

18th to 22nd February

Thursday 4th April – finishing

1 hour early

Inset Day –School Closed

Friday 5th April

Summer Term 2019

Start of Term

Bank Holiday – School Closed

Half Term

End of Term

Tuesday 23rd April

Monday 6th May

27th May to 31st May

Friday 19th July – finishing

1 hour early

Inset Days –School Closed

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July