

# WALTER INFANT SCHOOL

## FOUNDATION ONE

### ROBIN CLASS



# **FOUNDATION STAGE 1**

## **Robin Class**

At Walter Infant School we run a happy and successful Foundation Stage 1 unit (F1), offering 52 part-time places for children aged 3 to 4 years (26 morning and 26 afternoon). The F1 Unit is called Robin class.

To give you an idea of a typical day in Robin the routine each day will be something like this:

Doors open at the start of the session and the children (and parents if they wish) are welcomed in by staff. The children will self-register with their name and then get busy at one of the many activities laid out for them to choose from. Parents are always welcome to come in with their child at the start of a session to settle them, start an activity with them or just to speak to staff.

During the session there will be a structured phonics and maths based activity which is differentiated according to ability.

After this the children can then choose their activity either inside or outside – there will be planned activities outside as well as inside for the children to try.

The children are all brought together for the last half hour of the session for group time on the carpet when they can share news, stories and songs together.

There is no formal snack time but fruit, water and milk (if registered) are available throughout each session.

It is important for the children to do self-initiating activities throughout the session but there are also teacher-led activities. The children find confidence and independence, some of the characteristics of effective learning by the mix of learning opportunities.

If you come to F1 at Walter Infant School you will also be invited to an Open Evening once a term to see the work your child has been doing. We run “Stay and Play” sessions each term when a parent (or grandparent or other adult) is welcomed into Robin to stay and play with their child and at Christmas we hold an event when parents are invited in to hear the children sing some festive songs.

The children wear a school sweatshirt or cardigan but can wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings with this. Footwear should be practical and trainers are ideal.

Our Staff are always available to talk to you if you wish to discuss any issues concerning your child.

#### **Staff in Foundation 1**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
Teacher	Mrs Herman	Mrs Herman
Early Years Practitioner	Mrs Overton	Mrs Head
Teaching Assistant	Mrs Althorp	Mrs Lloyd

Our Mission Statement for school is:

Walter Infant School is an equitable, safe, secure and happy place to learn; our children grow as individuals in a stimulating and exciting environment which values respect, care and concern for oneself and others.

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE WALTER INFANT SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION STAGE 1

Walter Infant School is an Outstanding School and this includes the F1 Unit.

By choosing Walter Infant School for your child's Foundation 1 experience you will be sure of a happy and positive start to their school life which will prepare them well for the future.

Comments from parents leaving us last year include:

*"Fantastic teachers, my son loved going to school. He made very good progress. The best choice I have made. SUPERB!!!"*

*"My son has been well-supported - I really appreciate that they took the time to discuss his needs"*

*"We feel so happy we chose Walter for our child"*

Our latest Outstanding Ofsted Inspection reported:

"Younger pupils make a very good start with their reading skills, due to the very good teaching of the sounds that letters make (phonics) and this creates a solid foundation for further learning. Some of the school's youngest children in the nursery are already showing a keen interest in learning to read when they join the school and this is picked up quickly by teachers who cater well for their needs."

"Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage get off to a very good start in learning phonics. As a result of well-organised teaching and support, they enjoy learning to read and also to work with numbers. Provision for children across this key stage is excellent and gives the children an invaluable introduction to the school."

Following the baseline assessment of children entering Foundation Stage 2 this year, those moving from the Walter F1 unit displayed a greater knowledge of phonic sounds than those from other settings. They also showed a greater proficiency in producing "pure" sounds allowing for ease of blending sounds for reading and segmenting for spelling.

## **Admission Arrangements for Foundation One**

We offer out part-time places – 5 x 3 hours – for children to start with us in the September after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Places are fully funded by the local authority. Sessions are either morning or afternoon, no mix and we do not have a lunch club. The morning session runs from 8.30am to 11.30am and the afternoon session runs from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

Places are offered out at the end of January for September entry to children who are registered. On acceptance of a place, parents are invited to an information evening in the Summer term to meet staff, children are invited for a pre-school visit and there is also an opportunity for a home visit to meet you and your child individually. If you have any queries regarding admission to F1 please speak to Mrs Hawkins in the School Office.

If places are available in the Spring and Summer terms these will be offered out to registered children who have had their third birthday the previous term. There is not a general intake in January and April and places are only available if children have moved away or a session was not full in September. If we offer you a place early and you do not want to start in January or April we will offer you the place again in September.

Attending the F1 unit does not give your child a school place (Foundation Stage 2) and you still need to apply to the local authority for this. Application packs are distributed by the local authority in the November before a child is due to start school (which is the September after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday) and the forms have to be returned to the local authority by the date published on the form (usually in the middle of January). For more information about school entry go to <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/admissions/> .

You can see more about Walter School on our website:

[www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk) or contact us at [admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk) or telephone 0118 978 0825