

## **NEWSLETTER - 6th September 2024**

Dear all,

WELCOME BACK TO A BRAND-NEW YEAR AT WALTER HALLS! And a huge welcome to our new families - I hope you are all getting all the help you need in finding out how things work in school. There is always so much information to take in - please chat to one of our team if you need some help!

WELCOME EVENT - NEXT WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 3.30PM - We host an informal welcome event each September where families can drop in for a chat, to pick up information relating to all sorts of school matters, ask some questions and find out more about behaviour systems, homework, school visit costs and how to pay...and of course more about what your child will be learning this year. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE POSTER IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR WHERE TO GO - this event is just for Y1-Y6 due to all of the 'Stay & Play' events already run in Early Years. We'd love to see lots of you there - a great opportunity to find out how everything works in your child's new year group all at once!

**KEY DATES** - Schools are such busy places and primary schools always have so many events happening each term! Keep an eye on our 'Key Dates' section of this newsletter and on your child's Class Dojo class page for helpful reminders of what is coming up!

**ARBOR & DOJO** - We no longer use Parent Mail. Please ask the office for help with your access to both Arbor & Class Dojo - two vital communication channels for our school.

**UNIFORM** - So great to see so many children in our NEW and improved school uniform - great for OPAL and so easy for a decent PE kit all in one uniform! From this term onwards we will be making more

contact with families of children not in the correct uniform. Lots of help is at hand to get your children in the right uniform for school but we do expect our families to follow our new policy. Letters will be sent out to families of children who are repeatedly arriving in the wrong uniform and follow-up calls will be made to adults to see how things can be improved.

**TERM DATES** - In this newsletter you will see an image of this year's term dates and INSET days planned in where the school is closed. I have also included 2025-26 academic year - hopefully this helps everyone pre-plan holidays and childcare way in advance!

MHST - Walter Halls continues to benefit from the fantastic support of Nottingham's Mental Health Support Team. Dawn will be attending our Welcome Event next week and will resume her weekly drop-in sessions for any parents or family members who want to talk concerns through with her. Dawn will be available in 'The Nook' room next to the main school office every Wednesday morning from 8.40am starting from Wednesday 25th September. This is a confidential provision and a chance for families to talk directly with a mental health worker. We also extend MHST work to our children in school across each term - we're very lucky to have Dawn join us on school site every week!

**RESPECT** - We have 6 Values we teach our children each term and this term is all about RESPECT. Take a look at our values section on our website and as part of this weekly newsletter - your support from home in talking about the same things always makes a big difference.

SCHOOL HALL - Our school halls remains closed as we await repair works to start on the ceiling and roof.

This makes lunchtimes and PE slots as well as our weekly assemblies really difficult for everyone in school.

Assemblies are being done via videos that myself and Mrs Glover are filming and are being shown in classrooms and we are managing as best we can for now. I am hopeful for a repair and re-opening before half term but it has been a complex and long-winded process so far!

By next week I'm hoping I'll have had chance to take some lovely photos to make you smile...it's been a busy one this week!

Take care and have a great weekend,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

## WALTER HALLS WELCOME EVENT

## WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

3.30PM-4.30PM

## Come and find out more about:

\*Your child's year group curriculum and what they will be learning

\*Our approach to homework

\*Our approach to behaviour support and escalation
\*School visits & how to pay for them

\*Support for your child's specific needs

\*Systems of communication in school

\*Uniform

\*Family support

\*Our parent-run committee. 'Friends of Walter Halls and how you can help our school

\*Much, much more!

This is an informal event with different 'stalls' of information and a chance for an informal chat with different staff members who work here. Because our hall remains closed we will base ourselves:

Y1,2,3 (KS1) - Mr Starling's Y2 classroom

Y3,4,5,6 (KS2) - Mrs Moazzam's Y3 classroom

You can move between the two rooms if you have children in different key stages. Because our Early Years Team run lots of 'Stay & Play' events, this Welcome Event is only for Y1-Y6

## **Key Dates coming up...**



#### **AUTUMN term:**

- w/c 16th September First Times Tables Rock Stars competition for KS2 children
- **Friday 27th September** NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS DAY we will be celebrating and thanking these amazing people in our school
- **Friday 27th September** OPAL PLAY AFTERNOON Children & Staff will spend some decent time playing outside together fantastic for team building, trust and relationship building!
  - OCTOBER Black History Month we will be linking this to our value of Respect and learning more about this important theme
    - Thursday 3rd October National Poetry Day a national theme of 'Counting'

- 11th October FRIDAY FOCUS DAY The whole school focusing on the same subject all day long our first Friday Focus Day is 'Diversity: Celebrating Difference'. We will be asking all children and adults to DRESS UP in clothes that represent their differences religion, culture, character, beliefs.
  - **Friday 18th October** SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD A national event that we will be raising awareness of with all of our
    - HALF TERM STARTS ON FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER. SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
      - Autumn 2 term launches our core value of KINDNESS AND EMPATHY
  - **Wednesday 13th November** World Kindness Day we will be marking this event with a whole school activity and a family project
    - w/c 11th November National Anti-Bullying Week the theme this year is 'Choose Respect'
- Monday 11th November Odd Sock Day children to wear odd socks in support of anti-bullying
- **Friday 18th November** Children in Need Day children to wear something yellow / pudsey bear / spotty an bring a small donation in for this important charity
- Friday 19th November FRIDAY FOCUS DAY French! Languages Day across school more details to follow!
- w/c 9th December Christmas Performances F2 & Y1 always lead our Christmas performances as part of their RE learning more details to follow
  - Monday 16th December END OF TERM HEADTEACHER CERTIFICATES. A special 'red carpet' assembly with our families invited along to celebrate excellence in our children!
  - FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER LAST DAY OF TERM. SCHOOL RE-OPENS MONDAY 6TH JANUARY

**INSET DAYS** STILL TO COME THIS ACADEMIC YEAR - Friday 6th June, Thurs 24th & Fri 25th July

#### SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Mrs E Beardah - Headteacher Mrs Glover - Deputy Headteacher & SENDCO Mrs Wright – Assistant Head for Early Years & KS1 (F1, F2, Y1, Y2) Miss Pope – Assistant Head for KS2 (Y3,4,5,6) ASSISTANT HEAD FOR EARLY YEARS & KS1 - SARAH WRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANTS Miss C Hill F1: Mrs Wynne F2 Miss K Davey / Mrs K Thackray Based across school: Mrs Gabbitas F1 - Year 2 Support Staff: F2 Miss L Borderick Miss Fyfe, Mrs Haslam, Mrs Hollingsworth, Mrs A White Y1 Mrs Keeble, Mrs Cooling, Ms O'Reilly, Mrs Upton, Mrs Yaver, Mrs Greensmith, Mrs Y1 Mrs G Mussared-Johnson / Miss C Gilby Y2 Mr R Starling McCann Y2 \*New recruit - Mrs D Griffiths ASSISTANT HEAD FOR KS2 - HANNAH POPE Y3-Y6 Support staff: Mrs Bell, Mrs Hussain, Mrs Merrington-**Y3** Mrs T Terzza Mrs M Moazzam Ingley, Mrs Attewell, Mrs Smalley **Y3** Y4 Mrs C Routledge / Miss A Skelton Timetabled across school for behaviour, learning support & Miss C Sinclair **Y4** Mr T Holton Y5 interventions: Mr Hockham & Mr Neal Y5 Miss J Fisher / Mrs M Hollinger Y6 Mrs E Harding **Y6** Miss L Wensley Family Support & Child Welfare: Mrs G Holmes – Family support worker Mrs K Chandler – Child Welfare & Play therapist

Cover teachers, sports & music:	
Mrs Cox	Music teaching Tues/Weds with Y1/2 plus music leadership & events
Ms King	Thurs / Fri cover in Y2/3
Mrs Padmore & Mrs Jackson	Cover Supervisors
Epic Sports Team (external provider)	Sports Tues/Weds/Thurs/Fri
Nottingham Music Hub team (external)	Music on Tuesdays with Y4/5
PPA Ltd – Music team (external)	Music on Thursdays with Y3/6

## A great OPAL uniform

We are pleased to advise that branded tracksuit bottoms\*, polo shirts and jumpers/cardigans, can all be ordered through the school office.

\*\* tracksuit bottoms can now be supplied with and without a logo via the school office. Note, that these uniform items are ordered half-termly through our school wear supplier.









Navy



Black





Light Blue



White



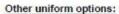


Plain trainers, or trainer-style shoe





Wellies (kept in school)
Water-proofs: jacket with hood or puddle-suit
(kept in school if possible)





PE kit – to be worn to school on allocated PE days. We do not get children changed for PE during the school day.

- Sportswear suitable for outdoor sports activity avoid large logos / expensive brands\*\*
- · Trainers & socks

\*\*As long as PE kit looks suitable for doing sporting activities, we are not specific about exactly what it should be. Children must be in trainers for PE. Affordable suggestions would be: plain t-shirts, plain tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings, zip-up hoodie for warmth in colder months.

If children are wearing a really great OPAL uniform, this would also work for PE, so long as proper trainers are worn that day.

#### Nottingham City Council School Terms and Holidays Calendar - 2024/25

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#### Nottingham City Council School terms and holiday calendar – 2025/26

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<sup>\*</sup>Recommend that July 27 be used as INSET Day (school's decision)

#### **OUR CORE VALUE DURING AUTUMN 1 TERM IS...**



#### **RESPECT**

We teach our children about our values - what they look like and what they sound like. The teaching we cover for this can be found on our website, under the tab 'Visions and Values'. Here is what we talk about connected with this terms value of RESPECT:

- Respect isn't always about compliance and doing what you're told.
- Ways of showing respect and that respect has to be earned it takes time and effort.
  - Respecting religions, other cultures and ways of living.
  - Respecting the environment to help all of our futures.
  - How our actions have an impact on others and the wider world.

- Having different opinions but still getting along.
  - Listening skills.
  - Taking turns.
- Safe ways to share opinions and what to do if you disagree.

As always, your help in talking to your children about all of these things at home is appreciated.

#### **CLUBS TO SIGN UP FOR...**



Booking online - visit www.progressive-sports-derbyshire.co.uk/clubs and find your school!



Book now at

## www.codecamp.co.uk/afterschool

Get in touch at hello@codecamp.co.uk

Rated 4.9 on OREVIEWS.io \* \* \* \*

## PHEENIX MUSIC WORKSHOP



#### FRIDAY AUTUMN TERM 1 YEARS 3 TO 6, 3.15 to 4.15PM

We are excited to offer an afterschool music workshop in Autumn Term 1, run by Emmanuel Olih (PHEENIX).

Emmanuel is a Nigerian born, and currently UK based, multi-genre singer/ rapper and songwriter. He is also a University of Derby Graduate, with a joint degree in Film and Television studies & Psychology.

He has worked with several genres such as hip hop, R&B, rock, 80s synthwave, afrobeats and many more.

(Pheenix performed his latest song release at the Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July!)

The classes will include weekly topics and activities to get children to feel excited. It will include song writing exercises:

- · What is song writing?
- How do we learn song writing?
- The 5 steps to start song writing (objects of focus, jamming and arranging, topics of choice, repletion and rhyme, free style)

At the end of the half term, children will have composed a song either on their own or in a group, or they can adapt a song they already know, that

The price is £5.00 per child (£30.00 for Autumn Term 1), bookings are now open on ParentMail . Spaces are limited to 15 children. The club will run on 13th, 20th, 27th September and 4th, 11th and 18th October.

#### **OPAL PLAY UPDATE**



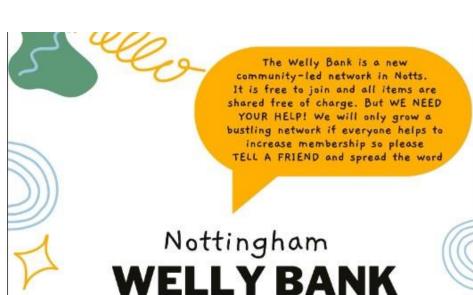
Our School started it's journey to becoming an OPAL school just last November and we still have a lot of work to do to get it where we want it to be. We continue to work through our action plan with the external support of our experienced OPAL mentor. This is long-term commitment based on research into effective learning via play and children's absolute need to be more active, playful and be able to assess their own risks. The impact we have seen already is amazing - both on behaviour improvements and with children's capacity to sustain focus and learning in the afternoon time.

We will be developing our website this year to offer a quicker way for our families to access OPAL information. Our OPAL Governor is Shani Melbourne and our OPAL leader in school is Jo Glover.

If you're not familiar with OPAL approaches, please take a look here... https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/parents/

...and look out for our OPAL updates coming your way too!





Because playing outside should not cost the earth....



Donate, swap or request wellies and outdoor clothes at www.facebook.com/groups/nottinghamwellybank

#### **ATTENDANCE!**



As a school, we strive for 100% attendance each week. Anything above 96% attendance, we class as 'good'. We have an attendance team at school, who track attendance of individual children very carefully, to ensure all of our children are able to come to school all of the time and not miss any of their learning.

If you need support with your child's attendance, please speak to us straight away.

We always report attendance for the previous week...so next week will be a our first update for you!

THIS YEAR'S TARGET IS 96% AND WE AIM TO REDUCE OUR PERSISTANTLY ABSENT FIGURES TO 10%

### Ways to communicate



#### Please remember, we have several ways you can get in touch:

- Come and speak to us outside on the playgrounds each morning or after school
- Call the office to make an appointment to speak with a class teacher, phase leader or member of senior leadership 0115 9150045.
  - Send us an email to ask us to call you <u>admin@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk</u>
- Class Dojo this is for class teachers to send out homework, key messages just for their class and for teachers to use to praise and celebrate great behaviour with 'Dojo points' given to the

# children each day. PLEASE DO NOT USE CLASS DOJO TO RAISE A COMPLAINT OR QUERY SOMETHING – call the office or send an email as above instead.

 Arbor – whole school messages, newsletters, whole-school events and all bookings for clubs and any visit payments are all done via Arbor.

If you need help setting up Arbor or Class Dojo please call our office for help – our aim is to be as 'paper-free' as possible so all key messages will come via these channels.

### **EASY-FUNDRAISING - Please help us!**





#### CAN YOU HELP OUR LOVELY SCHOOL?

We currently have 149 supporters who have helped to raise nearly £2000 for our school, so far. This is a meaningful amount of money that comes directly to us to help support our children. This academic year we would like to continue to put the entire money raised through this initiative towards all school visits and trips. We want to make sure ALL of our children get these chances, no matter their circumstances, and we have NO spare budget to make these amazing experiences happen.

If you have yet to join, or know anyone else who would be willing to join, it is so simple and quick to do. You do not have to donate a set amount - simply shop online through this APP, spending the money you

would normally spend, and we will get a small donation made each time! From take-aways to holidays there are so many online outlets that support this initiative.

#### Simply visit:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterhallsprimaryschool/?searchSessionId=2857a911-d6d1-4247-9db6-689c60a13f64

CAN WE REACH 200 SUPPORTERS THIS YEAR?

Sign-up and support our school - thank you!

### The Little Ted Foundation



Walter Halls continues to support for The Little Ted Foundation - a charity very close to our hearts, following the sad passing of Mr Neal's youngest child, Baby Ted. We will continue to raise money

whenever we can, to give to this very special charity. For more information on how you can help too, please visit the following link:

https://www.thelittletedfoundation.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCHqIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEqK5XvD\_BwE

### **Community & Family Support**



#### FRIENDS OF WALTER HALLS PTA EVENTS:

This year, FOWH are raising money towards all school visits and experiences for our children. We do not have enough budget to cover the cost of visits or visitors into school and would like to make sure those who cannot afford to pay don't miss out.

#### FAMILY AND PASTORAL SUPPORT

We currently support many families with various needs including: food parcels, family advice, parenting support and other referrals to various helpful agencies.

Here are a few key contacts of people who may be able to help you:

**Emma Beardah** - Headteacher & Safeguarding team leader

Jo Glover - Deputy Headteacher, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Safeguarding team

Gail Holmes - Family Support Worker, Attendance officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Kerrie Chandler - Play Therapist, Child Welfare Officer & Deputy DSL

**Lee Neal** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

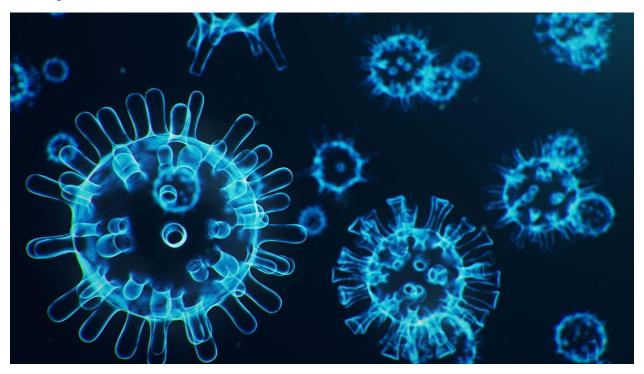
#### Joe Hockham - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

**Dawn Jukes - MHST link worker -** on school site every Wednesday. Adult drop-in sessions 8.30-9.15am available

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE ON 0115 9150045 or COME AND CHAT TO US OUTSIDE IN THE MORNINGS OR

AFTER SCHOOL

### **Safety reminders**



- **COVID and other illnesses** we want and need our children in school as much as possible. At the moment, advice is for children to isolate for 3-days if you know they have COVID. Upset tummies and sickness requires 48 hours of being at home, to stop the spread. See our poster for other common childhood illness and what you need to do about school attendance.
- Please do not gather on the school grounds at the start and end of days. We have Epic Sports running after school activities and need to be vigilant in closing our gates at the right times to keep the children safe, both in the morning and after school.
  - **No dogs are permitted on site at any time -** we love them but not all children do so please respect this and make plans to leave them at home when coming to school site.

- **Bikes and scooters -** all adults and children should not be riding through the site please dismount and push them through our pathways.
- **PE kits** To avoid children needing to get changed during the school day, PE kits must be worn to school on the day of PE, along with a coat / jumper / cardigan to keep children warm during other parts of the day. PE kits must be plain blue tracksuit bottoms or shorts and a plain white top. If you're still unsure of PE days, please call the office.
  - Please be considerate and safe when parking outside of our school gates. Parking officials patrol as regularly as possible. We politely ask that all of our families are mindful of road safety around our school, where very young children are walking in and out.
- Respectful behaviour on site We respectfully remind you that school is private property and holds it's own set of expectations for conduct on site. If your child walks to and from school alone or gets picked up by another adult we need to know about this please call the office. We expect all of our children to arrive and leave site in a respectful way and for the conduct of all adults on our site to be polite and respectful too. Repeated cases of problems with this on our school grounds can lead to us asking you to escort your children to and from their classrooms instead of arriving or leaving by themselves and we may ask adults to remain at the gates if respectful and polite adult behaviour becomes an issue.