

# **NEWSLETTER - 29th September 2023**

Dear parents and carers,

Happy Friday! AND HAPPY NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS DAY - we will definitely be showing our respect and thanks to these wonderful people who help our children SO much! Just a few quick reminders in this week's newsletter...

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - starts next week! We will be sending out a home learning project for all of the children to take part in, as well as doing some specific learning across school all about diversity and celebrating our differences. Keep a look out for an update on Dojo for the home learning project.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY is next week, on Thursday. The children will be having a special assembly all out this year's theme of 'Refuge' and will each be doing different styles of poems matched to this theme. We also have a visiting author and poet coming in on Thursday...more details in this newsletter and an extra plea for a voluntary donation from you all to cover the costs of this special guest.

CAN YOU HELP US? You may have seen my Dojo message asking for your help with school funds. There are 2 easy ways to help support the school as much as you can: EasyFundraisingApp and Pay it forward on Parent Mail...more details in this newsletter!

**Next Week:** 

- WEDNESDAY: 8.30-9.15am MHST drop-in sessions for parents/carers to chat to Dawn.
  - THURSDAY NATIONAL POETRY DAY & our special visitor in school!
  - FRIDAY 9am celebration assembly will be for Y2 & 3 in the hall.

Please take a look through the rest of this newsletter for more information on events coming up...

Take care,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

## **NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANT DAY!**



Today is National Teaching Assistants Day - we will be saying a HUGE thank you to all of our lovely Teaching Assistants today. Without them, I'm not sure what we would do and I wish we could have many more of them in school helping our children. We say thank you and show RESPECT for this beautiful bunch of people by giving them a GOLDEN TIME OUT TICKET for them to cash in at any point this academic year - some delicious time to themselves to spend in whatever way they want or need.

THANK YOU to all of the brilliant TA's out there - our schools are better places because of you!



NATIONAL POETRY DAY - Special visitor!





We are very excited to be welcoming David Higgins - AKA Stickman - to Walter Halls on National Poetry Day (Thursday 5th October). The theme this year is Refuge where children in KS1 will be exploring the treasures that they have which help them to feel safe. Children in KS2 will be looking at refuge as finding a place in which to feel safe.

On the day, there will be an assembly and poetry workshops with Stickman involving some very exciting body popping percussion work, lots of musicality and really engaging poetry performance techniques.

We are so pleased that the children will be able to work with him...

David Stickman Higgins is an experienced musician, spoken word poet, actor and storyteller. His work explores issues about human rights, positive truths of Afro Caribbean identity and global identity.

CAN YOU HELP COVER THE COSTS OF THIS SPECIAL VISITOR WITH A VOLUNTARY DONATION OF JUST £1?

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO SEE HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP OUR SCHOOL RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR OUR CHILDREN?



Schools all over the country are struggling like never before - our budgets are so stretched that we are no longer able to offer all the experiences that we know our children deserve.

Did you know that you can help in 2 really easy ways?

1) EASYFUNDRAISING APP - download it today and help us every single time you shop online, order a takeaway or buy all those Christmas presents that will soon be needed! We will receive a small donation from SO MANY different businesses out there, every time you spend.

We currently have 127 supporters and have raised £1,228 - vital money that goes so far in helping us to help your children enjoy their school life so much more. If you're not already signed up, it's really quick and easy - simply follow this

 $link...https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterhallsprimaryschool/?utm\_campaign=raise-more$ 

It would be GREAT to reach 200 supporters this year so please share this link far and wide!

2) PAY IT FORWARD WITH KINDNESS - for all school visits, trips and experiences this year, we are asking anyone who can afford to, to pay anything they can (in multiples of just £1) towards another child being able to get these experiences too. We have no allocated budget to cover the costs of any school visits or experiences - we are not funded well enough to do this any more - and so we have often had to cancel entire visits out, because some of our families simply can't afford any additional costs either.

Times are tough for so many - if you can help someone else in some small way, we'd love for you to visit PARENT MAIL--PAYMENTS---SHOP---VISITS & EXPERIENCES---PAY IT FORWARD

So far we've had £173 of 'pay it forward' donations - you are all SO AMAZING, thank you :)



## Keeping children safe online

## **Parent Guides to Online Safety**



A Parent's Guide to



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming









A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming





A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to **Fake News** 



A Parent's Guide to **Privacy Settings** 



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skips.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Home Office





www.skipssafetynet.org

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



#### **AUTUMN TERM DATES**

### Our Core Value learning is all about RESPECT

- OCTOBER is BLACK HISTORY MONTH lots of learning and activities happening across school to celebrate diversity
- THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER NATIONAL POETRY DAY children will be taking part in this year's national theme of 'Refuge'
- **WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER** DRUMMING WORKSHOP FOR KS2 with Jeff Rich, ex-Status Quo drummer!
  - FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER FRIDAY FOCUS DAY The whole of school will spend the entire day immersed in learning about DIVERSITY

• **FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER -** LAST DAY OF TERM. School closes for half-term break and re-opens to all children on MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

#### Autumn 2 term:

- MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER WORLD KINDNESS DAY we will be celebrating this day, matched to our Autumn 2 Core Value of Kindness & Empathy
  - MONDAY 13TH & WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER PROGRESS MEETINGS WITH PARENTS &
     CARERS your chance to find out from class teachers how your child is getting on at school. Slots
     are booked via ParentMail more info to follow
  - w/c 13TH NOVEMBER NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK The whole school will be learning about bullying online and in person and what our anti-bullying policy here at Walter Halls is.

    More info to follow
  - FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER CHILDREN IN NEED DAY WEAR SOMETHING YELLOW / SPOTTY / PUDSEY BEAR THEMED AND BRING IN A SMALL DONATION FOR THIS CHARITY
    - FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER FRIDAY FOCUS DAY The whole school will spend the entire day immersed in learning about MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES. Walter Halls children learn French as their MfL in KS2
- w/c 11TH DECEMBER FOUNDATION STAGE AND YEAR 1 LEAD OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES
   more details to follow
- MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER HEADTEACHER EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATES Y1-Y6 will be presented theirs in a special assembly at 9am in the school hall. More info to follow
  - TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER Christmas Parties in classrooms get your party clothes at the ready! More info to follow
- **WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER** LAST DAY OF TERM. School closes and re-opens to all children on THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY
  - OUR REMAINING INSET DAYS ARE: Thurs 28th March, Thurs 25th & Fri 26th July

 Term dates can be found on our website here: https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/termdates/

## **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.

LAST WEEK'S WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 94%

THIS YEAR'S TARGET IS 96% AND WE AIM TO REDUCE OUR PERSISTANTLY ABSENT FIGURES FROM 15% TO 8%

#### CHILDREN'S CLUBS IN OUR COMMUNITY...











Booking essential: www.staa.eventbrite.com Contact Rachel on 07498 864498 to book. The Community Orchard is on St Ann's Allotments, off Ransom Road, look out for the yellow signs.







#### **OUR CORE VALUE THIS TERM IS...**



### RESPECT. These are the main teaching points we will cover:

- 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.

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





We currently have 127 supporters who have helped to raise over £1000 for our school, so far. This is a meaningful amount of money that comes directly to us to help support our children. Next academic year we would like 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 next-to-no spare budget to make these happen ourselves.

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 - simple 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:

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

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/?qclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCHgIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD\_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.

EVENTS - A list of events being organised by FOWH during Autumn term will be released soon!

#### **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

Jodie Burton - Family Support Worker, Attendance officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

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

**Lee Neal** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

**Rachael Pierpoint** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

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

## Ways to communicate



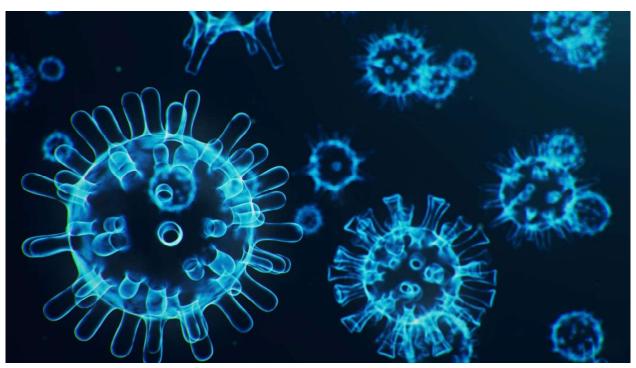
Please remember, we have several ways you can get in touch:

- 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 admin@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk
- 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.
  - Parent Mail whole school messages, newsletters, whole-school events and all bookings for clubs and any visit payments are all done via Parent Mail.

If you need help setting up Parent Mail 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.

# **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.