



Be your best.

NEWSLETTER - 8th December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Happy Friday to all of you – and just one more full week plus 3 days until we break up for the Christmas holidays. School closes on Wednesday 20th and reopens on Thursday 4th January 2024!

HUGE THANKS for your support with the Christmas Fair – now more than ever, our school fundraising events make so much difference to what we can afford to pay for to make life in school better for the children. We have a small but AMAZING ‘Friends of Walter Halls’ parent team who go above and beyond to make events special for our community. Thank you so much. I will let you all know how much we have raised as soon as I can do.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS...get them at the ready again for next Friday’s Christmas Dinner day on 15th December! We have a rail of donated jumpers in the school office if anyone would like to take one – or donate one!

END OF TERM CELEBRATIONS – next week, F2 & Y1 lead us in Christmas performances. Each year group leads a different religious celebration each term and F2 & Y1 are in charge of Christmas. See the ‘key dates’ section for days and times of these shows.

HEADTEACHER CERTIFICATES – our first red carpet event of the year, celebrating our amazing children who have been noticed for their brilliance all term, takes place on Monday 18th December, 9am in the school hall, for Y1-Y6 children. If your child has been nominated you will be contacted separately and

asked to attend. F1 & F2 receive their certificates in a smaller ceremony in their own learning spaces later on that same week.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS – *we will also be celebrating amazing attendance with some certificates and rewards being shared with each classroom: anyone with 100% attendance will be receiving a special certificate and 96% and above will be making a choice from the Autumn attendance menu plus an attendance sticker. For Christmas party details see the 'key dates' section of the newsletter...party clothes at the ready!*

OPAL – *An update for you all in this week's newsletter – please have a read of the Opal section this week. We are also running a 'Question & Answer' session on Thursday next week at 9am or 2.30pm in the library – we realise some of you have concerns and questions, particularly about muddy play and wet play. Adele Cleaver – a parent of our school and an experienced play worker – along with Mrs Glover who is leading our Opal project will be available to answer your questions next week.*

I hope you find the rest of the sections of this newsletter helpful...

Take care,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk



STAFFING NEWS



As we come to the end of Autumn term, here are some staffing updates for you all to be aware of:

- Jodie Burton, our amazing Family Support Worker, leaves us this Christmas. This is a massive loss to our school and a really personal loss for me, with Jodie being such a brilliant support for the whole of our school and leadership team. Interviews are taking place next Tuesday and I will update you all on the outcome of this asap*
 - We welcomed Joe Hockham this term, as our second Behaviour & Learning mentor working across school. Mr Hockham replaces Mrs Pierrpoint who left us at half term, to work closer to home. He will be supporting a number of children who need his help and support across different year groups in school*
 - Mrs Longley, who many of you will know and recognise around school, is also leaving us mid-January as her whole family plans to relocate out of Nottingham. Mrs Longley has been with Walter Halls School since 2003 (20 years!) as a brilliant, bubbly and hardworking teaching assistant, currently in F2 but previously having worked across different year groups and with our SEND children in The Retreat. Interviews to replace this role in F2 will take place quickly after the Christmas break*
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OPAL PLAY UPDATE



Opal stands for 'Outdoor Play & Learning' – it is an 18-month project to set it all up and get it going properly, working alongside an external mentor who is highly trained, knowledgeable and experienced in helping schools make this a success. This isn't just about lunchtimes – this is about developing high-quality play literacy for children of ALL ages in school and it is about developing learning styles and approaches to learning better, in all areas of the curriculum.

Research is clear that OPAL leads to happier, healthier children who can learn more and function better with their afternoon lessons. It is proven to reduce negative behaviour incidents at lunchtimes and hundreds of schools across the UK, and in other countries, have adopted this approach.

We have spent a lot of time (and money) researching this and working with other experts and other schools to know for sure that what we are starting to do here is absolutely correct for our children's learning. For this reason, our determination remains in sticking with this programme, despite any hiccups or concerns that are being raised by a small number of families.

We have a large team of Opal leaders here and we are currently compiling a letter to send to all of our families, which addresses all of the recent concerns and feedback that has come through to us. We appreciate that some of the wet-weather and muddy play has caused extra pressures on families and that the need for different clothing may be adding to your stress. We understand that there will need to be effort from all sides if we are going to make this work and that some of you may need more time to get waterproof clothing in place for your children. We will continue to listen to your feedback and aim to work with you to find solutions – but ultimately, we will also be sticking with the Opal ethos when it comes to learning outdoors, in all kinds of weather.

Please take time to read our Opal letter over the Christmas period and we will be gathering more feedback on this in the Spring term – from both adults and our children.

Come along on THURSDAY next week for a Q&A session at 9am or 2.30pm in the school library where you can have some of your questions answered

FRIDAY FOCUS FRENCH DAY!







Last Friday was our first Friday Focus Day of the year, where our children get to immerse themselves in one subject area for most of the day. We kicked this off with French Day! Here's what we all go up to, along with some lovely photographs..!

In F1 we recapped our learning from last week about how we live in a country called the United Kingdom on planet earth, and how we put our photos on the map to show where the United Kingdom is. We found France on our map and talked about how we could travel there. We talked about children in France and how they liked to do lots of things the same as us. We shared what our favourite breakfast was, and looked at pictures of a breakfast French children might eat. We also took a virtual tour of the Eiffel Tower and made our own French flags. The children spotted that the French flag used the same colours as the Union Jack, but that it was not the same. We learnt how to say 'Hello' in French, and also sang our 'Goodbye Song' in French. We ended our day with an episode of 'Peppa Pig' in French. What a busy day!

In F2 we worked together to make a big French flag using paint/collage. We also made some smaller flags and attached them to straws which the children loved! The favourite part thought was definitely the food tasting!

In Year 1 we were learning how to sing 'Frere Jacques', we were making our own Eiffel towers using paper straws, doing puzzle pictures of famous paintings and learning a 2D shape song in French!

Year 2 looked at the colours of the rainbow in French and then we then learnt the rainbow song in French which can be enjoyed on class dojo!

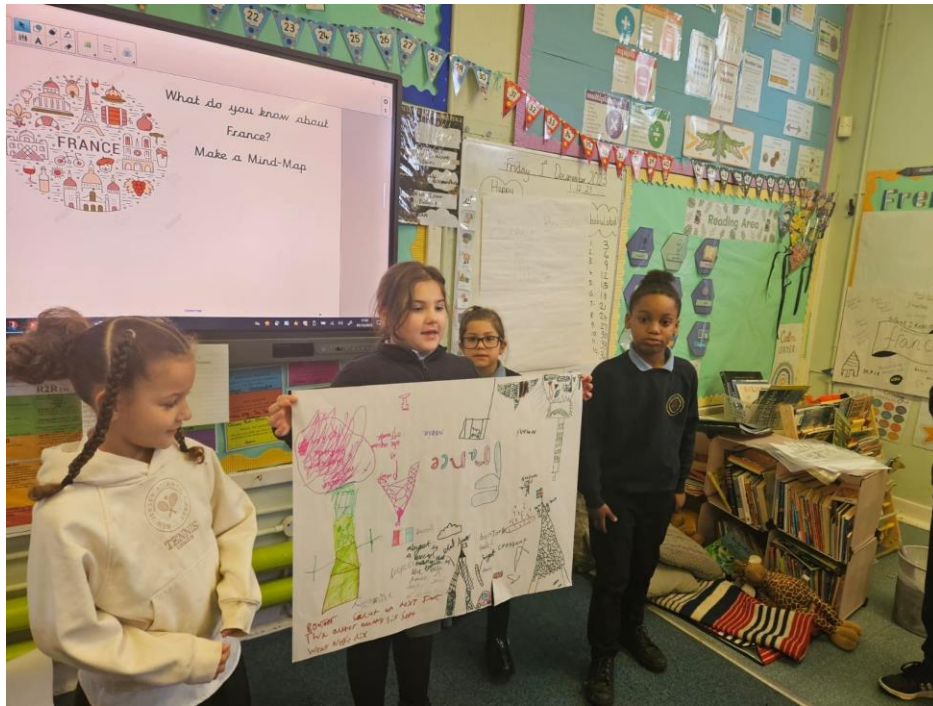
In Y3 we practised saying greetings in French had hot chocolate and pain au chocolat 'breakfast' whilst designing a French themed t-shirt!

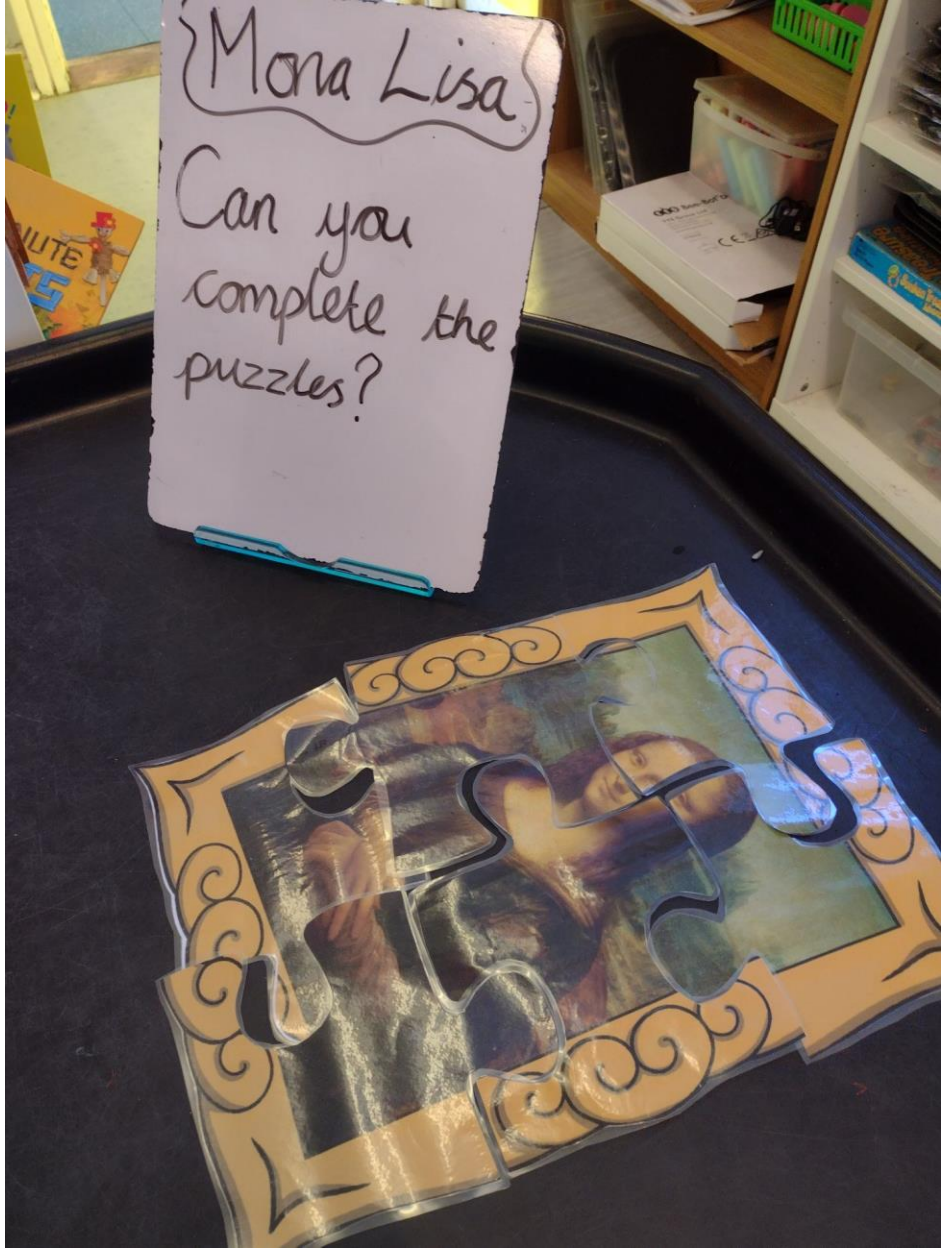
Yr 4 learned how to retell the nursery rhyme – Little Red Riding Hood in French. Children used their French language skills to share a simply version of the story.

Yr 5 did some role play of a parisian café. The children took on the roles of café customers and staff to use language to ask for food and drinks and exercise conversational language.

Yr 6 also did some role play activities to act out a weather report in French! Great learning!





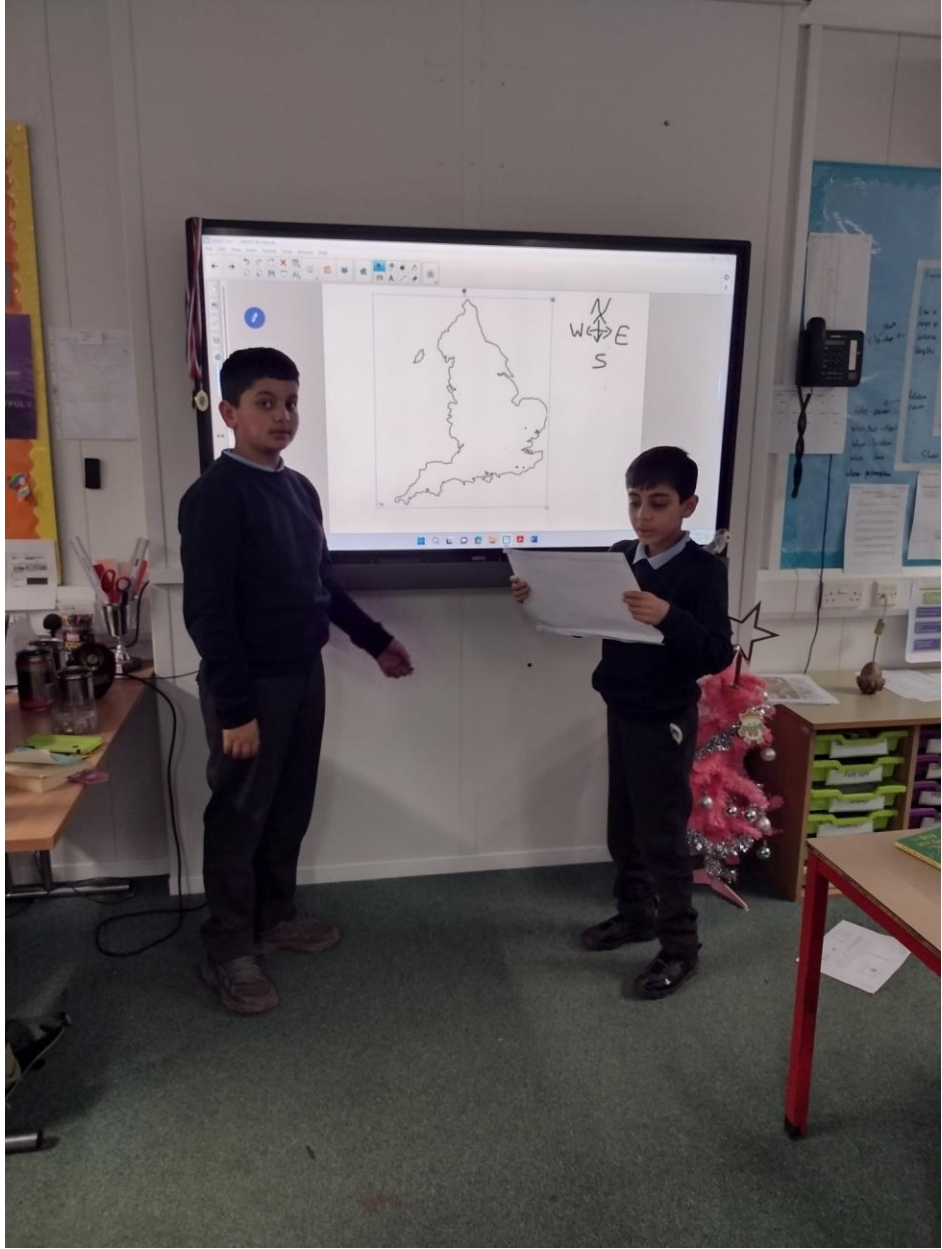


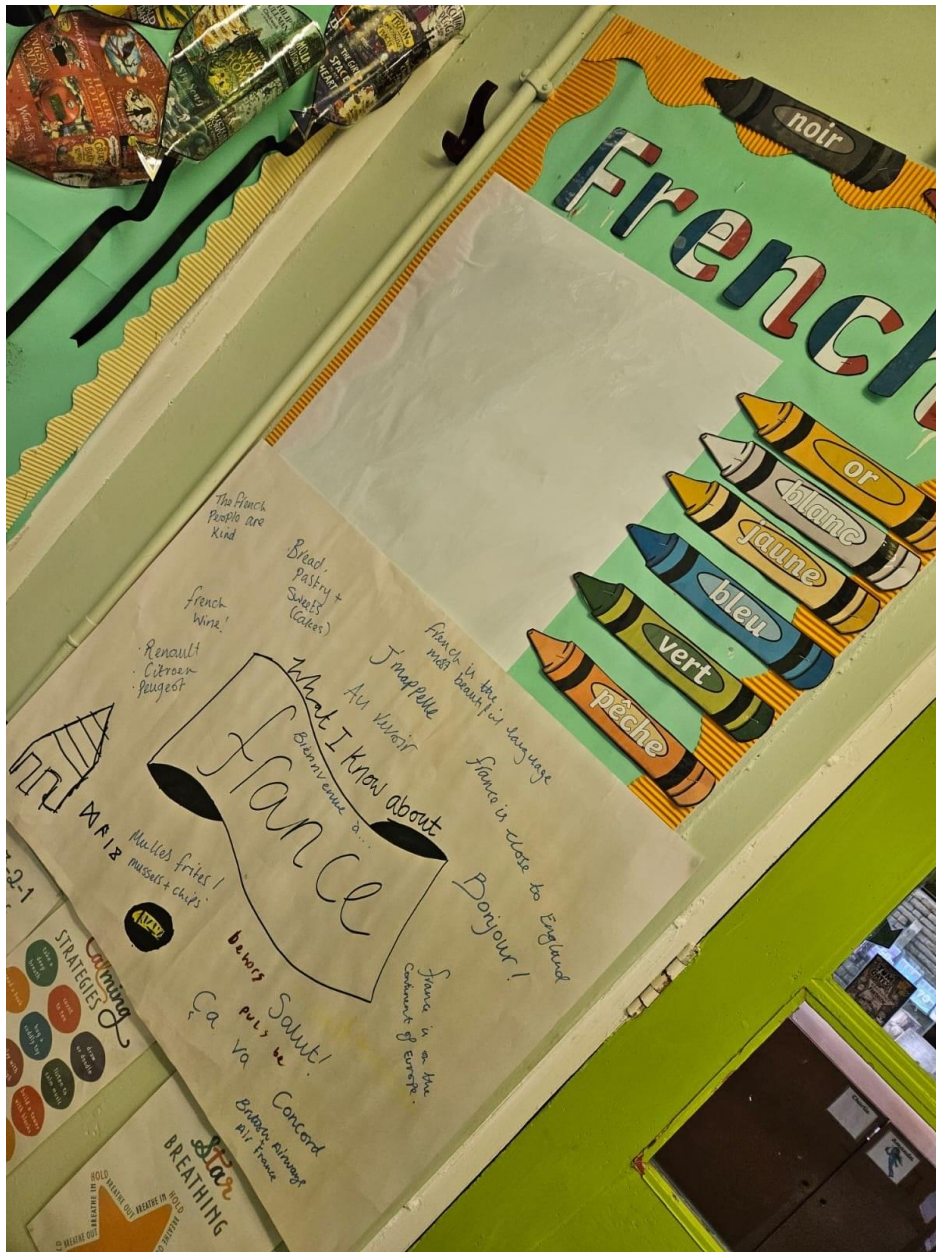
Mona Lisa

Can you complete the puzzles?









YEAR 1 VISIT ST JUDE'S CHURCH





Year 1 had a fascinating time visiting St Jude's church as part of our RE curriculum. This term we have been learning all about what Christians believe and how they celebrate events that are special to them. We got shown around the church and talked about the Nativity and why people put a star or an angel on top of the Christmas tree. We made star tree decorations and were curious to learn all about the church organ. Out of 300 congregation members, only 5 people are able to play it! One of the stained glass windows in the church is very special as it depicts the same boat as the one in the Walter Halls logo.



Key Dates coming up...



AUTUMN TERM DATES

Our Core Value learning is all about KINDNESS & EMPATHY

Autumn 2 term:

- **WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER - Y1 CHRISTMAS SHOW & THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER - F2 CHRISTMAS SHOW. 2.15PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL**
 - **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**
 - **MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER - St Judes Church Carol Service**
 - **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/term-dates/>**
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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.

IN THE FINAL WEEK OF LAST HALF TERM, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 94%

THE HIGHEST CLASS ATTENDANCE WAS FROM: CLASS 6B with 97.4%

ALSO DOING WELL WERE: CLASS 6A and CLASS 1A both with 96%!

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



Keeping children safe online

Parent Guides to Online Safety



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



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

Developed in partnership with



www.skipssafetynet.org

The importance of applying for Free School Meals.....

Did you know that our school gets money when a pupil claims their Free School Meal?

Help our school to invest in all our children—please complete an application form

This money provides us with extra resources that can be used throughout the whole of school



Please visit the school office for more information and to collect an application form. Once you have filled the form in, please return it to the office and we can submit the form on your behalf.

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.

CHILDREN'S CLUBS IN OUR COMMUNITY...

THE RENEWAL TRUST
Helping communities grow

ABC

EPIC PARTNERS
Empowering Positive & Inspirational Change

MTVH

HEALTH HUB

FREE **AGE 8-16**

**AT HILL VIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE,
RANSOM ROAD, NG3 3BP**

EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:00PM - 7:00PM

These sessions allow young people to come together in a relaxed environment. You can choose from a range of activities from learning the knowledge of food, healthy living, and cooking skills. You can participate in sport with physical, mental health and wellbeing support. Along with mindfulness activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0115 8372021
WWW.EPICPARTNERS.CO.UK

f EPIC PARTNERS @EPIC_PARTNERS in EPIC PARTNERS

CHARITY NUMBER: 1150823



YOUTH NIGHT

ONLY £ 2 AGE 11-16

**THE OLIVER HIND YOUTH CLUB,
EDALE ROAD, NG2 4HT**

EVERY FRIDAY 5:00PM - 6:45PM

These sessions allow young people to come together in a relaxed environment. You can choose from a range of activities each week and compete in friendly and fun games.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0115 8372021

WWW.EPICPARTNERS.CO.UK



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EPIC PARTNERS

CHARITY NUMBER: 1150823



FUSION

Youth Club

EVERY THURSDAY

During term times

5:30PM-8:00PM

10-17 year olds

50P ENTRY

At The Greenway Centre Trent Lane NG2 4DF

WHAT WE DO:

Instrument room Sports Cooking or baking
Fun & Games Arts and craft Music studio



@sendprojectyouthclub
tiktok
@SEND Project
facebook
@sendprojectnottingham
instagram





St Ann's Community Orchard

Free After School Sessions

Every Wednesday
3:30pm-5pm



Orienteering,
exploring, bug
hunting, cooking on
the fire, arts, crafts,
and more!

Children aged
8-12 only



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.



FREE PLAY FOOTBALL

Mondays

4pm to 5pm (ages 5 to 11)

5pm to 6pm (ages 12 to 16)

Brewsters Park

141 Brewsters Road, NG3 3BY

Free*

Book your place: bookwhen.com/renewaltrust

*Sessions open to families living in St Ann's, Sneinton and Mapperley
(Nottingham City Wards - Dales, Mapperley and St Ann's)





Skate Nottingham

Free skateboard coaching sessions



**SATURDAYS AT BRENDON
LAWRENCE SPORTS CENTRE**

10:30 - 12:00
From 2nd September
For ages 7+

 <p>FREE PLAY FOOTBALL</p>	<p>Free Play Football - Free* Monday 4pm to 5pm - ages 5 to 11 Monday 5pm to 6pm - ages 12 to 16 Brewsters Park, 141 Brewsters Road, NG3 3BY Book your place: bookwhen.com/renewaltrust</p>	 <p>THE RENEWAL TRUST Helping communities grow</p>
	<p>Wicketz - ages 8 to 16 - Free* Wednesday 5:30pm to 7pm - ages 8 to 16 Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB Register here: app.upshot.org.uk/signup/c310d54a/</p>	<p>Term time activities</p>
	<p>BLSC Youth Club does ACE - ages 8 to 16 - Free* Thursday 5:30pm to 7pm Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB Register here: app.upshot.org.uk/signup/ad80caee/</p>	<p>with The Renewal Trust (and friends!)</p>
	<p>PL Kicks - Football and Cricket - ages 8 to 16 - Free* Thursday 6pm to 8pm Nottingham Academy, Greenwood Road, Sneinton NG3 7EB Book your place: bookwhen.com/nfct</p>	<p>To find out more call: 0115 911 2226 or email enquiries@renewaltrust.org.uk</p>
	<p>Feel Good Family Fun - £1 per family / household Friday, 4:30pm to 5:30pm - monthly from 15 September Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB Book your place: bookwhen.com/renewaltrust</p>	
	<p>PL Kicks - Football - ages 8 to 16 - Free* Friday 6pm to 8pm Brendon Lawrence Sports Centre, 35 Hungerhill Road, NG3 4NB Book your place: bookwhen.com/nfct</p>	<p><small>*Free sessions open to families living in Nottingham City wards Dales, Mapperley and St Ann's</small></p>

OUR CORE VALUE THIS TERM IS...



KINDNESS & EMPATHY. These are the main teaching points we will cover:

- *Why is kindness so important?*
- *What would happen without it?*
- *How do we show kindness to people?*
- *Can we be kind to everyone all of the time?*
- *What is empathy and how is it linked to kindness?*
- *Making a difference in the world through kindness.*
 - *Role models.*
 - *The power of a smile.*
- *How to be thoughtful and ask thoughtful questions.*
- *How body language shows us how people are feeling.*
 - *Putting yourself in someone else's shoes.*

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

EASY-FUNDRAISING - Please help us!



Walter Halls Primary School

📍 Mapperley, Nottingham

£1,048.75 raised

128 supporters

Sign up and support this cause

We currently have 137 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:

<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=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD_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

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

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



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- **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 its 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.*
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