FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER 2026

Dear all,

Happy Friday! And Happy Half Term!

The first half term back can be tough, with lots of change for our children to navigate. They have made us all very proud and their learning this half term has been impressive.

***New Parent Committee members** - thank you to those of you who have put yourselves forward to join our 'Friends of Walter Halls' parent committee! This group does AMAZING work for our*

school, running fundraisers that help our children so much. School budgets are quite simply broken but these events mean our children still get to go on school visits, enjoy outdoor play equipment and have the experiences they deserve at primary school.

Their first event was yesterday, with a spooky cake sale and they've already raised £293.72!

***New Chair of Governors** - our Governing Board has elected a new chair this term. Anna Hodgson, who is also a parent of the school, has taken over this role and we're really lucky to be working with her. Take a read of her welcome message, in this newsletter.*

***DIVERSITY DAY** - Some gorgeous photos included in this week's newsletter - what an amazing place Walter Halls is: full of differences, uniqueness and special families. These photos, and the activities that each class did last Friday says so much about what sort of school we are. Please take a look...*

Have a great half term - school re-opens on **MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER.** *See you in 2 weeks!*

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

Nottingham City Council
School Terms and Holidays Calendar - 2026/27

	AUGUST 2026					
M		3	10	17	24	31
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	

	SEPTEMBER 2026					
M		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		

	OCTOBER 2026					
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		

	NOVEMBER 2026					
M		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	

	DECEMBER 2026					
M		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		

	JANUARY 2027					
M		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
W		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
F	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	

	FEBRUARY 2027					
M	1	8	15	22		
T	2	9	16	23		
W	3	10	17	24		
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

	MARCH 2027					
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

	APRIL 2027					
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		

	MAY 2027					
M		3	10	17	24	31
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	

	JUNE 2027					
M		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		

	JULY 2027					
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		

	Key
	In school
	School holiday
	Public holiday
	In Service Training Day

	AUGUST 2027					
M		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	31
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	

Half term 1 – 6 weeks 4 days
Half term 2 – 7 weeks
Half term 3 – 6 weeks
Half term 4 – 4 weeks 4 days
Half term 5 – 6 weeks 4 days
Half term 6 – 7 weeks 3 days

Welcome to our new Chair of Governors!



Hello, I'm Anna, and I'm delighted to have been elected as the new Chair of Governors at Walter Halls.

Many of you will already know me from the school gate, as I have two children here, in Year 2 and Year 5. Being a parent at the school means I see first-hand how much our staff do for every child, and I feel privileged to support that work.

The governing board's role is to work with Emma Beardah and the leadership team to set the school's direction, check that children are achieving their best, and make sure the school is well run and its money well spent. We don't run the school day to day, but we're here to support and challenge on behalf of every child. You can find out more information about our governing board and how to contact us through the school's website.

Thanks

Anna

You can find out more about our board of governors on our website.

Here is the link: https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/web/governors_and_profiles/642075

You can get in touch with our Chair of Governors by emailing:
cog@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

DIVERSITY DAY!




SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD





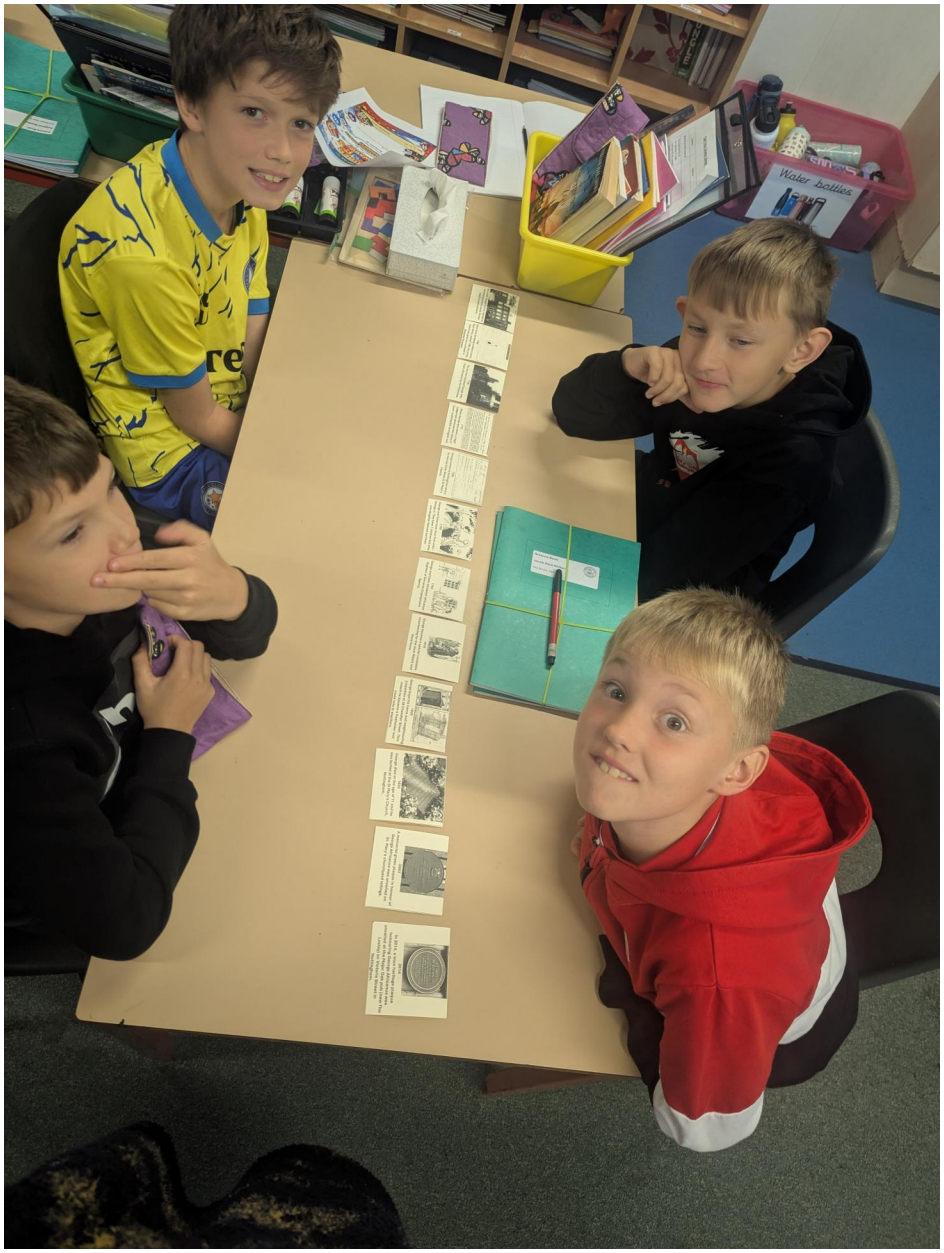
Year 5 explored the life of George Africanus. The children were able to make a chronology of his life events and appreciate how he interacted with places that they still see every day around Nottingham today. As he had ended up running an employment agency, they considered what kind of positions may have been available at the time and what the requirements for them may

have been. They enacted a day in the life of George Africanus, interviewing potential applicants for various positions. They also learned about the commemorative plaques that can be found around Nottingham, dedicated to him. Finally, they designed their own Diversity themed plaques.

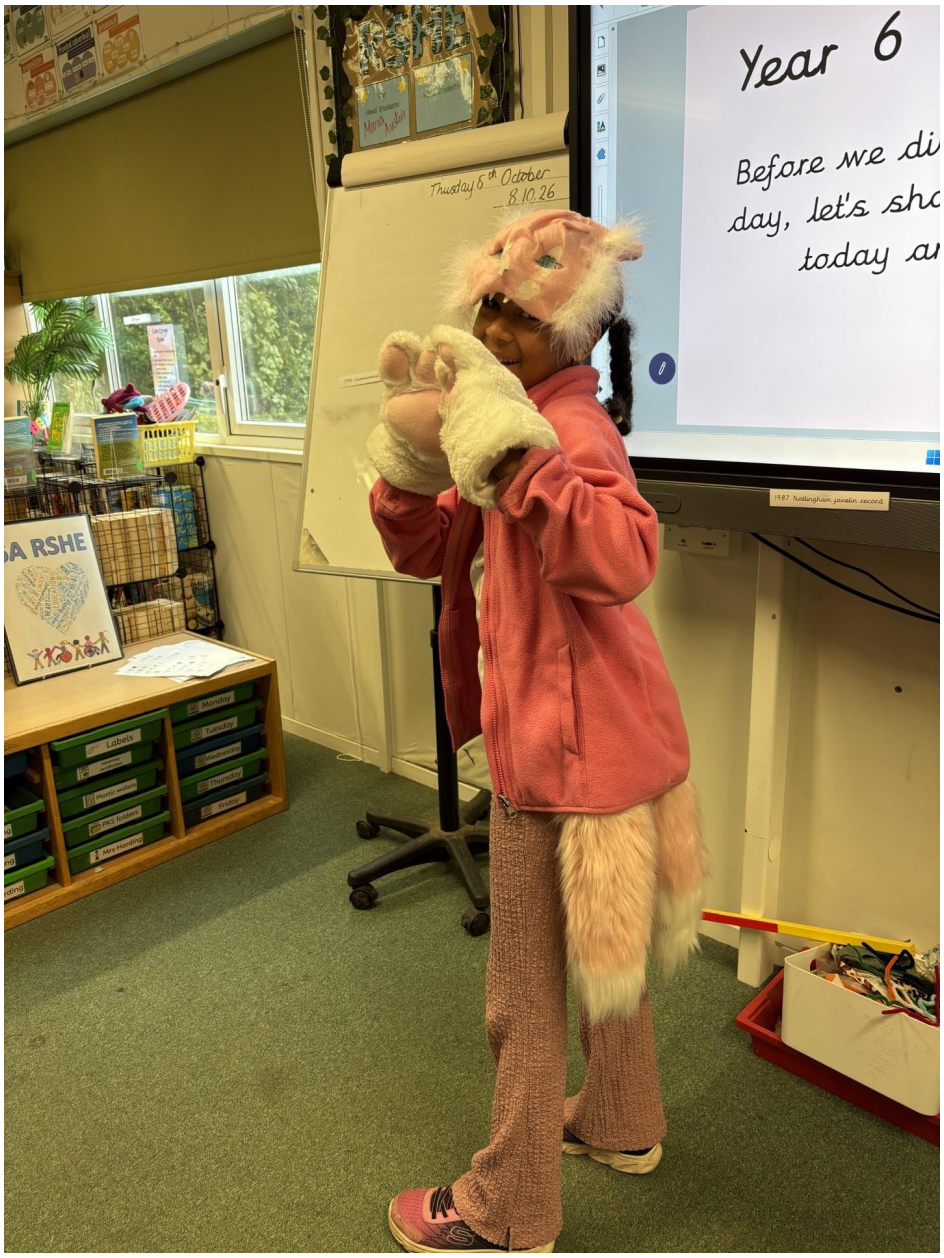
Year 6 really enjoyed diversity day. We began by sharing things about ourselves that made us unique before moving on to look at Sharon Gibson- a famous, Nottingham Javelin thrower who represented GB in the Olympics twice and now works tirelessly to support the local St Ann's community. We thought about the mark she is leaving and then related that the mark we want to leave on the world.

Year 2 had a great day exploring a local artist, who made their mark on Nottingham – Honey Williams! They found out they were from St Anns and enjoyed learning about them and producing some lovely art work of their own.

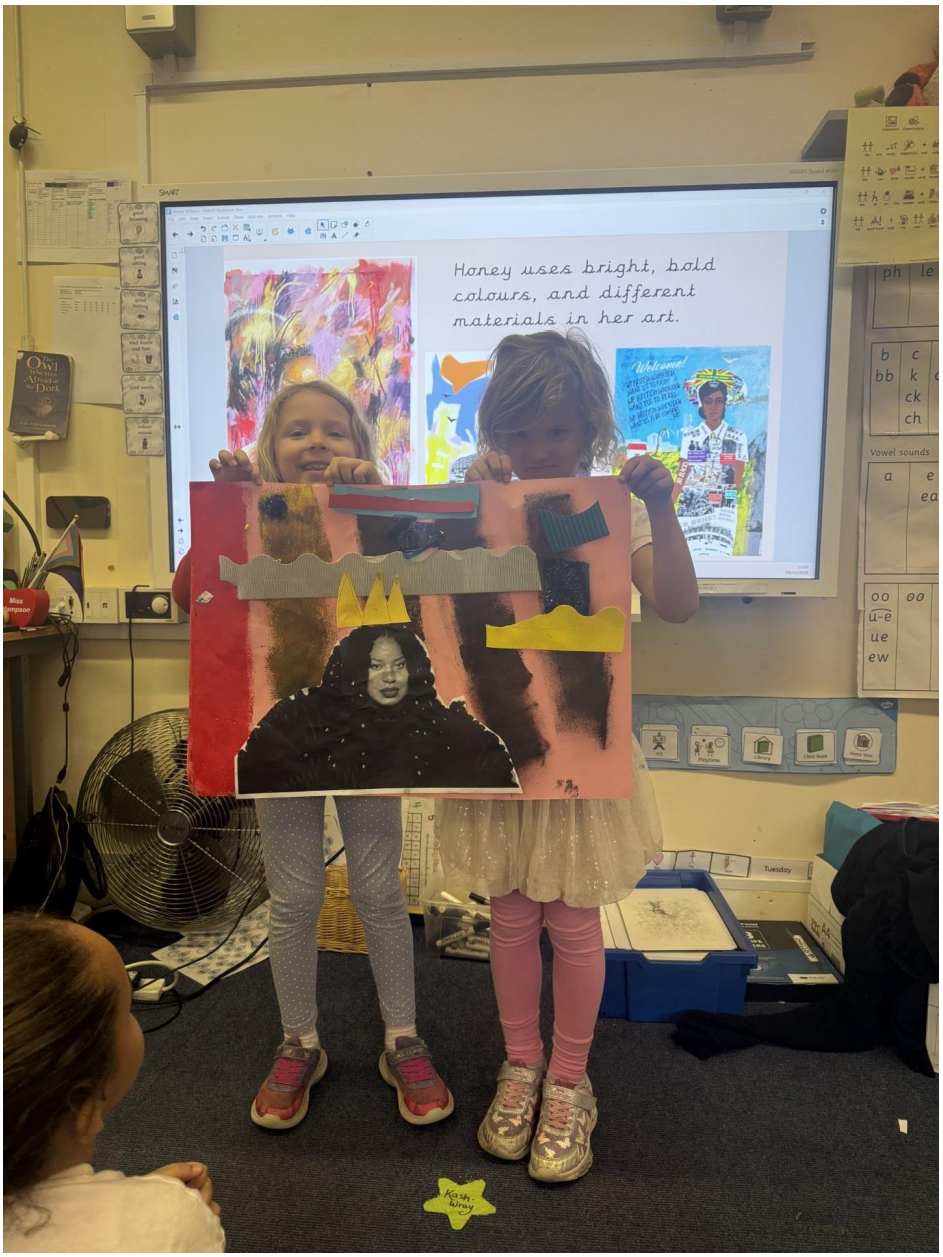
In Year 1 we celebrated ourselves and talked about 'What makes me me?' We created an 'All about me' artwork piece and created a face plate showcasing our diversity ☺In Year 1 we celebrated ourselves and talked about 'What makes me me?'


Water bottles




Year 6
Thursday 6th October
8.10.26
RSHE
Labels
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday


Year 6 - Diversi
Before we dive into our pl
day, let's share what we a
today and why we ch
6A RSHE


Honey uses bright, bold colours, and different materials in her art.
Welcome!
Vowel sounds
Tuesday





In F2 we had a lovely day celebrating our differences and discussing what makes us all special and unique. We learnt about Sheku Kanneh-Mason and the children were very excited to learn that he came to our school! We enjoyed watching videos of him playing the cello, making our own musical instruments and having a go at playing some instruments to different songs and rhythms. We ended the day reading 'Little Sheku and the Animal Orchestra' which was written by Sheku himself!

In F1 we focussed on how we are all different, all special and all welcome in our Nursery. We shared a story about hair and how everyone's hair is different. We enjoyed lots of activities linked to hair

Year 4 learned all about one of Nottingham's finest… Black weightlifter Emily Campbell, widely regarded as the most successful British female weightlifter of modern times. Emily is not only leading the charge in British weightlifting but is also a passionate advocate for diversity in British weightlifting and a recognised figure in the body positivity movement. Take a look at some fabulous pop art of Emily!

Year 3 - On Diversity Day, we learned all about Merlita Bryan, our High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, who has recently been awarded an MBE for her work in trying to reshape negative stereotypes. Year 3 thought about how we can make a difference in our local community and how little actions can make a big difference.








14
2






BLK


BLK






I DEL

KEY DATES COMING UP...



- ***Our core values during Autumn term are RESPECT and KINDNESS & EMPATHY – lots of our learning in linked to these important values***

- ***Friday 16th October HALF TERM starts and school is closed for 2 weeks***

- *MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER – School reopens for Autumn 2 term*

- *FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER – WORLD KINDNESS DAY - The event was introduced by the World Kindness Movement to bridge divides across race, religion, and politics using the universal language of kindness. Children will be learning about how kindness is universal!*

- *WEEK COMMENCING 16-20TH NOVEMBER - 'Speak Up – break the silence' NATIONAL THEME FOR ANTI-BULLYING WEEK. All of our children will be taking part in this important learning.*

- *FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER – Children in Need Day – Wear something spotty/yellow – theme: 'Challenge yourself to 25'*

- *FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER - FRIDAY FOCUS DAY – LANGUAGES/FRENCH – all children across school will focus entirely on this area of learning*

- *WEEK COMMENCING 7th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES – these are led by F2 and Y1 children: Thursday 10th December is Y1 (time TBC) and Friday 11th December is F2 at 2.30pm in the hall. Y1 & F2 families are invited to come along.*

- *WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER - Y2-Y6 CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE: 'A night at the movies' theme! 2pm in the school hall - families invited.*

- *MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER - Headteacher 'Excellence' Celebration and certificate assembly – families of those chosen will be contacted to attend at 9am in the school hall for Y1-Y6. F1 & F2 receive certificates in their own classrooms*

- ***FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER – SCHOOL CLOSES FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK. School re-opens on TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY for our children***

- ***REMAINING INSET DAYS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR ARE:*** *Monday 4th January, Monday 7th June and Wednesday 28th July – these are staff training days and school is closed to all children.*

CLASS DOJO

Reasons to use it

Walter Halls office: 0115 9150045

Read information & updates about school or your child's class.





See photos of your child's learning





To see points that your child has received so you can talk about it with them





Respond to whole class portfolios or tasks





CLASS DOJO

Do **not** use it for

Asking if your child is ok - if you have concerns call the office.



To let staff know someone else is collecting your child - they may not read it. Call the office.



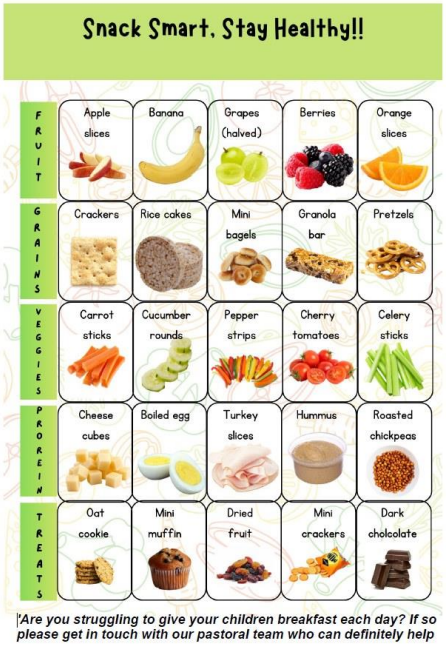
Telling us about a problem, incident or raising a complaint. Please follow the escalation process. Call the office to ask to speak to someone.



Sharing messages with staff regarding medical information, lateness or absence. They may not read it. Call the office.







'Are you struggling to give your children breakfast each day? If so please get in touch with our pastoral team who can definitely help

Ways to Communicate



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

- ***Come and speak to us*** *on the playgrounds in the morning or after school or go into the main office and arrange a phone call / meeting time*

- ***Call the office on 0115 9150045*** *and ask for someone to call you back for a chat or to arrange a meeting*

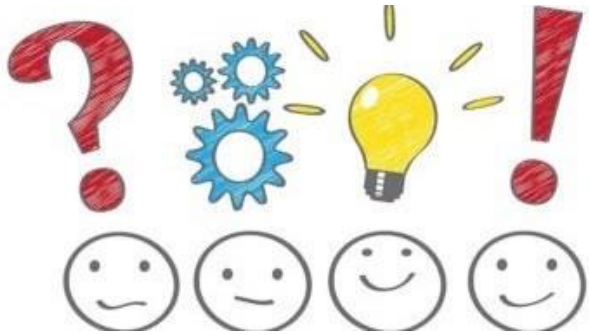
- ***Email our admin inbox*** *- admin@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk. PLEASE NOTE - this email box is not checked daily due to other workloads of staff in school and so if your enquiry is urgent please always call us instead*

- ***Class Dojo -*** *this is not for raising a problem or complaint. This is for teachers to share news and information. Teachers do not check Class Dojo after school hours and will not respond to complaints or problems this way*

- ***Arbor -*** *this is for whole school messages, bookings and payments, clubs etc.*

IF YOU NEED HELP GETTING ACCESS TO CLASS DOJO OR ARBOR PLEASE SPEAK TO OUR OFFICE TEAM

WHO CAN HELP ME? Escalating problems or incidents



Are you worried about your child?

Is something happening in school with your child that you need to talk to someone about?

1) **FIRST STEP** is to talk to their teacher. Teachers can't chat for long before school and sometimes they have to attend meetings after school. If you need a chat, ask at the office for a call back from the teacher asap

CLASS DOJO is not to be used to raise a problem or worry. Teachers do not check messages on Dojo regularly nor should they be responding to you after working hours via Dojo

2) **NEXT STEP** if you're still upset or worried and things haven't got better, ask to speak with the Assistant Head for your child's year group. It might also be the SENDCO you need to chat to – Mrs Goldsmith

3) **LAST STEP** if remain unhappy with actions taken, please call into the office and ask for our Headteacher to call you

We are all working really hard to look after lots of children and families. We won't always be able to chat to you straight away but we do care about making sure children are happy and safe at school.

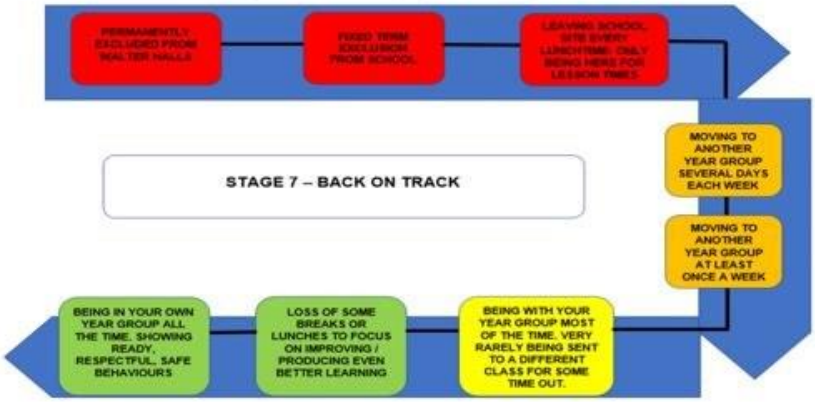
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time. If you feel like a problem isn't changing quickly, quite often this isn't because we're not doing anything about it. Some children need lots of help to change behaviours and this takes lots of time and effort from different adults.

R2R10

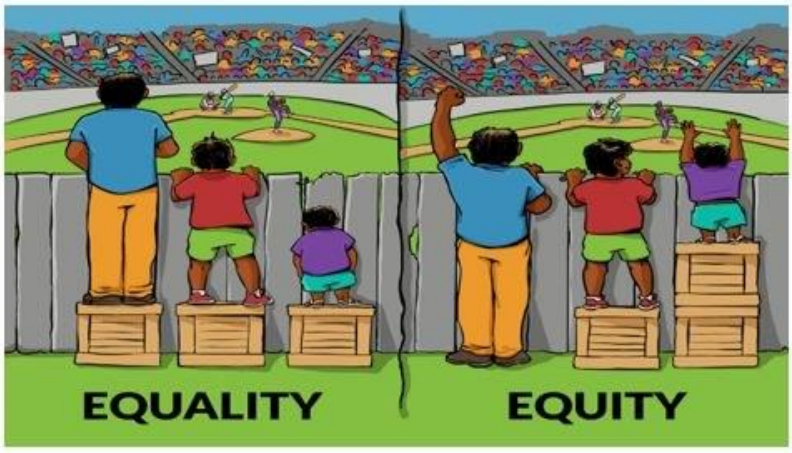
1	**R** Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: **Ready?** **Respectful?** **Safe?**	
2	**2** 2 minutes owed	**You will** spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS **The adult will** explain this clearly to you and help you make changes	
3	**R** Reminder from the adult	If this behaviour carries on the adult will give you just one more reminder.	
4	**10** 10 minutes owed	**You will** spend 10 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS and put right what has gone wrong **The adult will** explain this clearly to you and help you make changes. They might give you a task to do to help you put things right	
5	**TIME OUT** - A short amount of time away from everyone - OR a longer amount of time needed away from everyone All the adults will decide how long is needed based on what has happened. (Learning mentor/Phase leader / deputy head stage)	**You will** be taken by a different adult to spend time away from your year group **The adult will** RECORD this in the behaviour log, arrange where you will spend your hour, organise a restorative conversation	**UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS MOVE STRAIGHT TO STAGE 5/6/7:** - Verbal with intent to harm - Physical harm - Racial - Homophobic - Bullying All the adults can decide which stage your behaviour should go to, depending on the circumstances. At all times this is RECORDED and contact with home is made.
6		**The adults will** call home the same day if your behaviours are repeated or unsafe. Adults at home will receive a letter to keep them updated at the end of term and may be invited in	
7	**Headteacher adults at home and outside help needed**	'BACK ON TRACK' PATHWAY NEEDED - Team around' meeting considered - Face-to-face meeting with outside adults - Regular review of support	

Repeated unsafe behaviours will always be dealt with by senior leaders, on a STAGE 7 plan. You can see more about STAGE 7 on the next

GETTING BACK ON-TRACK – The adults will be keeping track of where you are and where you need to be:



Walter Halls believes in EQUITY over EQUALITY. Everyone needs different things, not the same. Some children and families need more help than others. That's why Walter Halls has a full-time family support worker, a full-time play therapist, two full-time behaviour mentors and lots of staff who believe in helping children with challenging behaviours. We do lots of things to help before we ever reach Stage 7 or excluding children from school.



Our Senior Leaders...



1 - headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk



2 - sarah.wright@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk



3 - Hannah.Pope@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk



4 - Our SENDCO

senco@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

Community & Family Support

FRIENDS OF WALTER HALLS PTA GROUP:

All of our fundraising will be put towards visits, trips and experiences for all of our year groups. We do not have enough budget to support the costs of visits and experiences and we use any fundraising to help make sure no child misses out. Keep an eye-out on Class Dojo for our next fundraising event...

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PASTORAL CARE:

We invest a lot in the wider support of our families and have a big team of staff who look after those who need a bit more help and support. Food parcels, referrals to other services in

Nottingham, parenting and behaviour support. Here are a few people who may be able to help you - please let us know if you want to chat to us -

***EMMA BEARDAH** - Headteacher and overall safeguarding leader*

***BRIT GOLDSMITH** - SENDCO*

***GAIL HOLMES** - Family Support Worker and DSL*

***KERRIE CHANDLER** - Play Therapist, Child Welfare Officer, Deputy DSL*

***LEE NEAL & KATIE MERRINGTON-INGLEY** - Behaviour & Learning Mentors*

***CHLOE ORVIS** - MHST (Mental Health Support Team) - Available on school site on Wednesday's 8.30am-9.15am for parent drop-in sessions*

Attendance!



As a school, we strive for 100% attendance! Anything 96% or more is good attendance and will mean that your children are thriving in school and making good progress with their learning.

We have an attendance team who help support anyone who is struggling with good school attendance and we contact families ourselves if we notice concerns connected with your children's attendance at school.

We know that attendance is not in the control of primary-aged children. We still 'recognise' the importance of attendance with all of our children by sharing with them what attendance percentages were in every year group. We celebrate different types of 'good' attendance, for example 'most improved' and those children who have managed to get to school on time, when in the past this may have been a struggle for them and their families.

We report attendance for the previous week -

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 95.2%

THE CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE WAS: Class 5A with 99.6%! So close to a perfect 100%! Well done 5A!

ALSO DOING GREAT WERE: Class 2A, 2B, 4A & 6B - all with over 96%, which is our target!

Our target this year is 96+% and we aim to reduce our persistent absentee figures to below 15%

ACTIVE UNIFORM!



We promote an 'Active Uniform' approach and have recently joined a national campaign to support children wearing uniform that is appropriate. We believe that all school uniform should be suitable for a busy, outdoor and active day at school, as well as a uniform that is comfortable, affordable and supports sensory needs too.

The video on the Active Uniform Alliance website, summarises this perfectly: https://activeuniform.org/

KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR UNIFORM ARE:-

- *If you have a good 'active uniform on, you DO NOT NEED A DIFFERENT PE KIT.*

- *A great OPAL uniform, along with some decent trainers, works well for all occasions at school- We still want uniform colours - blue or white tops. BLUE IS EASIER TO KEEP CLEAN!*

- *NO LOGOS - all of our uniform is plain and shouldn't promote branded items.*

- *WATERPROOFS AND WELLIES are part of our uniform. All children must have these at all times because we are an OPAL school and will go outside in all weathers.*

- *A good pair of plain coloured trainers can double up as normal day school shoes AND outdoor PE shoes. Children might go outside for their learning at any given time - a decent pair of trainers is a must. PLEASE NO CROCS, HEELS OR FLIMSY SHIINY SHOES - they will get mucky!*

- *You can see from the pictures on our uniform poster that there is also a good degree of choice and ideas for children who still want to dress in a more traditional uniform too.*

- *Our office team can always help with purchasing certain items and out uniform policy - on our website - signposts you to very affordable places to buy these items.*

Thank you for your support.

PLEASE LABEL ALL UNIFORM AND FOOTWEAR WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Walter Halls is an OPAL school. You can find out more about OPAL here: https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/parents/

ESSENTIAL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:

WHAT A GREAT OPAL SCHOOL UNIFORM WOULD LOOK LIKE:

- Plain tracksuit bottoms or plain full-length leggings – blue / grey / black
- Plain tracksuit-style shorts or plain cycling shorts – blue/ grey / black (for warmer weather)
- Blue or white polo shirt – blue is easier to keep clean!
- Plain blue jumper / hoodie / cardigan (or branded Walter Halls – see below)
- Socks (with some spares in their bag!)
- 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:

If you have a great OPAL uniform, and a plain pair of trainers, you DON'T NEED a different PE kit!

- A great OPAL uniform is a great PE kit – having a pair tracksuit bottoms and tracksuit shorts to swap between, based on the weather, will help
- Plain black, blue or grey leggings could be worn instead
- Trainers & socks – no logos, keep trainers as plain, dark colours

Other options:

An active OPAL-style uniform is our preference and matches an active day at school. You can also choose the following, but would need a different PE kit as listed above:

- Grey trousers or skirt (with tights or socks)
- Grey pinafore dress or blue gingham summer dress (with tights or socks)
- Branded Walter Halls jumper or cardigan
- Black school shoes / slip-ons (no high-heels/wedged heels, flip-flops or crocs)

Some children like wearing a traditional uniform – like a summer pinafore dress – but will wear plain leggings or cycling shorts underneath to help them be active and when they are playing outside



Safety & Conduct on School Site



PLEASE HELP US TO BE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY SCHOOL BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE REQUESTS:

Illness *- we want all of our children in school every day, even with minor coughs and colds. If your child has a stomach bug they should remain off school for 48 hours from the last time they vomited to stop the spread of illness in school. If your child has a different kind of illness and you're not sure if they should be in school or not, the NHS website has lots of great advice and our office team can also help you.*

Parking *- please be considerate, respectful and safe if using a car to come to and from school in. Road safety is very important, as is the happiness and respect shown towards local residents. The local authority discourages car use and parking in their inner-city schools and we do not have a car park to use. Staff parking is paid for by staff who choose to use this very small space.*

Dogs, bikes and scooters *- We love all of these things but our school site is a busy place with lots of young children on it. Dogs are not permitted on school site at any time, even when on a lead,*

so please make plans to leave them at home if you're doing the school run. Bikes and scooters should not be ridden inside the school grounds - please dismount and push them along with you.

General conduct from all adults on school property *- we set high standards for this. School is private property and the local authority will act to ensure that all adults who come onto this property behave in a respectful manner. We have systems of escalation in place for those who struggle to behave respectfully on school property and will ban anyone from our site for repeated incidents of poor conduct. Please do not gather on our school site after school hours - we know we have beautiful grounds but we also have a duty to safeguard our children who attend after school clubs, closing gates and securing the site again 10 minutes after the end of the school day.*