



Be your best.

NEWSLETTER - 8th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

WELCOME BACK! *And if you're new to Walter Halls Primary then welcome to your first newsletter! Every Friday we share reminders, key dates coming up that you need to be aware of and also celebrate what our children have been doing, with photos of activities and special achievements.*

As a parent or carer of a primary school child you will get A LOT of information shared with you. We aim to use Class Dojo and Parent Mail to do that - so make sure you know how to access both of these APPs and check them regularly each week. The office team will help you get to grips with these two systems.

*This week has been GORGEOUS - lots of smiling faces, happy children and brilliant learning has begun. We have been giving lots of reminders to our children about our 3 school rules: **Be READY, RESPECTFUL & SAFE.** We have also introduced a new behaviour policy and have shared that with you all in an earlier Dojo message.*

WELCOME MEETING - Next Wednesday 13th September - *our hall will be opened up to all parents and carers to come along from 3.30pm up to 5pm. Each year group team will be there to informally chat and share information with you as well as other staff members from around school who can share further support we offer. Staff will be leaving site from 5pm so please come along the veranda and to the hall before this event closes. Information will also be shared on Class Dojo pages for anyone unable to make it.*

Parents & Carers will then get a chance to meet in person with class teachers on a 1:1 basis to find out how your children are getting on in school at our first progress meetings, held on Monday 13th & Wednesday 15th November - more info shared closer to the time.

ASSEMBLIES - Every Friday we hold a celebration assembly for particular year groups. All of our families are welcome to come along to the hall at 9am each week, but those children who have been chosen to receive a certificate their families will be contacted the day before to invite them along.

FAMILY SUPPORT - We are adding to our family and pastoral support this year, with our partners at MHST (Mental Health Support Team) extending their support to our parents/carers as well as our children. Dawn Jukes, from MHST, will be running a drop in session **every WEDNESDAY from next week 8.30-9.15am**. Dawn is an Education Mental Health Practitioner and will be available to talk through any mental health needs and offer any signposting to other services for our families. She can also talk through concerns you may have about your children and be a link back to us about any children that may benefit from further support.

Next Week:

- **WEDNESDAY: - 8.30-9.15am MHST drop-in sessions for parents/carers to chat to Dawn. - 3.30pm-5pm - Come along to the school hall anytime between 3.30pm and 5pm to meet new teachers, pick up lots of information from across school and ask any questions you may have**
 - **FRIDAY - 9am celebration assembly will be for Y4,5 & 6 in the hall**
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I hope you manage to soak up the last of the sunshine this weekend!

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

Key Dates coming up...



AUTUMN TERM DATES

Our Core Value learning is all about RESPECT

- **WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER** - *WELCOME EVENT* in the school hall between 3.30-5pm
- **Friday 29th September** we will be celebrating **NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANT DAY**, showing our thanks and respect for this vital role in school
- **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*
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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/term-dates/>*
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RAAC Concrete Concerns in Schools

You may have seen a lot on the news about schools being closed or struggling with health & safety issues due to RAAC. RAAC stands for reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete. It is a form of autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), which is different from normal dense concrete. It is “bubbly” and relatively weak and is now known to be unsafe to use in our buildings.

I wanted to reassure you all that we have had lots of communication from Nottingham City Council colleagues who have shared that only 4 schools in Nottingham have been highlighted with this issue, with 3 of the 4 needing no further action. To take further precautions, they have allocated funding to undertake surveys of all of their schools and have issued all site managers with advice. We can expect a health and safety visit soon but we have no immediate concerns whatsoever.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP AT WALTER HALLS



Here is Daveen & Marvellous - our head students - along with Cienna & Leo - our deputy head students, all from Y6. They are ready and waiting for their new team of Inclusion Ambassadors from Y3,4,5 & 6 to be chosen this week! This year, Year 3 ambassadors will be focusing on our wider community and having a positive impact on the environment. Year 4 & 5 are going to be our Mental Health ambassadors and Year 6 will be forming an online parliament, as part of a national pupil leadership programme. SO MUCH FANTASTIC WORK HEADING THEIR WAY! Across school, we also have science, maths, reading and play

leaders as well as chosen KS2 Role Models who help out around school and support others - all of these other important roles will be up for grabs as we move through this term!









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.

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 YEAR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 93.5% AND NATIONALLY IT WAS 93.8%

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

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 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:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterhallsprimarieschool/?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=EA1aIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEqK5XvD_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

- *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.*
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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



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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 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.
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