



Friday 7th November 2025

Dear all,

Welcome back to Autumn 2 term - famously busy and jam-packed with very many events happening! Please take notes of things listed on this newsletter that you don't want to miss out on sharing with your children.

PUMPKIN COMPETITION WINNERS - Thank you to everyone who took part. You helped school to raise £347.09 which will all go towards school visits, experiences and OPAL play resources for all of our children. **WINNERS are being judged TODAY and will be announced on Dojo!**

***Show Racism the Red Card fundraising** on the final Friday of term helped to raise £45.38 - not for us but for this national charity. A small but important amount of money that all goes towards a very good cause - thank you if you managed to donate.*

***CHRISTMAS EVENTS - SO MANY things happening this term - please see the separate poster on Dojo and in this newsletter, plus in the Key Dates list in this newsletter and shared every week with you.** I've added in Christmas Disco dates, Christmas Jumper Day and specific dates and times of all of our Christmas performances! Save those dates now if you're able to come along.*

***Help at Christmas time** - At the same time as all of the very many events that are happening, we are always very aware just how difficult a time Christmas can be for some of our families. Some of you don't celebrate Christmas at all and we are a multi-faith school that aims to balance the celebration of one religion over another. Christmas is also a very expensive time and we know just how much pressure it places on families. We're here to help you in any way we can. Chat to one of our safeguarding team members, our Family Support worker, or any of our leaders and we will do whatever we can to ease the burden of this stressful time of the year. Any events or fundraising things happening this term - if you can't afford it, please don't worry, we don't want to make life even harder and busier for you!*

***Anti-bullying week - 10th-17th November - NEXT WEEK!** We have prepared a lot of learning related to this annual national event, on top of all of the regular and weekly teaching we do on this subject anyway. There is a Coffee Morning for our families on 12th November next week (see Dojo post) and all of our year group teachers have planned their own activities. The National theme this year is 'Power for Good' and our Monday assembly will introduce to our children all the ways that they can show how they are a powerful force for good in our world.*

***NEXT FRIDAY - Children in Need** - A fantastic charity to support. We keep it simple and optional for you though - children can wear something yellow, spotty or Pudsey bear themed and you can donate anything you can or want to.*

***Photos to make you smile** - we're so happy Mr Starling shared his lovely new baby news with his Year 2 class on Dojo over half term. We've shared a couple of pictures in this newsletter of baby Olivia to make you all smile...*

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk





Christmas Calendar Dates

WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER – PTA FOWH DISCO YEARS 1 TO 3!
3.30 to 4.30pm in the school hall. Book via the Arbor app!

WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER – PTA FOWH DISCO YEARS 4 TO 6!
3.30 to 4.30pm in the school hall. Book via the Arbor app!

W/C 8TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

F2 – Monday 8th December, 2.30pm in the school hall.

All F2 families welcome.

Y1 – Wednesday 10th December, 2.30pm in the school hall.

All Y1 families welcome.

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS JUMPER & DINNER DAY!!

Come to school in your best jumper (no need to donate to Save the Children, but any donations welcome if you can). If your child normally has a packed lunch on a Thursday and you would like them to have a festive meal on this date, please let the school office know.

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER – HEADTEACHER EXCELLENCE ASSEMBLY – Y1-Y6

This will take place at 9am in the school hall. Parents of children receiving a certificate will be invited to attend. F1 & F2 certificate presentations will happen in their classrooms separately

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER – KS2 MUSICAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

This will take place at 3.30pm in the hall. All families invited, so save the date!

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Party afternoon, children can bring in some party clothes to get changed into if they would like to. If children have their PE lessons that afternoon, then they will have their party in the morning instead.

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER IS THE LAST DAY OF TERM



WELCOME TO THE WORLD, BABY OLIVIA!



HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Starling and his family on the birth of baby Olivia, born during half term! We can't wait to meet her and are so pleased that everyone is happy and healthy!



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

AUGUST 2025						
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	

SEPTEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
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		

OCTOBER 2025						
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		

NOVEMBER 2025						
M		3	10	17	24	
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	

DECEMBER 2025						
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		

JANUARY 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		

FEBRUARY 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	
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		

MARCH 2026						
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	

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

MAY 2026						
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	

JUNE 2026						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
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		

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

Key	
	In school
	School holiday
	Public holiday
	In Service Training Day

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	

*Recommend that July 27 be used as INSET Day (school's decision)

Half term 1 – 7 weeks
 Half term 2 – 7 weeks
 Half term 3 – 6 weeks
 Half term 4 – 5 weeks
 Half term 5 – 5 weeks 4 days
 Half term 6 – 8 weeks 1 day

KEY DATES COMING UP...



OUR CORE VALUE LEARNING IN AUTUMN 2 TERM IS 'KINDNESS & EMPATHY'

- **W/C 10TH NOVEMBER – NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** – This year's theme is 'Power for Good'. We will be doing lots of activities in school connected with this theme
- **FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER – CHILDREN IN NEED DAY** – Wear something yellow / spotty / Pudsey bear-themed! Donations to this amazing charity gratefully received
- **MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER – TIMES TABLES ROCKSTAR BATTLE FOR KS2** – or first TTRS battle commences! Get practising on TTRS now!

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- **WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER - Y1-Y3 CHRISTMAS DISCO 3.30-4.30PM** - BOOK A TICKET ON ARBOR FOR £3 ENTRY!

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- **FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER – FRIDAY FOCUS DAY** – LANGUAGES & FRENCH DAY! More info to follow!

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- **WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER - Y4-Y6 CHRISTMAS DISCO. 3.30-4.30PM** - BOOK A TICKET ON ARBOR FOR £3 ENTRY!

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- **W/C 8TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES FOR F2 & Y1 FAMILIES –**

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER AT 2.30PM IN THE HALL - F2 PERFORMANCE

WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER AT 2.30PM IN THE HALL - Y1 PERFORMANCE

- **THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER - NATIONAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY.** COME TO SCHOOL WEARING YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND DONATE WHATEVER YOU CAN DO TO 'SAVE THE CHILDREN' CHARITY
 - **CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY WILL ALSO BE ON CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY** - PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS DINNER ON 11TH DECEMBER
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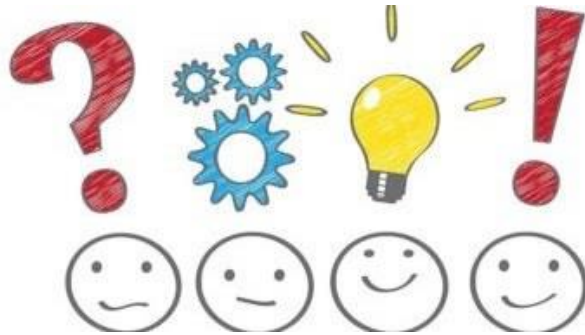
- **MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER – HEADTEACHER EXCELLENCE ASSEMBLY – Y1-Y6 9AM IN THE HALL.** Parents of children receiving a certificate will be invited to attend. F1 & F2 certificate presentations will happen in their classrooms separately
 - **WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER – A KS2 MUSICAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE – 3.30PM IN THE HALL.** Open to anyone to come and see - families of our KS2 children will especially want to come and see their children singing some Christmas songs together.
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- **THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER - PARTY AFTERNOON.** CHILDREN CAN BRING A CHANGE OF PARTY CLOTHES TO SCHOOL IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO
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- **SCHOOL CLOSURES ON FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER AND RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 5TH JANUARY**

Our remaining INSET days, when school closes for training days, are: Monday 1st June, Friday 24th July and Monday 27th July.

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.

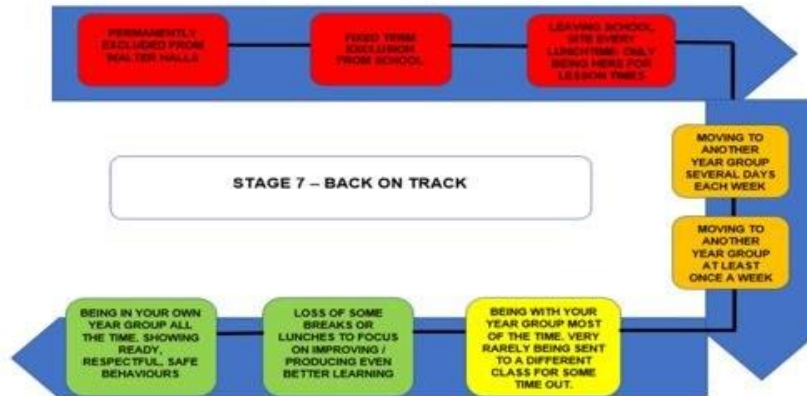
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time. 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

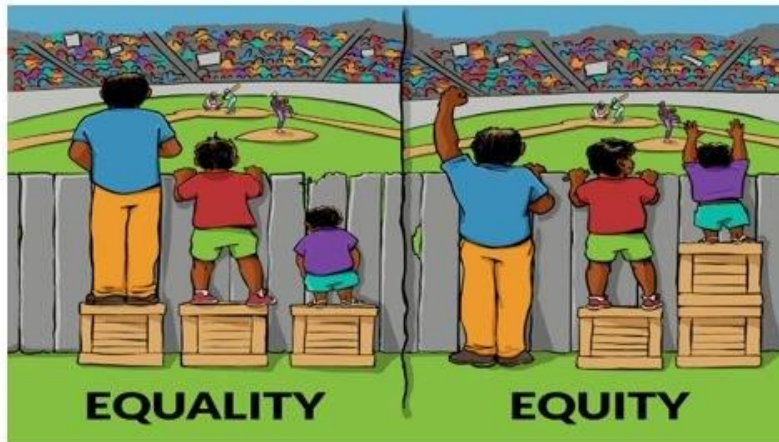
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: <u>Ready?</u> <u>Respectful?</u> <u>Safe?</u>	
2	2 2 minutes owed	<u>You will</u> spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS <u>The adult will</u> explain this clearly 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	<u>You will</u> spend 10 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS and put right what has gone wrong <u>The adult will</u> 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	<u>You will</u> be taken by a different adult to spend time away from your year group <u>The adult will</u> 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	All the adults will decide how long is needed based on what has happened. (Learning mentor/Phase leader / deputy head stage)	<u>The adults will</u> 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...



Emma Beardah
Headteacher



Sarah Wright
Assistant Head EY & KS1



Hannah Pope
Assistant Head KS2

Our new SENDCO, Brit Goldsmith...



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

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 SHINY 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.*
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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



Attendance!



Attendance Matters



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:

DURING THE LAST WEEK OF LAST HALF TERM, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 92.7%

THE CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE WAS: Class 3B with 96.8%, closely followed by Class 4A with 96.3%. Sadly, no other class reached our target of 96+% in that final week! Let's make this term a really great one!

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

Ways to Communicate



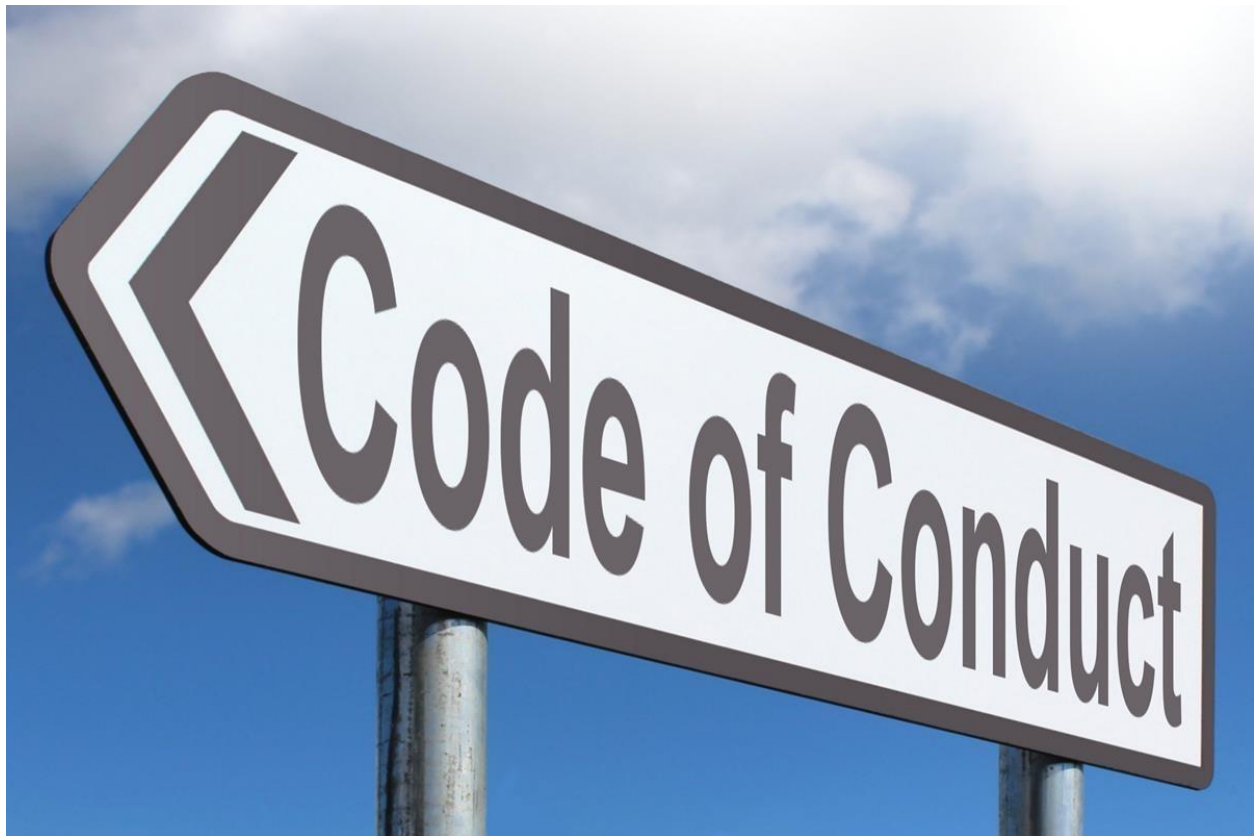
Please remember, we have several ways you can get in touch:

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

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.
