



FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear all,

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year! It's been fantastic to see all of our children again and to welcome our newest and youngest children to school too. We look forward to another really positive year together.

KEY DATES - *Please take a look at dates already mapped out for Autumn term. New ones may get added but these are updated on our newsletter and via Class Dojo posts.*

TERM DATES & INSET DAYS are also shown on this newsletter and can be found on our website. Please be careful to check the 2026-27 dates and all of the INSET training days when school is closed for our children.

WHO CAN HELP YOU is also clearly explained on this newsletter. How to get in touch, how to escalate a complaint or problem and who our school leaders are. Please do not use Dojo to message in your worries and complaints - we only deal with issues through a proper conversation and teachers are not expected to respond to complaints on Dojo or to check Dojo at all outside of working hours.

We also have a lovely team of leaders and family support systems in place for any family who needs extra support or advice. Please take a read of who you can get in touch with - we do all we can do to help, not just our children, but their families too.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES are a great way to come into school and share in celebrations. If your child is receiving a certificate you should be contacted and invited in. Friday assemblies start next week on Friday 11th September with Y4,5,6 with Y1,2,3 alternating each week. Year 1's will not be expected to attend weekly assemblies in the school hall for the first part of the term until they are properly settled into their new routines.

This newsletter also gives you regular information about attendance and school site safety and we will share some photos and event information as the year goes on.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Schools are really busy places but if you give us a call and ask us to call you back or meet with you we always do our best to do that quickly. We're also outside in the mornings and after school on most days so please don't hesitate in coming over for a chat.

Here's to another great year at Walter Halls!

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

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

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

NOVEMBER 2026							DECEMBER 2026							JANUARY 2027						
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28		M		4	11	18	25	
T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26	
W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30		W		6	13	20	27	
T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31		T		7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25			F	1	8	15	22	29	
S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26			S	2	9	16	23	30	
S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27			S	3	10	17	24	31	

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

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

Key	
	In school
	School holiday
	Public holiday
	In Service Training Day

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

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	

KEY DATES COMING UP...



-
- ***Our core values during Autumn term are RESPECT and KINDNESS & EMPATHY – lots of our learning is linked to these important values***
 - *THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER – Children return to school.*
 - *FRIDAY 4th 2PM - Welcome meetings in classrooms - please come along, join in with an activity and pick up some information about your child's year group that will help you. This information will also be shared on Dojo pages if you're unable to come along.*
 - *NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANT DAY – FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER – we will be showing huge respect for all of our wonderful teaching assistants at Walter Halls*
 - *NATIONAL POETRY DAY – THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER. National theme is 'Wonder' this year – all children across school will be taking part*
 - *OCTOBER IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH – we will be doing lots of learning around the theme of respect for diversity.*
 - *FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER– FRIDAY FOCUS DAY FOR RESPECT AND DIVERSITY – A theme across school of "Honouring our communities". CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO DRESS UP IN SOMETHING THAT REPRESENTS THEIR CULTURAL BACKGROUND OR SOMETHING THAT SHOW JUST HOW UNIQUE THEY ARE*
 - *FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER – SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD – WEAR RED DAY: CHANGE HEARTS, CHANGE MINDS, CHANGE LIVES - <https://www.theredcard.org/wear-red-day/> fundraising opportunity*
 - ***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.



A HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

A drink

Water is best to keep your child hydrated.
Or provide **Milk**, or **Fruit Juice** with no added sugar



Protein

Include **one** portion:
e.g. **lean meats** (chicken or turkey) fish (salmon or tuna) beans, pulses, hummus or egg



Fruit & Vegetables

Include at least **one** portion:
e.g. **raw vegetable sticks** such as carrots, cucumber or peppers.

Quartered cherry tomatoes, grapes or strawberries.
A pot of sliced up fruit, berries or fruit



Dairy/Calcium

Include **one** portion:
e.g. **cheese strips**, or on a sandwich
Milk based puddings such as yoghurt, fromage frais, or a small pot of custard



Wholegrains & Starchy Foods

Include **one** portion:
Sandwich on wholegrain bread/wrap/Pitta/roll

Pasta or Rice

Bagel/pancake/muffin/scone

FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION & IDEAS,
VISIT: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>



Snack Smart. Stay Healthy!!

F R U I T	Apple slices	Banana	Grapes (halved)	Berries	Orange slices
G R A I N S	Crackers	Rice cakes	Mini bagels	Granola bar	Pretzels
V E G E T A B L E S	Carrot sticks	Cucumber rounds	Pepper strips	Cherry tomatoes	Celery sticks
P R O T E I N	Cheese cubes	Boiled egg	Turkey slices	Hummus	Roasted chickpeas
T R E A T S	Oat cookie	Mini muffin	Dried fruit	Mini crackers	Dark chocolate

'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

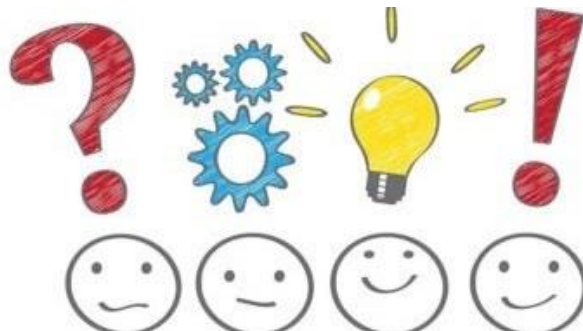


Please remember, we have several ways you can get in touch:

- *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.

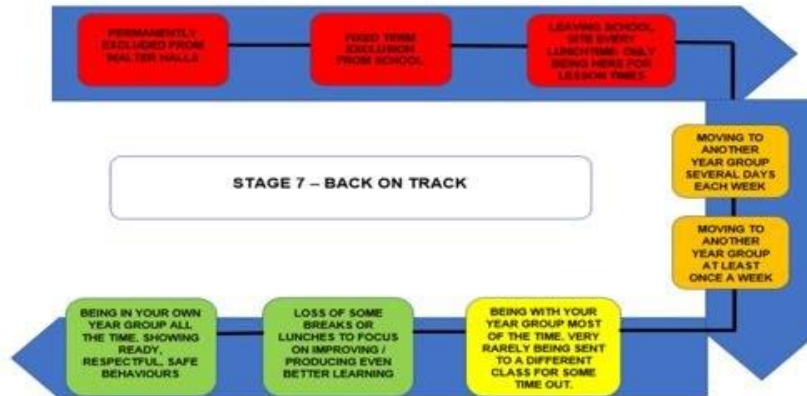
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

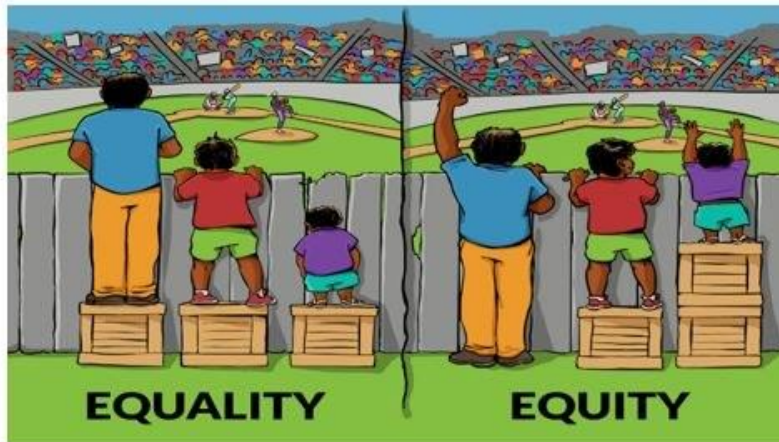
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: <u>Ready?</u> <u>Respectful?</u> <u>Safe?</u>	
2	2 2 minutes owed	<u>You will</u> spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS <u>The adult will</u> explain this clearly 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

1 - headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk



Sarah Wright
Assistant Head EY & KS1

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



Hannah Pope
Assistant Head KS2

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!



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 -

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS:

THE CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE WAS:

ALSO DOING GREAT WERE:

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 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.*
-

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.
