



Be your best.

# NEWSLETTER - Friday 13th December 2024

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*Dear all,*

*It's Friday 13th...but we're not superstitious at Walter Halls so we're still happy it's Friday!*

*Only one more week left of Autumn term and still lots to fit in!*

**BAKE-OFF WINNER** - In case you missed it - Emma Hopkins was our very-well-deserved Bake-Off winner with an incredible chocolate cake! Thanks to everyone who entered!

**OPAL** - The Power of Playtimes - I shared this helpful document on Class Dojo earlier this week. Please take a look over it as it helps all of our families understand why OPAL is so important for our children.

**New MHST worker** - Dawn has left for pastures new but we will be starting to work with Chloe Orvis, from MHST, in the new year. More information to follow...

**HUGE THANKS** to everyone who has organised and supported our various fundraising events this term. You're amazing! I'll get a total fundraising figure to you all asap - all funds raised by

Friends of Walter Halls are put towards ensuring all of our children can take part in visits and experiences and also to help our ongoing OPAL improvements.

**Lots of lovely photos** in this week's newsletter, to bring some joy and put a smile on your face, including: *The Festive Dance-a-thon, Y1's visit to St Jude's and a recent Times Tables Rock Star tournament too!*

#### **Next Week -**

**Monday - Our end of term Headteacher Excellence Certificate ceremony is on Monday at 9am in the school hall.** *Y1-Y6 children attend this assembly and if your child is receiving a certificate you will have received a call from our office team. F1 & F2 are too little for such a long assembly but I do take their certificates to them in their classrooms, over the course of next week*

**Wednesday - Christmas Dinner Day!** *If you would like your child to have a festive dinner that day then please let us know asap.*

**Thursday - Christmas parties will take place in classrooms.** *Children can bring in some party clothes if they would like to.*

**Friday - Last day of Autumn term.** *School closes and re-opens for everyone on Monday 6th January!*

*This will be my last newsletter of this half term - I will just send out some quick reminders on Dojo for the start of the Spring term.*

**HUGE THANKS to everyone who has continued to support our lovely school - it's been a really busy but successful term with lots to feel proud about. As always, I'm very proud to work alongside such lovely staff, children and our families too. I hope all of you get some rest and proper family joy during the festive break and we look forward to seeing you back again in 2025!**

*Have a great weekend everyone!*

*Take care,*

*Emma Beardah*

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

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## TTRS TOURNAMENT - Well done Y4!

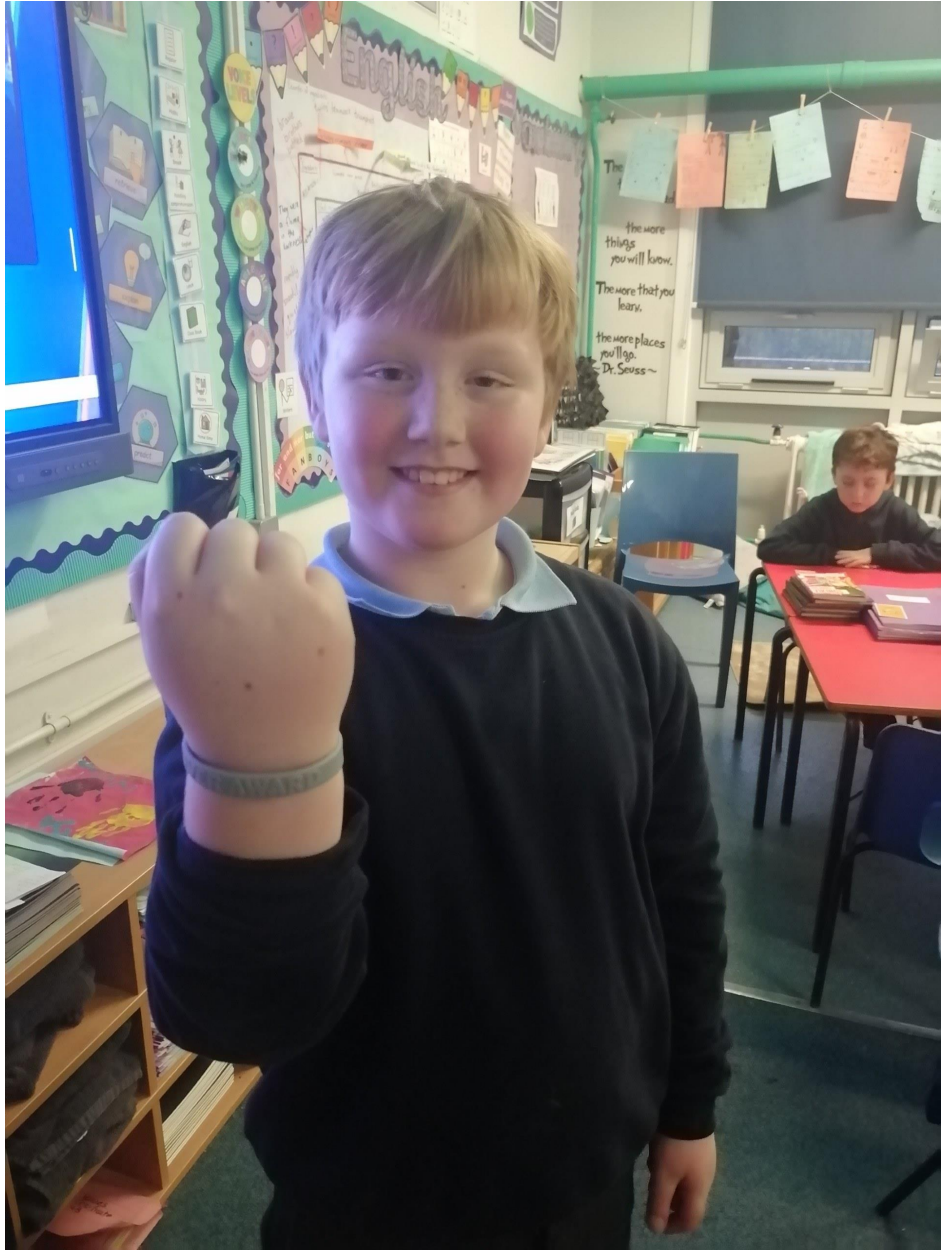


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*Miss Wensley, our maths leader, was lucky enough to spend some time with year 4 last week and run a TTRS tournament alongside Ms Sinclair and Ms Skelton. They were all impressed with their amazing effort and focus! Gold and silver wristbands were earned for most improved and effort. Well done year 4! 😊 Remember to keep practicing in school and at home!*

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## YEAR 1 VISIT ST. JUDES CHURCH



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*Year 1 had a lovely trip to St Jude's last week. We got to see the 40 stunningly decorated Christmas trees from the local community (the Penguin one was a firm favourite). Then we heard the story of the Nativity and found it very funny that they had made all of the people out of potatoes. Finally we had the opportunity to decorate some Christmas tree shapes and we will be hanging them as bunting to decorate our classrooms.*

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**DANCE-A-THON JOY!**

























## Key Dates coming up...



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### **AUTUMN term:**

**Autumn 2 term** launches our core value of **KINDNESS AND EMPATHY**

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- **Monday 16th December** - *END OF TERM HEADTEACHER CERTIFICATES. A special 'red carpet' assembly with our families invited along to celebrate excellence in our children!*
    - **Wednesday 18th December** - *Christmas Dinner Day!*
  - **Thursday 19th December** - *Christmas Parties in classrooms - children can bring some party clothes to get changed into if they want to.*
  - **FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER** - *LAST DAY OF TERM. SCHOOL RE-OPENS MONDAY 6TH JANUARY*
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INSET DAYS STILL TO COME THIS ACADEMIC YEAR ARE ON: 6TH JUNE, 24TH & 25TH JULY

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## ATTENDANCE!



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*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 from the previous week.***

***LAST WEEK, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 92.3%***

***The Class with the highest attendance was: CLASS 2B with 98.4% - excellent!***

***Also doing brilliantly were: CLASS 2A with 98.3% and CLASS 6B with 98.2%! Class 3A, 4B and 6A all met the target of 96+% too! Keep it going everyone!***

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

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**Nottingham City Council**  
**School Terms and Holidays Calendar - 2024/25**

Aug-24							Sep-24							Oct-24						
M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27		
Nov-24							Dec-24							Jan-25						
M		4	11	18	25		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	
T		5	12	19	26		T		3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28		T		5	12	19	26		T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30		S		7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26		
Feb-25							Mar-25							Apr-25						
M		3	10	17	24		M		3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
T		4	11	18	25		T		4	11	18	25		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		5	12	19	26		W		5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T		6	13	20	27		T		6	13	20	27		T	3	10	17	24		
F		7	14	21	28		F		7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25		
S	1	8	15	22			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26		
S	2	9	16	23			S	2	9	16	23	30		S	6	13	20	27		
May-25							Jun-25							Jul-25						
M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27		

- Inset Days
- Bank Holiday
- School Holiday

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



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

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

NOVEMBER 2025						DECEMBER 2025						JANUARY 2026					
M		3	10	17	24	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
T		4	11	18	25	T	2	9	16	23	30	T		6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26	W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
T		6	13	20	27	T	4	11	18	25	T	1	8	15	22	29	
F		7	14	21	28	F	5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	1	8	15	22	29	S	6	13	20	27	S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30	S	7	14	21	28	S	4	11	18	25		

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

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

# A great **OPAL** uniform



We are pleased to advise that branded tracksuit bottoms\*, polo shirts and jumpers/cardigans, can all be ordered through the school office.

*\*\* tracksuit bottoms can now be supplied with and without a logo via the school office. Note, that these uniform items are ordered half-terminly through our school wear supplier.*



Heather Grey



Navy



Black



Light Blue



White



Plain trainers, or trainer-style shoe



Wellies (kept in school)  
Water-proofs: jacket with hood or puddle-suit (kept in school if possible)

## Other uniform options:



PE kit – to be worn to school on allocated PE days. We do not get children changed for PE during the school day.

- Sportswear suitable for outdoor sports activity – avoid large logos / expensive brands\*\*
- Trainers & socks

\*\*As long as PE kit looks suitable for doing sporting activities, we are not specific about exactly what it should be. Children must be in trainers for PE. Affordable suggestions would be: plain t-shirts, plain tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings, zip-up hoodie for warmth in colder months.

*If children are wearing a really great OPAL uniform, this would also work for PE, so long as proper trainers are worn that day.*

**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
- 3) **LAST STEP** if remain unhappy with actions taken, please call into the office and ask for our Deputy Head or 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.

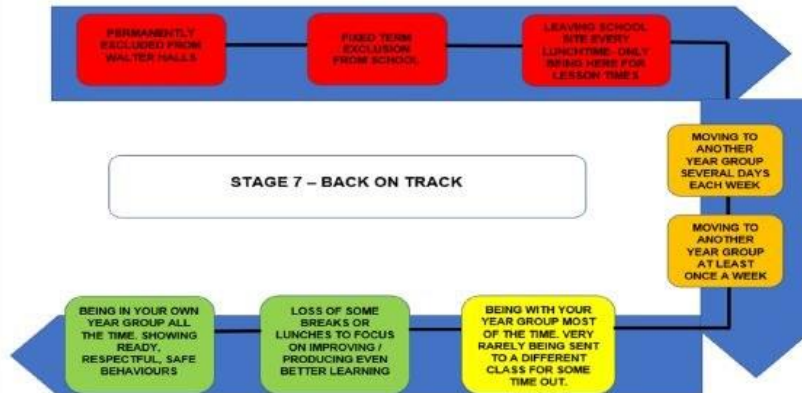
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

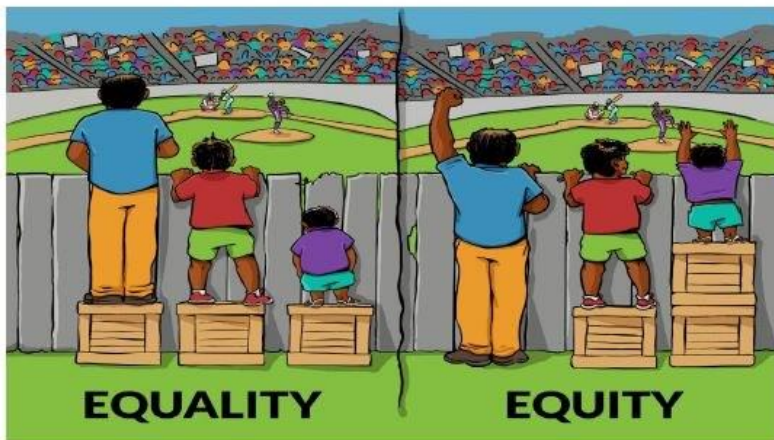
1	<b>R</b> Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: <b>Ready?</b> <b>Respectful?</b> <b>Safe?</b>	
2	<b>2</b> 2 minutes owed	<b>You will</b> spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your <b>behaviours</b> aren't RRS  <b>The adult will</b> explain this clearly to you and help you make changes	
3	<b>R</b> Reminder from the adult	If this <b>behaviour</b> carries on the adult will give you just one more reminder.	
4	<b>10</b> 10 minutes owed	<b>You will</b> spend 10 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your <b>behaviours</b> aren't RRS and put right what has gone wrong  <b>The adult will</b> 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	<b>TIME OUT</b> - 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)	<b>You will</b> be taken by a different adult to spend time away from your year group  <b>The adult will</b> RECORD this in the <b>behaviour</b> log, arrange where you will spend your hour, <b>organise</b> a restorative conversation	<b>UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS MOVE STRAIGHT TO STAGE 5/6/7:</b> - Verbal with intent to harm - Physical harm - Racial - Homophobic - Bullying  All the adults can decide which stage your <b>behaviour</b> should go to, depending on the circumstances.  At all times this is RECORDED and contact with home is made.
6		<b>The adults will</b> call home the same day if your <b>behaviours</b> 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	<b>Headteacher adults at home and outside help needed</b>	<b>BACK ON TRACK PATHWAY NEEDED</b> - '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 CORE VALUE DURING AUTUMN 2 TERM IS...



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### KINDNESS & EMPATHY

*We teach our children about our values - what they look like and what they sound like. The teaching we cover for this can be found on our website, under the tab 'Visions and Values'. **Here is what we talk about connected with this terms value of KINDNESS & EMPATHY:***

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- *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.*

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

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## **OPAL PLAY UPDATE**

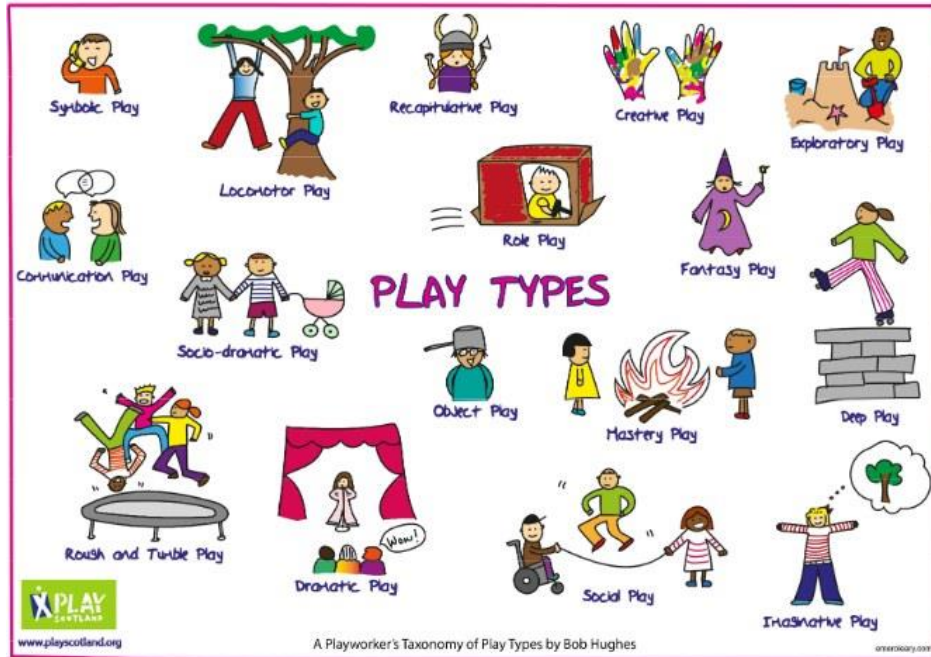


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*Our School started its journey to becoming an OPAL school just last November and we still have a lot of work to do to get it where we want it to be. We continue to work through our action plan with the external support of our experienced OPAL mentor. This is long-term commitment based on research into effective learning via play and children's absolute need to be more active, playful and be able to assess their own risks. The impact we have seen already is amazing - both on behaviour improvements and with children's capacity to sustain focus and learning in the afternoon time.*

We will be developing our website this year to offer a quicker way for our families to access OPAL information. Our OPAL Governor is Shani Melbourne and our OPAL leader in school is Jo Glover.

If you're not familiar with OPAL approaches, please take a look here...  
<https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/parents/>





The Welly Bank is a new community-led network in Notts. It is free to join and all items are shared free of charge. But WE NEED YOUR HELP! We will only grow a bustling network if everyone helps to increase membership so please TELL A FRIEND and spread the word

## Nottingham **WELLY BANK**

Because playing outside should not cost the earth....



Donate, swap or request wellies and outdoor clothes at [www.facebook.com/groups/nottinghamwellybank](http://www.facebook.com/groups/nottinghamwellybank)

**Free!**



- *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.*
  - *Arbor – whole school messages, newsletters, whole-school events and all bookings for clubs and any visit payments are all done via Arbor.*
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*If you need help setting up Arbor 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.*

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## **EASY-FUNDRAISING - Please help us!**



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### **CAN YOU HELP OUR LOVELY SCHOOL?**

*We currently have 162 supporters who have helped to raise nearly £2000 for our school, so far. This is a meaningful amount of money that comes directly to us to help support our children.*

*This academic year we would like to continue 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 NO spare budget to make these amazing experiences happen.*

*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 - simply 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>*

CAN WE REACH 200 SUPPORTERS THIS YEAR?

*Sign-up and support our school - thank you!*

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## The Little Ted Foundation



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*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=EAlaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD\\_BwE](https://www.thelittletedfoundation.org/?qclid=EAlaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD_BwE)

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## Community & Family Support



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### **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

***Gail Holmes*** - Family Support Worker, Attendance officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

***Kerrie Chandler*** - Play Therapist, Child Welfare Officer & Deputy DSL

***Lee Neal*** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

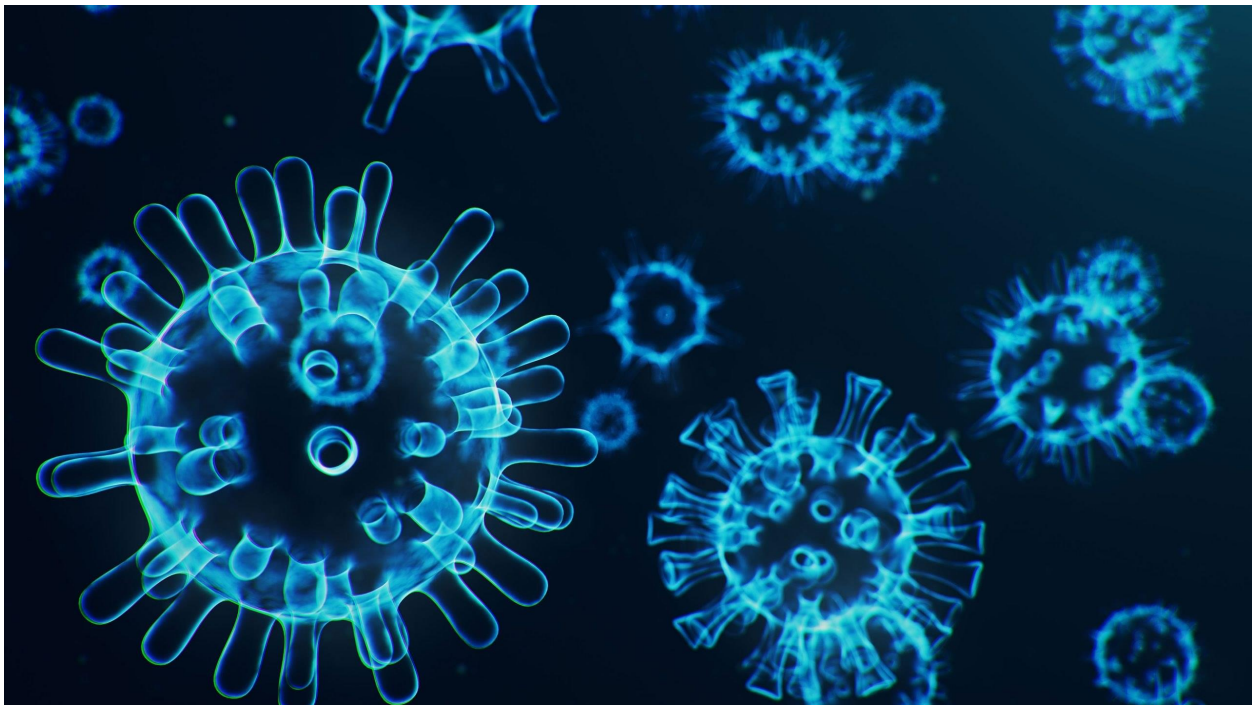
***Joe Hockham*** - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

*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***

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## **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.
-