

NEWSLETTER - 5th January 2024

Dear all,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you have all had a great family time over the Christmas period. It has been so lovely to welcome all of the children back yesterday! Lots of smiling faces and children eager to get back to their learning!

A really short newsletter from me this week, just with the key dates for this term, as a reminder and to help you all pre-plan anything that is coming up, and some other regular reminders we have in our newsletter each week...

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and we'll see you back again on Monday!

Take care,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

Key Dates coming up...



SPRING TERM DATES:

Our Core Value learning is all about ASPIRATION

- School re-opens on Thursday 4th January.
- Friday 19th January Y1 will be visited by 'Tutti Fruitti' performers
- Friday 2nd February Friday Focus Day Maths and Times Tables Rock Stars!
- w/c 5th February Children's Mental Health Week a national theme of 'My Voice Matters'
 - 6th February National Safer Internet Day 'Inspiring Change'
- w/c 5th February Y5 will lead a Religious Education performance on Sikhism with parents invited – date TBC

• Friday 9th February – last day of half term. School re-opens for Spring 2 term on Monday 19th February

Spring 2 term:

Our core value learning this half term is all about CURIOSITY

- Monday 26th February KS2 Times Tables Rock Stars Competition
 - Thursday 7th March World Book Day more details to follow
- Friday 15th March Friday Focus Day Science. British Science week national theme is 'Time'
- w/c 18th March we will introduce the topic of Autism Awareness Month, which begins in April
 - w/c 18th March Y2 will lead a Religious Education performance on Passover with parents invited – date TBC
 - Monday 25th March Headteacher Certificate ceremony 9am school hall for Y1-Y6
 - Wednesday 27th March KS2 Spelling Bee competition
- Last day of term is Wednesday 27th March. School closes to children. School staff attend INSET training on Thursday 28th March
 - School re-opens after the Easter break on Monday April 15th
 - 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/termdates/

OPAL PLAY UPDATE



Opal stands for 'Outdoor Play & Learning' – it is an 18-month project to set it all up and get it going properly, working alongside an external mentor who is highly trained, knowledgeable and experienced in helping schools make this a success. This isn't just about lunchtimes – this is about developing highquality play literacy for children of ALL ages in school and it is about developing learning styles and approaches to learning better, in all areas of the curriculum.

Research is clear that OPAL leads to happier, healthier children who can learn more and function better with their afternoon lessons. It is proven to reduce negative behaviour incidents at lunchtimes and hundreds of schools across the UK, and in other countries, have adopted this approach.

We have spent a lot of time researching this and working with other experts and other schools to know for sure that what we are starting to do here is absolutely correct for our children's learning. For this reason, our determination remains in sticking with this programme, despite any hiccups or concerns that are being raised by a small number of families.

We have recently shared two informative letters explaining our next steps and how we are seeking to resolve problems we have encountered so far. Please take time to read these letters and if you have missed them please come and let us know and we can share them with you again.

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.

IN THE FINAL WEEK OF LAST HALF TERM, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 94.5%

THE HIGHEST CLASS ATTENDANCE WAS FROM: CLASS 5B with 97.6% but also doing well were Class 1B and 4B, both with 97.2%

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



Ways to communicate



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

- Come and speak to us outside on the playgrounds each morning or after school
- Call the office to make an appointment to speak with a class teacher, phase leader or member of senior leadership 0115 9150045.
 - Send us an email to ask us to call you <u>admin@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk</u>
- 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.

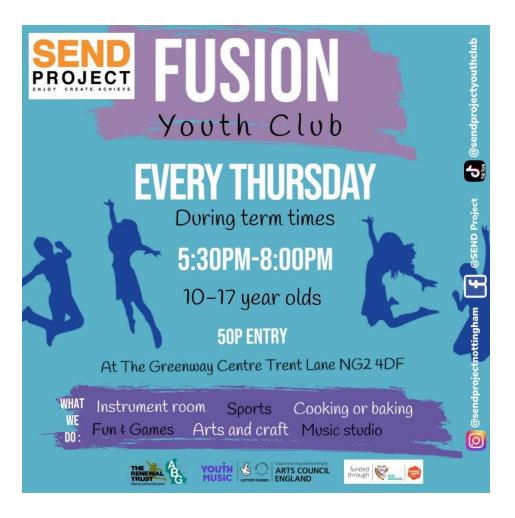
If you need help setting up Parent Mail or Class Dojo please call our office for help – our aim is to be as 'paper-free' as possible so all key messages will come via these channels.

CHILDREN'S CLUBS IN OUR COMMUNITY...



RENEWA TRUST PARTNERS Empowering Positive GHT 🚱 ONLY £ 2 **AGE 11-16** THE OLIVER HIND YOUTH CLUB, **EDALE ROAD, NG2 4HT** EVERY FRIDAY 5:00PM - 6:45PM These sessions allow young people to come together in a relaxed environment. You can choose from a range of activities each week and compete in friendly and fun games. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0115 8372021 WWW.EPICPARTNERS.CO.UK

EPIC PARTNERS @@EPIC_PARTNERS in EPIC PARTNERS CHARITY NUMBER: 1150823



St Ann's Community Orchard



Every Wednesday 3:30pm-5pm

Orienteering, exploring, bug hunting, cooking on the fire, arts, crafts, and more!

Children aged 8-12 only

THE



Booking essential: www.staa.eventbrite.com Contact Rachel on 07498 864498 to book. The Community Orchard is on St Ann's Allotments, off Ransom Road, look out for the yellow signs.



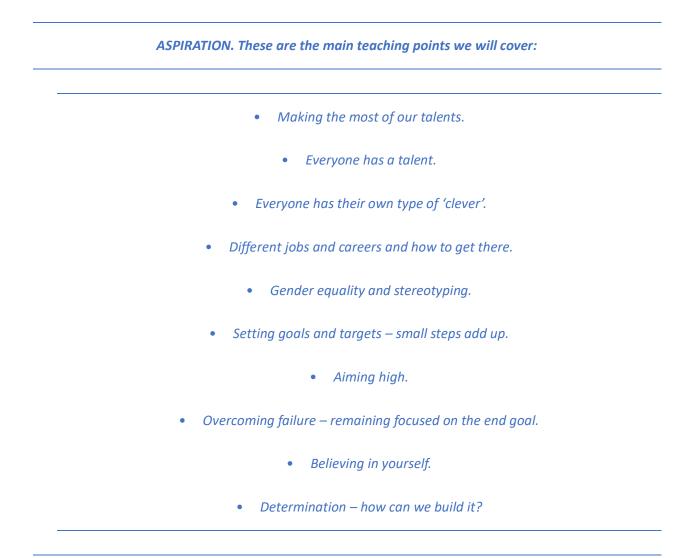


SATURDAYS AT BRENDON LAWRENCE SPORTS CENTRE 10:30 - 12:00 From 2nd September For ages 7+



OUR CORE VALUE THIS TERM IS...





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

EASY-FUNDRAISING - Please help us!





We currently have 137 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: <u>https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterhallsprimaryschool/?searchSessionId=2857a911-</u> <u>d6d1-4247-9db6-689c60a13f64</u>

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:

> <u>https://www.thelittletedfoundation.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-</u> gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEgK5XvD_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.

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

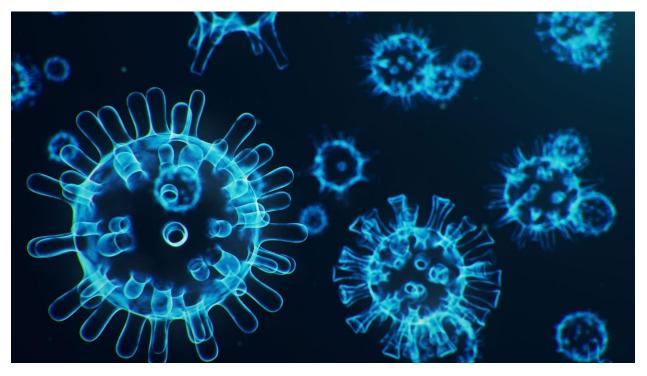
Lee Neal - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

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

Safety reminders



- **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.