



Friday 5th September 2025

Dear all,

***WELCOME BACK!** And if you're new to Walter Halls, we're very happy to welcome you to our lovely school. It's been a great first 3-days for our children and they have settled back into school life really well. We have told them 'it is a marathon not a sprint' and to take their time to feel happy and settled again; we are here to help them all.*

***KEY DATES** for Autumn term are listed in this newsletter - we add more on as we go through the term too, so keep a look out.*

WELCOME MEETING for Y1-Y6 is the first main event we'd like our families to pop along to if you can do. This takes place in the hall at 3.30pm on Wednesday 10th September - next week. It is an informal 'drop-in' event and we will be there until 5pm if you can't get to us straight away at 3.30pm. A chance to meet teachers and pick up some helpful information about your child's new year group and other aspects of school life.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - all schools are continually working on how we deliver the best teaching and learning for all of our children. In this newsletter, you can see a summary of our School Improvement priorities for this year.

WHO CAN HELP YOU? We understand that growing up can be hard, coming to school can present challenges and navigating friendships and fall-outs is a normal part of school life. We also know that some children face barriers that make all of this even harder for them. If you have a worry or concern we can try and help you. Please make sure you know who to go to and how to arrange appointments - schools are so busy but we will get to you as quickly as we can do. **Please do not raise concerns via Class Dojo** - this is not a platform to be used to send complaint messages to teachers and teachers are asked not to respond to these types of messages on dojo. You need to call our office and request a meeting or phone call.

UNIFORM - I've shared lots of information in July and August about uniform and hopefully you are all clear on our Active Uniform approach. **Wellies and outdoor waterproofs are listed as part of our uniform** and every child will need access to these items every day in school. If you need help with buying and finding any uniform item our Family Support team can do this - please let us know.

PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY - hopefully you will have all seen the message I put on class Dojo earlier this week from Nottingham City Council. Last year 3 children were seriously injured outside their own school gates due to parents and carers unsafe choices with road safety. Please help us to keep our children safe by showing respect and care if you have to bring your car to outside our school grounds.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - We have received a message from Nottingham City Council this week to explain that free school meal vouchers will no longer be issued during the school holiday periods. This was an initiative that began during COVID and the council have continued to fund this support. **They can no longer continue this scheme from this academic year onwards** - please see their letter to us as part of this newsletter. **Any of our families who struggle to buy food or clothing for their family should get in touch with us** - we can help you and have a good family support team who want to make sure you are ok.

Take care and have a lovely weekend everyone!

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

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		

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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		

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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		

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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

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: FOR OUR CHILDREN 2025-2027

ATTENDANCE - it is very important to come to school every single day, unless you are really poorly. We will carry on working hard to help you and your families to do this.

MAKATON - we're going to start something new! We're all going to learn how to use Makaton sign language to **COMMUNICATE** with each other. We know that some people find it hard to talk and some people need us to use signs and symbols more often

WRITING - lots of us find writing really hard. We need to keep practicing our writing skills all of the time and help each other to keep getting better at this important skill

PHONICS and READING - these are two of the most important things for every single child to be able to do. We're going to be working hard to help everyone get really good at this!

*What are we doing
to improve our
school?*

CITIZENSHIP - being a great citizen means that you help your community whenever you can do. We're going to use all of our learning about **VALUES** to do some fundraising and some projects that help other people who live in our community. We're going to do some different projects with all of our pupil leaders too!

PPA LESSONS - instead of music every single week, we're going to be doing lots of different projects that will help improve our Art, DT, Computing, Musical and Outdoor learning skills! We're going to do that as well as learning Makaton each week and all of our projects will lead up to an 'end goal' of creating something or performing something!

KEY DATES COMING UP...



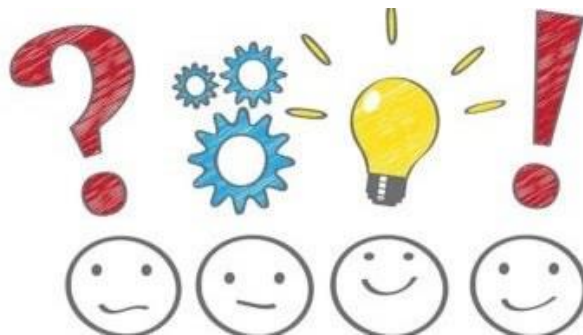
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- **SCHOOL REOPENS WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER**
 - **OUR CORE VALUE LEARNING IN AUTUMN 1 TERM IS 'RESPECT'**
 - **FRIDAY CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES START ON FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER WITH Y4/5/6 – PARENTS OF CHILDRENS RECEIVING A CERTIFICATE WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE OFFICE TEAM**
 - **FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER – NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANT DAY.** We will be making sure all of our wonderful teaching assistants are shown **RESPECT** and gratitude for everything they do for us

- **THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER – NATIONAL POETRY DAY** – This year's theme is 'Play' – perfect for our school! Our children will be taking part in this national event with some wonderful poetry
- **OCTOBER – BLACK HISTORY MONTH** – We will be teaching our children about the importance of inclusion and diversity and raising the profile of Black History. National theme this year – 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'
- **FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER – FRIDAY FOCUS DAY – Diversity Dress-up Day!** Celebrate who you are and your wonderful uniqueness by wearing something that celebrates this. Get your outfits ready!
- **FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER – SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD. Wear Red at school** to show support for our stand against racism. We will be raising money for this important charity with your donations gratefully received
- **SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM ON FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER AND RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER**
 - 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!
- **FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER – FRIDAY FOCUS DAY – LANGUAGES & FRENCH DAY!** More info to follow!
- **W/C 8TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES** – Our F2 & Y1 year groups perform for our Christmas celebrations, with other year groups leading performances for other religious celebrations across the year. More info to follow

- **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 MUSICAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE – 3.30PM IN THE HALL.** More details to follow
- **SCHOOL CLOSURES ON FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER AND RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 5TH JANUARY**

Our remaining INSET days, when school closes for training days, are: Friday 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.

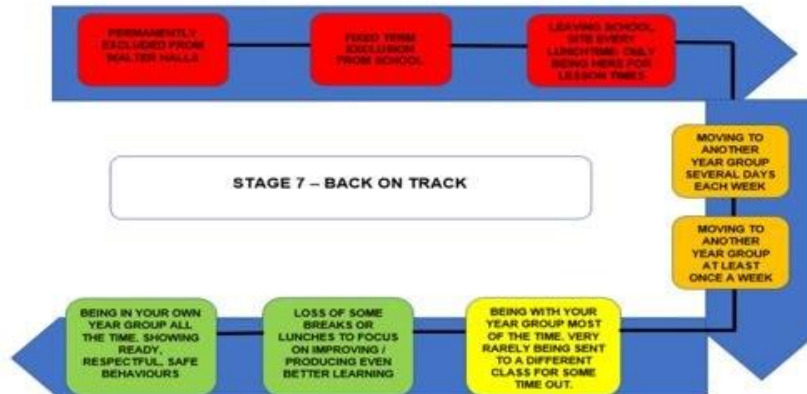
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

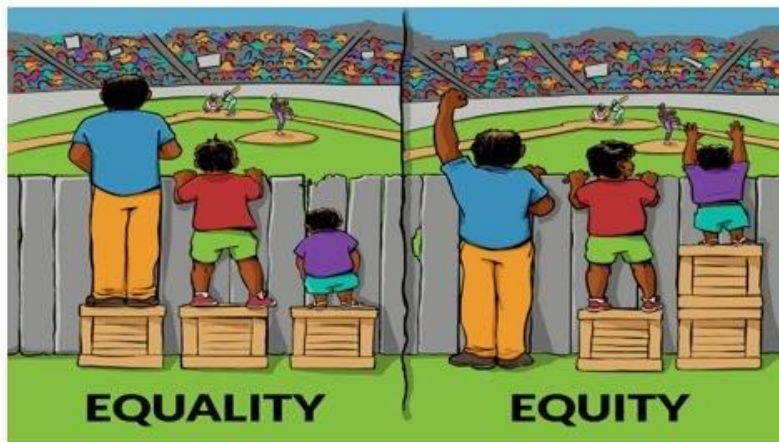
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: <u>Ready?</u> <u>Respectful?</u> <u>Safe?</u>	
2	2 2 minutes owed	<u>You will</u> spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS <u>The adult will</u> explain this clearly 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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...



Free School Meal Vouchers during school holiday times

Good Afternoon

We would like to inform you that, due to a reduction in funding from the Household Support Fund (HSF) 2025/26 , we are unfortunately no longer able to provide Free School Meal vouchers during school holiday periods.

We understand that this change may have a considerable impact on many households, especially during times when children are not in school and access to meals may be more limited.

This decision has not been made lightly, and we recognise the challenges it may present for families who have previously relied on this support.

We encourage families to check with local community organisations and food support services, which may be able to offer help. Additionally there is further information regarding support available within Nottingham on our webpage - [Household Support Vouchers - Nottingham City Council](#)

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kind Regards

Michelle Charnley

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 our 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:

LAST 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 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.

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.
