

NEWSLETTER - 8th March 2024

Dear all,

Happy Friday! Here's this week's news round-up, along with some lovely photos to celebrate and share with you all...

Baby News - I am pleased to share with you all, news of the safe arrival of Miss Pope's new baby - it's a boy! Ronan Thomas Andrew was born this Wednesday morning! This has been a very difficult pregnancy and we're thrilled to hear of his safe arrival!

Mrs Kozub has also had a gorgeous baby boy, born in February - Max Slavomir! We can't wait to meet these two new boys very soon!

Safeguarding Audit - Last week we had our safeguarding audit from the local authority, led by NST school leaders, to check through all of our safeguarding processes, policies and approaches to keeping children safe in education. I am really pleased to tell you all that the audit went really well and was summarised in a report, stating - 'During the audit process, it was evident that the school hold the emotional wellbeing of all pupils at its heart. There was clear passion and pride when discussing the policies, procedures and decisions that are made regarding safeguarding and child protection. The leaders understand the demographics of the school and employ staff to ensure all pupils needs are met which is a credit and honourable decision. There was an overwhelming sense of love shown by the Headteacher and Lead DSL.' This is an accurate reflection of our school ethos and ALL of the staff who work here and so I extend my thanks to everyone who works so hard to make Walter Halls the special place that it is.

Payments for School Visits - you will have received a separate letter detailing the current situation school is in with payments for all of our school visits and experiences. We currently have more than £5,000 shortfall and, sadly, our school budgets are no longer good enough to add any money into this ourselves. Any planned visits and experiences that aren't fully paid for by families may need to be cancelled. This is really upsetting for us to be forced to do, especially at a time of financial hardship for so many. We want our children to have these memorable experiences - if you can afford to make your contribution (even if it's just a little bit every month) please can you help us with this.

DON'T FORGET - RED NOSE DAY IS NEXT FRIDAY - Come wearing your red noses, something red, draw on a red nose or just contribute a few pennies to this good cause!

Next week:

Wednesday - Wells Academy are at Walter Halls hosting a coffee morning for any families of children in Y6 who will be moving to Y7 at Wells Academy next year. An informal chance to meet staff and have a chat. They are hosting 9am-10am but please feel free to stay from drop-off time at 8.40am - meeting in the library!

Dawn from MHST will be in school for any support and advice for parents

Friday - Friday Focus Day - the children will have a whole day of SCIENCE! Curiosity at its finest!

9am Celebration Assembly is for Y2/3 - families of children who will be receiving a certificate will be invited in advance

Lovely photos this week from World Book Day and author visit, our new babies who have joined our Walter Halls Family recently and some more Y4 Gross Science!

Take care,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

Pick your nose!







2 Da Spring 2 Home learning S S **CURIOSITY!** ST. all a all a GET READY FOR THE THIRD EDITION OF ... S S all a 'Walter Halls Book of Curiosity: A collection of stories and a written by the children of Walter Halls' and a Last year, lots of you became PUBLISHED AUTHORS! Who S S and a wants to take part this year? Let's make the third edition S S all a EVEN BETTER than the last two! 8 all a If you've got an adventure story inside you, just bursting to come out, you could see your story in print, inside a published 20 all a book, available to buy and sitting on the shelves of our library! all a All you need to do is write your own short story - type it, write it on paper, it's up to you! You might even want to illustrate it P. Comment and a too? Here are the rules to follow that will help you: S S and a - Your story can be about anything you like, as long as and a it's fun to read, adventurous and has some curiosity and excitement to it! Try writing it with a twist at the all a R S end or with a cliff-hanger that leaves people all a wondering! and a - It should be a short story: between 2-6 A4 pages. and a - It can be typed and printed out or it can be handall s written - but if you're writing it out, be sure to make it and a neat and use a pen if you can do. S. Contraction all a - You can add illustrations if you want to, but you don't S S have to. Maybe a friend can help you? all a 8 HAND IN TO MRS BEARDAH BY TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2024 or 2 De email it to headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

BABY NEWS! Welcome to the Walter Halls Family!

Miss Pope has given birth to a beautiful baby boy - Ronan Thomas Andrew was born this Wednesday morning! We are so relieved at his safe arrival! Mrs Kozub's new baby is also a boy and called Max Slavomir - both gorgeous and we can't wait to meet them!





BORLD BOOK DAY



1 - Nursery enjoyed WBD too!



It was a great World Book Day this year - we even had a visiting author come to meet some of us too!

KS2 met local author, Richard Moore and learnt about the inspiration behind his book, Hob the Elf!

Apparently it all started with a poem before it became a brilliant book about Hob's adventures into the human world.

We all got to dress our own way this year - how we feel most comfortable when reading. Lots of pyjamas of course - but more importantly a whole day dedicated to books, reading, words and why books are so much fun!

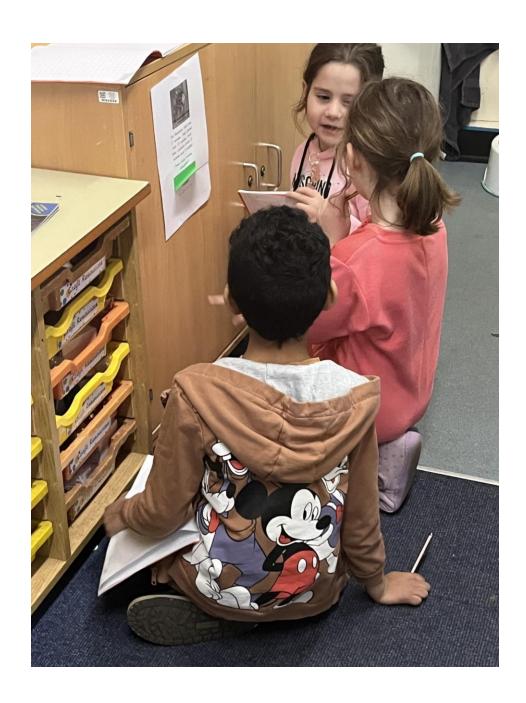
Year 4 spent the day solving reading puzzles in an 'Escape Room' themed day. Amazing collaboration, teamwork and problem-solving skills all based around books and a love of reading! They have shared some photos here for you. Year 2 have also shared some photos - they took part in a maths scavenger hunt and all the questions were linked to our favourite books. Then we chose our favourite book 'The Owl who was afraid of the Dark' to create some art work. Throughout the day we listened to some famous people reading stories and joined in with MC Grammars World Book Day song!

Just a couple of great examples of how fabulous World Book Day can be!













More Year 4 'Gross Science'!



After Mrs Harding's class shared some photos with us last week, this time Miss Walters class has been learning all about the digestive system too! Learning about how poo is made is both messy and fun!







Key Dates coming up...

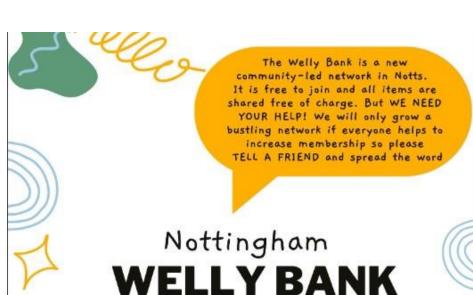


Spring 2 term:

Our core value learning this half term is all about CURIOSITY

- **Wednesday 13th March** Wells Academy Coffee morning at Walter Halls 9am-10am. Please come to the library feel free to arrive from 8.40am drop-off time.
- 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
 - Thursday 21st March Coffee Morning for Neuro-diversity organised Mrs Glover

- 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/



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



Donate, swap or request wellies and outdoor clothes at www.facebook.com/groups/nottinghamwellybank

OUR CORE VALUE THIS TERM IS...



CURIOSITY. These are the main teaching points we will cover:

- People who changed the world.
- Wonders of the world & other worlds (sea, space, sky, science, technology).
 - Research skills and independent projects.
 - Famous inventions and inventors.
 - Asking questions always be a questioner!
 - Trying something new bravery and courage.
 - Overcoming fears.

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.

LAST WEEK, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 94%

Also doing well were: Class 4B with 97% and Class 2A with 96% - well done!

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





OPAL PLAY UPDATE



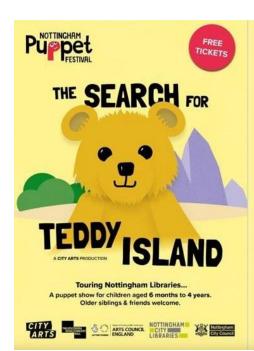
Some recent concerns that our Opal Play team have had brought to them:

Using play equipment outside at the start of the day - Some of the larger equipment is left outside and some of our children are enjoying using this at the start of the day. No staff supervision is available outside at the start of the day, until 8.40am when teachers arrive to collect classes. Parents and carers are therefore responsible for choices being made outside first thing in the morning.

Risks of injury - All of our activities have been risk-assessed and supervision during Opal Play is called 'roaming supervision' meaning that adults roam a particular zone and intervene in play only when things are particularly risky. Full training on this has been undertaken by Opal Play leaders and our sites are checked regularly

Items left out / the site looks 'messy' - Children are encouraged to revisit dens and play spaces over many days. The aim is not to have a tidy-looking site but to develop effective life-long skills through well-thought-out play. We've done the research, had the training and heard the impact on learning this all has - Opal play is part of our curriculum

Rainy / Muddy play - leaflets of information have been shared prior to Christmas and again this term with information regarding this approach. We recognise the need for more sheltered areas to be created, when our budget allows for this. In the meantime, decent clothing, hoods and brollies all help, as well as the spare clothing we have in classrooms and at 'Take Home Tuesday'



Wollaton Library

9 April 2024 11:00am - 11:30am

Bramcote Lane NG8 2NA

Bulwell Riverside Library Hyson Green Library

10 April 2024 2:00pm - 2:30pm

Main Street, Bulwell NG6 8Q.I

Dales Centre Library

12 April 2024 11:00am - 11:30am

206 Sneinton Dale

76 Gregory Boulevard Nottingham NG7 5HY

St Ann's Valley Library 12 April 2024 2:00pm - 2:30pm

Strelley Road Library

10 April 2024 11:00am - 11:30am Strelley Road

11 April 2024 2:00pm - 2:30pm

The Mary Potter Centre

St Ann's Valley Centre 2 Livingstone Road Nottingham NG3 3GG

Nottingham Central Library Nottingham Central Library

13 April 2024 11:30am - 12:00pm

1 Carrington Street Nottingham, NG1 7FH

13 April 2024 1:30pm - 2:00pm

1 Carrington Street Nottingham, NG1 7FH

Book online: city-arts.org.uk/whats-on









GREEN'S MILL

PART OF BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2024

Join NTU Physics students and celebrate British Science Week at Green's Mill. Explore the work of George Green through the science of energy transfer, learning about the nature of moving magnets and making your own pinwheel to bring home. \triangledown



DROP-IN FAMILY ACTIVITIES SATURDAY 16 MARCH 11AM-3PM

Green's Windmill & Science Centre Windmill Lane, Sneinton, NG2 4QB

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...





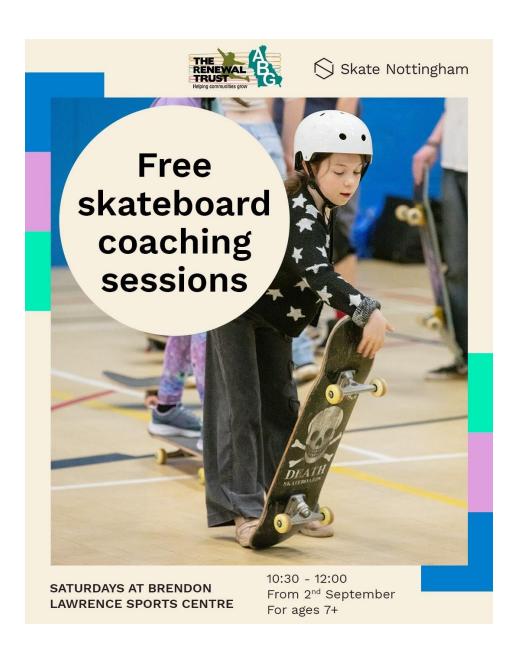






Booking essential: www.staa.eventbrite.com Contact Rachel on 07498 864498 to book. The Community Orchard is on St Ann's Allotments, off Ransom Road, look out for the yellow signs.







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:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walterhallsprimaryschool/?searchSessionId=2857a911-d6d1-4247-9db6-689c60a13f64

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:

https://www.thelittletedfoundation.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCHqIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEqK5XvD_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

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

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

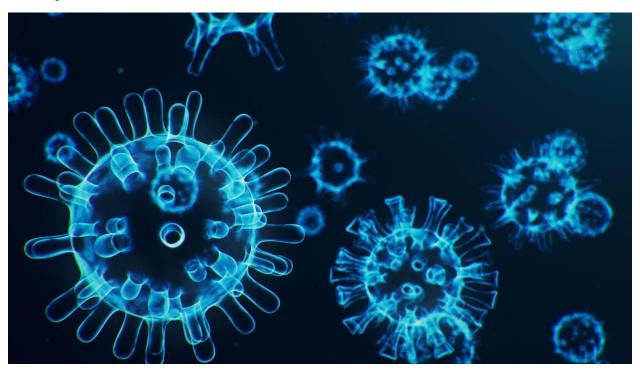
Lee Neal - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

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

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.