



Be your best.

NEWSLETTER - Friday 29th November 2024

Dear all,

Happy Friday to you all - I can't quite believe it's December this weekend!

Christmas Fun Run, Bingo & Baking:

- **Our Fun Run is next Thursday**, with prizes on offer for 'Best Dressed' 'First passed the line' and 'Best Moves' for both the KS1 & KS2 runs. Refreshments will be on offer to buy as you cheer everyone one and a wet-weather plan for using the hall for a dance-a-thon is being planned out too. **GET YOUR SLIPS BACK IN ASAP TO PARTICIPATE** and get the sponsorship forms filled in for us too!
- **Bake Off challenge for adults closes on Wednesday 4th next week** - get your cakes to us by then and we will announce the winner at the Fun Run the next day...am sure our pupil leaders will enjoy judging that competition!

- **Chocolate Bingo** *is the following week - get your tickets in now!*
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All proceeds raised from these Christmas events go towards fundraising for our lovely school. *Fundraising efforts this year will contribute towards school visits and experiences and our OPAL improvements too. THANK YOU for anything you can do to support us.*

Christmas Dinner Day - *Don't forget our big Christmas Dinner is planned for the final Wednesday of this term - Wednesday 18th December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas Dinner that day and they don't normally do so, please call the office to arrange this.*

Christmas Jumper Day - *In support of Save the Children, we are inviting all children and staff to come to school on Thursday 12th December wearing their favourite Christmas Jumper, in return for a small donation. Save the date now and get those jumpers at the ready!*

MHST support - *I announced on Dojo this week that our lovely colleague, Dawn Dukes from MHST, was leaving her current role and starting a new job. Our links with MHST remain in place and I will let you all know who will be replacing Dawn each week asap. This is an external support service and therefore not within my control but I am assured that Dawn will be replaced and we will still be able to offer this fantastic support to all of our families on our own school site.*

Next Week - It's December...

Monday - an OPAL assembly on Monday for our children, to talk through and teach safe and happy play outside.

Wednesday - Get your baking entries into the office in the morning or after school, ready for judging the next day!

Thursday - Festive Fun Run from 3.20pm on the bottom field - come along and show your support, buy some refreshments and get your sponsorship money sorted to help support our school fundraising efforts

Friday - Celebration Assembly for Y4/5/6 at 9am in the hall. Parents of children receiving a certificate will be invited in advance

Have a great weekend everyone!

Take care,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk



Date: Thursday 5th December

Venue: Walter Halls Primary School, lower playing field

Event info: Get ready, to dash, prance and spread holiday cheer in our Festive Fun Run!!

We will have a short & fun warm up before the running starts!

- **KS1 will run from 3.25 to 3.45pm**
- **KS2 will run from 3.55 to 4.15pm**

Wear fancy dress, your school uniform, or a festive top!

Spectators welcome, and refreshments available to buy at the event !!

Every participant will receive a certificate, and there will also be prizes for...

Best dressed (KS1 and KS2)

First past the line (KS1 and KS2)

Best moves (KS1 and KS2)

This is a sponsorship event, and we ask that children participating be sponsored by family and friends for each lap of the field (3 lap maximum) with funds raised going towards our Friends of Walter Halls PTA. All children that return their sponsorship form and money will be entered into a prize draw!!





Chocolate Bingo Fundraiser!!

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER

Open to all year groups*

(*parents to accompany all children up to year 3, but parents of all older year groups are also welcome)

Doors open at 3.15pm, eyes down 3.30pm. Event ends 4.15pm. Children attending alone to be collected from the school hall at 4.15pm

Tickets available from the school office.

£5 per child**

**includes 1st set of bingo cards, a complimentary raffle ticket and a drink.

The raffle tickets are for a prize draw to be held at the bingo fundraiser, with hampers and vouchers to be won!

Additional books, raffle tickets & refreshments for sale at the event—please bring cash or card!

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Please send in your chocolate donations & raffle prizes by 1st December to support this fundraising event for our school. Further details to be shared via your child's class!!

The Great Walter Halls



Bake Off!!



Adult Baking Competition

Entries to be received by morning of 4th December.

Judging by Head & Deputy's & inclusion Ambassadors.

Winner to be announced at the Festive Fun Run

Thursday 5th December 2024 – 3.15-4.15pm

Any remaining cake will be sold at the Fun Run.

Key Dates coming up...



AUTUMN term:

Autumn 2 term launches our core value of KINDNESS AND EMPATHY

- **Wednesday 4th** - *Deadline for getting your Bake Off entries into the office for judging!*
- **Thursday 5th December** - *FESTIVE FUN RUN! Led by Friends of Walter Halls - help raise some money for our school and join in with some festive fun!*
- **Wednesday 11th December** - *Year 1 Christmas Performance at 2.40pm school hall - Year 1 families please come along!*
- **Thursday 12th December** - *Christmas Jumper Day - raising money for Save the Children charity - get your Christmas Jumpers on for a small donation to this great cause!*

- **Thursday 12th December** - *Christmas Chocolate Bingo event - 3.15pm in the Hall*
 - **Friday 13th December** - *F2 Christmas Performance at 9am in the school hall - F2 families please come along!*
 - **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!*
 - **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

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 from the previous week.

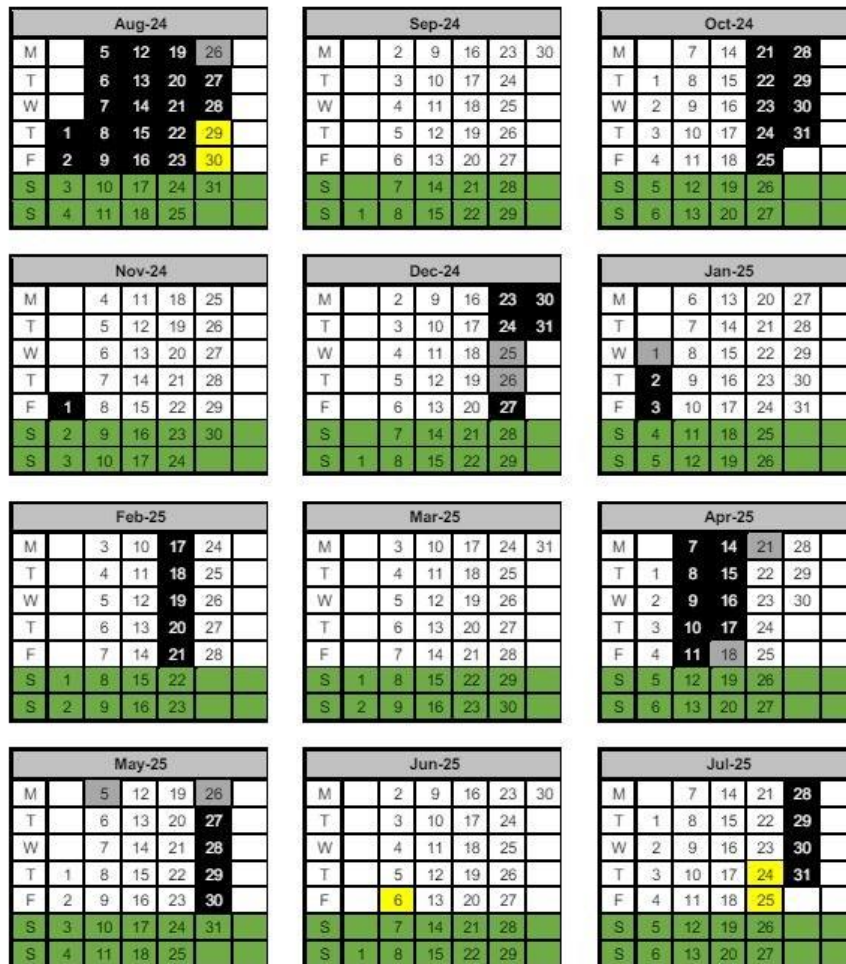
LAST WEEK, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 93%

The Class with the highest attendance was: Class 3A with 98.3% - FANTASTIC!

Also doing brilliantly were: Class 6A with 97.5%, Class 6B with 96.8% and Class 5B with 96.1%
- well done everyone, keep it going!

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

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



- 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?

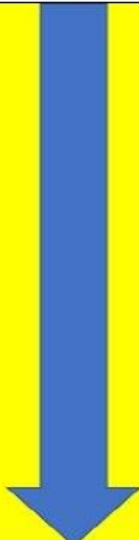
Is something happening in school with your child that you need to talk to someone about?

- 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.

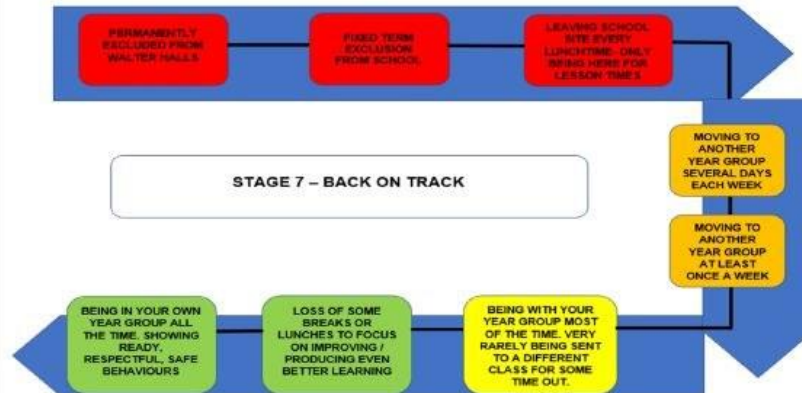
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

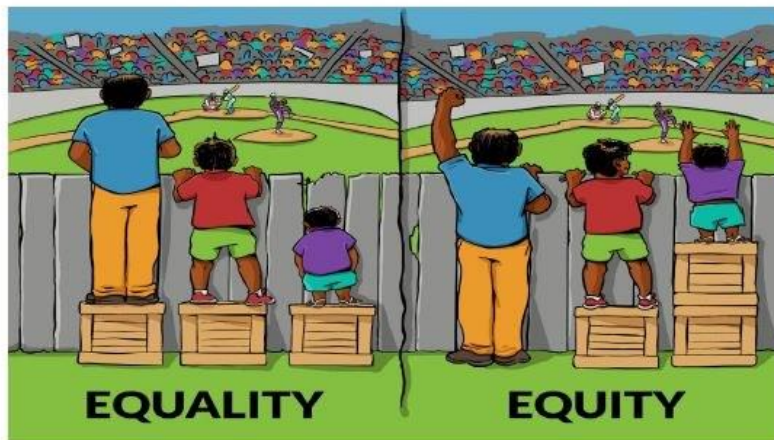
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: Ready? Respectful? Safe?	
2	2 2 minutes owed	You will spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS The adult will explain this clearly to you and help you make changes	
3	R Reminder from the adult	If this behaviour carries on the adult will give you just one more reminder.	
4	10 10 minutes owed	You will spend 10 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS and put right what has gone wrong The adult will 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 All the adults will decide how long is needed based on what has happened. (Learning mentor/Phase leader / deputy head stage)	You will be taken by a different adult to spend time away from your year group The adult will 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		The adults will 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 CORE VALUE DURING AUTUMN 2 TERM IS...



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:***

- *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.*

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

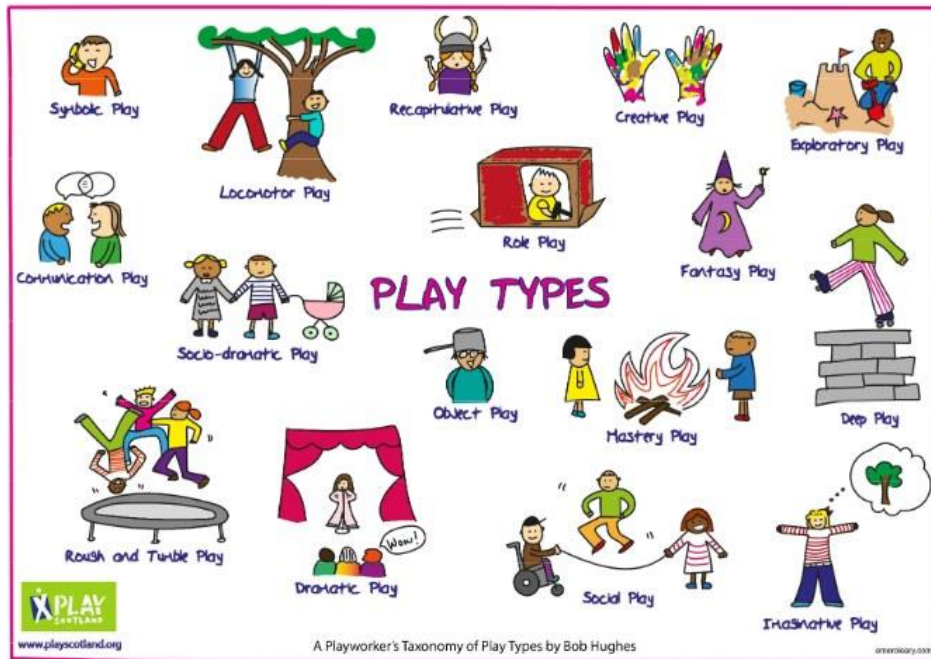
OPAL PLAY UPDATE



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

Free!

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 – admin@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk*

- *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.

EASY-FUNDRAISING - Please help us!



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!

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/?qclid=EAlaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-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

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



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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.
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