



Friday 18th July 2025

Dear all,

Happy Friday! This will be my last newsletter of this academic year. The children finish on WEDNESDAY next week, with the staff in school for INSET training after that.

*School re-opens on **WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER** for children but all staff will be in from Monday 1st September - if you have a question or problem you need some advice on before school re-opens on 3rd September, our office team will be able to help you from 1st September if you give us a call.*

*This final newsletter offers some help and advice on **UNIFORM and KEY DATES** coming up from September. Our full list of Autumn dates will be shared in September but some key ones to remember have been shared now for you. **I've also shared some staffing information again and some information on who can help you if you have a concern.***

***It's been such a positive year for us here at Walter Halls:** our children continue to make us proud every day and the progress that they make whilst they're with us is heart-warming. Our fabulous Year 6 cohort are on their way to new adventures and what a great year group they have been! It's not been easy for them and they've ridden lots of waves of difficulty - COVID lockdowns to name just one - and have all come out the other side with amazing SATs results and, more importantly, being their absolute best versions of themselves. We're so proud of you all and there will be many faces we miss having around our school next year.*

To those families who are ALWAYS a positive force and amazingly supportive of our school and the hardworking staff we have here - thank you to you too. You make our school a great place to be and when we work together, your children thrive.

I hope you all have a great summer with some quality family time. We'll see you all again very soon!

Take care,

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		

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		

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		

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

GET YOUR ACTIVE UNIFORM SORTED FOR SEPTEMBER!



As most of you will know, we changed our uniform policy last year.

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:

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 out 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



KEY DATES COMING UP...



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- **SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR ALL CHILDREN ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER** - our staff and office team will be working in school from Monday 1st September
 - **WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER - Welcome Event for families of children in Y1-Y6.**
3.30pm-5pm in the school hall. Come along, have a chat to new teachers, find out about the year group your child will be in and pick up some important information for the year ahead.
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A full list of events and themes will be published in September for our families.

Our first formal 'parents evening' to discuss your child's progress will take place in November, after the teachers have worked with your children for a whole half term.

There are not enough words to describe the depth and breadth of work that Mrs Glover has put into this school since she first started here in 1990! Mrs Glover has been a nursery teacher, Early Years teacher and leader, a SENDCO, attendance leader, Acting Head, Deputy Head and OPAL leader! She's given so much – often at the expense of her own family life – because she loves this school and all of the children in it. She is our 'Queen of Walter Halls' and we will miss her immensely but we wish her a very happy and playful retirement! You've earned it Mrs G!

Mrs Glover



Mrs Cox



Mrs Cox has also made the decision to leave Walter Halls. She isn't retiring just yet but is off on a new adventure. Mrs Cox also joined the school in 1990 and has taught many, many children over the years, as well as supporting new teachers and staff who have joined the school since then. Mrs Cox is a school Governor too and has, in recent years, led our school's music curriculum. Her passion for ensuring children have as many musical experiences as possible is wonderful and will be greatly missed. We wish her lots of love as she leaves for her next chapter.

*Fond farewell
& Thankyou*



Mrs Bell



Mrs Bell – our wonderful, smiley teaching assistant – retires this year, after nearly 25 years at Walter Halls! So many of our children and staff adore Mrs Bell for her warmth and care and for how hard she works at helping our children. We will miss her being at Walter Halls so very much but we know she will be enjoying a very well-earned retirement and spending lots more time with her lovely family.

A very special goodbye to Heather Abdic this year. Heather isn't a member of staff but there have been many times where she may as well have been! The amount of work and dedication she has given to the school through Friends of Walter Halls fundraising efforts is immense! Heather has been pivotal in raising tens of thousands of pounds for our school community over the years, as well as setting up and running our fantastic Take Home Tuesday initiative and giving so much of her time, for free, to make our school as lovely as it is. Heather – we are so very thankful for you.

Heather



Adele



Adele Cleaver, our fabulous play worker, is leaving to re-focus on other projects from September but remains a parent of the school. Adele has been pivotal to the success of our OPAL work, with her depth of knowledge on children's play. Her vision carried us through to our Platinum Award and her calm, caring nature has endeared her to so many of our children, who now love spending time with her. Thank you, Adele. You have been amazing!

Fond farewell & Thankyou

Nicolle, our OPAL play co-ordinator, has decided to start a new childminding adventure from September, following her maternity leave this year. Nicolle has built brilliant relationships with our children during lunchtimes and has worked hard, alongside the OPAL team, to make lunchtimes fun-filled and friendly! Thank you Nicolle – you have been a super-star and we're sorry to be losing you!

Nicolle



Miss Griffiths



Ms Griffiths, our Year 2 teacher who joined us on a temporary contract at the start of this year, has found a new permanent opportunity at another Nottingham School from September. We thank her for her time and dedication this academic year and wish her every success in her next role.

Welcome to the Walter Halls family



Mrs Smith

A huge Walter Halls Welcome to our new Y6 teacher, Ana Smith! Mrs Smith is an experienced and knowledgeable teacher who is passionate about inclusion and who will fit in well with our Walter Halls Family. Mrs Smith will be working alongside Mrs Harding in Year 6 from September.

Mrs Goldsmith is our new SENDCO from September. She comes to us from Oakfield Special School, offering a wealth of knowledge and expertise with special educational needs, from Early Years right up to secondary school age. Mrs Goldsmith will be working Monday-Wednesday each week and is looking forward to helping support the senior leadership team in this important area of school development.



Mrs Goldsmith



Miss Beeby

Miss Beeby is our new Year 4 teaching, sharing a class with Mrs Routledge from September. Miss Beeby has had experience of working in other city schools in Nottingham and is very creative, with a love of art and design too. Miss Beeby will be working on Thursday's and Friday's each week, with Mrs Routledge working Monday to Wednesday in the same classroom.

As we say goodbye to Mrs Cleaver, our brilliant OPAL play worker, we welcome **Mrs Stephenson**. Sarah joins us with lots of knowledge and experience of working with children as a teaching assistant, tutor and through community project work. Sarah also has a depth of knowledge and experience with helping children and adults with special needs and is brimming with ideas for how to keep improving outdoor play and learning at our school!



Mrs Stephenson

Brilliant new TA's, **Sarah, Maxine, Claire, Michelle** and **Phoenix**, have all been working at Walter Halls for quite some time already but we're now pleased to be keeping them all on permanently. **Nicola Webb** also joins our team of TA's, due to the retirement of the lovely Mrs Bell.



Sarah



Maxine



Claire



Michelle



Phoenix May



Nicola

Hi, I'm Chloe



I am your schools assigned
Education Mental Health
Practitioner (EMHP).

I support young people to
understand how they are
feeling, achieve their goals
and learn coping strategies.



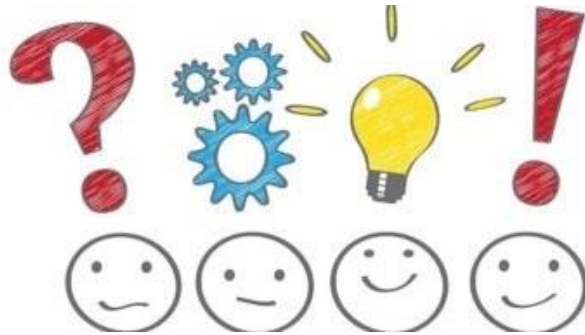
I love Country music,
theatre, craft activities,
yoga and hiking. I enjoy
baking, but always make
a huge mess!

Come and have a chat :)

Scan me to find out more about MHST!



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.

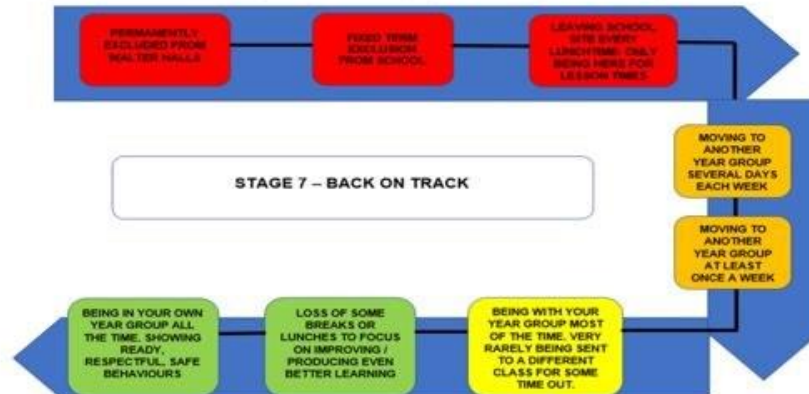
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

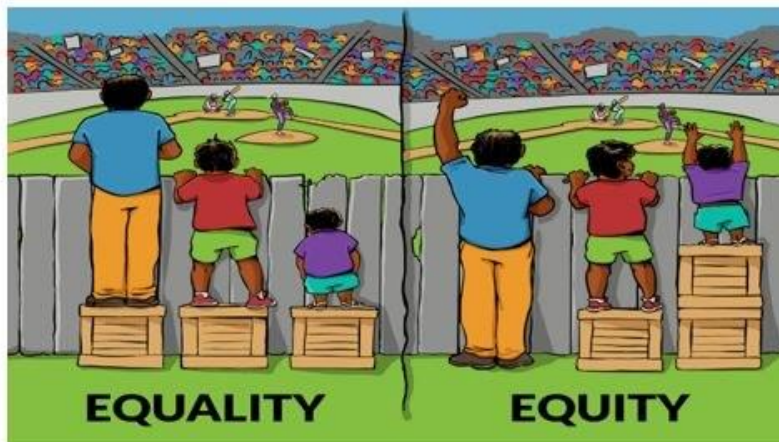
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: <u>Ready?</u> <u>Respectful?</u> <u>Safe?</u>	
2	2 2 minutes owed	<u>You will</u> spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS <u>The adult will</u> explain this clearly 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...



MUSIC PROVISION NEXT YEAR



We are remodelling how we deliver music teaching from next year. We can no longer afford the model we have been running for the last five years and so we are forming a new team, of our own staff, to plan and deliver this slot each week. **Music remains a statutory part of the National Curriculum and all of our children will carry on having their entitlement to this learning.** During PPA time – when normal class teachers are not delivering the learning – our children will continue to have one lesson of PE and then the other lesson, which has always been music each week, is being re-planned to give our children a **mixture of learning opportunities. These include: outdoor learning, design & technology, art, computing as well as music. We are also going to use this learning slot to introduce MAKATON sign language to our children.** We are excited by these changes as they will offer our children a broader range of experiences, which will absolutely still include musical learning. Musical events, such as Christmas and Young Voices, will continue to be planned and offered to our children and we will be working hard to continue musical-themed after school activity opportunities too.

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: 94%

THE CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE WAS: CLASS 2B with an amazing 99.6%!

ALSO DOING GREAT WERE: CLASS 2A with 97% and CLASS 3B with 96.9%! Great work!

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.
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IF YOU NEED HELP GETTING ACCESS TO CLASS DOJO OR ARBOR PLEASE SPEAK TO OUR OFFICE TEAM

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

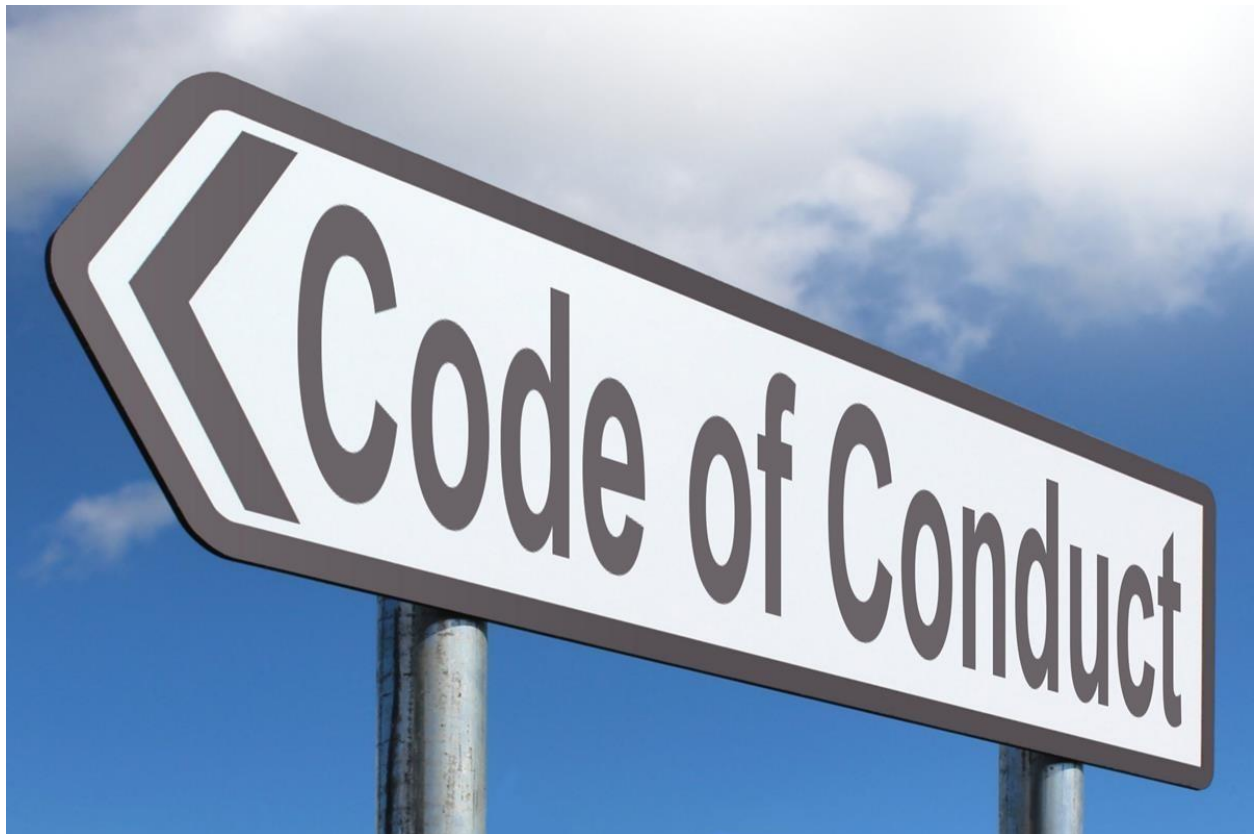
GAIL HOLMES - Family Support Worker and DSL

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

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.
