



Be your best.

NEWSLETTER - 4th October 2024

Dear all,

Happy Friday!

JUST SOME QUICK REMINDERS THIS WEEK...

BBC 500 WORDS COMPETITION - As you will have seen on Class Dojo, we'd love for some of our children to enter this competition. See this information again in this weeks newsletter...

DIVERSITY DRESS-UP DAY! FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER - GET READY NOW! We are asking everyone to come dressed in something that shows us why they are unique, different and amazing. Take a look at the poster for what it's all about...

OPAL PARENT DAY 8th October - we have postponed this for later on in the academic year and have asked our OPAL mentor to consider timings that will be easier for our families to attend. We will keep you posted on this one!

KEY DATES - Please take a look at this term's key dates, included in weekly newsletters

Next week:

Wednesday - Dawn from MHST will be in The Nook (next to the office) from 8.40am for any families that wish to drop-in and chat to her confidentially about mental health concerns.

A few lovely photos for you this week, connected with our National Poetry Day...

If you have some photos of amazing things your children are up to outside of school we'd love to celebrate them and let everyone know in school - please send them to me or your child's class teacher.

Take care and have a great weekend,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

National Poetry Day - 'Counting'





In the Helm for National Poetry Day we read two beautiful poems and then the children drew around their hands and chose their favourite colours that represented themselves.

In F2, we enjoyed learning a Makaton Poem all about Autumn. We performed our poem in the woods and afterwards found all of the different coloured leaves and counted them!





DIVERSITY DRESS-UP!

FRIDAY FOCUS DAY

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER

We are all different and unique and that makes human beings amazing!

What is different about you? Maybe it's your religion, the language you speak at home, the colour of your skin, your hairstyle, what you like to wear or the things you enjoy doing? Maybe it's the way your brain thinks – neurodiversity – or a hobby or special interest you have that nobody else seems to know much about? It could be anything – but there will be something about you that makes you different, unique and special!

On Friday 11th October, our first FRIDAY FOCUS DAY, will be all about DIVERSITY. In a world where we are expected to 'fit in' we want to celebrate everything that makes you 'stand out' from the crowd! We want to learn about why being different is something to feel proud about!

The whole school will be spending the whole day focusing on learning all about diversity and to make it even more special we want EVERYONE (teachers & staff too!) to dress-up in something that shows how unique and special you are.

Maybe you want to wear a traditional religious outfit or something from your cultural background? Maybe an outfit that shows which country your family are from or the language you speak at home? Maybe you want to do your hair in a hairstyle that you've always wanted to try or just wear your favourite colour for the day? Maybe you could dress up in a way that shows us what your favourite hobby is? Anything at all that shows us something great about you!

GET THINKING! We can't wait to see what you wear and to celebrate DIVERSITY together for the day!

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER...WHAT WILL YOU WEAR?



BBC 500 WORDS COMPETITION!

Writing is a whole-school improvement target for us again this year. We need to work together to get our children writing more!

We'd love to see children from Walter Halls entering the BBC 500 Words writing competition - something that is done nationwide and has some AMAZING PRIZES and national recognition. Who wants another child from London to win this again...not me! We have loads of talented children here at Walter Halls and we need to let everyone know how clever they can be with their writing.

Over the next few weeks, Mrs Harding, our English leader, will be helping some chosen children who show a real flair for writing to write their own entry.

Can you encourage your own child to enter from home? See the links below for more information, advice, rules and deadlines. The second link shows you how to submit your entry.

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 9PM ON 8TH NOVEMBER!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

Key Dates coming up...



AUTUMN term:

- **OCTOBER** - *Black History Month* - we will be linking this to our value of *Respect* and learning more about this important theme
- **11th October - FRIDAY FOCUS DAY** - *The whole school focusing on the same subject all day long - our first Friday Focus Day is 'Diversity: Celebrating Difference'. We will be asking all children and adults to **DRESS UP** in clothes that represent their differences - religion, culture, character, beliefs.*
- **Friday 18th October - SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD** - *A national event that we will be raising awareness of with all of our children*
- **HALF TERM STARTS ON FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER. SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER**
 - **Autumn 2 term** *launches our core value of KINDNESS AND EMPATHY*

- **Wednesday 13th November** - *World Kindness Day* - we will be marking this event with a whole school activity and a family project
 - **w/c 11th November** - *National Anti-Bullying Week* - the theme this year is 'Choose Respect'
 - **Monday 11th November** - *Odd Sock Day* - children to wear odd socks in support of anti-bullying
 - **Friday 15th November** - *Children in Need Day* - children to wear something yellow / pudsey bear / spotty and bring a small donation in for this important charity
 - **Friday 29th November** - *FRIDAY FOCUS DAY - French! Languages Day* across school - more details to follow!
 - **w/c 9th December** - *Christmas Performances* - F2 & Y1 always lead our Christmas performances as part of their RE learning - more details to follow
 - **Monday 16th December** - *END OF TERM HEADTEACHER CERTIFICATES*. A special 'red carpet' assembly with our families invited along to celebrate excellence in our children!
 - **FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER** - *LAST DAY OF TERM. SCHOOL RE-OPENS MONDAY 6TH JANUARY*
-

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.

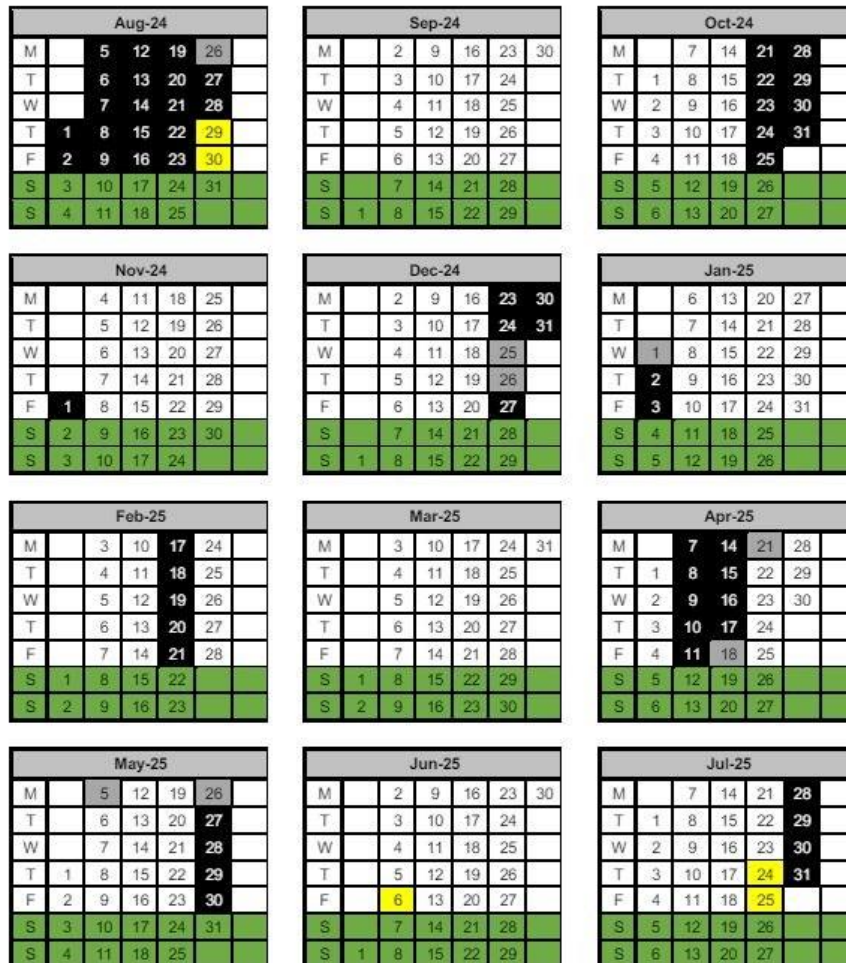
LAST WEEK'S WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 95% again!

The Class with the highest attendance was: Class 6B with a perfect 100%! SECOND WEEK IN A ROW 6B!

Also doing brilliantly were: 1B with 97%, 2A & 2B both with 96%, 3A, 3B & 6A all with 98%, 4B & 5A both met the 96% target too!

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.

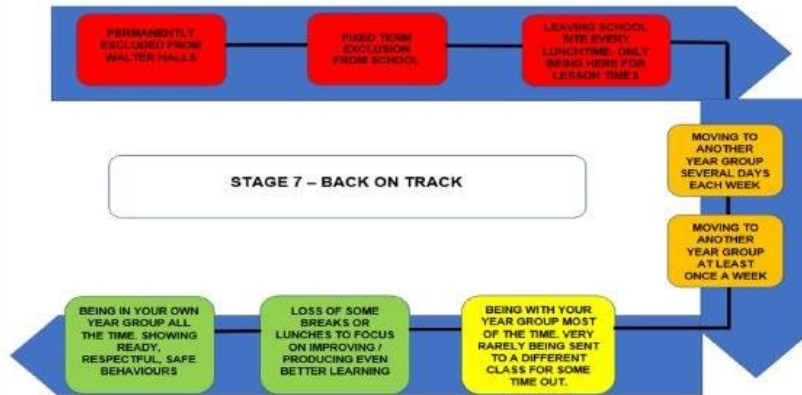
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

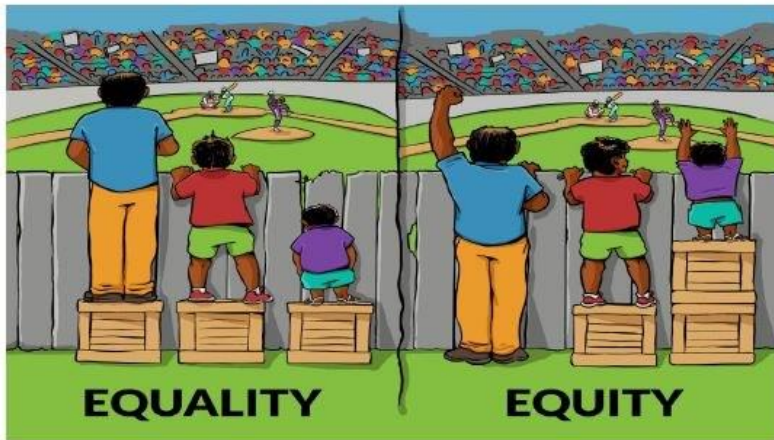
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: Ready? Respectful? Safe?	
2	2 2 minutes owed	You will spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS The adult will explain this clearly to you and help you make changes	
3	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 1 TERM IS...



RESPECT

*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 RESPECT:***

- *Respect isn't always about compliance and doing what you're told.*
- *Ways of showing respect and that respect has to be earned – it takes time and effort.*
 - *Respecting religions, other cultures and ways of living.*
 - *Respecting the environment to help all of our futures.*
- *How our actions have an impact on others and the wider world.*

- *Having different opinions but still getting along.*
 - *Listening skills.*
 - *Taking turns.*
 - *Safe ways to share opinions and what to do if you disagree.*
-
-

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

OPAL PLAY UPDATE

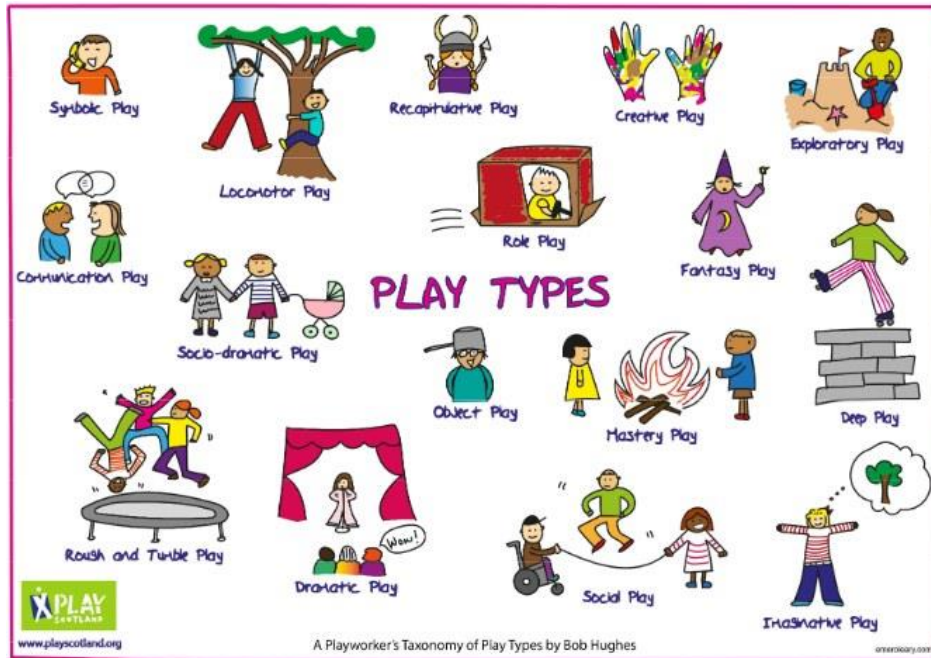


Our School started its journey to becoming an OPAL school just last November and we still have a lot of work to do to get it where we want it to be. We continue to work through our action plan with the external support of our experienced OPAL mentor. This is long-term commitment based on research into 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/>

...and look out for our OPAL updates coming your way too!



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.

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!



A screenshot of the Easyfundraising page for Walter Halls Primary School. The page has a teal background and displays the school's name, location (Mapperley, Nottingham), the amount raised (£1,710.90), and the number of supporters (149). A yellow button at the bottom says 'Sign up and support this cause'.

CAN YOU HELP OUR LOVELY SCHOOL?

We currently have 149 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/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpcTfzqCH-gIVhIBQBh2SPwEHEAAYASAAEqK5XvD_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.
-