



Be your best.

NEWSLETTER Friday 28th February

Dear all,

Goodbye February - my least favourite of months! It feels good to be arriving at work when it's getting light in the mornings again! I hope you've all had some decent family time over the half term break - it's been lovely to have all of the children back together again this week.

***CURIOSITY THEME** - this is our core value learning this term and we have split it into 3 parts: Curiosity about books, Curiosity through Science and Curiosity about people!*

In assembly, I set a mini challenge for Y2-Y6 children to research some 'I wonder' questions. Year 2's is 'I wonder why leaves are green', Year 3's is 'I wonder why the sky looks blue but the air around me doesn't', Year 4's is 'I wonder who invented chocolate', Year 5's 'I wonder who first came up with the game of football' and Year 6's is 'I wonder who invented hair dye, why and when?!'. I've already had some very curious children come to me this week (photos included in this newsletter!) with their research answers - amazing! Perhaps you can help feed your children's curiosity this term by encouraging some independent research too - we'd love to see it!

*As part of our Curiosity through reading and books, we have launched our fourth edition of **The Walter Halls Book of Curiosity!** Short adventure stories written by our children, collected*

*together and published in a book they can keep at home or borrow from the shelves of our library. They have all of this half term, plus Easter break, to come up with their story - please encourage them to have a go! Entries from any age or year group are always welcome and always published - we don't choose 'the best', we just want our children to get writing! **World Book Day is next week ON THURSDAY** and carries on our theme of curiosity through books and reading - children can come dressed ready for an adventure that day - we've lots of fun reading events planned*

Later this term we will take part in British Science week and have a dedicated Friday Focus Day just for Science learning. We will also be learning about neurodiversity and raising awareness of Autism in the run-up to Autism Awareness Month in April - we teach our children that being curious about other types of people and how other people's brains work really helps us to develop kindness and empathy too.

***Thank you if you encouraged your children to design our new Online Safety Mascot this half term** - I've had quite a few entries. Pupil leaders will be helping to judge the winner later today and we'll let you know next week.*

***Ramadan** - if your child is taking part in fasting on any given day during Ramadan, please make sure you let their teacher know. I've put a post on Dojo to explain this earlier this week too so please take a look*

A REMINDER at the start of a new half term about correct ways of communication and escalation of concerns - these are always included in every newsletter but I've put them at the start of this one as a reminder of what is needed at our school.

I hope you have a lovely weekend!

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

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. This email address is NOT checked daily so if it's urgent please always call the school instead.*

- *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.

Escalating any 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
- 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.

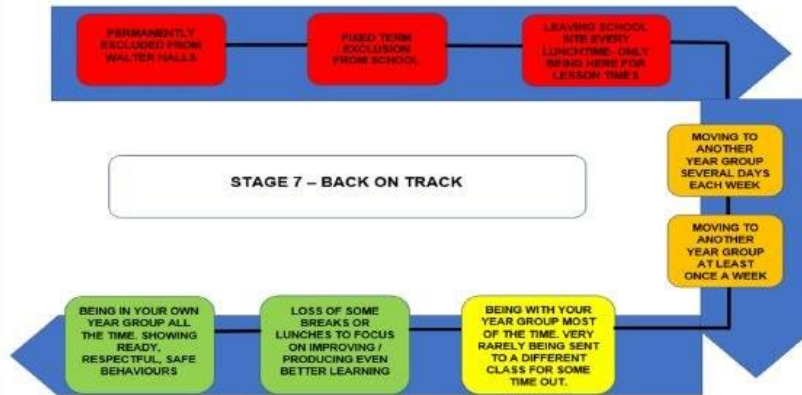
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

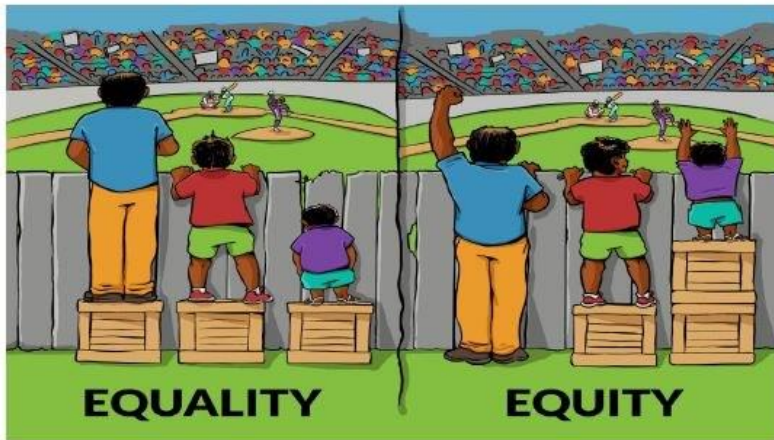
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: Ready? Respectful? Safe?	
2	2 2 minutes owed	You will spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS The adult will explain this clearly to you and help you make changes	
3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

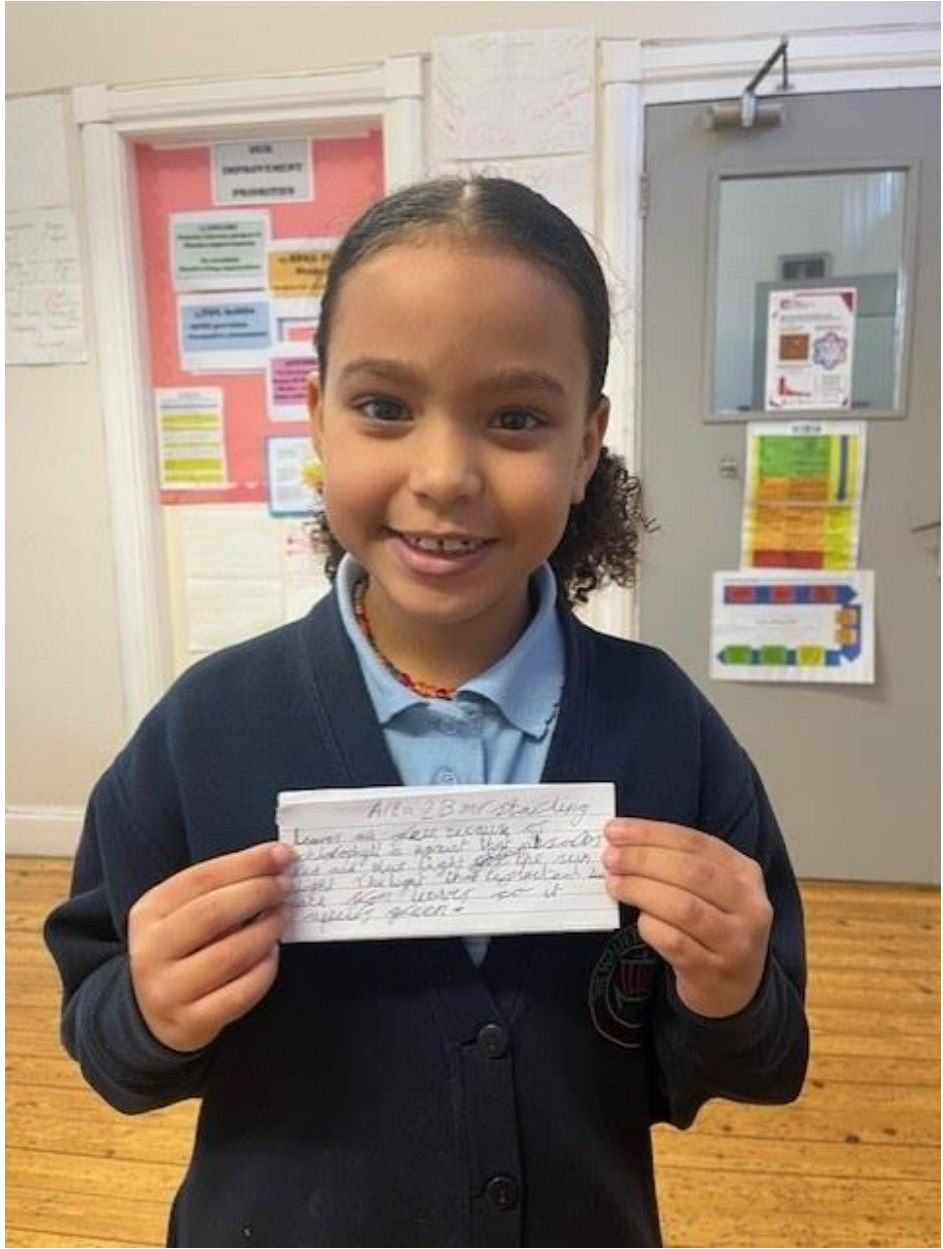


We're getting curious already this term!

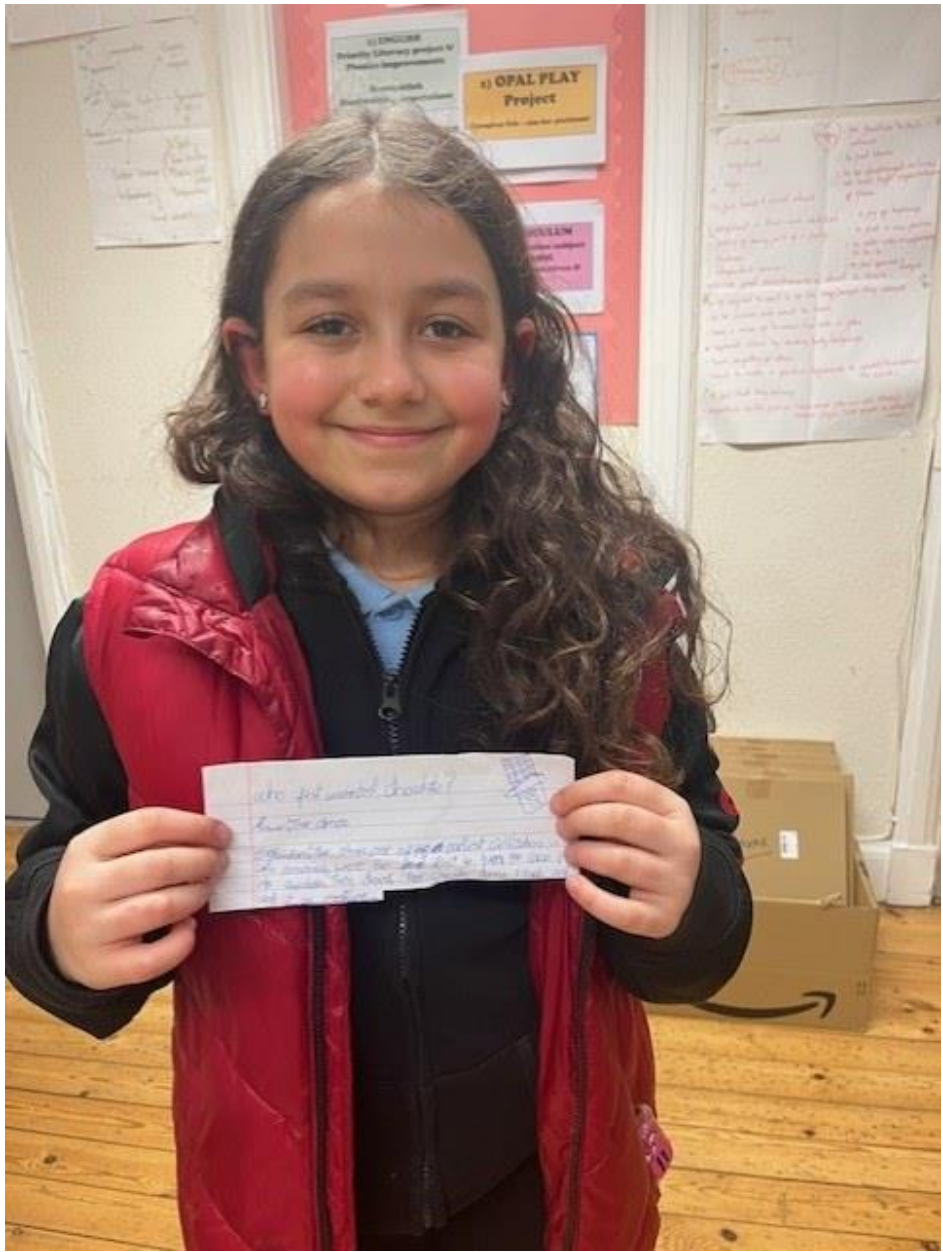


Well done to our very keen and curious learners who, straight away after my Monday assembly on curiosity, went away and researched the 'I wonder...' questions I shared with them.

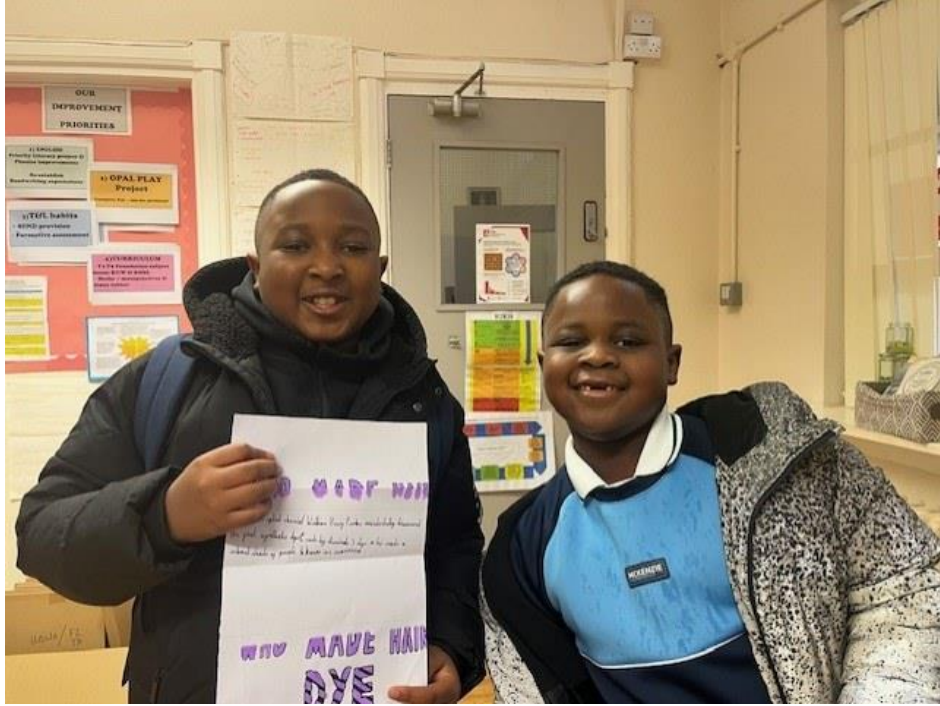
*Here's Aria from 2B, Erin from 4A, Mo from 2B and his brother Shekou from 6B - so proud of you.
Keep being curious!*



Alla 2 Bnr Starling
leaves all the leaves of
children's great for all
the and the light for the sun
and the light that is not
all the leaves so it
is very green.



Who did we read about?
The story was
The story was about a girl who was
The story was about a girl who was
The story was about a girl who was



Key Dates coming up...



SPRING TERM:

- ***MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY - School reopens for Spring 2 term***
 - ***CURIOSITY core value learning this term***
- ***Wednesday 5th March - F2 & Y6 Height and Weight measurement checks in school***
- ***Thursday 6th March - World Book Day - DRESS FOR A READING ADVENTURE!***
- ***Friday 14th March - FRIDAY FOCUS DAY FOR SCIENCE - British Science Week - National theme 'Change and Adapt'***
- ***Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day - you can purchase a red nose from our school office - get them quickly before we sell out! Children can come to school wearing their red noses, paint a red nose on themselves or wear something red / comic relief related in exchange for a small donation to this amazing charity***
- ***Wednesday 26th March - Y2 RE Performance to parents - Passover. 9am School Hall***
- ***Monday 31st March - Headteacher Excellence Certificate Assembly for Y1-Y6. 9am School Hall***
- ***APRIL - AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH - We will be spending time teaching our children about neurodiversity and acceptance of differences***
 - ***Friday 4th April - last day of term. School closes for Easter Break***
 - ***School re-opens TUESDAY 21st April for Summer term***

INSET DAYS STILL TO COME THIS ACADEMIC YEAR ARE ON: 6TH JUNE, 24TH & 25TH JULY



Spring 2 Home learning

CURIOSITY!

GET READY FOR THE FOURTH EDITION OF...

'Walter Halls Book of Curiosity: A collection of stories written by the children of Walter Halls'

Over the last 3 years, lots of you became PUBLISHED AUTHORS! Who wants to take part this year? Let's make the fourth edition EVEN BETTER!

If you've got an adventure story inside you, just bursting to come out, you could see your story in print, inside a published book, available to buy and sitting on the shelves of our library!

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 too? Here are the rules to follow that will help you:

- Your story can be about anything you like, as long as it's fun to read, adventurous and has some curiosity and excitement to it! Try writing it with a twist at the end or with a cliff-hanger that leaves people wondering!
- It should be a short story: between 2-4 A4 pages.
- It can be typed and printed out or it can be hand-written – but if you're writing it out, be sure to make it neat and use a pen if you can do.
- You can add illustrations if you want to, but you don't have to. Maybe a friend can help you?

HAND IN TO MRS BEARDAH BY TUESDAY 22nd APRIL 2024 or email it to headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

OUR CORE VALUE DURING SPRING 2 TERM IS...



CURIOSITY

- *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.*

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

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 OF LAST TERM, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 92.2%

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

Also doing brilliantly were: Class 5B with 97.3% and F2 Moles class with 97.7% - keep it going everyone!

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

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!



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

Aug-24							Sep-24							Oct-24						
M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27		
Nov-24							Dec-24							Jan-25						
M		4	11	18	25		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	
T		5	12	19	26		T		3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28		T		5	12	19	26		T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30		S		7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26		
Feb-25							Mar-25							Apr-25						
M		3	10	17	24		M		3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
T		4	11	18	25		T		4	11	18	25		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		5	12	19	26		W		5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T		6	13	20	27		T		6	13	20	27		T	3	10	17	24		
F		7	14	21	28		F		7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25		
S	1	8	15	22			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26		
S	2	9	16	23			S	2	9	16	23	30		S	6	13	20	27		
May-25							Jun-25							Jul-25						
M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27		

- 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.

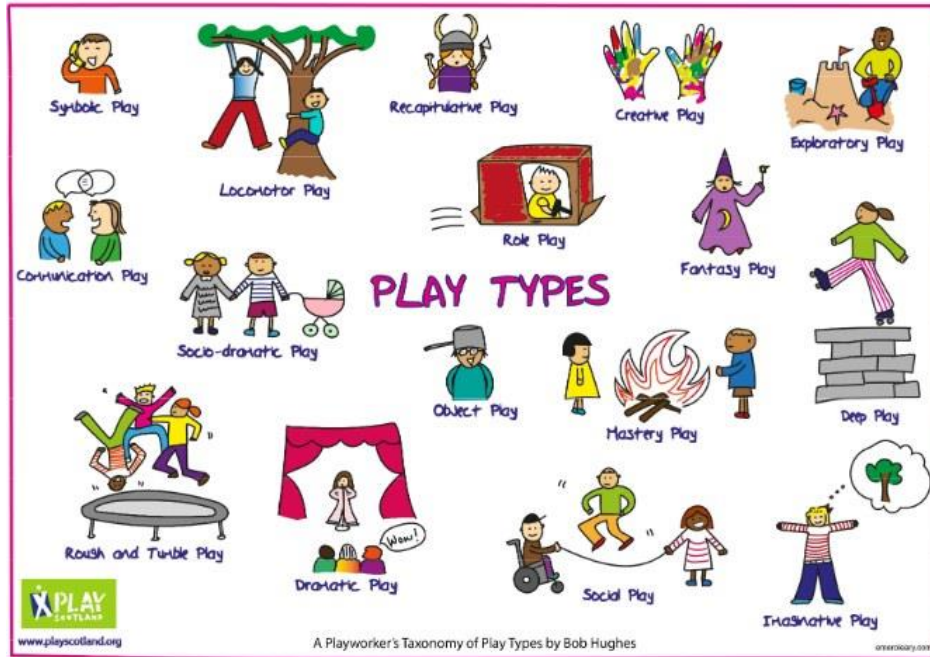
OPAL PLAY UPDATE



WE ARE OFFICIALLY A 'PLATINUM STATUS' OPAL SCHOOL! Awarded the highest grade for our OPAL work in February 2025! 13 months of work and development paid off and, most importantly, our children's play literacy and happiness during lunchtimes has transformed in that short space of time. We continue to build on this success with a long-term OPAL strategy, which you can find on our website.

We have now updated our website for lots more information about OPAL. Please take a look here: https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/web/outdoor_play_and_learning_opal/704559

You can also look at further information here: <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/parents/>



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=EAAlQobChMIpcTfzqCH-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

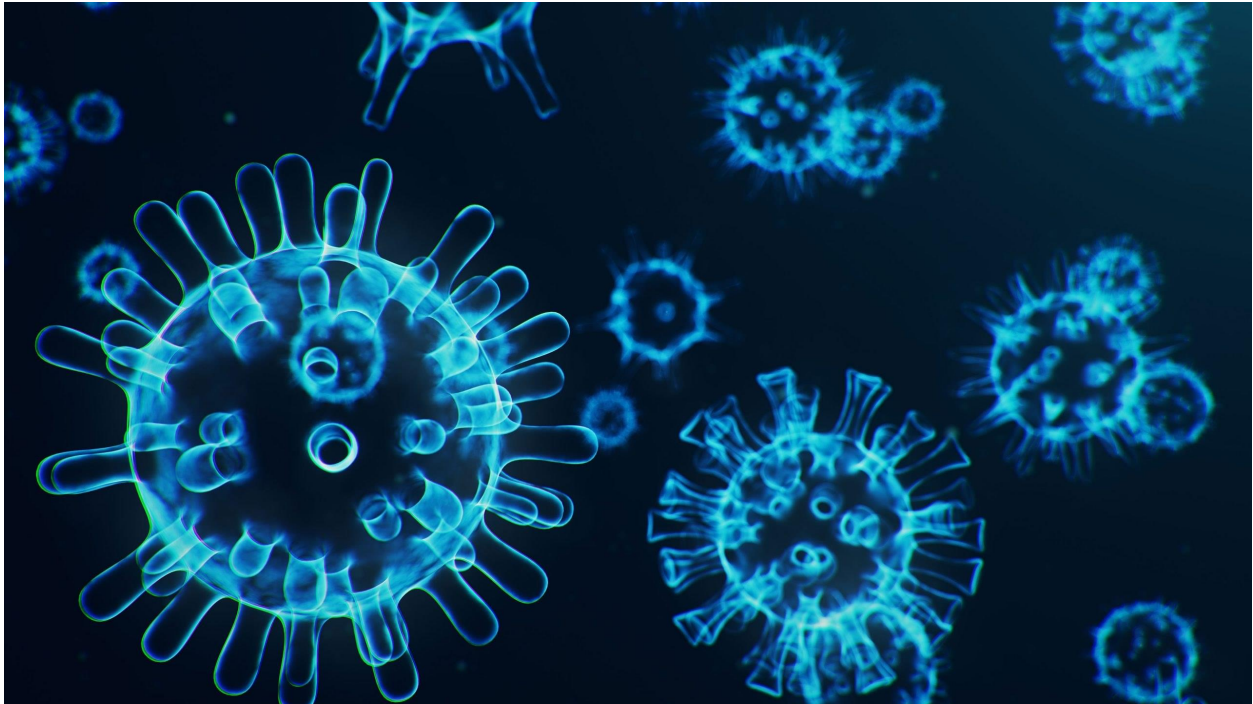
Lee Neal - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

Joe Hockham - Behaviour & Learning Mentor

Chloe Orvis - MHST link worker - Adult drop-in sessions 8.30-9.15am available on Wednesdays

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE ON 0115 9150045 or COME AND CHAT TO US OUTSIDE IN THE MORNINGS OR AFTER SCHOOL

Safety reminders



-
- **Illnesses** - we want children in school every day, even if they have minor coughs or colds. But if your child is really unwell or has a stomach bug and has vomited, they should be kept off school for 48 hours since the last time they were sick. If you are unsure of what to do, our office team can help you and the NHS website has lots of helpful information too.
 - **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.
-