



Be your best.

NEWSLETTER Friday 24th January 2025

Dear all,

Happy Friday to you all - I keep hoping to a drive to work with the sun rising but sadly it's still dark at 7am...hopefully not for long! I hope your winter blues aren't getting too much for you too.

***Young Voices** - An exciting event for us to take part in again this year, with myself and Mrs Cox taking our choir to the Young Voices experience next Wednesday. I'll post some videos and photos on Dojo for you all - it's always such a great experience for our children to be part of! If you are one of the parents coming along to help us too - thank you!*

***Times Table Rock stars & Friday Focus Day** - this is not next Friday but the one after (Friday 7th Feb) but we'd appreciate your help getting children ready to take part in this day. Miss Wensley, our maths leader has shared information about this on Class Dojo but I've done a summary in this newsletter for how you can help making this a special day of maths learning...see the section of this newsletter for more details...*

***MHST support** - Our new allocated Mental Health Support Team worker is Chloe Orvis. I've added some information and a photo of Chloe into this newsletter - please take a look. Chloe starts with us on Wednesday 5th February, with our coffee morning during Children's Mental*

Health Week and from then on will be in school every other Wednesday. Parent drop-ins in The Nook will therefore be possible from Wednesday 26th February, straight after half term and every other week after that. Chloe will also be working with our children in Y3/4 on healthy sleep habits, running some workshops in each class this term.

Children's Mental Health Week is fast approaching on w/c 3rd February - this is a subject area we do lots of learning about at Walter Halls. Our heads and deputies have already made some videos with Dawn, our previous MHST worker, that the rest of the children can watch during this week, offering them advice on who to talk to and safe adults to share worries with. Lots of teaching resources have been gathered from Place2Be - a national mental health charity - and from Chloe our own MHST worker.

On 4th February, our Y5 Inclusion Ambassadors will attend the 'NottAlone' event with Mrs Merrington-Ingley, taking part in lots of Mental Health workshops and activities and then sharing this experience with the rest of us in the Monday assembly of the following week! LOTS of great learning and fun to be had during Children's Mental Health Week this year!

Online Safety work - some of our pupil leaders from Y4,5,6 have already started some great work on designing a new school MOTTO for keeping safe online and very soon we will be asking for your help in designing a MASCOT to go with it...more details to follow soon and LOTS of great learning during February and March all about online safety.

Jake Arya - if you haven't already met Jake, he is our new Office Administrator and Receptionist. A big Walter Halls welcome to Jake!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Take care,

Emma Beardah

Headteacher

headteacher@walterhalls.nottingham.sch.uk

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!



Walter Halls Coffee Morning

Wednesday 5th February

We invite all parents and carers to join us between 8.45 and 9.15am for coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits.

As well as free refreshments, and a chance to pop your feet up for 30 minutes :) , you will get an opportunity to meet Chloe Orvis our new MHST worker.



We hope you can join us, just make your way to the library after morning drop off.

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) in Nottingham City currently offers support across over 70 schools and colleges within the city. This team is part of a project funded by the NHS to make sure that Children in both Primary and Secondary schools, as well as colleges gain timely mental health support they need and deserve.



MATHS FRIDAY FOCUS DAY - FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY - Please help us get ready for this day!



On Friday 7th February we will be holding a whole-school focus day spending the whole day doing Maths learning! This links with a National Number Day run by NSPCC but is also to give our children proper time to focus and enjoy one important subject area for the whole day. Here's what we need you to help with:

- Children are invited to dress up as a number - I've added in some photos to give you some ideas!*
 - We will be taking part in a national competition on Times Tables Rock Stars - and we really want to beat other schools! Get your children logged on to TTRS to get them practicing. The competition doesn't close until 7pm that day - so when they get home, get them back on TTRS earning points for our school!*
 - In the afternoon we are inviting parents / family members of Y2-Y6 to come into school and join their children for a LIVE BATTLE of times tables! Year 2 & Year 3 will be competing at 1.30pm in the hall, followed by Y4/5/6 at 2.30pm - please come along and help your children win the battle!*
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Key Dates coming up...



SPRING TERM:

ASPIRATION CORE VALUE LEARNING THIS TERM

- *Wednesday 29th January - Young Voices experience for our choir!*
- *w/c 3rd February - Children's Mental Health Week - National theme 'Know yourself to grow yourself' - lots of learning in school on this theme that week*
- *Wednesday 5th February - come and visit our new Mental Health Support Team member, Chloe Orvis - Coffee & chat 8.45-9.15am in our library. Resources available to support your child's mental health*

- *February & March - lots of focused online safety learning in school to link in with National Safer Internet Day. Children will be invited to take part in designing a school mascot for a new online safety MOTTO that our pupil leaders are part of setting up.*
- *Friday 7th February - FRIDAY FOCUS DAY FOR MATHS - NSPCC Number Day: come dressed as a number! Parents and family members are invited to join in with Times Table Rock Star live battles in the school hall that afternoon too! Come along and help your children win the TTRS competition!*
- *Thursday 11th February - National Safer Internet Day - 'Together for a safer internet' theme*
- *Wednesday 12th February - Y5 RE performance to parents - The 5 K's of Sikhism. 9am School Hall*
 - *FEBRUARY 14TH - SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF 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 - more details to follow*
- *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***
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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.

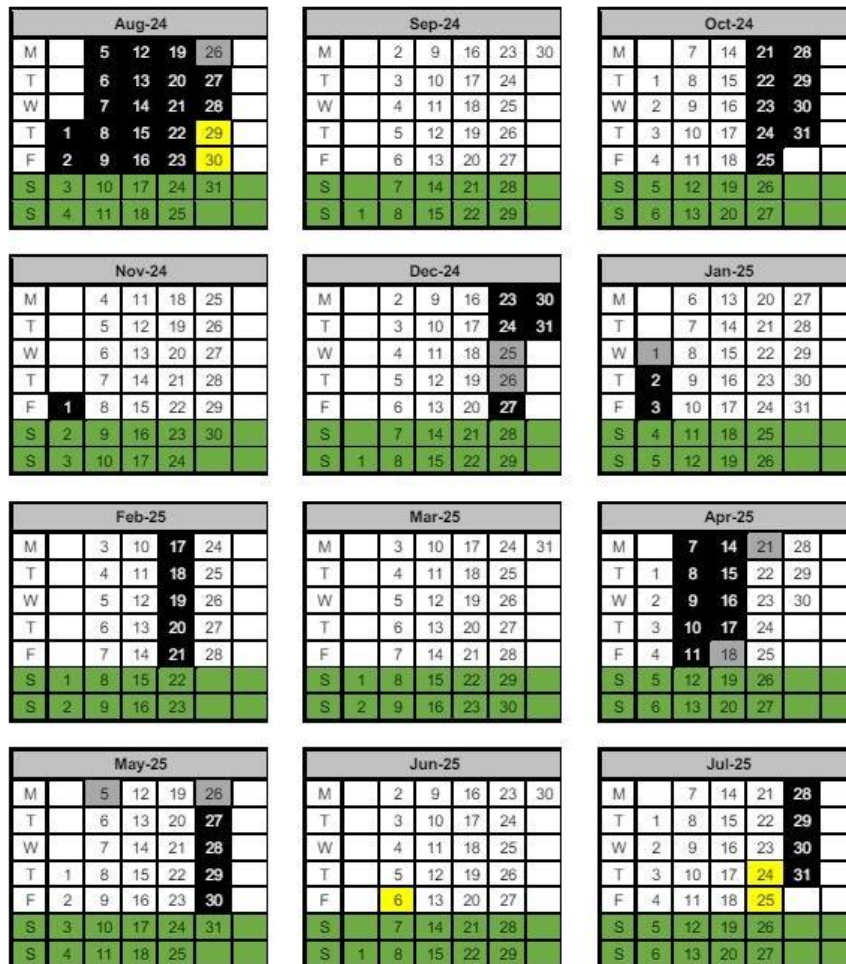
LAST WEEK, WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS: 95%

The Class with the highest attendance was: Class 2B WITH 99.4%

Also doing brilliantly were: F2 Moles with 99.2%! Class 3A reached 98% and classes 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B & 6B all reached 97%! AMAZING ACHEIVEMENT EVERYONE!

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.

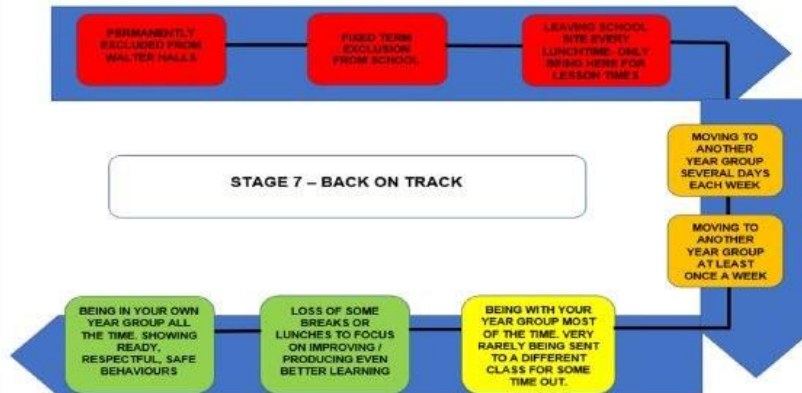
The next pages of this poster shows you how we escalate incidents of negative behaviour and who gets involved and when. We have lots of people at Walter Halls whose job it is to make behaviour as positive as possible – but our children are all still young and need help to learn these things over time.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

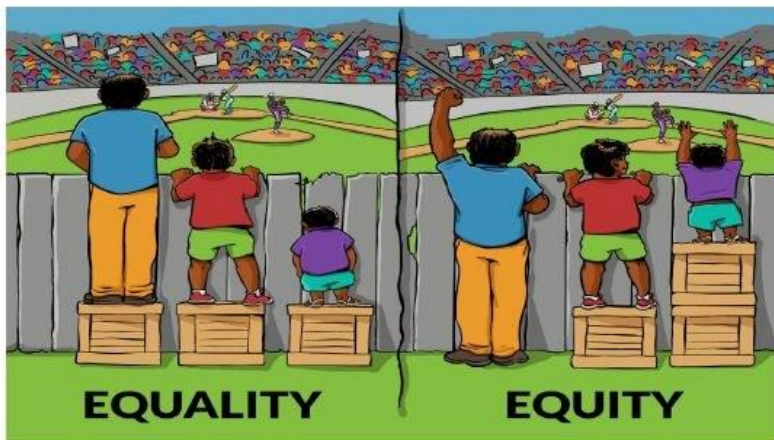
1	R Reminder from the adult	We all need reminders about our 3 school rules sometimes: Ready? Respectful? Safe?	
2	2 2 minutes owed	You will spend 2 minutes of your free time with an adult discussing why your behaviours aren't RRS The adult will explain this clearly to you and help you make changes	
3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



ASPIRATION!

- *Making the most of our talents.*
 - *Everyone has a talent.*
 - *Everyone has their own type of 'clever'.*
- *Different jobs and careers and how to get there.*
 - *Gender equality and stereotyping.*
- *Setting goals and targets – small steps add up.*

- *Aiming high.*
- *Overcoming failure – remaining focused on the end goal.*
- *Believing in yourself.*
- *Determination – how can we build it?*

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

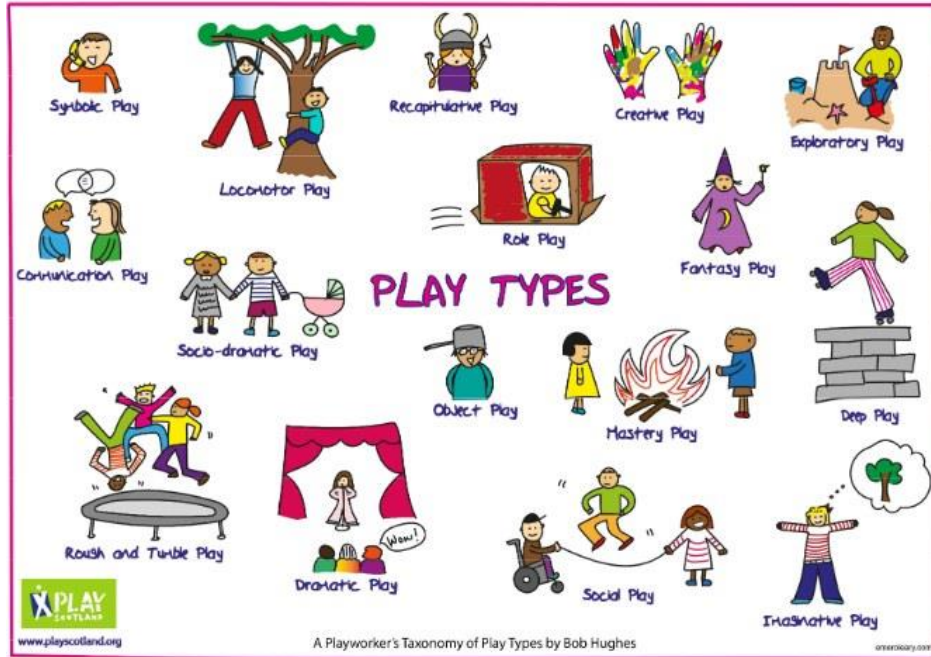
OPAL PLAY UPDATE



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!'

- *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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- *Illnesses -*
 - ***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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