



Walter Infant School and Nursery

Friday Flyer

Dear Walter Families,

What a week full of weather! As we noticed the changes to our new spring garden, we were suddenly covered in snow! The children loved playing in the snow, but they all got very wet! Thank goodness for radiators, and our very caring staff, who dried out all the socks, shoes and gloves. I would like to recommend wellies or snow boots, if we have another snowy day. The children could pop a dry pair of shoes in their bag to wear inside. I have seen warnings of blizzard conditions coming up soon, please make sure your children have all the suitable warm clothes they will need; a hat, a warm coat with a hood and gloves (or glubs – which many of our children refer to them as). There was a tiny little blue wellington left behind today which I placed on the post box. If you are missing cake tins and boxes, they are on the post box too.

Mrs Bell

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Bell is now our permanent Deputy Headteacher after successfully interviewing for the role last Friday; I could not ask for a better leader to support me at Walter Infant School and Nursery.



PTA Bake Sale

The Bake Sale last Friday was a huge success! Thank you for all your delicious donations. The PTA were delighted to raise £378! That is amazing. I bought tiffin,

which was so tasty and flapjack with sultanas which was incredibly Moorish! I know the PTA will be able to make very good use of the money, which will be used to support all the children in our school. Hopefully, the weather will soon improve and we will be able to start using our outside reading garden, which has been funded by our PTA.

School Uniform

We strongly encourage the children to wear school uniform; it enables the children to have a sense of belonging and they look very smart and I know they feel proud to wear it. Some children have continued to come to school in PE kits in a rainbow of colours; we would like the children to wear navy PE kits; a navy hoodie or sweatshirt and navy (or black) leggings or joggers, along with a white T-Shirt. Please can you try to remember to dress your children in the correct PE kits on PE days. If you are unable to provide a PE kit, please let us or the PTA know as we will be able to help.

School Fleeces

Goodies are now providing school fleeces; these are very smart and warm. They are navy with a white school logo. Please visit the school uniform page on our website for more information. The fleeces will be a useful garment during this cold spell and a great jacket for dry, warmer days.



Governor Day

Today we had our second Governor Day of the academic year; I hope you had a chance to catch-up with them at the start of the school day. Our Governors are very supportive and always want the best for your children, our staff and our school provision. If you would like to know more about the role of a school governor, you could follow this link (I shared this with our children in our assembly this morning):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRqJ_bFipHk



Fire Evacuation

We had a real fire evacuation on Tuesday! Mrs Hemmings smelt burning and we went searching; the light in reception suddenly blew and sent out a puff of very smelly smoke! Then the fire alarm went off. The school evacuated so quickly, we were so impressed, and of course St Paul's were outside too! Three fire engines and 12 firefighters came to our rescue! We felt extremely well protected. All our children behaved in the most exemplary way; we were all so proud of them. It was cold and some children were in their PE kits. The teachers gave up coats and cardigans, and a very kind parent shared her blankets from her car! The firefighters checked that we were safe; they were so pleased to see the children, they made sure we saw the blue lights and heard the sirens! It was very exciting and it was over within 25 minutes!



And...Walter was the best-behaved dog throughout! Thank you to Mrs Hemmings for the photos. I do think she could have avoided me!

Industrial Action

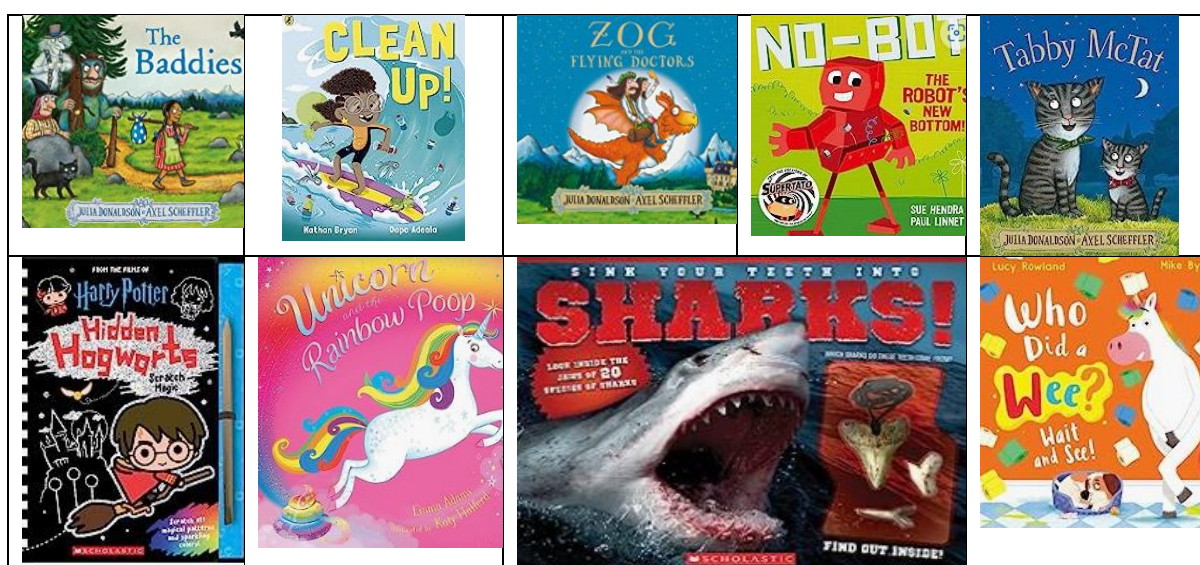
As you will all be aware, our school is going to be closed on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March due to industrial action. This is national strike action for members of the NEU (The National Education Union); as most of our teaching staff are members of this union, we will not have the staffing capacity to open for any classes. As our staff have been so considerate of the impact this industrial action will have on our families, they have all chosen to notify me in good time. They are not obligated to inform me until the day of the strike, so I am extremely appreciative of the professional respect shown by all of my colleagues. I recognise that strike

action impacts of all of our families, but until there can be successful talks around the table between the government and the unions involved, we are informing you in advance.

The Travelling Book Fair

Please come to the book fair; there are so many wonderful books to choose from and all the profits can be spent on books for our school library! You can use your World Book Day £1 voucher and the books are either the same price as a book shop or less! Here are some of the books available at the moment! I have just purchased The Baddies! There are also some lovely small stationary items, such as rubbers, pens and notebooks at very low prices.

We will be open on Monday 13th March from 8:30 am and again at 3:00 pm. We will also open on Tuesday 14th March at 8:30 am. We will only be able to accept **cash payments**, but we can reserve any books that your children choose. We hope you will come along and use your voucher and choose a lovely book for your child. Here are some examples of the books available:



Roxby is Fundraising, this is a message from his mummy:

Hello! My amazing 7-year-old son Roxby and I will be running [2wp-97](#) on the 2nd of April 2023 and we'd like to raise some money for [Speech and Language UK](#).

Roxby was born in 2015 and had several hearing challenges. Hearing loss often affects a child's ability to develop speech, language, and social skills. The earlier children with hearing loss start getting services, the more likely they are to reach their full potential. Our family were very lucky because we had brilliant support from 2 speech and language therapists without whom Roxby would not be the happy, confident superstar that he is.

Unfortunately, in the UK, a growing number of children don't have access to the same level of care that we did and we'd love to do something small to help. Speech and Language UK is a registered UK charity that does lots of wonderful things, namely:

- Design innovative tools and training for nursery staff and teachers
- Give families the confidence and skills to help their child
- Put pressure on politicians to prioritise support for children

We would be so very appreciative of any donation to help towards the cause - we promise we'll do our speediest running on the day!

Go fund me page here: <https://gofund.me/5763577a>

For Life Thailand

I have a son in Dove Class (Gus). I run a small charity that provides social care, educational opportunities and therapies to disabled children and their caregivers in Thailand. I am going to our projects next week (an orphanage home, community care centres, early-years nursery, vocational school and physical rehabilitation centre). I am taking a case of supplies and some of the Foundation Mums have kindly responded with offers of donated items. Would you mind if I put a box in the office for parents to drop their donations into, as it is easier than trying to coordinate catching each of them in the playground. I'd be most grateful and will collect the box next Wednesday morning.

The supply list I have given is (so you know the types of things being donated):

- Toothbrushes (sealed/unused)
- Paperback books - (age 0-5)
- Food pouches (ie. Ella's Kitchen, Mamia or Babease)
- Sealed rapid Covid tests
- Facemasks (disposable)
- Unused creams for babies - ie. Metanium/Bepanthum/SudoCream etc.
- Sensory toys (fidget spinners, poppits etc.)
- Kids plasters/basic first aid items.

www.forlifethailand.org



Star of the Week

Our Fantastic Star of the Week children who proudly collected their certificates in front of our visiting governors Well Done.





Comic Relief Friday 17th March 2023

Please come to school wearing something red and if you are able to make a donation of £1 to Comic Relief to help children from all over the world, including the United Kingdom. Please do not buy anything special, if you don't have red clothes, and can't borrow any red clothes, just come in your own clothes. We will not be selling red noses this year as they are now £2.50 and not suitable for children under 7. You may be able to buy one for a 7 year old from Sainsbury's or Amazon.





It's all about the JOKES!!!!!!



Please send your children into school with a very funny joke on Tuesday 14th March or Friday 17th March 2023; each class will choose the best joke and we will share the 10 funniest jokes on Friday Morning in Assembly. The class who has the biggest laugh will get an extra playtime!!!!!!

BREAK THE RULES DAY 24TH MARCH 2023

On Friday 24th March we will host our Break the Rules day: more information will follow soon; all proceeds from the event will go to the victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey in partnership with St Pauls. Lots more information will follow!!!!

WALTER INFANTS SCHOOL AND NURSERY

BREAK THE RULES DAY

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2023

Rules to be broken:

- wear school uniform
- no trainers
- no odd or crazy socks
- no chocolates in packed lunches
- no crazy hair or accessories
- no nail varnish
- no temporary tattoos
- only water in water bottles

Pay 50p for every rule you break, you can break as few or as many as you want. There will be buckets at the gate.

Thank you for your continued support

QUIZ NIGHT 7:30 PM 5TH MAY at WALTER INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY

On Friday the 5th May we will be hosting our first ever Quiz Night: with the Coronation of King Charles in mind. Lots more information will follow but please get a babysitter and be ready for a Bring Your own Bottle night of fun! Teams will be 6 members, with a fee of £5 per player. There will be an opportunity to purchase sweet or savoury adult treat boxes to share on the table; more information will follow soon. I am sure some of the staff will be keen to take part too! This event is not for children of any age.

We can help!

If you are struggling to provide anything essential for your child's well-being, such as pyjamas, coats, shoes, socks, underwear, school uniform, bedding etc please ask us

as we are here to help. We do not want any of our children to miss out on the basic fundamentals that they are all entitled to. As before, please just ask. Don't forget about Walter's Pantry.

Apply for the Household Support Fund if your child gets free school meals

If your child gets means-tested free school meals you are entitled to financial support this winter.

Wokingham Borough Council and First Days Children's Charity are working together to provide payments to help during school holidays. **We know this could be even more important as people struggle after the festive period.**

[Apply through First Days Children's Charity.](#)

Note you do not need to apply again if you have already had a successful application since October this year.

You can get £15 per week, per eligible child, during school holidays. This applies for half terms, Christmas and Easter holidays. It will be back paid to October half-term if you've not already applied.

The amount you get in total depends on the number of children in your family who receive free school meals:

- One child - £120
- Two children - £210
- Three children - £315
- Four children - £420
- Five children - £525
- Six children - £630

You can follow this link for support from Woking Borough Council [Cost of living help - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

Pupil Premium Funding

Some of our families are entitled to Pupil Premium Funding for their children; this is a wonderful addition to our school's budget and helps us to provide curriculum enrichment and support for our Pupil Premium children and all other children too!

Your child may be entitled to this funding which can be used to pay for clubs, uniform, additional support, one to one sessions, Canine Assisted learning etc.

If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits you may be eligible for free school meals or the pupil premium:

- 1) Income Support.
- 2) Income based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- 3) Income related Employment and Support Allowance.
- 4) Child Tax Credit - Where the family's annual income is not more than £16,190 and Working Tax Credit is not in payment.
- 5) Guarantee Pension Credit.
- 6) Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- 7) Universal Credit.

Please contact Mrs Janes in the office to find out more or follow this link
<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/>

Have a nice weekend.

Judy Wheeler: Headteacher