

Dear Walter Families,

Sadly, I have been absent from an amazing week at school; I have been unwell and not able to come in, so I missed seeing the reindeer and the Drama 4 All workshops. But I know the children have had a wonderful time (as have the teachers)! The reindeer came to school on Monday and the children had 10 wonderful sessions, all in the pouring rain, learning all about the lives of reindeer. I wonder if any parents learned something they didn't know! For instance, did you know they don't usually eat carrots (only on Christmas Eve). They don't have any front teeth at the top! The don't usually fly, but they are very good swimmers! They can travel a very long way. Male and Female reindeer have antlers. They lose their antlers each year, male reindeer in November and female reindeer in May after their babies have been born. Why not ask your children to tell you what they know about reindeer that you may not!









Thank you to Mr Herlihey for some lovely photographs. At least the reindeer didn't get wet.

Here you can see some excellent facts that the Year 1 children in Oak have written; they are all ready to be budding apprentices to David Attenborough. Well done Sophie, Jack and Freddie!





#### Thank you everyone for your donations today

Thank you so much for the (literally) hundreds of donations that came into school today for our tombolas. Our school smells lovely due to all the scented candles! The tombolas make so much money each year for the school, so your contributions are very much appreciated. We are trying a new system this year, hence our requests for bottle tops. Hopefully, it will reduce the time it takes for you to receive your prizes! Also, please keep on selling the raffle tickets, the prizes are so brilliant and as you know, you have to be in it to win it!

#### The Snowman in Wokingham!

One of our parents has shared this really exciting local event with us which I am sure some of you would love to attend. It is a live music performance accompanying the film The Snowman by Raymond Briggs.



# World Food Stall

# URGENT; PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN. NO ONE HAS CONTACTED US AND WE ARE VERY WORRIED WE WON'T HAVE ANY TASTY DELIGHTS FOR YOU TO ENJOY!

We would love to have a World Food Stall of home-made savoury vegetarian snacks, to compliment the PTA Cake Stall. We will be having a delivery of the delicious Samosas that were sold at the Summer Fair, but we would like lots more tasty savoury items to see, such as more samosas, pakoras, bhajis, spring rolls, gyozas, bao buns, pasties etc. If you are able to contribute to the stall, which will be run by Mrs Ullah, please email our team on admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk. We are very happy to pay for the ingredients you may need.



#### **Bottle Tops**

Thank you for all the bottle tops; we now have enough green tops (263) so would like red or blue, perhaps your friends and neighbours use full fat or skimmed milk! Thank you.



### Face Painting at the Christmas Fair

We have sold all the spaces available for face painting; thank you so much for signing up. This was a new system, to avoid time wasting for our young children in a queue. We are so sorry for those who will be disappointed BUT we will have glitter tattoos that could also go on cheeks!

#### Our Christmas Fair is on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 3:20 ~ 5:30 pm.

#### Nativity Plays for Year 1:

Larch Class @ 2:20 pm 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Oak Class @ 2:20 pm 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Beech Class @ 2:20 pm 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December ~ Christmas Jumper Day (the children can come to school in festive clothing and make a £1 donation to Save the Children)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December ~ Christmas School Lunch (information will follow)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December ~ Foundation Stage Christmas Shows (morning and afternoon)
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December ~ Christmas Parties for ALL classes
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December ~ I Rock Concert in the afternoon ~ information will go directly to the parents of the children taking part
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December @ 2:30 pm ~ Year 2 Christmas Singing Extravaganza, all year 2 parents welcome
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December ~ Last Day of Term! (Finishing 1 hour early).

#### Star of the Week

I was so sorry that I could not present the children with their certificates this week but I know that Mrs Bell really enjoyed doing so to these wonderful shining stars who have all been the best they can be.



### The Cost of Living Crisis

As we all begin to navigate the Cost of Living Crisis I thought I would share with you some research I have done about the support that could be available for all households from the Government:



If you follow the link at the top you may be able to find additional support for your families.

## **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 provided 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 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 <u>https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-</u>services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/

#### And finally,

We are so aware that some of you are dreading the Christmas Holidays because you are struggling to meet the increased cost for food, presents and heating etc. If you fear that you will not be able to provide a Christmas Lunch for your family on Christmas Day, we have already had one donation of a full Christmas Day Family Meal. We are hoping to source further supplies so please get in touch, in complete confidence with Mrs Janes in the office. In addition, the FoodBank will have Christmas supplies for families, we are an agent so can provide food and fuel vouchers (for prepaid metres) so just ask.

Please contact me if you need to on <u>head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk</u> if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes Judy Wheeler: Headteacher