



Friday Flyer!

Dear Walter Families,

This week has flown by, possibly because it has been so windy! The weather has been so changeable and today we are all having a day inside! If your child has to miss a PE lesson with Jack due to the weather, they will have a catch up lesson on a Friday afternoon so please do not worry.

Thank you for your patience with the confusion over wearing PE kits to school; I hope that all makes sense now. Only send your child to school in a PE kit on their PE days, do not send them in it on Friday unless they are in Beech Class.

Wokingham in Bloom

As many of you know we have won the Wokingham in Bloom School Garden competition 4 times since I joined the school, sadly this year it has not taken place. However, instead, 3 of our very talented artists, now in Year 2, have won the competition to design a logo for Wokingham in Bloom, winning £75 of garden vouchers for the school grounds! Well done Faith, Evelyn and Dhanya; I am so looking forward to seeing the logo in and around the town this year and in the future.

The winners!



Rough Play and Play Fighting

We are experiencing an increased amount of play fighting in every year group. In Foundation 1 and 2, some of the children are hurting each other as part of a game or in response to playful fighting. Some children are using the term 'bad guy' which is offensive to others. Please could you remind your children not to use that sort of language in their play at school? Some children have said that they are basing their

games around Fortnite! If you look at the image below you can quickly see that it is not suitable for children at Walter as our oldest children are 7!



“What is Fortnite and does the video game have an age rating certificate?”

Fortnite's Battle Royale mode, in which 100 online players are put in a battle field to fight until death until one player remains, is the most successful part.

Technically, Fortnite is set in a dystopian world where 98 per cent of Earth's population suddenly disappears, living conditions become difficult, and zombie-like creatures roam the Earth - the player is among the remaining 2 per cent whose job it is to survive. After the apocalypse, "survivor bases" were set-up and each player is in charge of looking after these bases before trying to find a way to return Earth to normal.

Those form the centrepiece of the story for the co-operative “Save the World” mode, but play not part in the free-to-play Battle Royale mode.

The video game welcomes players aged 12 and above.”

Even more shocking is that some of our children have been playing Grand Theft Auto (GTA): **“Grand Theft Auto** is an extremely violent game that earns its **18-rating** in almost every respect. It contains scenes of regular drug use, prostitution, nudity and in one particularly harrowing scene asks the player to torture another human being.”

Please do not allow your children to watch or play these games. Thank you.

We have been speaking to the groups of children who are playing roughly and have reminded them that rough play and play fighting is not acceptable at school. We will be monitoring the situation very closely. We have seen children using ‘kick boxing’, karate style chops! Swinging, punching and even trying to throttle each other. This will not be tolerated, even as part of a game. We will begin to remove playtimes from children who conduct themselves in this way.

We will be creating a notice board to remind everyone how to play at Walter Infant School and Nursery.

Smacking as a sanction

We have had a number of children worried that they will be smacked at home or disclosing that they have been smacked; we do not condone smacking as a sanction or punishment. It can be very difficult for children to discriminate between an adult hitting them and a child hitting another child or in some cases an adult. We have also had children scratching and pinching each other.

Please consider positive behaviour management; rewarding good behaviour using praise and encouragement, sticker or reward charts etc. or a treat such as a bike ride or a visit to the park. I know it is not easy sometimes, but hitting and smacking is never the right solution to a problem.

Black History Month

October is Black History month; our curriculum is very broad and balanced and we already learn about Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parkes and we base much of our PSHE on our British Values, particularly Tolerance and Respect. It is important for the children to learn about our differences, to have empathy for others and their way of life and to understand that the world we live in has been influenced by actions and incidents from

the past. We have increased our range of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) texts and we would like to thank those of you who have contributed; we are so grateful. Mrs McDonough and I will be developing our BAME area in our library and setting up a Black History Month celebration display. Our assemblies for the month of October will centre around BAME stories and videos.



We are also hoping to work with one of our parents to share the message:



I was also sent a leaflet from another parent that we have attached to our flyer for all of our parents and carers.



Reading Boxes



Stars of the Week

9 wonderful stars! You will notice both Aidan and Dante are stars in their classes which is purely a coincidence; how wonderful for both brothers to behaving so well and working so hard. All our stars this week have exceeded their teacher's expectations which is so rewarding for all of us!





What's been happening in school this week?



Lily's witch

Census Day Menu

On Thursday 1st October it was Census Day; we recorded 269 packed lunches. Our best yet! Thank you so much to everyone.

Parents and Teachers Association at Walter Infant School and Nursery

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTA AGM today; it is wonderful that so many of you expressed an interest and I hope that we will have a very successful year fund raising and supporting the school in so many ways. If you have any ideas that could help with fund raising we are very welcome to your suggestions.

And finally....

Have a wonderful weekend. Please contact me if you have any questions or queries.

head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk

Keep well and keep safe.

Judy Wheeler
Headteacher