



# Friday Flyer 2021

Dear Walter Families,

I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy some of the early signs of spring, especially the sunshine. Here at Walter spring is definitely springing! Our gardens are starting to look good as we see the new shoots and delicate flowers appearing. Three of our four bird boxes have nests in and the blue tits are working extremely hard. I have heard stories of baby foxes (cubs) being spotted on the way to school and making dens in people's gardens. Our many trees are in bud and the blossom is blooming! The children have lots of opportunities to play and learn outside and are really enjoying having the freedom to run around with their friends. Don't forget that the clocks go forward on Sunday morning!



On your weekend walks, why not look out for these signs of spring? Keep your eyes peeled!



Celandine



Almond Blossom



Blue tits



Spring has 'Sprung' in Year 1 (Larch)

### After School Clubs

We will be continuing running Energy Kidz as our after school provision permanently; it has proven to be very successful. The children love it and the caregivers are very kind, good fun and professional. There are plenty of spaces available; if you would like more information please contact [info@energy-kidz.co.uk](mailto:info@energy-kidz.co.uk) We are also running our wonderful Rise and Shine Club from 7:30-8:40 am each day. If you would like to book a place, please contact Mrs Day on [finance@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:finance@walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

We are hoping to resume our Spanish Club from the beginning of the summer term for Year 1 and Year 2 children; we are just finalising days and dates. If you would like your child to be considered for a place, please email Mrs Hemmings or Mrs Janes on [admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

We are also hoping to resume violin lessons with Berkshire Maestros, but we are still waiting for confirmation. This will be for Year 2 children only; they will be able to continue at St Paul's next year. Again, please contact our Admin team if you are interested as the violin class will be dependent on the number of children wanting to learn.

As Easter approaches, we thought we would invite the children to wear an Easter Bonnet/Spring Cap to school on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to get into the holiday mood: The children could make a hat from scratch or decorate a hat they already have, perhaps a baseball cap with a chick on the top! This is a suggestion, we recognise that some children may not wish to wear a hat, but if you would like to get creative we will be sharing photographs of the bonnets via our website and face book pages. There will be prizes for the best designs!



*Check out some ideas on the internet for inspiration ~ I will be wearing mine!*

### The start and end to the school day

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation, since we returned to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, with the staggered starts and the beginning and end of the day. We have had a few hiccups, but generally we believe it is running as smoothly and safely as we could hope (as long as parents ensure they do not arrive before their first drop off time). If you do arrive

early, please wait in the field. Please ensure that you join the line of waiting parents until it is your turn to come on site; please DO NOT block the pavements so that you can wait close to the gates. This is extremely inconvenient for all our other families. When travelling along Murray Road, please use the opposite pavement if possible and cross at the crossing. We do not intend to change our arrangements as we think they are as efficient as we can be as long as everyone cooperates. Thank you.

### Tesco Blue Counters

You may remember that our bid for support from Tesco with our school garden (collecting blue counters) was prevented from going ahead last year due to lockdown. Tesco very kindly awarded us £500 to help towards our garden and we used this wisely to create a stimulating story book environment with a wishing well, a bridge, storytelling chairs and wonderful story start signs, as well as beautiful wooden wind chimes! I am delighted to say that Tesco have now awarded us an additional £1000 to complete our garden project which we are all delighted about. We will be purchasing a huge story telling chair, stepping stones and other exciting additions to our space, including fairy houses! If you are able to donate plants to the garden, such as herbs or fruit bushes, it would be wonderful. Thank you.



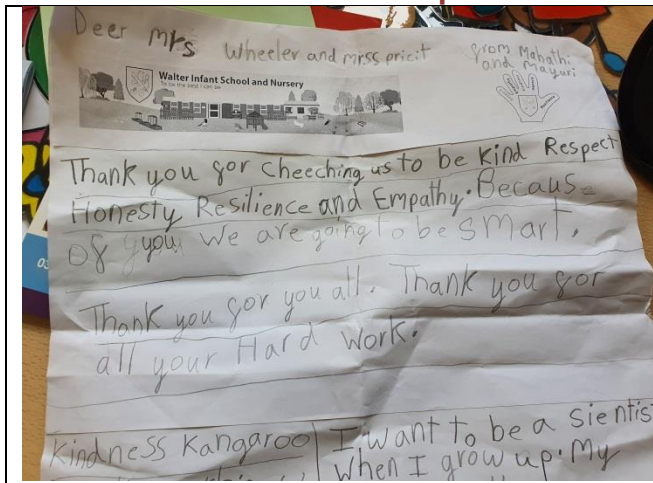
### Learning Adventures in Foundation Stage

Mrs Bennette and her wonderful team have been developing and improving our learning provision for our youngest children and it has been heart-warming to see the children organising their thoughts, ideas and concepts independently. We have seen so much improvement and increased understanding as our children are so thirsty to know more.





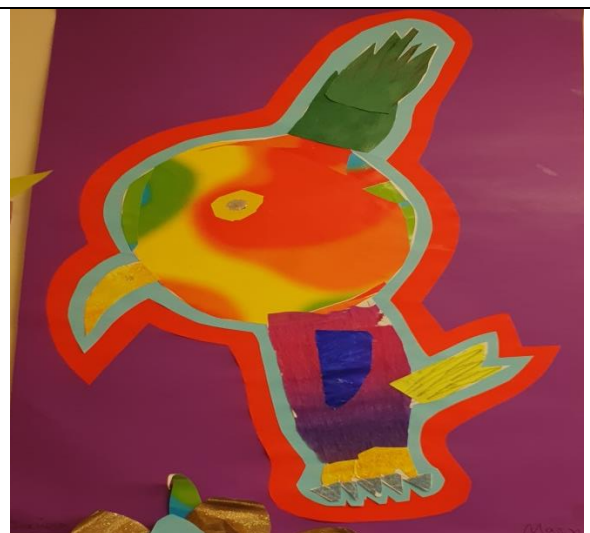
**Some of the beautiful work produced or shared in school**





Beautiful collaborative birds from Year 2





### Headteacher's Star of the Week

Such wonderful smiley faces on all our stars this week; each and every one of them has exceeded our expectations and produced work that has impressed us all!!! Well done Superstars!





## Empathy

As we are now a year on from the first lockdown, we have reflected on the changes in our lives and the impact lockdown has had on us and many others. We have tried to understand how some people may be feeling and we have been learning how it might feel to stand in someone else's shoes.

Here are three of the quotes the children have heard this morning in my whole school assembly about helping others, caring about them and knowing how it feels if you are able to support someone else.

“If you want to lift yourself up...lift someone else up!” ~ Booker T. Washington

“Learning to stand in somebody else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins.” ~ Barack Obama

“I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel.” ~ Maya Angelou

And the definition of empathy: *Empathy is the ability to understand how someone else is feeling or to understand the situation they are in. It is the ability to “put yourself in someone else's shoes” and to understand the way a situation might make them feel.*

You might also enjoy following this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_1Rt1R4xbM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_1Rt1R4xbM)

In my assembly I asked the children to suggest what they could do to help someone they knew who was finding being back at school difficult: These are some of their responses. You can see how kind, caring and empathic our children are. These comments range from our youngest to our oldest children:

- *I would give them a heart to make them happy*
- *Be kind to them in Robin*
- *Give them a cuddle*
- *Play with them*
- *Share toys with them that they like*
- *Pair them up with a friend*
- *Offer to play with them and look after them*
- *Play music to make them feel happy*
- *Tell jokes*
- *Ask permission to bring in a cuddly toy from home*
- *Have a dance party!*

### **Rainbow from Found Things**

**We are nearly ready to start production of our rainbow, we just need a few more 'found' things. Please continue to bring coloured objects (things you have found) for our school rainbow: we have lovely rainbow sorting baskets but they are all rather empty.**



Do you have a red bead, a yellow hair slide, a blue car, or anything at all that will not perish that we can use to make our rainbow?



### **Times can be hard at the moment**

I attended a virtual conference on Pupil Premium Grant Funding on Tuesday, one of the things I learned was that since the changes to Universal Credit, some people who would have been entitled to Free School Meals in the past, no longer are, which therefore may mean no Pupil Premium Funding! If you are struggling to pay food or fuel bills, we will be able to help you find the support you need. We also put you in touch with the foodbank so please do get in touch (it will be confidential).



## Easter Egg Donations



### EASTER EGG DONATIONS FROM ONE FAMILY TO ANOTHER

If you would like to donate an Easter egg, please drop it to the staff on the school gate by Tuesday, and thank you so much.

If you would like to request an egg (for every child in your household, whether they come to Walter or not), please contact Mrs Janes on [admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk) we have had our first requests and hope that more of you will make your requests soon.

### Lateral Flow Tests

All families with school age children can apply for lateral flow tests, these are the tests that all of our staff are completing twice a week. If you wish to have this option: please follow this link. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

This is NOT a requirement for your child to come to school.

### Living Flower Boxes by Mrs Hemmings

#### LIVING FLOWER BOXES



*Living Flower Boxes made to order*

*Birthdays, Anniversaries, special occasions, Easter.*

*Prices start at £25 for flower & chocolate Boxes but can also include*

*Gift vouchers*

*Easter Flower boxes will come with a selection of Crème Eggs*

*Contact Lynnette Hemmings in the School Office*

### And finally....

Well done every one in our community; we have all been able to keep our bubbles open for another week.

Enjoy your weekend. Best wishes; keep safe and well.

Judy Wheeler  
Headteacher