

Dear Walter Families,

Welcome to the start of the school year 2021 2022. We are so delighted to see you all back and to welcome so many new children and their families. It has been a joy to see so many smiling faces, children and adults alike (no more masks) and for everyone to come on to our school site and be able to chat together and catch up with friends.

We have all been amazed with how well the children have settled in to their new classes or their new school. They have been incredibly resilient and all seem so glad to be here! The same can be said for all the staff in school too. The last two days have been a joy!

Here are a few snaps of the time so far, one of our happiest moments has been using the school hall for hot dinners and packed lunches (although the tantalising smells are driving poor Walter potty!!!).





Computing Suite

We have 15 brand new computers in our computing suite; it looks great and ready for use again! The children will start to have lessons in there very soon. There will be a huge focus on online safety this term to make sure even our youngest children know how to keep themselves safe online.



Clubs in September 2021

We will have lots of extra-curricular clubs starting again in the Autumn term, to find out more please follow this link:

https://www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk/web/activity_club_information_/10190 We have also sent out a link to register for Little Stars Gymnastics Club starting on 15th September 2021.

Rise and Shine Breakfast/Lunch Clubs

If you would like your child to come to our Rise and Shine Breakfast Club or Robin Lunch/Extra Hour Club. (Rise and Shine Club will also be available to our Year 3 Leavers.) and who haven't been before, please email <u>finance@walter.wokingham.sch.uk</u> so we can register you and you can then book the sessions <u>from 1st September</u>. The following link to the school website page gives details of how to book sessions online: <u>https://www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk/web/walter_breakfast_lunch_and_extra_hour_clubs/1</u> <u>0194</u>

Energy Kidz

Energy Kidz started yesterday; it runs from the end of the school day until 6:15 pm and is available to all children from Foundation 2 to Year 2. It is held in our hall (no more bubbles) and the children have access to our outside spaces too. The children love it and get to play with lots of different children forming new and happy friendships. For more information please follow this link: www.energykidz.co.uk

Start and End of the School Day

The start and end of the day at Walter has been brilliant but I thought it might be helpful to share what we are doing as it is so long since we operated in this way and we have lots of new families.

The gates on Murray Road will open at 8:30 am for parents and children to come onto site and wait safely together until the start of the school day: 8:40 am for Year 1 and Year 2 and 8:45 am for Foundation Stage 2. Please stay with your child until they join the class line.

Robin children can enter through the gate on the Oxford Road at **8:30 am**. Children in Robin will always use the gate on the Oxford Road at pick up and drop off times which vary through the day.

At the end of the day we will open the Murray Road gates at 3:05 pm. Parents and younger siblings can come onto the site and wait safely until their children come out of class: **3:20** pm for Year 1 and Year 2 and 3:15 pm for Foundation Stage 2.

The children will stay with their teachers until they can see the adult who is collecting; if it is someone new we will ask for a password so please ensure you have informed the school office with your secret password. We will not release children to an unknown adult without a password for safeguarding reasons.

We are really looking forward to welcoming more children next week.

I know there have been a few hiccups at drop off and collection time at St Paul's but I am sure these will very soon be remedied. Mrs Taylor, the Headteacher, has called to send her apologies and is hopeful that everything will be working efficiently on Monday. If you have an older child at St. Paul's they can be dropped off first at the gate at 8:30 am before coming to us.

Contacting Teaching Staff

One of the things we have decided to maintain from COVID 19 is sharing the email addresses of our teachers so that parents (carers) can contact their child's teacher directly; the teacher will get back to you as soon as they are able to.

Class and Teacher	Email contact
Robin Miss Samantha Potter	Samantha.Potter@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Dove Mrs Jessica Bennette	Jessica.Bennette@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Magpie Miss Rebecca Prickett	Rebecca.Prickett@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Woodpecker Miss Lauren Rose	Lauren.Rose@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Beech Miss Jasmine Veale	Jasmine.Veale@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Larch Miss Lisa Palmer	Lisa.Palmer@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Oak Mrs Amy Stevens	Amy.Stevens@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Oak Ms Stephanie Rees	Stephanie.Rees@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Pine Mr Justin Lee	Justin.Lee@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Sycamore Mr Andrew Herlihey	Andrew.Herlihey@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Willow Mandy McDonough	Mandy.McDonough@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Heather Pimm	Heather.Pimm@walter.wokingham.sch.uk
Mrs Louise Walker SEND	Louise.Walker@walter.wokingham.sch.uk

School Lunches

All our children from Foundation Stage 2 to Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Free School meal as they are infants. This changes when the children go to junior school so it is a wonderful perk to take advantage of. The school benefits from serving as many school

lunches as possible. All the food is cooked freshly each day in our school kitchen by our wonderful catering team and the children say the food is delicious. There is always a vegetarian choice and we are able to meet the dietary needs of all children.



Using cars to travel to school and Parking issues and restrictions

Parking is very difficult around our school as there are over 700 children arriving at three different settings. We always advise walking, scooting or cycling to school if possible. We realise many people cannot do this as they live too far away or have to carry on to work or other schools after drop off. Perhaps you could park further away and walk a short distance to school to reduce congestion. This morning it was reported to me that some parents were parking in the car park and on the pavements of the elderly care home West Oak. There was an emergency ambulance on site and the barrier was raised. The barrier is usually down preventing cars from entering but there has been a malfunction. PLEASE do not park in the vicinity of the care home.

Likewise the carpark for Murray House is private property so please do not park there either.

Jeans for Genes Day ~ Friday 17th September 2021

Each year we have a Jeans for Genes Day; this term it will be on Friday 17th September 2021. The children can come to school in jeans and a jumper or t-shirt and bring in a recommended donation of £1 to support scientific research into genetic disorders. They do not need to wear their school jumpers and cardigans unless they want to.





And finally

PE will begin next week so please send your Year 1 and Year 2 children into school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. We will have our first assemblies next week with our Star of the Week assemblies beginning on Friday.

Have a lovely weekend. Please contact me if you need to on <u>head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk</u>

Best wishes Judy Wheeler: Headteacher