



Friday Flyer 2022

Dear Walter Families,

Happy New Year; I hope you were all able to enjoy the holiday time. I know that many people's plans had to change but I hope you all had time to refresh, relax and enjoy spending time with your children.



The children will be talking about their Dreams and Goals in Personal, Health, Relationships and Social Education (PSRHE) as it is the beginning of the year and the school council will be making plans for what we do better at school. As usual we will be focussing on how to be 'The Best We Can Be' to help us to reach our goals. Perhaps you could talk to your children about what they would like to be better at or do more of, for example, walking to school, playing outside, climbing trees, using good manners, tidying up, reading every day. Only choose one thing, and make sure it is achievable.

Phonics in Year 2

The children in Year 2 completed the Phonics Screening Assessment during the second half of the autumn term; next week they will bring home their results. There are 40 words

that the children have to be able to decode, using phonic strategies. Some of the words are real and some of the words are 'fake' (or alien words); for example:

Practice sheet: Real words	Practice sheet: Pseudo words
in	ot 
at	vap 
beg	osk 
sum	ect 

The benchmark for the check is 32/40. We were very proud of the efforts and achievements of all Year 2, who had all made good progress towards the benchmark. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Corona Virus (Covid 19)

I hope you all received the information that we sent via email on Wednesday. The most recent up date is that from 11th January until further notice, asymptomatic **positive** Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests will require people to begin self-isolation immediately for 10 days (you can test again on the 6th day). There is no need to seek a PCR test unless you have symptoms (LFD tests are not for people with symptoms). Please inform the office of a positive LFD test result for your child as soon as possible to agree a return to school date (10 days later). If someone in the household has a positive LFD test result, the children from that household that attend our school can continue to come to school as long as they LFD test each day before coming to school and register a negative result with Test and Trace. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Princess Trust

As many of you are aware, quite a few of our children have donated their long hair to the Princess Trust so that it can be made into a wig for a poorly child. Each wig costs around £400 to produce as wig making takes a lot of time and skill.

The latest member of our school to donate her hair is Ellie in Woodpecker Class! We are all so proud of her amazing kindness and empathy for others. Ellie is the first member of Foundation Stage to receive her second Values Badge. I am sure you all agree that she deserves it for making such a generous gift. Well done Ellie.



If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of a wig to the Princess Trust please follow this link: <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/donate-money>.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Friday 4th February is NSPCC Number day; we did this last year too and it was great fun and we raised £300. The staff and children can come to school in a number themed outfit, it could be an all over suit or just a badge or hat and make a donation (The NSPCC recommend £2 per person, but any amount is gratefully received) to help children who need support and help from abuse: Speak Out Stay Safe <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/events-fundraising/social-special-events/number-day/>

You do not need to buy anything special; a football shirt usually has a number on it, or you can wear a birthday badge. Anything with a number will be great.

Take a look at these great pictures from last year when we raised **£286!**



Mental Health Week begins on **7th February 2022**. Ms Rees will be organising a week of activities to promote and foster good Mental Health including Superhero Mindfulness. **Friday 11th February** will be Dress to Express Day; we would like the children (and staff) to come to school in an outfit that tells us something about who they are! They could wear their favourite colour, their favourite clothes, a colour to reflect how they feel



We will not be collecting money for Place2Be BUT we would very much welcome a contribution of £2.25 per child towards the cost of the Mindfulness training if you are able to.

School Council Elections will take place in the week beginning **Monday 14th February 2022**.

Wednesday 6th April 2022 will be our Spring Parent Consultations evening from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Friday 8th April 2022 our school will be closed for lessons and open for Parent Consultations; 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. We will have a creche facility for children to attend when their parents are meeting with teachers.

We can help; please ask!

The community of our school is amazing; I have never worked within such a sharing, generous and kind environment. Just before we broke up, we were able to present some of our fantastic children with the most incredible Christmas Boxes, from one family to another. Thank you so much to all of you who participated; it was quite overwhelming.

In September, we asked for donations of £20 cash to help our most vulnerable families who had their Universal Credit reduced by £1000 a year. We have been able to help so many families with the amazing amount of money we received. You may have seen on the news recently that Universal Credit will not be increased, but that the cap on fuel bills will be removed. Many families who rely on benefits to support their families also have prepaid metres for fuel. The tariff for these metres is always higher than other provisions! Now the temperature has started to drop, after a surprisingly warm start to the winter. There have been a lot of frosty mornings and even colder weather is predicted.

We are hopeful that some of you may wish to donate again (or for the first time), if so, please could you give your £20 to Mrs Hemmings or Mrs Janes in the school office. You will be able to save a Walter Family from making the choice between heating or eating.

If you need food or fuel vouchers, Mrs Janes can make a request directly for a delivery.

If you receive Pupil Premium Funding and need warm school clothes or shoes for your children, please get in touch with me on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk in strictest confidence.

If you are able to donate hats, scarves, gloves or winter coats for 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 year old boys and girls, in as good as new condition, we would love to recycle them in an after school session as soon as possible. Please could you bring freshly washed and dried items to school by Thursday 13th January 2022 for sharing (free of charge) with families on Friday 14th January 2022 after school (weather permitting).

Walter's Pantry

Our staff keep a fully stocked pantry of breakfast cereals and food to make a healthy (hot) evening meal. If you are struggling to put a meal on the table at any time, please contact the school office either by phone, email or in person to arrange to come in and collect what you need. It might be a one off or something you need to do more often. There is no limit. Every request will be completely confidential. We are here to help when you need it.

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/>

And Finally,

Please stay safe and well.

Judy Wheeler: Headteacher

Walter Infant School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022-2023

4th February	NSPCC Number Day
7th February	Mental Health Week
11th February	Superhero Mindfulness Dress to Express Day
21st-25th February	Half Term
6th April	Spring Parent Consultations
7th April	End of Term (finishing 1 hour early)
8th April	Spring Parent Consultations

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

There will be other exciting events that are not yet in the diary. We will let you know dates as soon as we can.