

Dear Walter Families.

This has been an incredibly exciting week; we have all been so busy having lots of fun and learning so much! We will definitely need a rest during the summer holidays. This morning we had an assembly about Empathy, whilst we were singing Count on Me I spotted Adria and her friends in Magpie with their arms around each other swaying and singing; it was a



If you would like to learn more about empathy; follow this link! Then you can do your own happy dance along with Mark Ruffalo! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9 1Rt1R4xbM

Leaver's Assemblies for Year 2

The Year 2 Leaver's Assemblies will take place on Tuesday 19th July 2022. Pine at 9:00 am Sycamore at 10.00 am Willow at 11:00 am See you there!

I-Rock Festival

We had the most wonderful I-Rock Festival in the school playground today, led by Kieran and it was amazing. The children were so brilliant and we were also impressed, not only by their talents but also because they were so brave and played in front of such a large audience. It was the best festival ever! Even better than Glastonbury!



Foundation Stage Reports

Today the Robin, Dove, Magpie and Woodpecker children will bring their school reports home; these are earlier than Key Stage One as we are offering Foundation Stage 2 (not Robin) parents an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher, if there are any questions, queries or concerns. If you wish to meet with Mrs Bennette, Miss Rose or Miss Prickett, please contact Mrs Janes in the school office or email the class teachers directly.

Walter Infant School and Nursery's

SUMMER FAIR



Saturday 9th July 2022 11:00 am UNTIL 2:00 pm

Our PTA have been working so incredibly hard to get ready for our first Summer Fair since 2019! I cannot believe how generous everyone has been with their time as well as the wonderful donations. So many cakes have been brought in this morning! Thank you for the extra case for the staff room; they are very much appreciated.

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There are some incredible Raffle Prizes to be won; you can buy raffle tickets on the day as well.



- Wellington Country Park Family Ticket
- 2 Wokingham Theatre Tickets
- £25 Ruby Rose Voucher
- Alana Photography Session
- £25 Nandos Voucher
- £20 Fish and Chips Voucher (x 4)
- Honey B Beauty
- Life Coaching Voucher
- £20 Birdwold Voucher
- Citroemech MOT Voucher
- 1:1 Climbing Session at Oakwood

AND...MUCH, MUCH MORE! Including....



A brand new TY Panda Squishie!

REMEMBER...YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

There will be so much to do at the fair; there will be an adult and a children's tombola, craft stalls, glitter tattoos, hook a duck, basketball, refreshments including PIMMS! We have a barbecue, a lucky dip, second hand book sale, second hand uniform, Dancing with Miss Joanna at 12:00 noon. The raffle is at 1:15 pm, there is a small charge of £2 per family to come in as we are raising money for our reading garden.



Rumble in the Jumble

Thank you for all the donations of toys looking for a new home; The School Councillors in Year 2 are very excited about running a stall at the Summer Fair alongside their teachers. Please come along to the stall, which will be in the school hall tomorrow to support their efforts.

Rumble in the Jumble!



Miller's Ark

We have had two truly wonderful days with Amy and her amazing farm animals from Miller's Ark. The children have loved learning all about the animals as well as petting and feeding them. It is truly joyful to see a young child meet a donkey or a goat for the first time. Walter had some interesting exchanges with a very large goat named Anthea Turner!



Even the children from Meadow Nursery who are joining us in September were able to come and visit the animals.





Parent Survey

Some of our parents were very positive about the school which is so good to know as we are all trying so hard to get it right for your children as we want them to love coming to school and to have a very positive relationship with learning and a desire to know more!

The teachers are excellent - our child has loved each of her teachers and has thrived. The teachers are kind, caring and approachable. Having the teachers email addresses has been so helpful to ask questions or share something that the teacher may need to be aware of. The weekly newsletter is a great reminder of the key events in school and a lovely celebration of the children each week. It is lovely to have the presence of the senior team at the school gates in the morning welcoming the children in (by name too which is impressive). I'd also like to add that Debbie in the office is fab and so helpful.

Ensuring the children are the best they can be. They are very encouraging. They are always keeping us up to date. I thought the updates when year 1 visited Bird World were fantastic. Really reassuring and lovely to hear.

All in all a great school, friendly teachers and staff, great communication and support when needed.

Provides a safe, happy, positive, inclusive environment. Communication between school and parents is excellent. Encouraging the children to do thee best.

Great school, great teachers who know what they are doing and interact brilliantly with the children. I love that the teacher hardly notices the parents at the gate in the morning, as she is so focused on welcoming our children! Warm, supportive and encouraging atmosphere, which should be the perfect mix for children at this age. Thank you all!

We wanted to know what we could do better:

Parents driving to school for drop off and pick ups needs to be addressed. Clearly there are a number of parents that continuously ignore requests about parking on double yellows or in close proximity to the school gates, or parking in private property close to the school. Need to target specific parents that are habitually ignoring requests. It won't stop unless the school deal directly with those parents who seem to think they can park wherever they want.

The School Management Team and I agree that the parking at the beginning and end of the day is a challenge; we always encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot. We will be getting a proper shelter for bikes and scooters soon. Parents and carers MUST pay attention to the double yellow lines as they are there for a reason.

Bring back the weekly Foundation note - we haven't had one since mid March. It was really useful to read what the children have been doing and will be doing the following week. More PTA events, eg other schools have had social events for just the parents to get to know each other. A quiz night would be good and would help raise funds for the school! It would also have been really useful to have had a preloved school clothes sale before the start of the new year for all year groups (including new children coming into reception).

The Foundation Note for FS2 will start up again in the new school year. We have a wonderful PTA but we could do with more members to help out and share ideas. I like the sound of a Quiz Night. We will be selling second hand uniform at the summer fair tomorrow; it has been available to buy all year round from the PTA (online and face to face). We have also sold it at the meetings for new parents. Sadly, Covid did make things like selling clothing difficult.

Parent teacher communication, not waiting to hear at a parent teacher event that a child is struggling. Maybe more regular updates with what your child is doing or needing to work on would help with this? I completely agree with the comment that parents should not wait to hear that their child is struggling in school at the parent consultation; these concerns should be raised sooner. We will ensure this never happens again.

During lockdown the only interaction we had with my child's class was a half hour catch up once a week. We are aware that other schools in the borough had daily lessons via Zoom (for the same year group). We did not have the capacity to teach our child at home. The you tube videos provided by the school were not accessible to our child as they were on a platform that is banned on our devices (as it is not a suitable site for children). We couldn't use the online materials because we don't own a printer and our

child found reading them in the digital format too difficult. Had the school been able to supply worksheets we could collect, we would have at least had something to work on.

We recognise that we could not meet the needs of all children during lockdown; we did not do live lessons as many children had older siblings who would need to use the devices in the house hold for live lessons. Therefore, we recorded our lessons so that children could access them at different times. You Tube is a suitable site for people of all ages if it is used correctly; I did not know that some parents could not access it as this information was not shared with me. We printed off the worksheets for lots of families and in some cases even dropped them off. We shared through the Friday Flyer and other communication that we were happy to print resources. I am hopeful that we will not be in the same situation again.

Things getting lost need more attention or way of retrieval. Kids tend to misplace things all the time but the items are sometimes never found. This has happened quite a few times.

The lost property box is in the playground so that parents can check it themselves if something is lost. We regularly check the lost property and return everything that has a name we recognise. If the names on second uniform are not removed we can't find the new owner, unless it is a sibling. At the end of the term, in normal circumstances (prepandemic) we always put the lost property with out names in the playground to be reclaimed. Small items are placed daily on the red post box.

Homework:

The only homework for year 2 has been a spelling list once a week and an occasional maths test, if the child is off sick the day these are given out, the child doesn't receive the list and so cannot do the practice - they then risk failing the test the following week. It would really help if this could be followed up by the teacher as the parents don't know when these lists are given out.

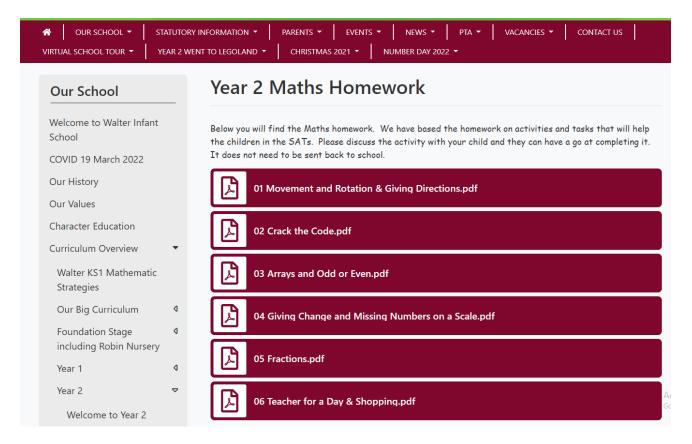
More consistency around homework (I appreciate things have been far from 'normal' for the past two years)

We would welcome more homework sheets like year 2 have recently had home.

Provide more home learning, so kids can practice some of the lessons learnt at school even at home

Being able to access spelling and maths homework online, rather than trying to find small pieces of paper in school bags.

All the spelling lists for Year 1 and Year are on our website so can all be accessed online. It is very hard to get the balance write for families; reading each night at home is the MOST important home work the children need to do as they are working hard all day at school.



Spellings:

https://www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk/web/ks1_spelling_homework/553660

Friday Fun:

The children seem to watch a lot of films during Friday Fun. Providing training for TA's if/when they have to cover teachers or paying them more fairly when they do have to cover. Nothing else!

make Friday Fun a bit more purposeful with less watching of films

The children have so many different activities to access during Friday Fun; sometimes a short film is available (always a U certificate) sometimes it might be a CBeebies Programme. We do not watch 'movies' and any watching is a choice for the children not a directive. Our Learning Support Assistants are very highly skilled with excellent training records.

School Lunches

The lunch menu needs review please. Whilst we encourage our children to eat a wide variety of food, there are several days in each week which contain choices that they won't eat (and our child at Walter is not a fussy eater!). Recently there have also been occasions where there hasn't been jacket potatoes available or the menu has changed without notification so they have come home not eating much lunch and therefore hungry.

Lunch menu- not offering meat alternative as the meat option with a vegetarian meal, if there is a curry/ spicy dish make the other option plain, not having 2 turkey mains in a row.

Encourage kids to not always select jacket potatoes at lunch

We use Caterlink to provide our school lunches and we will be reviewing our contract next year to see if we wish to continue; Mrs Pugh and I will be visiting different schools to make comparisons. We have renegotiated our menu choices with Caterlink and have reduced the number of adult style options so that it is generally much more child friendly. We had an inspection of the provision last week and it was very positive. So hopefully things will

continue to improve. We do monitor what the children do and don't eat (or like) and feedback to parents if we are concerned. There are jacket potatoes everyday but Wednesday. We try to discourage the children choosing them all the time. It would be good to have some more up to date feedback after the holidays. Mrs Hemmings is going to organise a tasting session for parents in the autumn term.

Communication and Parent Consultations:

We have to offer 2 parent consultation appointments and a written report each academic year: we have an open-door policy, so parents can talk briefly to teachers at the start and the end of the day, many do. All parents can email their child's teacher directly and you are all welcome to make appointments to see your child's teacher throughout the year. The curriculum maps are shared termly or half termly and there is a lot of information on our website about what we teach and how and when we do it.

Bullying Behaviour

Our children are very young and so there is very little bullying at our school. However, it does happen and we take it very seriously. Before Covid, we used to have an annual meeting for parents about bullying behaviour and this has already been scheduled for 21st November 2022 (following on from Anti-Bullying Week). During, the autumn term in 2022 we will have our annual Anti-Bullying week (14th to 18th November 2022). During this week all staff will have 5 training sessions on bullying from the Anti Bullying Association ABA and how to deal with it and stop it.

Stars of the Week

All 10 stars were very excited to come up on to the stage today for their certificates; we had scientists, authors, mathematicians, and stars who have excelled in other ways too, including caring for others. I was extremely surprised to award a star to Dennis! Mr Lee had tricked me and it was actually Lenny! Well done STARS!



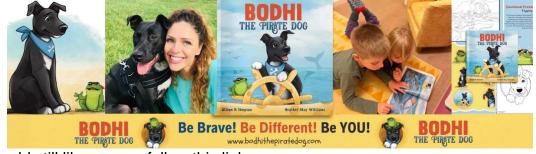
Year 2 Leaver's Disco

Our annual Year 2 Leaver's Disco will take place on **Thursday 14th July at 4:30 pm**; this is always organised by our PTA and the Year 2 children love it! Please could you let the PTA know if you are able to help. It is really good fun and will be a very happy memory for you to share with your child. walterinfantspa@gmail.com



Bodhi the Pirate Dog

Alison came to visit us on Tuesday and Wednesday; we all loved learning about Bodhi and sharing his book and songs. Alison sold out of books; she said this has never happened before. It is a lovely story and the true story of how Bodhi and Alison came together is lovely too.



If you would still like a copy, follow this link:

www.bodhithepiratedog.com/shop giving your child's name, class and the school address as the delivery address. (PayPal and Card payments accepted) Books are £8.99. If the delivery charges are not automatically deducted, please use discount code SCHOOLVISIT

If you would like any books signed, you can add a note to your Paypal payment or email alisonhsimpson@hotmail.com to confirm the name(s) you would like the book(s) signed to. Cash/card payments can be accepted after school, but it's advisable to place your order beforehand.

Are you worried about money?

You may be eligible for help through the Household Support Fund

Families with children on free school meals



If you live in Wokingham Borough and have a child or children on benefits-related free school meals, you can apply for a £90 voucher for each child to cover the summer holidays.



To apply, Contact Citizens Advice One Front Door (0808 278 7958 or www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/hsf), or First Days Children's Charity (0118 921 9338 or www.firstdays.net/hsf).



Your child does not need to be attending school in the borough to get this support.

Older people of state pension age



People aged 66+ can apply for a one-off food, fuel, or cash voucher through Citizens Advice One Front Door (0808 278 7958 or www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/hsf), or via AgeUK Berkshire (0118 959 4242 or info@ageukberkshire.org.uk).

Support for all residents during the cost-of-living crisis



Help is here if you are struggling to pay for food, energy bills and other household essentials. Please get in touch with the friendly team at Citizens Advice One Front Door on 0808 278 7958 or www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/hsf.

HARDSHIP

The team are processing applications as quickly as possible. It may take a couple of weeks for you to receive your payment.

Dates for your diary

- FS Sports Day Monday 11th July in the afternoon.
- 9th July (Saturday) School Fair
- 12th and 13th July Year 2 Performance "The Bee Musical"
- 14th July Leavers Disco 4:30 6:00pm
- 19th July Leavers Assemblies (Y2) x 3
- Pine 9:00 am, Sycamore 10:00am and Willow 11:00 amFrida
- 19th July End of Term~ finishing an hour early