



## Walter Infant School and Nursery

# Friday Flyer

Dear Walter Families,

Welcome back to the summer term 2023; this school year is whizzing by! This week we had Pupil Progress Evaluations for each class and we are all so delighted by the exceptional progress the children are making in all areas of the curriculum.

We noticed that some children have not been reading very often at home, or their reading has not been recorded in their reading record.

Please try to listen to your children read, for a few minutes each day and record a comment in their reading record. For example, *I read with Walter today and he was able to tell me what had happened in the story. Walter could sound out the words and blend them together. Walter recognised 'said'. Etc*

We have got lots and lots of lovely new reading books for your children to bring home, which are phonically decodable.

### Industrial Action

The National Education Union are planning further industrial action in the coming weeks. The proposed strike days are **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023** and **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**. I will inform you as soon as possible next week of the classes which will be closed for the strike. Please assume that your children's class will be closed and make alternative arrangements. Thank you.

### Handwriting at Walter

As you are aware, our Foundation Stage children are learning phonics through Rocket Phonics, in September all our children will be following the same programme. Our reading results have always shown that the staff team are excellent at teaching phonics, but the government require schools to use an affiliated programme and Rocket Phonics was the one we liked best, as well as the one that matched what we already had in place. By the end of Year 2 children are expected to be able to use cursive script to reach the Greater Depth Standard in writing. Many of our children in Year 2 find this extremely challenging, but it is even more so, as our children have had such a disrupted start to their educational journeys. We are increasing our focus on handwriting for the next few weeks and I thought parents and carers might find it useful to see what the letters look like. The children in FS and Year 1 learn to form pre-cursive letters. The children in Y2 learn to form cursive letters with lead-ins and joining flicks.



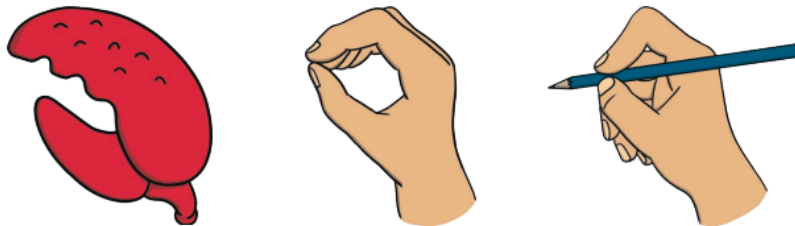
To be able to form the letters correctly and to develop stamina the children need to hold their pencils in a tripod grip. This will enable them to use the correct muscles and apply the right pressure to enable a good handwriting style. Some of our children held their pencils differently, please encourage you children to hold the pencil using their thumb, index finger and middle finger only.

## How to Hold a Pencil

Try one of the suggestions to remind children how to hold their pencil.

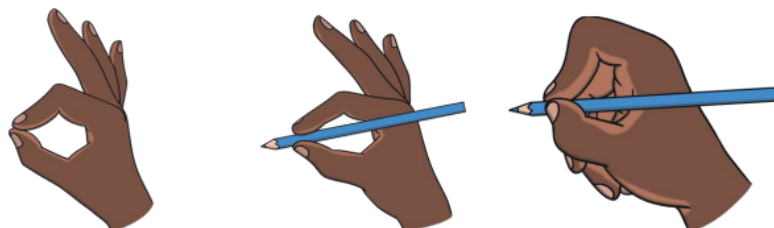
### Crab Claw

Pinch thumb and finger together to create the claw. Tuck the body (the other three fingers) underneath.



### OK Sign

Make an OK sign with your hand. Hold the pencil between the fingers. Tuck the other fingers underneath. Rest your pencil on the pillow of your hand.



### PTA Quiz Night

We are all really looking forward to the Quiz Night on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> May which has been organised by our wonderful PTA. We hope to see lots of you here!



### **Sharing platters from Dust of Sugar for the Quiz Night**

The price is £10 per person. Gluten free and dairy free options are available – when placing your order on PTA Events, you will have the option to indicate your preference.

**Meat Platter:** a deli platter with organic rosemary and garlic sourdough focaccia and the following

- couscous salad
- 3 types of cured meat
- 3 cheeses
- hummus
- chutney
- olives

**Vegetarian Platter:** a deli platter with organic rosemary and garlic sourdough focaccia and the following

- 2 x hummus
- couscous salad
- antipasti
- olives
- chutney

**A sweet platter with:**

- individual fresh fruit pavlova
- chocolate brownies
- apple and caramel crumble cake



### Jack's Amazing World



Jack made the most amazing world over the holidays with a little bit of help from his big sister! He has created a world of different exciting habitats! There is Farm Island, Halloween Island, the sea which is full of different sea creatures and Forest Island. Well done Jack, you have done a brilliant job. I am glad to see all the light houses next to the dangerous rocks.

### The Coronation of King Charles III

We will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III in school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (all day). We would love the children to come dressed in red, white and blue. We are planning to celebrate in style and would love each child to bring an afternoon tea on a plate! Every child will bring home a Union Jack plate. We will be able to keep the plates chilled in our IT Suite. I suggest a packet of crisps, a cake or a biscuit; please remember no sweets and no nuts! Chocolate biscuits are absolutely fine.





We will be planning a wonderful day with a lot of surprises!

### Star of the Week

These wonderful stars received their certificates in assembly from Mrs Bell. I was delighted to see their lovely faces and to hear how proud everyone was of them. Well done STARS!





### **We can help!**

If you are struggling to provide anything essential for your child's well-being, such as pyjamas, coats, shoes, socks, underwear, school uniform, bedding etc please ask us as we are here to help. We do not want any of our children to miss out on the basic fundamentals that they are all entitled to. As before, please just ask. Don't forget about Walter's Pantry.

### **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 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/>

**Judy Wheeler: Headteacher**