



# Walter Infant School and Nursery

## Friday Flyer

Dear Walter Families,

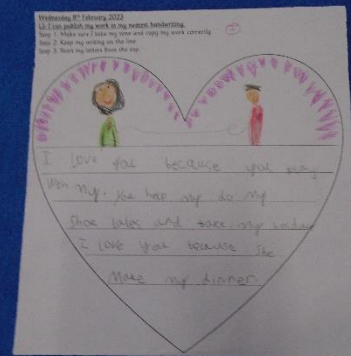
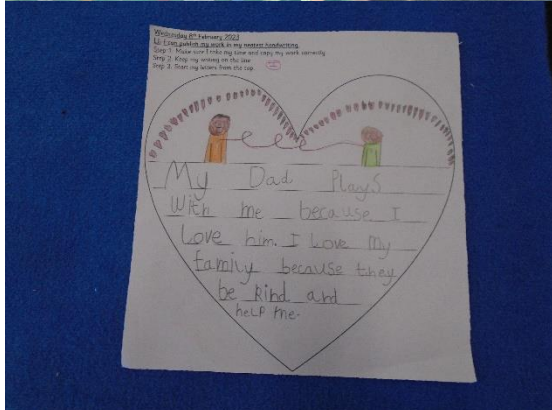
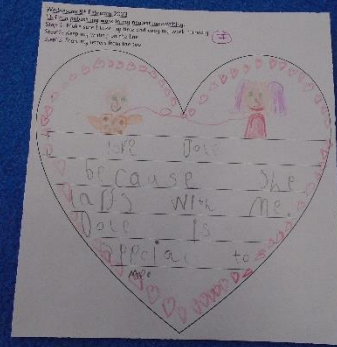
It was wonderful being back in school today after 4 days at home unwell. Walter was very excited too, and the children (well almost all of them) were delighted to see him. We received a lovely warm welcome and lots of hugs.

It was delightful to see these two smiling minions in assembly!

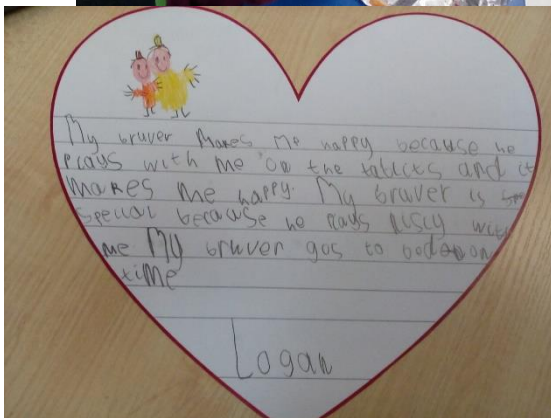


## Well-being Week (Children's Mental Health Week)

I have been hearing all about the wonderful week the children have had learning about how to keep themselves feeling good and how to make connections! They have produced some fantastic work and many were able to share what well-being week was all about. The workshops were really well received by the children and staff; here are some of the photographs of the events this week.













### **Dress to Express**

The children really enjoyed expressing themselves; we had so many different choices and everyone looked fantastic.



**Beautiful Heart Cards from Oak Class**







### **Attendance and Late Arrivals**

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the reasons why some children are not attending school; I am sorry to say that a bad night's sleep, or over sleeping are not acceptable reasons for your children arriving late at school or not coming to school at all. All of your children need to learn that they have to come to school everyday unless they are poorly; being poorly is the only reason for not coming to school. We can take care of your children if they are tired, they can have rest

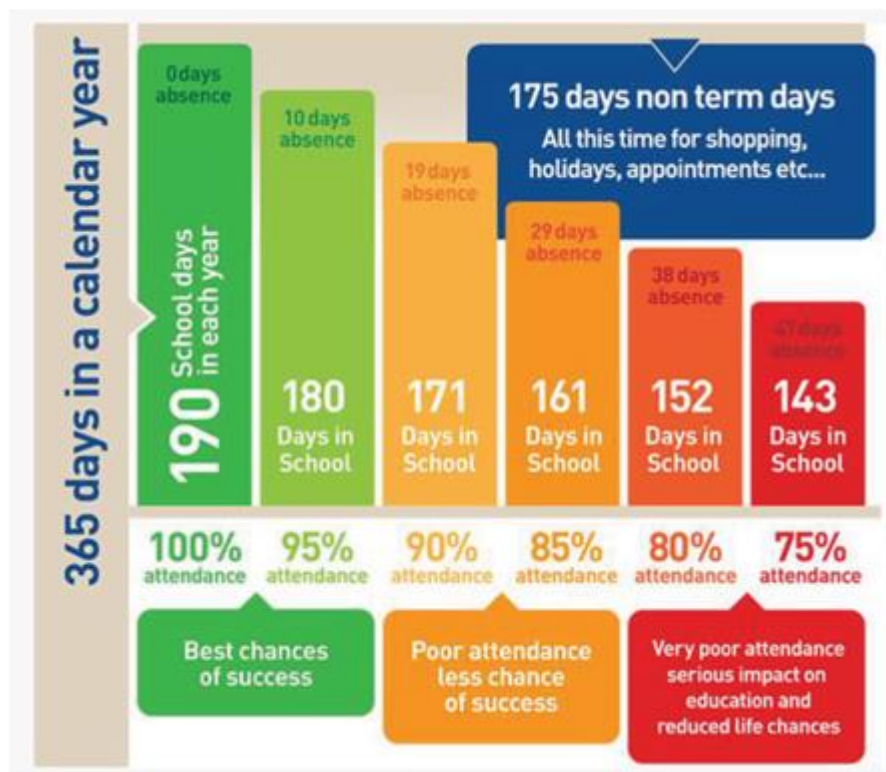
periods at school. They will all have to go to school and be part of the education system until they are at least 18 years old. It is in their best interests to understand that school is 5 days a week for 38 weeks of the year! They have a great time at school, we love and care for your children when they are away from you and they need to learn and to develop a love for learning. Everyday of school that they miss impacts on their learning as it is all carefully planned and is sequential! Walter Infant School and Nursery is a fun and happy place, the children build wonderfully positive relationships with adults and their peers, if they have extended or regular absences from school, those relationships will suffer, and the children who are absent will find it hard to build solid relationships with staff and children. They will find it hard to make good friendships and to keep up with their learning. We will be reviewing the attendance of every child in the first week of the new half term, any child whose attendance is less than 95% will result in written communication from us. Any child who has attendance below 90% will be considered as a persistent absentee by Wokingham Borough Council and this will be a cause for concern, unless it is for medical reasons. I need to remind all parents that it is not acceptable to take holidays during term time, a request for absence must be submitted and there is never a precedence set. All requests are evaluated individually depending on the circumstances.

We have noticed that some children are consistently late for school, there is no reason apart from unpredictable driving traffic for this; if your child arrives late for school they are discombobulated! They miss the beginning to the day, they cannot interact with their friends, they do not take part in the lovely interactions that take place with their teachers, they do not even learn to select their own meal choices using the interactive whiteboards, which is actually a really big deal for our children as it develops their independence and is a vital part to the start to each day. I hate to be a nag, BUT if your children continue to be late for school we will have to arrange a meeting with each family to understand the reasons.

We track the absences and patterns within each week, as we are responsible to the Local Authority to ensure that we have a reasonable and acceptable declaration from our parents and carers, to justify an absence from school. I want to ensure that we have a good relationship with every family at Walter as we care so much for each and everyone of our children, we have a clear Attendance Policy on our website and we all have to follow it. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on [head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

An illustration of the impact of low attendance at school:

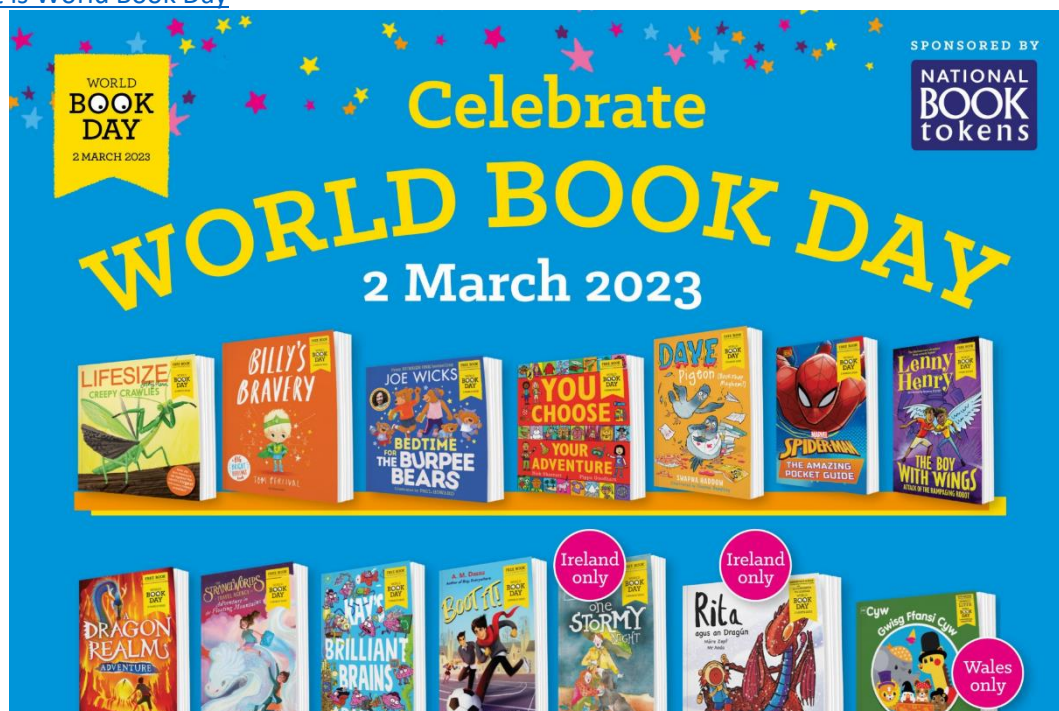




## World Book Day

We will be celebrating World book Day on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**. We would like to the children to come to school in the pyjamas ready for a bed time story. We have done this before; it is great fun and it means no one has to go to the expense of buying or making a costume. The staff will be bringing in their favourite bedtime stories and sharing them with groups of children throughout the day. All the children will receive a £1 Book Token!

[What is World Book Day](#)





## Covid Vaccinations and Boosters

This information maybe of interest to you:

*All children aged 5 - 11 will be offered extra vaccination sessions against COVID-19 over the half term holiday. You can find walk-in clinics near you on our local [NHS Staywell website](#) or you can book an appointment via the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling **119** for dedicated children's clinics.*

Children aged 5 and over (who turned 5 on or before 31 August 2022) with no other underlying health conditions will be offered 1st and 2nd paediatric (child) doses of the vaccine, with at least 12 weeks between doses. Children who turned 5 on or after 1 September 2022 can only get a 1st and 2nd dose of the vaccine if they're either:

- at high risk due to a health condition or because of a weakened immune system
- living with someone who has a weakened immune system.

*The NHS wants to support you to make an informed choice with more information available here [COVID-19: A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)*

Please note that the jab for 5-11s will be available locally at Shutters Café, Wokingham on 17 Feb, 10am to 4:30pm.

## Hold the Front Page!

<https://wokingham.today/minions-party-to-support-first-days-a-great-success/>

The Year Two children had the most wonderful Minion Party experiences: READ ALL ABOUT IT!!! Thank you Mrs Wilson for sharing this with me for all our Year 2 parents to see.







## Wokingham Library Provision at Half Term

### Reading Sparks

Head over to Wokingham Library from 11<sup>th</sup> February to borrow a Reading Sparks activity boxes and explore the experiments the Reading Agency have put together for you. Reading Sparks brings together science, technology, engineering, and Maths (STEM) themes with creative arts and reading.  
<https://readingsparks.org.uk/>

### Sand Art

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 10-12	Lower Earley
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 10-12	Woodley
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 10-12	Wokingham
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 10-12	Spencers Wood

No booking required. Payment of £4 on the day

### Crafts

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 10-11am	Valentines craft	Woodley
Library- £1 per child. Booking required		
Monday Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 3:45-4:30pm	Valentine's craft	Wargrave
Library- £1 per child. Booking required		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 1am1-12	Valentine's craft	Lower Earley
£1 per child. Booking required		
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 10:30-11:30am	Get Arty	Wokingham
£1 per child. Booking required		

Online booking form:

<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

### Storytime- Free of charge

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2:00 pm ~ [Storytime Wokingham](#)- no booking required.  
Friday 17 February- 10:30-11am ~ [Storytime Finchampstead](#)- booking required.

### Children's author visit- Gemma Stone

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb- 2:30pm ~ Children's author visit Wokingham- free of charge.  
Booking is required.

Online booking form:

<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

## Year One Scooter Training



We are pleased to inform you that we are offering scooter training for your child in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The training is open to pupils in Year 1. The main objective is to improve your child's awareness of road safety issues. The training will involve 15 children at a time on the playground for a 45 minute session.

The training is being organised and funded by Wokingham Borough Council and the instructor has DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) clearance. Your child will need to bring with them for the session:

- A scooter (labelled with child's name)
- A helmet (which must be of the correct size and fit properly and labelled with child's name)

Please note that sessions are held outdoors. Please ensure that your child has some wet weather clothing e.g. a shower or waterproof jacket as a minimum. The training will continue in light to moderate rain but will be suspended if there is a heavy downpour.

Please can you email [admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk) if you are interested in your child taking part.

### Star of the Week

Mrs Bell presented 11 Stars of the Week today!









### **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.



## Apply for the Household Support Fund if your child gets free school meals

If your child gets means-tested free school meals you are entitled to financial support this winter.

Wokingham Borough Council and First Days Children's Charity are working together to provide payments to help during school holidays. **We know this could be even more important as people struggle after the festive period.**

[Apply through First Days Children's Charity.](#)

**Note you do not need to apply again if you have already had a successful application since October this year.**

You can get £15 per week, per eligible child, during school holidays. This applies for half terms, Christmas and Easter holidays. It will be back paid to October half-term if you've not already applied.

The amount you get in total depends on the number of children in your family who receive free school meals:

- One child - £120
- Two children - £210
- Three children - £315
- Four children - £420
- Five children - £525
- Six children - £630

You can follow this link for support from Woking Borough Council [Cost of living help - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

## 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/>

**And Finally,**

I hope you have a restful half term, please remember that this is a time for your children to relax, chill out and catch their breath. It has been cold, dark and hard for your children to get up each morning... so a lazy time might suit them and you very well.

**Judy Wheeler: Headteacher**