



## Friday Flyer 2021

Dear Walter Families,

This week has been wonderful; the children have come back so full of life and ready to learn. They have LOVED seeing their friends and the behaviour in school has been exemplary! We have been gently assessing all week and many children have made good progress, especially with reading and phonics. Well done to all our Home Learning Teams.

Most children are glad to be back; some really enjoyed being at home and are not quite as keen! But we have seen their moods lift and we are keeping a close eye on everyone. Luckily we have excellent staff to children ratios and a team of staff who really care about our children. They were very tired and hungry at the end of the day on Monday (and so were the children!!!!)

We have been researching deeply into the best ways to support our children and something that has resonated with me and has been shared with staff is this:

“The learning need is often prioritised over an emotional or mental health need”

This week we have focussed on the well-being and mental health of our children and we will continue to ensure our children feel safe, secure and self-confident away from home.

### The Dot

Every child in our school has been learning about The Dot; the children have produced the most amazing art work and shown how well they have remembered all our values, especially resilience! Here are some examples of the work that has been produced; you will be amazed!













### School Drop off and Pickup

Thank you for all your kind words and support during this very difficult time; it means so much to all of us here at Walter. I am relieved that most families are happy with our start and finish times. I sent out a letter yesterday with some gentle reminders and I hope we will all see the process running more smoothly from now on. A parent has asked me to request

that once you have dropped off your children, please could you walk on the opposite side of the road towards Oxford Road, which is an excellent idea. If you are struggling with the arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please do not gather between Walter and the School Crossing (we will be cordoning it off for Health and Safety Reasons).

## Parent Survey

Thank you to all of you who kindly completed the school survey; I would like to share some of the results and comments with you.

### 1. My child is happy at this school.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	78
Agree	33
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	1

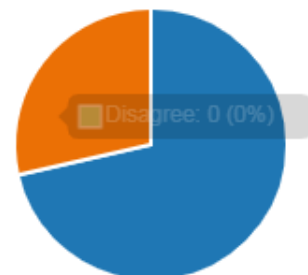


### 2. My child feels safe at this school.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	80
Agree	32
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	0



### 3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	67
Agree	41
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	4



It is clear from your comments that many of you are very happy, which is wonderful to know, although we will never rest on our laurels and will always strive to be better! It is also clear that some parents are not as happy; particularly during our provision in Lockdown 3.

19. What would you say are the three most important things that the school does well, and should keep doing?

112 Responses

## Responses

The teachers know all the children well. They have been amazingly consistent in their presence and determination to carry on at this difficult time.
Looking after the well-being of the children. Looking at the whole child not just the academic side of things. Fostering a love of learning
1. Excellent and prompt communication with parents on all issues. The school tries to resolve any issues pertaining to the child quickly. 2. The response to Covid has been very good with support for families and kids throughout. 3. Uses best resources and latest technology to teach.
Walter Values, keep it fun, feedback to parents
Happy reassuring staff Fun Listen to everyone
The school supports the parents as well as the children The head is wonderful and is a firm part of the school rather than just being sat in her office The reception staff are friendly always
Safeguarding students Friendly happy environment Anti bullying
Staff seem to know all the children by name and are very personable which puts the children at ease and you can see they feel welcome. Keep parents very well informed via the e schools app. Recognise achievements and praise success.
Mental wellbeing for the children is exceptional!
The teachers maintain an optimistic attitude at all times - no matter how hideous the lockdown has become The head teacher knows EVERYONE! there is always a welcome and a smile whenever we go to school - even my daughter who no longer attends the school Whilst I haven't been a recipient of extra assistance, I know the school are always asking and offering to go above and beyond. and nobody is made to feel awkward about needing those provisions.

16. I feel children have been supported and protected as much as possible during the COVID 19 pandemic.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	62
Agree	41
Disagree	6
Strongly disagree	1
Don't know	2



17. The school has provided suitable online provision during the national lockdown.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	48
Agree	43
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	7



In Lockdown 1 (March 2020) we were not expected to provide lessons for home learning; developing a teaching and learning platform for children to use every day was new to us and most schools. We are significantly different from most schools as we are a large infant and nursery school. We provided lots of activities and links to many other sites including the Oak Academy, which was the government's recommendation for daily learning, we facilitated considerably more than most other schools.

In Lockdown 2, the school remained open for all children and we were very well supported by our families during this very strange and uncertain period.

In Lockdown 3, from the start of January, the government expected us to provide **3 hours of learning a day**. We were free to choose the methodologies and we chose to record our lessons as we wanted to enable our families to access them when it was most agreeable for them. We are an extremely experienced team of educators specialising in infant and Early Years Education; we used our knowledge and followed guidance on cognitive development and good pedagogies for young learners. We did not feel that live lessons were suitable for our children and some parents did not have access to devices or the internet (we were able to alleviate this problem). I still believe that our provision was exemplary and I am so proud of my teaching staff and all the children.

I understand that some parents wanted more than 3 hours of learning but children need time to do other things too; such as crafts, technology and physical activity. We provided many links to inside and outside activities and no-screen activities and shared further ideas via the newsletters. I am hopeful that we will not find ourselves in the same situation again!

I will be addressing other issues raised in future correspondence. Thank you.

### Lateral Flow Tests

All families with school age children can apply for lateral flow tests, these are the tests that all of our staff are completing twice a week. If you wish to have this option: please follow



this link. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

This is NOT a requirement for your child to come to school.

### Covid 19 Update

This is a link to a BBC site that has new information on COVID 19:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

### Rainbow from Found Things

Please continue to bring coloured objects (things you have found) for our school rainbow: we have lovely rainbow sorting baskets but they are all rather empty.



Do you have a red bead, a yellow hair slide, a blue car, or anything at all that will not perish that we can use to make our rainbow?



### Headteacher's Star of the Week

10 stars this week and so many awarded their certificates because they have shown resilience. Well done stars!







### Parent Consultations

Please ensure you have an appointment to have a telephone consultation with your child's teacher. If you do not have an appointment please contact Mrs Janes on [admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk)

### Change in Circumstances

We are aware that some of our families have experienced considerable changes to their circumstances over the last few months. If you require any support to provide food, heating, clothing or indeed anything at all your child needs, please get in touch so that we can help you source the support you are entitled to. Any information shared will be in confidence.

## **Red Nose Day 2021**

Red Nose Day, as you know is next Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We would like the children to come in something red and to share their favourite jokes with us; the top 10 jokes will receive a prize. We will be dancing all day long! Please remember no red noses in school. There will be buckets at the gates for you to make a donation, if you would like to support the charity.

**Nose joke ~ First child “My dog has no nose”  
Second child “How does he smell?”  
First child “Terrible!”**



## **And finally....**

We have heard of schools having to close bubbles; please do not send your children to school if they are unwell, especially with symptoms related to COVID or with sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Have a wonderful and restful weekend; I hope the sun shines.

Best wishes; keep safe and well.

Judy Wheeler  
Headteacher