

Dear Walter Families,

Thank you so much for all the kind messages I have received from Walter Families, they really helped to keep my spirits up. Walter and I could not have been happier to return to school yesterday; we received such a wonderfully warm welcome and it was joyous to see all the children's smiling faces and to catch up on all their very exciting news.

Walter had his first birthday on Wednesday and was very happy to celebrate with cake, popcorn, and balloons as well as lots of presents. He is a very lucky dog. He has also had his first haircut so is looking extremely smart, which is very unusual for him.



He is absolutely exhausted after his first day back at work!



Walter has just received birthday wishes from his mum and his sister Luna; so ooops, his birthday is actually today! I blame my Covid brain!!! So happy birthday again Walter. This is a picture of his mum, the larger dog who is called Indie and is actually much smaller than Walter and his sister Luna, who is the size we were told Walter would be!!!! Mind you, we would not have him any other way!





# Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Walter!

## The Easter Bunny

Miss Veale was voted in by all of you as The Easter Bunny and we could not have had a better bunny! The Easter Bunny was hopping around all day and the children were delighted! Your very generous votes will have enabled even more books to be purchased for our reading garden; work will begin on the garden as soon as we can arrange for it to happen. This garden will provide a quiet space for our children to use at play and lunchtimes and during the day when the weather is good.



We had other Easter Bunnies in school too!



# **Chocolate Tombola**

The Chocolate Tombola, organised by our amazing school council, and mainly Mrs Prickett,

was a huge success! We have raised  $\pounds 378.55$  for our reading garden, which we will be able to spend on books and a beautiful storage box (on wheels) to keep the books in!



We are always amazed by the incredible kindness and generosity of all our families, but this amount of chocolate was completely unexpected; we cannot thank you all enough.





Our Energy Kidz children came in first and were very happy with their prizes; however, it can be very hard when some people win, and others don't. Sadly, Boril was unlucky, but the day was saved by Gene, kindly, without any prompting, gave him one of his prizes (a big chocolate bunny). I was so proud of Gene; I awarded him his yellow values badge for showing kindness and empathy spontaneously.



Olivia dug deep into the bucket, but no winning tickets, luckily there was a prize waiting in the classroom!



Freddie experienced a huge sense of coincidence when he won the chocolate he had donated!



The weather was not kind to us for our Easter Bunny hunts but the children loved searching for bunnies and their sweet treats at the end of the day; thank you again to the PTA for arranging such a fun activity and to all of you for supporting the event with your donations.

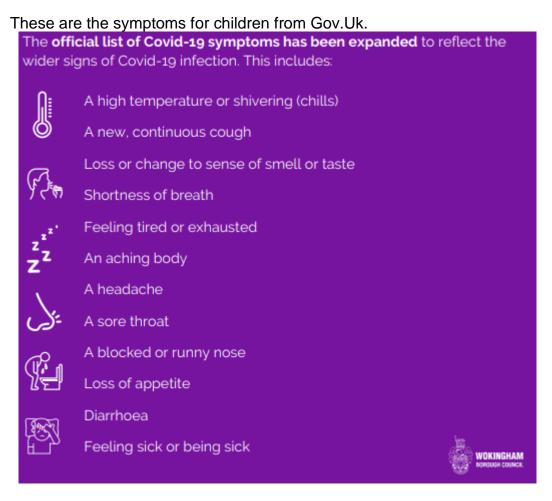
## The Princess Trust

Aria in Larch Class has made the huge sacrifice of donating her hair to The Princess Trust; we are all so very proud of her and she has received her yellow values badge for making such a kind, generous and altruistic gesture that will help a poorly child feel much happier and less anxious during their treatment. Aria's hair is so beautiful and it will make a wonderful wig. Her lovely new bob really suits her too. If you would like to donate to The Princess Trust you can follow this link: <u>https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk</u>



## **Covid 19 Update**

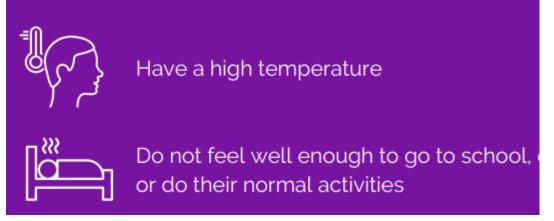
I sent out the most recent information on Covid 19 yesterday, which will hopefully enable you to make the correct decisions if your child presents with any symptoms on our return; it is going to be very difficult for us to manage the level of infection as we move forward, so we will really appreciate you keeping your children at home if they are unwell. We are aware that at the moment there of 4.9 million cases of Covid 19 in the UK and possibly many more that have not been diagnosed due to the cessation of testing.



# What to do if your child has symptoms

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and have either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities



They can come back to school when they feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can come to school.

Please encourage your child to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and to wash their hands after using or throwing away tissues.

Most children who are unwell will recover in a few days with rest and plenty of fluids.

There is guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms and other respiratory infections on GOV.UK.

This is the most up to date information, received today 7th April 2022 <u>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-</u> <u>children/?utm\_source=07%20April%202022%20C19&utm\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C1</u> <u>9&utm\_campaign=DfE%20C19</u>

## **Vaccination Information**

# Covid-19 vaccination for children and young people

The Covid-19 vaccine will reduce the chance of your child suffering from Covid-19 disease. Everyone over the age of 5 is now eligible for the vaccine.

#### Five to 11-year-olds

All children aged five to 11 are now being offered vaccination against Covid-19.

The Pfizer vaccine is being used, and each vaccine is a third of the dose of vaccine that is given to older children and adults.

The NHS wants to support you to make an informed choice with more information available here: <u>Covid: A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u>

You can now can book an appointment via the <u>National Booking</u> <u>Service</u> or by calling 119 for dedicated children's clinics, including at locations such as Broad Street Mall, Reading.

## **Parent Consultations**

All teachers have reported that our parent consultations have been very positive and many of you have been able to attend. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher please make an appointment on our return to school as we hope for 100% attendance. It is very important for you to learn how well your child is doing in school, to discuss next steps and expectations and of course attendance. It was lovely to catch up with so many parents today.

## **Attendance in School**

All children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell or have an agreed authorised leave of absence. As a school we are judged on our attendance levels, and we have very good attendance at school. We are looking at the attendance percentages of all children in school and making local and national comparisons. If a child's attendance falls below 90%, they are considered to be a persistent absentee. We are duty

bound to investigate why a child is absent from school for more than 5% of the expected number of days they should be in school. Your child's teacher will have spoken to you about attendance in your consultation with them.

It has been a very difficult two years and any absence recorded for Covid is not taken into consideration when we calculate the percentage of absences.

All our children have already had a very disjointed start to their education and this will have impacted on their attainment and progress. We are working very hard to close any gaps that our children have in their learning journeys; if they have extensive absences, it will make these gaps much harder to close.

Please can you ensure that as long as your child is not unwell, that they come to school every day. Please do not book holidays in term time as I am not able to authorise any holidays in term time.

## The Circus is coming to Town!





## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 12 - 5pm

#### Hi Everyone

Hawthorns PTA are hosting something incredibly exciting. We are thrilled to be holding a live circus event! Happy's Circus is a family friendly, non-animal spectacle that should not be missed!



The circus is coming to town! Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 12-5pm



Tickets are £10 available from <a href="http://www.pta-events.co.uk/hawthornsptg">www.pta-events.co.uk/hawthornsptg</a>

The big top opens at 1.30, before the show starts at 2pm, There are 2 × 45 minutes and an interval in the middle, followed by photo ops with the performers! There will be food, drink and a few stalls too!

We'd love to welcome people from other local schools too 🤢

Many thanks for everyone's support and we look forward to seeing you on the 8th.

Clare Gunby, Chair - Hawthorns PTA



## **Easter Holiday Treasure Hunt**

Here is a Treasure Hunt I have made, just for fun, perhaps if you are looking for a fun day with no expense, you could go on a treasure hunt to see how many of these things you can find. It doesn't have to be done all on one day either. I thought it might be a little bit of a challenge for all the family!



And finally...

Happy Easter Holidays/Spring Break everyone. I hope you have time to rest and relax as families and that you can enjoy getting out and about with family and friends for the first Spring in two years.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April for the start of our Summer Term. Keep safe and well.

## Judy Wheeler: Headteacher