

Dear Walter Families,

This has been a very cold and frosty week; the children were so excited to see the frozen spider webs all over the fences and gates! Please make sure that your children have hats, gloves and warm coats as they play outside a lot. Some of our lessons take place outside too; this week the Year One children have been learning how to tell the time and were outside playing "What time is it Mr Wolf?". If you need help providing these items, please contact me on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk in complete confidence.

Census Day

Census Day was as successful as we could have hoped; we had more children absent from school than usual due to Covid 19 and therefore fewer children in school to have lunch BUT 227 school lunches were eaten which is great so thank you every one for your support.

Spring Term Menu 2022

I have been speaking with a parent who is concerned that her child does not enjoy the spicy options on the menu, such as the enchiladas, fajitas and vegetable curry. It would be very useful to know how many other children feel the same, as we are going to make some changes so that the children eat a meal they enjoy every day. Please complete this survey if you have time https://forms.office.com/r/bqS1j5VsAn



Stars of the Week

This week we have been focussing on Respect and Tolerance and I am delighted to say that all our stars this week always demonstrate these values. This week we are celebrating stars who have exceeding our expectations in Literacy. Well done all of you.



And here are a few samples of the amazing work that has been happening in our classrooms! The starfish are made of Cheerios! Mrs Althorp commented that she didn't ever expect to say "Please don't eat the display!"





Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

All schools in Wokingham are experiencing increased numbers of children and staff testing positive for Covid 19. We have cases in most classes now and we have a number of staff members off every day. Please be vigilant. Do not send your child to school if they are poorly. If there is a positive case of Covid 19 in the household, or if your child has had close contact with a positive case (within 48 hours) please test daily for 7 days. Thank you.

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be <u>reported to NHS Test and Trace</u>. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Tuesday 1st February is Chinese New Year we will be celebrating all week! It is the Year of the Tiger!



What year were you born in?



Friday 4th February is NSPCC Number day; we did this last year too and it was great fun and we raised £300. The staff and children can come to school in a number themed outfit, it could be an all over suit or just a badge or hat and make a donation (The NSPCC recommend £2 per person, but any amount is gratefully received) to help children who need support and help from abuse: Speak Out Stay Safe<u>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/events-fundraising/social-special-events/number-day/</u>

You do not need to buy anything special; a football shirt usually has a number on it, or you wear a birthday badge. Anything with a number will be great.

Mental Health Week begins on 7th February 2022. Ms Rees will be organising a week of activities to promote and foster good Mental Health including Superhero Mindfulness. Friday 11th February will be Dress to Express Day; we would like the children (and staff) to come to school in an outfit that tells us something about who they are! They could wear

their favourite colour, their favourite clothes, a colour to reflect how they feel





We will not be collecting money for Place2Be BUT we would very much welcome a contribution of £2.25 per child towards the cost of the Mindfulness training if you are able to.

School Council Elections will take place in the week beginning **Monday 14th February 2022**.

Friday 18th March is Red Nose Day for Comic Relief, we are hoping to sell red noses from school; more information will follow soon BUT we are hoping to have a virtual talent show!

Wednesday 6th April 2022 will be our Spring Parent Consultations evening from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Friday 8th April 2022 our school will be closed for lessons and open for Parent Consultations; 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. We will have a creche facility for children to attend when their parents are meeting with teachers.

Food Vouchers, Fuel Vouchers and Walter's Pantry

It has been reported that inflation is higher than it has been for more than 10 years; this is partly due to the rising costs of fuel and energy impacting on the cost of food production and distribution. The impact is that people on low incomes are going to be detrimentally impacted. Please remember that we are here to help; Walter's Pantry is fully stocked with food for breakfasts and dinners (teas). Mrs Janes can provide food bank and fuel vouchers. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you provided what your children need to be properly looked after in these most challenging times. All requests and conversations will be strictly confidential.

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 provided 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 <u>https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/</u>

And Finally,

Walter has chewed the nose off his toy Walter dog; it reminded me of a joke. Person 1: My dog has no nose! Person 2: How does he smell? Person 1: Terrible!!!!!!



Keep safe and well.

Judy Wheeler: Headteacher

Walter Infant School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022-2023

4 th February	NSPCC Number Day
7 th February	Mental Health Week
11 th February	Superhero Mindfulness Dress to Express Day
21 st -25 th February	Half Term
18 th March	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief
6 th April	Spring Parent Consultations
7 th April	End of Term (finishing 1 hour early)
8 th April	Spring Parent Consultations

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

There will be other exciting events that are not yet in the diary. We will let you know dates as soon as we can.