



Walter Infant School and Nursery

Friday Flyer

Dear Walter Families,

Well-being Award for Schools



Mrs Bell has been leading our school towards attaining the Wellbeing Award for Schools all year and yesterday we had our final assessment including a visit from the verifier Joanna Feast, who is a highly renowned expert in wellbeing for schools. Ms Feast has visited 991 schools over the last 25 years, and said that we were the best school she has ever been to! She asked us to share our report with our community.

Commentary on the evidence provided:

All evidence is in place and shows the work that the school has committed to since starting the award process. The evidence for each KPI is relevant, well explained and cross-referenced, showing how much the school provides to promote and protect mental health and emotional wellbeing for all, and how they view connections in provision across the school.

during verification:

There were so many strengths to identify during the verification visit. The main highlights are:

The consistency of message from all stakeholders, particularly with the school's five values. Children and adults alike can talk about the values and offer relevant examples of each with authenticity and engagement. The school's focus on values that are intrinsically linked to emotional wellbeing and mental health is notable.

Clear, decisive and bold direction from the leadership team, who display a genuine and thorough understanding of the role of wellbeing in school and how this relates to younger children; their commitment to authentic consultation of the whole-school community has meant that any changes that have been implemented are relevant and timely. Their efforts ensure that staff workload is less burdensome, and that any changes for the benefit of wellbeing have value and impact, and are more streamlined. The focus on humanity is evident and praiseworthy.

The school started from a very high level of provision and participating in the award process empowered the WAS lead to make further, often more subtle improvements with a nod to future planning throughout.

The school does as much as possible to meet the needs of all children, parents/carers and staff in order for everyone to feel like they can thrive; staff understanding of children's development and their needs is paramount to all provision of wellbeing measures. Children evidently feel safe and ready to learn. When they don't feel ready to learn or when they feel uneasy, they know how to employ the strategies and tools that they have been taught, and where to find help.

The array of consistent support that is available to the children and their families is very impressive.

Walter the school dog plays a crucial role in the school's wellbeing journey and it was an honour to be greeted by him so affectionately!

Impact:

The most significant impact of working towards the Award has been on consolidation. There were so many excellent measures in place before starting the award process, and the WAS process has enabled the school to focus on what was having an impact, and to ensure everyone understand *why* the focus on wellbeing is so crucial.

Children feel that the adults around them in school work hard to support them in a variety of ways and they highlight easily all the ways that the staff care for them; they feel that they are heard and seen, and they recognise that adults can help them find appropriate resolutions to their problems or concerns. Children state that they know where to go for help if they need it, and the adults are happy to help.

The training that all staff have received on therapeutic thinking has made a considerable difference to everyone in school: staff feel more at ease with understanding that behaviour is communication and children feel that they are really cared about. Incidents of reported behaviour-related incidents have reduced significantly as a result.

Support for families is wide-ranging and needs-led. This has meant that wellbeing in all its manifestations is viewed as a fundamental part of school life as it has such an impact on children's abilities to attend, learn and thrive. The wellbeing and mental health 'workload' is now divided more evenly among staff members, so the onus isn't on just one person. Governors understand the need to support and challenge staff in equal measure.

Leadership of the school is bold and consistent so that everyone in school is aware of (and understands the impact of) appropriate language choices and developmental expectations. This sense of consistency and tying together has been especially crucial in the past few years and the leadership team, including governors, is mindful about how this needs to be continued in the longer term.

Overall, the award process has encouraged the school to consolidate what they already do and notice the gaps and how to fill them (and by whom they can be filled). The school's culture has

changed over time for the better and staff have noticed and benefitted from these insightful and sensible changes that put children at the centre – but have staff needs aligned too.

Key points:

There is a high degree of trust and value placed in the staff, which enables them to feel that they are making a really positive contribution as people and professionals, and that they have autonomy and agency: this has a direct effect on their sense of wellbeing and their ability to teach and support children that is relevant to their roles.

The regard demonstrated to children and their families helps to support a strong sense of wellbeing in the school. In turn, this reaps benefits for the staff, who enjoy good relationships with children and their families, as well as with external agencies.

The school culture has been strengthened by the inclusion of wellbeing at every point in the school day – and it is built into all processes, so that it can't be undone easily.

The leadership team has a thoughtful understanding of what true wellbeing looks like in a school and where responsibilities lie. This ties in with the school's commitment to understanding and responding appropriately to children's developmental needs.

Areas for development:

- Bring the website up to date and streamline content.
- Share your successes with the whole school community.
- Consider passing on your expertise more widely.

Verifier recommendation:

I am truly delighted to recommend that Walter Infant School and Nursery receives the Wellbeing Award for Schools. Many congratulations on the very impressive work that you have put in place for staff, families and children. Well done for all your efforts, consistency and perseverance. It was a real pleasure to visit and I look forward to hearing about your next steps.

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Bell in enabling us to attain this prestigious award, in recognition of all the amazing work and excellent good practice that is happening in our school all the time, every day! I would also like to thank every member of the staff team, the governing body and of course all the children for making our school the **BEST!**

**Walter Infant School and Nursery
Foundation Stage 2 Reports**

We are delighted to provide a detailed end of year report for all our Foundation Stage 2 children; we are required to offer an appointment to parents and carers for end of Foundation reports, if you would like to make an appointment to discuss your child's report please contact our admin team on admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk. Key Stage One children will receive their school reports on Thursday 18th July 2024 at the end of the school day.

There's a Sunflower in My Supper

The Year Two production "There's a Sunflower in my Supper!" was absolutely superb. The children had worked so hard to learn the songs, the actions, their lines, the very funny jokes and when to come on and go off stage. I could not have felt

prouder. Thank you for coming along to watch! Here is a quote, from one of the online reviews!

"I just want to say how much I enjoyed the year two show this week! All the children were wonderful and it is clear that a lot of work had gone into putting it all together. The props, in particular, were amazing! It was also really lovely to see the designs on the show leaflet! My son and I had been practising the songs at home so I enjoyed singing along with the children! It was particularly appreciated that there was more than one showing, and that extra tickets were opened up. This meant that I could come twice and bring a family member the second time. 😊 Please could you pass on my thanks (and congratulations!) to all the staff involved..."



I would like to say well done and a huge thank you to all the Year Two Team, led by Mrs McDonough, who did a brilliant job of producing the play, making the props and supporting the children.

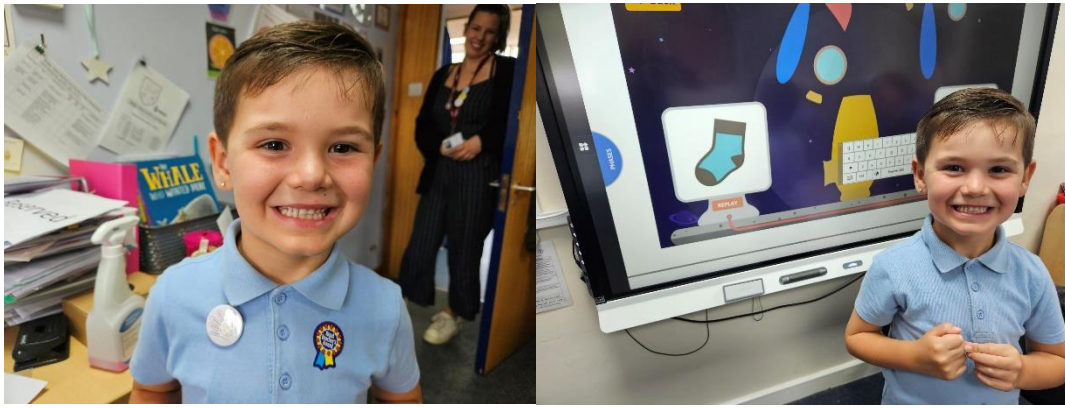


Walter Values

We have awarded so many Values Badges this month; here are Beau and Prajan, who always show their values every day. Well done.



Ronnie Ross has been working so hard on his phonics and today he surprised us all by blending all the sounds he needed to make words! Well done Ronnie Ross!



Madeline has written a whole book, all by herself at home!



The Football Final (The Euros) ~ England versus Spain

We are all very excited about the Euros Final on Sunday and celebrated England's success at being in the final. If we win, we are very happy for the children to come to school in football clothing or red and white clothes to celebrate. We are also aware that the children may be going to bed later than usual, so we will authorise late arrivals until 9:30 am.

In assembly, Mrs Bell played "It's Coming Home" and we all had a jolly good singing, dancing and cheering moment!





Ahmed's Amazing Skyline!

Ahmed, in Year 2 painted the most amazing London Skyline in art; I am sure you recognise all the landmarks he has included. Well done Ahmed.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The children in Year 1 have learned about the life of Queen Elizabeth II; here are some truly beautiful portraits created by the children in Beech Class.



Mrs Adams-Price

Last Saturday, Mrs Adams-Price who works with our Oak Class, made the most incredible sacrifice, by donating her hair to make a wig for a poorly child. The hairdresser cut off 12 inches of her hair, which she has been growing for a long time. We all think this is an incredibly kind gesture and everyone in school is so proud of her!



Star of the Week

Here are the last stars of 2023 2024; shining examples for everyone, some of the children are representing their whole class, Maya, Isabella and Jude (please notice just how many values badges Jude has earned this year, he has been such a brilliant role model for other children)!



Proms in the Playground

Today we had the most wonderful festival for all the school to see; our first ever Proms in the Playground, organised by Miss Veale and a wonderful opportunity to showcase our music curriculum. There were so many fabulous songs, the children sang beautifully and the dances were so much fun to watch. Well done every one. It was a fantastic event and certainly something to remember forever.





If you are struggling to provide all you need to at the moment; we can provide Food Vouchers for the Foodbank and fuel vouchers.

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.

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 nurture, 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 Hargreaves: Headteacher

Walter Infant School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

Tuesday 16th July	Come and meet my new teacher Foundation moving to Year 1 Year 1 moving to Year 2 3.30pm
Tuesday 16th July	Year 2 Leaver's Disco – 4.30pm-6.30pm
Friday 19th July	Year 2 Leavers Assemblies Pine 9.30am-10.00am Sycamore 10.15am-10.45am Willow 11.00am-11.30am

Please note that these dates are subject to change.