

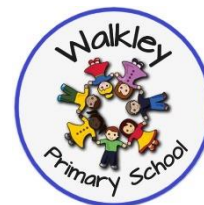
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*'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'*

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock

29.4.21

### **Coronavirus Update: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Dear Walkley Parents / Carers,

Hope everyone is keeping safe and well. We expect the Prime Minister to announce on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May that the roadmap out of lockdown is still on track. By Step 4, which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact. We are really hoping to enjoy all the facilities that school has to offer before we break up in July. We are extending some facilities for Year 6 pupils so that they can get to use them before they leave for secondary school in line with our COVID risk assessment.

You will notice from this update that the school is beginning to pick up pace as swimming, Forest School, dance and music lessons all return and school begins to feel a bit more normal.

#### **Our Sheffield Bear**

The Sheffield Bear has been named through a democratic voting system as 'Tennyson Ted'. The Bears of Sheffield will showcase 60 big and 100 little bear sculptures in both indoor and outdoor locations and will raise vital funds to transform the Cancer and Leukaemia ward at Sheffield Children's Hospital. Tennyson Ted will return to us where we intend to build a 'Bear Garden' for the pupils, based near to the Forest School and the old Tennyson site.

#### **Swimming**

Swimming for Y4 Charlies begins Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. You should have received an email with details.

#### **Amy Dazzle Dance**

Amy returns to Walkley to work with Seashells, Storm Whales, Anansi and Potters on Monday afternoons, whilst Caterpillars, Giants, Gruffalos and Kensuke enjoy dance on Thursdays. Pupils should come to school in PE kit on their dance day. All lessons will be outside apart from Y6 who will be allowed to work in small groups in the Dance Studio.

#### **Eid Celebrations**

We will be celebrating Eid in school on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The day will be organised by the Pastoral Team and more details will follow shortly.

#### **Percussion lessons**

Heather Burge from Sheffield Music Hub begins to deliver percussion lessons to Year 2 pupils and Year 4 pupils on Thursdays from 29<sup>th</sup> April. All has been risk assessed against DFE, Learn Sheffield and Public Health guidance.

#### **Forest School**

Forest school reopens on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May beginning with Aslans as the first class to enjoy their 3 days. The timetable was included in the [Summer Term 1 Newsletter](#) which was emailed to parents last Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Breakfast Club**

As you know pre- lockdown March 2020, we offered a very popular free Breakfast Club to pupils offering a choice of hot and cold breakfasts and this was attended by nearly 100 pupils. Demand for Breakfast Club indicates that these numbers would rise when re-opened and under the present guidance we **expect up to 130 pupils** to use this facility. We are presently adhering to the DFE/Sheffield City Council and Public Health risk assessment guidance which states:

‘If you normally run sessions indoors, you should consider whether you can run them safely outside instead, as the risk of transmission is lower outdoors.

To reduce the risk of transmission, you should also aim to minimise mixing between children as far as possible. This can be achieved by keeping children in consistent groups or ‘bubbles’. Therefore, where the activity is taking place indoors, you should first consider whether children can be kept in the same bubble as they are in during the school day in order to minimise mixing between different children.

Where it is not possible to group children in the same bubble as they are in during the school day, you should keep them in small groups of no more than 15 children and at least one staff member; and where possible, with the same children each time they attend. Further steps that can be taken to minimise the risk of mixing between children would include keeping children from the same school together, or working with parents and carers to keep siblings from the same household together’.

**We are really hoping to reopen in some form during Summer Term 2 when the guidance alters.**

### **After School Club**

The Walkley After School Club is run by a private company and usually caters for between 10 – 20 pupils. They are presently thinking about opening in September, but again discussions will begin after May 17<sup>th</sup> to explore the possibility of a Summer Term 2 opening.

We are as confident as we can be that both Breakfast Club and After School Club will be open from the beginning of September 2021, if not before.

### **Google Classroom – Our New Online Learning Platform, for Years 1 - 6**

In the event that the school is forced to close a bubble or when children are unable to attend school due to the need to self-isolate, Google Classroom will be the way we send out work/activities for the children to complete at home.

Google Classroom offers the opportunity for paperless communication between teachers, parents and pupils. We have created pupil accounts for all pupils and class teachers have been busy getting to grips with the platform to post this week’s home learning (assignments) within their Google classroom which you can access and have a go at this weekend. More information will be sent to you on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April including your child’s personal account login details and a Parent guide ‘How to use Google Classroom’.

Val Sian and the Walkley Team.