

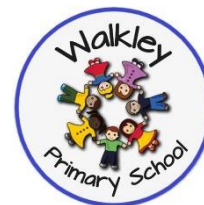
Walkley Primary School
Burnaby Crescent
Sheffield S6 2RZ

Tel: 0114 2340550

Fax: 0114 2310553

Email: enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.walkley.sheffield.sch.uk>



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

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock

23.11.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID Update: Information for parents:

What an unbelievably challenging term this has been, made all the more difficult as a 2 site school with children and parents having an exciting time trying to get several children into class punctually at your allotted time! Hopefully, our school, albeit with some obvious changes for pupils and parents, will appear to have been relatively problem free with the return of our happy pupils who have surprised us all by their engagement in learning and the amount of progress they have made since their return in September.

Operationally, it has been a logistical nightmare and I feel that I should share the reality of what this has meant over the last few months and why we are unable to plan for major adaptations in the new Year. The strategies that were so carefully planned and adapted this year have ensured minimal disruption to the education of our pupils.

2 nd September to present day	
Number of pupils self isolating	131
Number of staff self isolating	20
Bubble closures	1 (3 days)
Positive COVID	3
Bubble closures in other schools impacting on our staff in their role as parents	8
COVID Cost to school	£15,000

Pupils

They seem happy and have engaged with all the new regulations put in place with an acceptance and a maturity beyond their years. They seem to take it in their stride with positivity and a happiness to be back with their classmates. Although they cannot play with all of their friends who maybe in another bubble, they appreciate the opportunity to play and relax with other children in their group.

Staff

Our amazing staff are going through some unprecedented times. As a very close knit friendly and supportive team the fact is that we haven't met together since March. Staff working in Burnaby building and those in Tennyson are separated to reinforce the bubble policy within school and so staff cannot see each other. The staff no longer go in the staffroom for a break; instead the requirements of the bubble means they remain with their class all day doing every playtime and lunchtime duty without respite. Even those staff who work

in the same building bubble rarely see each other, such is the requirement of the school to reduce transmission at all costs. They have been superb, many choosing to not socialise or see family outside school hours before lockdown, such is the testament to safety and a commitment to Walkley Primary School. They are incredible.

Parents

Overwhelmed by your support and praise, parents/carers have also had to make sacrifices especially around drop off and pick up times and our inability to offer wrap around care due to the bubbles. We thank you for your patience and working with us to ensure the safety of our community. We are considering wrap around care, but a lot is dependent on the maintaining of bubbles and the safety of children and staff as we learn about the challenges of our new environment to risk transmission.

Learn Sheffield have asked our school to reinforce key messages to parents on their behalf

- Please remind all parents, carers and pupils that if anyone has COVID symptoms, they must self-isolate, get a test and return home straight after the test. The household should self- isolate and children and young people should not come into school. This follows an increasing number of pupils who are coming into school when they are awaiting a test result themselves or have family members whom they live with awaiting test results. (We would like to thank Walkley parents for being so sensible in using this approach thus far).
- Please remind parents/carers (particularly those in primary settings) that the ‘class bubbles’ **do not** mean that children and young people can continue to meet up outside of school. Play dates and sleep overs with children from the same friendship groups or school classes should not be taking place. The bubbles in school are to support contact tracing and to minimise risk of virus transmission. Outside of school pupils should not be mixing. This follows the current national restrictions that are currently in place.

Our new school

We are so looking forward to moving onto our new site with all its new facilities. The staff are being taken over in their ‘staff’ bubbles to have a look at what the school looks like internally, so that they can shape their plans for their new class bases on our return in January. Disappointingly, the current COVID restrictions mean that new school will not be able to function in its full capacity, as it will still be necessary for bubbles to be in place. At the moment we are still considering the use of the dining hall, dance studio, art/design/science studio as these include multi bubble use. However, we are already planning operationally for our immediate return to the new school, that we will share parents at the end of December. Plans include:

- Adaptation of drop and pick up times.
- Procedures for safe lining up and dropping off.
- Safe Lunchtimes
- Safe playtimes
- Pupil and staff movement around the building
- Accessible provision for pupils
- Fire safety procedures
- Ventilation and heating
- First Aid
- Site Management

Friends of Walkley and their Christmas Plans

Friends of Walkley Primary School includes parents, friends and staff of Walkley Primary School and is open to anyone. It is run by a group of parents who coordinate meetings, emails and events. Over the past few years they have organised and supported school events such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs, the Musical Extravaganza and Carols in the Playground. Friends of Walkley aim to help raise funds for school and also to support the Walkley School community.

Crowd funder 'Virtual' Christmas Fair

Following the amazing success of so many families' fundraising efforts in the Summer via the 'Virtual Summer Fair' we'd like to invite you to join us in raising more money for two specific items needed for the new school which will benefit our children.

- 1) Mirrors for the Dance studio - £1500
- 2) An Eco toilet for forest school - £2000

How can you help?

If you or your family would like to contribute to one of these items for school the link is below! Please share with anyone you think could be interested in contributing. You could donate what you'd spend at the fair normally, get sponsored for an activity, or simply donate an amount of our choice. Of course this has been a difficult year for many people so there is obviously no obligation here. There is also no minimum amount.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/walkley-primary-school-christmas-fair>

The link will be active until 12th January.

Jar Tombola

One of the most popular stalls at the fair is the jar tombola. We'd like to contribute a little Christmas magic to the wonderful work the teachers are doing at school with a jar tombola for every class.

For those new to school this is when jars filled with treats are labelled with raffle tickets, and students get a ticket. For this one every child will win a jar and can have a go for free!

How can you help?

If you can, please fill a clean empty jar with some treats! Ideas you could include:

Wrapped sweets/mini chocolates

Stickers

Small toys - marbles, figures, puzzles

Craft items, crayons,

There can be a Christmas theme or not, it's up to you.

Put the lid on the jar - or cover the top with material/thick paper.

Please bring these to school by Wednesday and place in the box which will be outside every classroom.

You can do as many jars as you like; we'd like all children to get one.

Christmas Raffle: £1 per 5 tickets

The annual Christmas Hamper Raffle will be happening as usual, with the hampers kindly provided by the school staff. Tickets can be purchased in 2 ways;

- Money to be placed in an envelope stating your name, class and amount of money inside. There is a tray on entrance to each class where the envelopes can be placed. Your raffle tickets will be placed in an envelope and given to your child.
- Alternatively, you can pay through <https://www.sims-pay.co.uk/home>. You will receive your raffle tickets through your child.

Many thanks for all your support,
Friends of Walkley

Virtual Christmas Performances

Although the usual festivities and celebrations cannot take place this year, rehearsals for the EYFS, KS1 and KS2 performances are well underway. You will have a wonderful DVD to watch and share over the festive period to entertain you as many times as you wish! When filming ceases, and the final edit has taken place, you will be informed how you can collect a copy (or two) of these priceless virtual performances.

Diary Dates (More information to follow)

Wednesday 2 nd December	Bubble Christmas Party Day
Wednesday 9 th December	Bubble Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10 th December	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 17 th Dec at 3.15 p.m.	Last day for pupils

Kind regards

Val Sian