

# Smiths GHOUL REPORT

OCTOBER 2022  
ISSUE 7

## REPRESENTING EVERY VOICE THROUGH THE CURRICULUM

*Walker School incorporates and represents each child through their inclusive curriculum.*

## ONE DEGREE OPENS NEW SITE

*One Degree Academy hits the ground running with their new Chase Farm site.*

THE CLOSE-  
KNIT COMMUNITY  
OF GOFFS OAK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# THIS IS HALLOWEEN

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*Dedicated to our incredible partnering schools. Your support throughout the years is invaluable and the relationship we have built is even stronger. We look forward to continuing to support your community of hard-working and diverse students for years to come.*



# Full marks for school uniform.

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*All about One Degree Academy's site opening event.*

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Pumpkin Picking ..... 10-11  
*We took some lucky Smiths Superstars pumpkin picking and created some incredible memories!*









The background of the page is a photograph of a school hallway. A woman with long brown hair is in the foreground, looking down. Behind her, several children in purple school uniforms are visible. The hallway has grey walls with posters and a door in the background.

## One Degree Academy Opens New Site

We were grateful to be invited to One Degree Academy's new site opening on 8th October. Attended by stakeholders and parents in the school community, the new building was filled with the buzz around the endless opportunities the new building had to offer.

Comprising well-lit classrooms, community dining halls, and notice boards demonstrating the hard work of the school's students, the day was a celebration of a long journey to achieving better futures for Enfield's children. One Degree Academy, with its outstanding reputation, continues to STRIVE for success in every moment.





# Goffs Oak Primary School

We were fortunate to be invited to meet with Goffs Oak Primary School, more specifically with the Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Hart and the Pastoral and Mental Health Lead Mrs Kaal. A close-knit community established over 40 years ago, the school now educates over 240 students and has 50 members of staff. "The community spirit is felt from the moment you walk in the door; the school is somewhere you want to be no matter what's happening outside of it" Mrs Kaal told us. Mrs Hart agreed with this and said this was partly due to the open-door policy of the management team which means parents feel comfortable and confident.

The inclusion of parents in the school's community is essential to the makeup of Goffs Oak. The school hold, amongst other events, parent lessons, coffee mornings, and even invite parents to get involved with theme weeks. This, of course, is due to the immense involvement of the Goffs Oak Parent Teacher Association. Mrs Hart, a member of the PTA herself, told us that the PTA is made up of "core parents who rally the troops" inside and outside of the school. Even though the school is in an affluent area, Mrs Hart emphasised that she wants to make every parent feel comfortable asking for help and the inclusion of the PTA has helped to achieve this.

In particular, Mrs Kaal spoke about the stigma that surrounds second-hand uniforms. She told us that, to counteract this, the school were working to remove this stigma from a young age. "Even with Halloween and Christmas," Mrs Hart added, "we encourage people to drop off old costumes". Beyond this, the work to maintain and approve social and emotional wellbeing has led Goffs Oak Primary School to be

the first school in Hertfordshire to be given a kite mark for social and emotional wellbeing support. This award was achieved from 18 months of work covering 11 different areas and a huge consortium of people. Being awarded before the COVID-19 pandemic, the school felt they had everything in place prior to support children and parents during this disruptive time. "Of course, there are always pockets to be improved upon," Mrs Kaal added due to the changing landscape of the modern world.

Wellbeing is central to the curriculum - because of this, the school were invited to a Hertfordshire conference to inspire other schools to do the same. The school continues to build on their wellbeing strategy, integrating wellbeing ambassadors and champions. Greatly received by students, the programmes are high profile as children value the importance of wellbeing.

Mrs Kaal continued: "the foundation of the school is that children have ideas and come to us with them". Both staff members emphasised to us that children are learning to develop leadership skills from an early age at Goffs Oak Primary School. After the pandemic, children struggled to know their place in the classroom and "had lost themselves as learners," Mrs Kaal added. It was important that, on welcoming children back into the school, the first week focused on helping them re-integrate into the school environment. The week was about students remembering who they are, what they like, what school is, and what they have come from post-pandemic. From this, wellbeing is considered a core part of learning.

Mindfulness has been integrated into the school's daily

routine to help build invaluable relationships with students. Mrs Kaal added that "the relationship that I have with the rest of my staff has allowed me to deliver nurture trainings to teaching assistants around the school". This has meant that these teaching assistants have been working with teachers to identify pockets in wellbeing provision, freeing up time to be spent with children with more complex needs.

Over the next year, the school hope to improve their confidence with love and support from their community. Part of their future plans are to plant a tree from the queen's garden gifted by the late Queen Elizabeth II upon one student winning a borough art competition for the Jubilee. The school consistently puts itself out there to showcase their hard work and the successes of students. "It's about showing the children that what they do stands out," Mrs Hart said. The achievement of one student has led to the school having a monumental piece of history. "We always remind children that their efforts and enthusiasm are recognised," Mrs Hart added.

Furthermore, Mrs Kaal hopes to take the wellbeing ambassadors and champions "beyond the walls of the school" to have a positive impact on the wider community. "We instil in children that it's important to look after the world that we live in," she added.

On reflection, it is clear that each individual child, parent, staff member, and stakeholder is proud to be a member of the Goffs Oak Primary School community. The school continue to push boundaries, build on their inclusive environment, and lead their school with pride and empathy.






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# Goffs Oak Primary School





# Walker Primary School

Walker School, which opened in 1953, celebrates its 70th anniversary in September 2023. Originally a one-form entry, after the war the school rapidly expanded to a two-form entry school. The school's history extends through generations of families that attended the school past and present. Currently, the school comprises 420 students and 54 staff members. "The thing that people say about Walker," the headteacher Ms Taylor began, "is they use the word community. This has led us to explore the sense of belonging. Some people have been part of Walker for a significant part of their lives so have a sense of belonging, and others who have been here a short amount

of time still feel they belong". The sense of community is compounded through its family comprising generations of pupils and stakeholders. "Every year we take the year 5s to our memorial garden to pay tribute to the unfortunate passing of a previous pupil. Students gather to celebrate her birthday and the anniversary of her death as a mark of respect. Her presence is still felt throughout the school as if she had never left. When we built our new site, we preserved the garden with a deep sense of respect and kindness". Throughout the curriculum, staff members spread the message that when things get tough, they are there to talk to students. "Our school is unique

because of its sense of belonging which becomes more and more powerful the more we explore it. No matter what year our students are in, everyone always comes together" Ms Taylor told us. From this, the school have created a budding system where KS2 apply for a buddy position and, on the election, gets a special yellow cap. The school also utilise their house systems and the individual identities of each house (Matterhorn, Everest, Snowdon and Eiger) to bring the school together. The school's houses, named after four mountains, are a long-standing part of Walker's history, which Ms Taylor is keen to uncover. Ms Taylor continued to tell us that "at least 1/3 of





Walker children go to selective schools and, unfortunately, some struggle with the pressure of this with mental health. The school intervene early, recognising that children - especially boys - often struggle to share their worries and feelings.

"It's not about one person," Ms Taylor told us, passionate about the notion that to create the change we must act together, "we work with MyMe and part of this trust fund one day of Place2Be at the school". The school invests in staff development to allow them to know every child's quirks, worries, upsets and triggers. Using the zones of regulation, the school has created ways for children who do not feel comfortable talking about their

feelings to share how they feel. "Children may not know they are frustrated, but they recognise the physicality," Ms Taylor explained.

Ms Taylor has lots of hopes and aspirations for the school. Her focus is on sustaining the strengths of Walker by encompassing the entire community. Believing that "everyone should have a voice and be represented in the curriculum," Ms Taylor spoke about how diverse the school's demographic is with mixed heritage, Albanian and Turkish families and a growing number of adopted children. "With that comes same-sex families, so we feel everyone should feel included and included in every aspect of the curriculum through tangible, explicit inclusion".

"We have just presented to Friends of Walker School as our children would like to establish an edible garden with a compost area for fruits," Ms Taylor said. As headteacher, Ms Taylor hopes to continue to grow the cross-generational school community as our multicultural world continues to develop. Through developing the community, the school feels "pride when we wear the Walker badge - we all belong together by the badge". By ensuring equal relationships, acknowledging the richness of cultures, and growing together, Walker maintains and builds its community one day at a time.



## Cosy Customers

Our Autumn range is now available to shop on our website now. Shop scarves, hats, and coats to keep yourself cosy and warm in the colder weather.





## Pumpkin Picking

At the start of this month, we took four lucky Smiths Superstars pumpkin picking in St Albans. Picking every colour imaginable from baby pumpkins to big pumpkins in the sun, we took some lovely pictures to commemorate the Autumn season.

Will you be carving pumpkins this season? Make sure to share your pumpkin creations with us on social media @smithsschoolwear!





# Smiths

*get in touch*



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