



Dear parents and carers,

It has been such a busy half term - culminating in the Christmas activities of the last two weeks - including the Christmas Fair last night - with many children visiting Santa in the Grotto. A huge thank you must go to our enthusiastic P.T.A. for giving their time so generously, enabling funds to be raised to support the school.

This half term there have been some wonderful learning experiences supporting the curriculum outside the classroom as you will see from the newsletter. We have also continued to be very involved in the local community. A huge thank you must go to the staff for organising the wealth of opportunities which have been available.

At the end of this term we sadly say goodbye to Ms Nicky Shakespeare who is taking early retirement. She has worked in our ASD provision for many years, but has actually worked at the school for 21 years. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement and thank her for the tremendous commitment and dedication which she has shown to the school.

### **Attendance - 'We Can't Teach an Empty Chair!'**

School attendance is currently 93.67% and continues to be an area for focus as it is nearly 3%

below the National Expectation and below the other primary schools in our Multi-Academy Trust partnership.

Whilst 90% sounds like a really good percentage when we think of assessments in attendance terms it actually means that the child is missing the equivalent of three hours of learning every week!

Please follow this link to re-familiarise yourselves with the Parent Attendance & Punctuality Guide , so that you are clear on our tiered procedures depending on your child's attendance.  
[Attendance | Waterloo Primary School](#)

**Attendance & Punctuality Guide**

The national attendance expectation is 96.5%

Doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am

Children arriving after this time will be marked as late and **MUST** be signed in by a parent at the main office. This is a safeguarding requirement.

**96.5%+ attendance**

- Parent must contact the school by 9:15am if child is absent
- School will contact parents if we haven't been advised of reason for absence and/or if absence is suspicious
- Home visit actioned if unable to make contact
- Calling card left
- Further visits to check and contact attempted daily from school /attendance worker
- Other contacts on records contacted if still no response

**90 - 96.49% attendance**

- As above +
- Daily and weekly monitoring by attendance team
- Supportive attendance meeting with Mrs Maciver (attendance lead) to discuss how to improve

**Below 90%**

- As above +
- Meeting with Mrs Evison (Early Help Pastoral & Attendance Worker) to agree an attendance support action plan
- 6 weekly review meetings of support action plans
- If no improvement then referral to Local Authority resulting in fine, town hall panel meeting, social care referral or referral to court by Local Authority

Pick up is 3:25pm

£80 per child/per parent/per week for first holiday  
£120 per child/per parent/per week for second holiday  
Court proceedings for the third holiday within a three year period  
Universal Expectations (all pupils)

Last half term there were 164 children with 100% attendance and this half term we also have 164 children with 100% for the half term. However, overall for the year so far we only have 78 children who have attended school every day out of over 420!

This term 1877.5 days (11,265 hours) of learning have been lost due to pupil absence. All of this significantly impacts not just on academic, but also social and emotional learning (anxiety, friendships etc.).

We appreciate that there have been several bugs going about that have prevented children from attending daily and we appreciate you following school procedures in terms of advising us of absences where they are unavoidable.

Research shows that regular routine and opportunities for learning directly impact upon academic performance, future prospects/life chances and social and emotional wellbeing, so please ensure that your children are in school daily, unless they are too unwell to attend.

Please ensure that your child/ren are reducing their risk of illness by ensuring that they:

1. Have a good sleep routine and get to bed at a sensible hour - free of technology
2. Eat healthily and drink plenty of fluids
3. Use a disposable tissue to catch germs if they have a cough or cold
4. Wash their hands thoroughly at regular intervals especially before eating and after using

the toilet



## CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



## BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



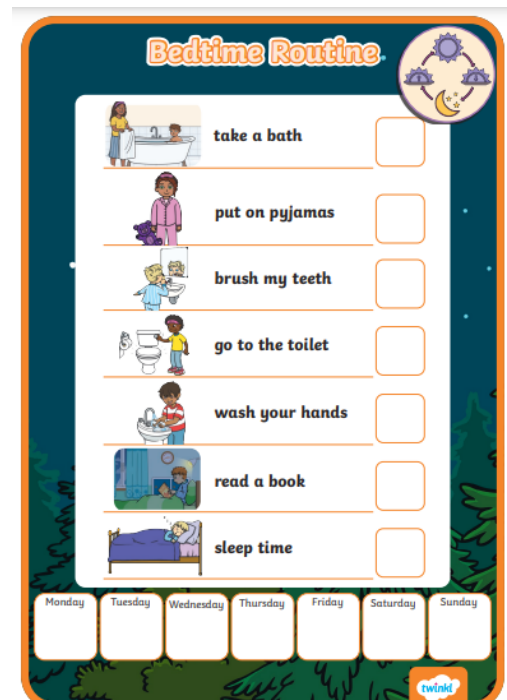
## KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



NHS

| Age                   | Hours Per 24 hour Period | Wake-up time | Bedtime                             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4 months to 12 months | 12-16 Hours              | 6:30 am      | 6:30 pm with 4 hours of naps        |
| 1 to 2 years of age   | 11-14 Hours              | 6:30 am      | 7:30 pm with 2-3 hours of naps      |
| 3 to 5 years of age   | 10-13 Hours              | 6:30 am      | 5:30-8:30pm with 0- 1 hours of naps |
| 6 to 12 years         | 9 -12 Hours              | 6:30 am      | 6:30 - 9:30 pm                      |
| 13 to 18 years        | 8 to 10 Hours            | 6:30 am      | 8:30- 10:30 pm                      |



Here's hoping that the children enjoy better health in the New Year and we are able to celebrate more children enjoying better attendance.

## Pastoral

Children continue to make us proud by showing care and concern for others and offering such a warm welcome to newcomers and visitors of which there have been many this term. It's always a pleasure when visitors come to school and say how friendly and welcoming our children are.

Please continue to reinforce our code of conduct with your child/ren (Listen, Value, Care, Try, Encourage, Respect and Forgive) and remind them that we are a telling school and no form of bullying or discrimination will be tolerated.

In assemblies and collective worship children have been introduced to The Children's University

and explored the following themes: Choose Respect - Anti-Bullying Week, Road Safety and Advent. Today our KS2 pupils also participated in a beautiful service at St. Faith's church led by Louie, the new vicar.

In our bucket fill challenge, children were set the target of 140 litres of tokens for the term. Sadly, we fell a little short (131 litres), but we have every confidence that with increased efforts from all pupils in our school family we will be able to achieve the target set for next half term (200 litres) and earn an hour off timetable.

### **Pupil Voice - school leaders**

Tanay & Erin (Our pupil leaders) continue to represent their peers brilliantly and prove an excellent support in our praise assemblies. Both also read beautifully to the congregation in the church service this morning.

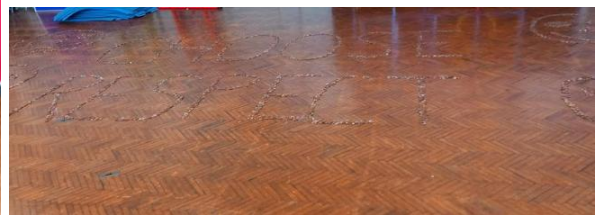
Eco Councillors from Y5 & 6 enjoyed an excellent trip to Mallam with Miss Parker, Mrs Baldwin and Mrs Williams and have come back having prepared their action plan for the year. Eco police have been checking the use of electricity around the school and are using their red and green cards to ensure that everyone recognises when they've left power on unnecessarily.



School Councillors have worked closely with Mrs Marshall to plan an excellent calendar of events and tasks for the year. This half term they led us in supporting a range of fundraising events including: Children in Need, a very successful preloved toy and clothes market, selling of hot chocolate and wearing our Christmas jumpers in support of Save the Children. The Council have undertaken surveys on children's wants for the development of the playground and will be liaising with Cathy from Playsound to work on the design, so watch this space for future updates!



Anti-bullying Ambassadors organised a range of activities during Anti-Bullying Week promoting a strong message that bullying will not be tolerated and that we should all #choose respect. All money raised went to support The Diana Award and The Anti-Bullying Alliance. (We look forward to sharing our themed verses to 'Livin' On A Prayer' soon).



The chair, vice- chair, minute taker and Mrs Maciver spent the day shortlisting from over 50 applications, interviewing 20 pupils before appointing 10 new ambassadors from a really strong field.

The ten new recruits went to training in Morecambe last week with Mrs Maciver and Mr Otten and have a number of actions planned for the forthcoming year to continue to support pupils, promote their message and demonstrate that they are worthy of earning their social action badges (community, well-being and inclusion).



## Spotlight on Early Years

It has been a busy half-term for all our Early Years Children, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved!

In Nursery this half term the children have been thinking about the 'Colours of the World' as their topic. They have enjoyed exploring colour mixing and experimenting with different colours, predicting what would happen if they mixed them.

The children enjoyed a Christmas Stay and Play where their families were invited to hear them sing a few Christmas songs and then complete a range of Christmas activities. The children loved sharing their play and learning with their families and were able to demonstrate all the skills and knowledge they have learnt so far this year.

Our topic in Reception over this half term has been 'Signs of Autumn' and the children have developed a fantastic understanding of the different signs of the changing seasons. As we approached the changing of the season to winter, we were treated to a sprinkling of snow! The children loved exploring this snow, talking about how it felt to hold it and watching it melt as the day warmed up. We enjoyed making a small class snowman together.

In Reception, we have been rehearsing for our performance of 'A Wiggly Nativity' which we held on the 17th of December. The children performed with confidence, saying their lines loudly for all to hear. They also sang fantastically and remembered the actions. We would like to thank parents for their continued support and helping their children to practise the songs and lines at home. During the performance, we also held a festive Stay and Play with some of our Reception pupils. It was lovely to see families come and work with their children and enjoy a range of festive activities.

We would like to thank all of our families for their continued support and we wish you a fantastic Christmas and we are looking forward to continuing working with you in the new year.



## Spotlight on Year 1 & Year 2

In Year 1 our children have been very busy designing and making their own sock puppets as part of their DT work. They researched different types of puppets to get ideas for their own designs. They were very lucky to have pupils from Chesterfield High School coming into school to help them make their puppets.



Year 1 recently enjoyed a local visit to South Road Grotto where they all got the chance to meet Father Christmas. I'm sure there are lots of children on his good list this year!



To continue our Christmas festivities, Year 1 and 2 performed their winter play 'Say Hello to Little Jo' to their families. Their beautiful singing, dancing and acting brought lots of smiles to everyone's faces. The children sang and spoke really clearly in front of two very large audiences! Well done Year 1 and 2 we are very proud of you and thank you for bringing some Christmas cheer to everyone.

In English lessons, Year 2 has enjoyed reading the story 'Traction Man', an action figure who helps to save the day with his loyal pet Scrubbing Brush. The children enjoyed dressing as their favourite superheroes for Superhero Day. We had some very powerful and mighty superheroes in school.



To consolidate their understanding of all that they have learnt in their History topic Year 2 recently visited the Liverpool and Maritime Museums. Our children represented school really well, remembering to follow our school code of conduct on our visit. We learnt about lots of vehicles like 'The Lion Steam train' and the overhead railway. Some of us enjoyed dressing up as ticket collectors collecting the tickets from lots of different passengers.



In DT  
have



Year 2  
been



how

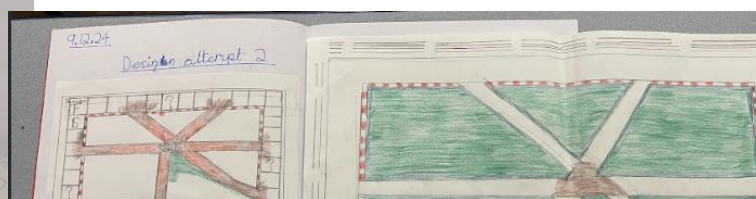
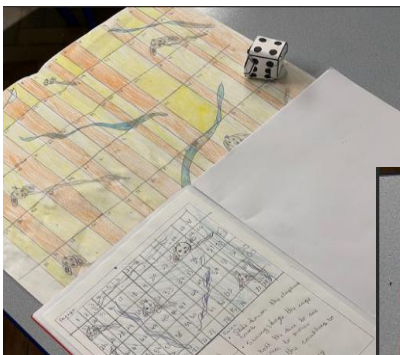
designing and making moving vehicles out of recycled materials. They have been thinking about how to attach wheels to an axle to enable their wheels to rotate freely.

Here are some pictures from their making process, they are still working on their final designs. We can't wait to see what they look like!



### **Curriculum Spotlight on Year 3 and Year 4**

In Year 3, the children have been working very hard in DT playing games! They have researched different types of board games, so that they could design their own games to play with each other and used their maths skills and explored nets of a cube to make dice. They were not quite happy with their initial designs and prototypes, so back to the drawing they went and here is the progress they are now making towards their final product.



In Year 4, the children have worked very hard at home to showcase their learning from their History topic all about the Romans. It is clear to see how much they have learned and have enjoyed this topic!



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## **Curriculum Spotlight on Year 5 and Year 6**

### **Year 5**

In maths, we have continued to build on our knowledge of fractions and decimals. Children are making good progress with this and regular practice of multiplication and division facts at home are really helping. In writing, we have introduced features such as fronted adverbials, list sentences and parenthesis whilst studying 'A Christmas Carol'.

In Science, we have moved on from space and started forces. A highlight of which was where the children got to plan, create and test their own parachutes.

In the wider curriculum the children have begun to really deepen their knowledge. This has ranged from studying the Victorians in History to learning to play the ukulele in Music.



Congratulations to our superb swimmers who represented us at the gala.

**Year 6**

What a busy few weeks! We couldn't be more impressed by the continued hard work and determination of our Year 6 pupils.

Children who went to our Residential, and children who took part in activities back at school made us proud! They demonstrated courage and great teamwork.



Children took part in a 'Healthy Habits' workshop about how to keep fit and well. They learnt about the importance of looking after both our bodies and our minds.



To support our History topic on Ancient Benin and the Slave Trade, the children visited our museums. We are so lucky to have such fantastic resources on our doorstep. We even had time to nip into the aquarium!



In our English lessons, children have written fantastic recounts of their trips using semicolons and relative clauses!

### **Curriculum Spotlight on our ASD Unit Provision**

In the ASD Units this half term we have been focussing on the topic 'Colour'. Each class has been working on different activities learning about colours and the language of colour, mixing colours, the colour wheel and how we can use colour to create beautiful pieces of artwork. The pupils have engaged wonderfully with the topic and it has been a real pleasure to teach it.





**Inclusion update**

This time of year can be challenging for some children with additional needs and their families. The changes in the environment with Christmas decorations everywhere and the inevitable changes to structure and routines over this period can impact their ability to engage and regulate themselves. The Together Trust has lots of really good tips to help parents/carers make their lives a little easier over the Christmas season. Click on the link below to get to their tips:

<https://www.togethertrust.org.uk/news/tips-and-tricks-parents-children-special-needs-christmas-edition#>:

**Enrichment Clubs**



We are delighted to announce that Waterloo is now participating in Children's University. Mrs Cranshaw will be collecting the activity passports on Monday 6th January (please post them into the box in the foyer).













Take a look at the clubs which are available at lunch times.

# Join in with the fun at lunch time!



Gardening Club is open to everyone, every day in the Well Being Garden with Miss Molyneux



|                  |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| <i>Monday</i>    | Spanish<br>Mrs Sutton<br>13:00 - 13:30<br>Year 5 and 6            |  | Chess<br>Mr Duckworth<br>13:00-13:30<br>Year 5 and 6                        |   | Helping Hands<br>with Dave the caretaker<br>13:00-13:30<br>Year 5 and 6 |  |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | Sing and Sign<br>Mrs Escott-Shaw<br>12:45 - 13:15<br>Year 3 and 4 |  |   |  |   |   |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | Spanish<br>Mrs Sutton<br>12:45- 13:15<br>Year 3 and 4             |  | TAG<br>(Christian faith club)<br>Miss Young<br>13:00- 13:30<br>Year 5 and 6 |  | Helping Hands<br>with Dave the caretaker<br>13:00-13:30<br>Year 5 and 6 |  |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | Computer club<br>Miss Jones<br>13:00 - 13:30<br>Year 5 and 6      |  | Arts & Crafts<br>Mrs Rees<br>12.45-13.15<br>Year 3 and 4                    |  |   |   |
| <i>Friday</i>    | Arts and Crafts<br>Miss Au<br>12:30 - 13:00<br>Year 1 and 2       |  | LEGO club<br>Mrs Cranshaw<br>12:30 - 13:00<br>Year 1 and 2                  |  | Helping Hands<br>with Dave the caretaker<br>13:00-13:30<br>Year 5 and 6 |  |



Year 1 and 2 love Lego during Friday lunch time!



Year 1 and 2 love the Art Club. They enjoyed creating work like Kandinsky.

Remember to book onto our extensive range of after school activities.

# Autumn 2 After School Activities 3:30 - 4:15



| Monday                            | Tuesday                                 | Wednesday                                     | Thursday                           | Friday                         |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Choir<br>Year 3,4,5 & 6<br>       | Arts and Crafts<br>Year 5 & 6<br>       | Dodgeball Team Games<br>Year 3,4,5 & 6<br>    | Multi Sports<br>Year 3,4,5 & 6<br> | Multi Sports<br>Year 1 & 2<br> |
| Dance<br>Year 1 & 2<br>           | TT ROCK STARS<br>Year 3 & 4<br>         | Boxing and Mindfulness<br>Year 4, 5 and 6<br> | Year 5 and 6<br>                   |                                |
| Embroidery<br>Year 4, 5 and 6<br> | Football Team Games<br>Year 4,5 & 6<br> |   | Computing<br>Year 4, 5 and 6<br>   |                                |
| Basketball<br>Year 3,4, 5 & 6<br> |   |   |                                    |                                |

## Supporting the homeless with SEFTON4GOOD

On Wednesday 4th December, nine children from Year 5 and 6 went to Burlington House, Waterloo, to make up warm winter packs to be distributed to vulnerable people across the borough. The children organised themselves into a conveyor belt style system and every bag contained a blanket, hot water bottle, scarf, socks, hat and gloves. It was organised by the charitable initiative, Sefton4Good. Lauren from Sefton4Good told the children who the packs would be going to - vulnerable adults who are homeless on our streets and those who can't afford to turn their central heating on. The children did a fantastic job and made over 200 packs.



Finally.....

On behalf of the staff at Waterloo, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas break. Here's hoping that 2025 is a year full of health and happiness for you and your family.

School starts for the Spring Term on Monday 6th January 2025.

Best wishes  
Mrs Baldwin

Waterloo Primary School, Crosby Road North, L22 0LD Tel: 0151 9284274

Email: [admin.waterloo@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.waterloo@schools.sefton.gov.uk)

[www.waterlooprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.waterlooprimaryschool.co.uk)

@WaterlooPS\_@waterlooprimaryschool