



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that we are already a half term into the new year!

Despite the viruses the majority of children have been in school with ready smiles, politeness and a desire to try their best whilst learning from their mistakes.

The half term saw us saying *À bientôt* to Mrs Baldwin, as she took up the two term interim role of CEO for Mersey View Learning Trust. We wish her every success in her new role and know that she will do an incredible job.

A new leadership team has been formed for the next two terms and all are here to listen and help you and the children in any way that we can alongside class teachers and support staff.

Ms Maciver - Acting Headteacher

Miss Wilson - Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Jones - Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo

Mrs Kenyon - Acting Assistant Headteacher & Y5/6 Phase Lead

Miss Robinson - TLR - Maths & Y3/4 Phase Lead

Miss Au - TLR - English & Y1/2 Phase Lead

Miss Wainwright - EYFS Phase Lead

Mrs Escott-Shaw - Unit Phase Lead

Mrs Cranshaw - Community Links and Enrichment Lead

A polite reminder of the following:

- Children are expected to wear full school uniform or PE kit on PE days (not sports brands) to school
- School shoes should be black with no visible logos
- Hair that comes below the chin or over eyebrows must be tied back and must not be dyed or have patterns cut into it
- Make up of any form, whether on face or nails (polish, acrylics, fake nails) isn't permitted

- The only permitted jewellery is a pair of stud earrings and a watch (no smartwatches)
- Pupil mobile phones must be handed into the office and should not be used on school grounds

Staff will confiscate any items breaching rules for parents to collect and staff will make communications home to discuss matters causing concern.

Pupils will be given sanctions as it is important that they understand that our rules promote health, safety, the importance of clear boundaries and inclusion.

Children do not have to wear uniform with logos, as we appreciate that this is more costly, however the correct colours and items must be worn.

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

School attendance is 93.23%, so we have some way to go to achieve the national expectation of 96.5%.

Currently we have 12% of children with attendance of 100% and 28% of children with attendance of 98%+ . We were delighted to give out attendance certificates to celebrate this in last week's assembly.

However, despite over a quarter of children having very good attendance, only 46% of pupils have attendance in line with or better than the national expectation - 96.5%.

This is concerning, as it means that more than half of the pupils are missing the equivalent of approx. 2 hrs per week of learning.

This will continue to be an area of focus and staff will continue to be vigilant in terms of verifying reasons for absence and ensuring that children are in school regularly and on time.

Please support us in making the necessary improvements and only keep children off if they are genuinely too unwell to be in school.

Our attendance policy clearly outlines the procedures that we follow, so that parents know what is expected and the steps that are taken depending on the attendance of their child.

<https://waterloo-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/attendance-we-cant-teach-an-empty-chair/>

Safeguarding

This half term all staff completed training on the following themes:

- E-safety
- Sexual Harassment
- GPDR
- Financial Extortion

Can we remind you all to be vigilant when your children are online on whatever device, app or game, as predatory behaviour is on the rise and whilst we educate your children regularly regarding staying safe online for most of them they are most active when not in school.

All of our Designated Safeguarding Leads continue to engage in regular training through the Sefton Safeguarding Partnership and we also have staff (Ms Maciver, Miss Wilson and Mrs Evison) trained in both adult and child mental health and mental health first aid who are available to offer help and support.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Maciver - Acting Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding & PREVENT lead



Miss Wilson - Acting Deputy Head, LAC lead & Deputy DSL



Mrs Jones - Asst Head, SENCO & Deputy DSL



Mrs Kenyon - Acting Asst. Head & Deputy DSL



Mrs Evison - Pastoral and Early Help Attendance Worker & Deputy DSL



Mrs Escott-Shaw - ASD Unit Manager & Deputy DSL



Miss Wainwright - EYFS Manager & Deputy DSL



Mr Otten - E Safety Lead & Deputy DSL



Miss Young - Safeguarding Governor

If you have a safeguarding concern please email safeguarding@waterlooprimaryschool.co.uk or telephone 0151 9284274.

Pastoral

In addition to the pastoral care offered by the school staff working closest to your children we have other support available should you feel that your child needs a little something extra for a short period (e.g. anxiety, bereavement, self-esteem).

Mrs Evison and Mrs D Jones continue to offer support in their roles as Emotional Literacy Support Assistants and Angela Daly (our Education Mental Health Practitioner) is based in school on Fridays.

Jane Smith (Play Therapist) is in school two days a week and Andy and John (our Team Around the School workers) run a fortnightly parent drop in in the Family Wellbeing Centre.

Early Help is also available through a referral to the Family Advice and Support Team (FAST) and could help with difficulties like: maintaining positive relationships, managing family conflict, parenting, supporting children with additional needs and managing finances.

Should you have any worries for your child or yourself please speak to a member of staff on the door/gate or contact us via telephone or email and we will gladly do our best to support you.

Pupil Voice - school leaders

Our newly formed pupil leadership team (made up of Chairs and Vice Chairs of each pupil voice group across school) held their first meeting a couple of weeks ago and have reviewed and redrafted our school mission statement to ensure that it is in line with our current aims; more memorable and more child-friendly.

They've also written a rap to promote our school code of conduct to the backing track of 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air' which is studied as part of our Y5 music curriculum, so we will be able to add this to our choral repertoire of school compositions.

Spotlight on Early Years

'We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day! We're not scared...'

As Nursery continues to focus on their topic of 'Bears', they are preparing to go on a bear hunt! They have created their very own bear masks using all the skills they have learnt and are currently creating a sensory story map! The children have loved thinking of different ways we can make the multiple landscapes in the story.



They have also been continuing to develop their understanding of how to order numbers 0-5. The children can recognise the numeral, select the correct numicon and stick the number in the correct order, well-done everyone!

The Reception classes have been absolutely *over the moon* with their recent topic on space! The children showed incredible enthusiasm as they explored everything from life on the International Space Station to the wonders of the universe. They have enjoyed looking at non-fiction books, including *Whatever Next!* and *The Smeds and The Smoos*, which sparked plenty of imagination and creativity. They were fascinated by the idea of astronauts living and working in space, and even started thinking about what it might be like to travel in a rocket!

On the last day of term, the classes held a fun *alien tea party* to celebrate the end of their space exploration. The children made alien masks and enjoyed some intergalactic treats.



Linked to our space topic, Reception also ventured on their very first school outing to the local library! They were very sensible walking across the road, and once there, enjoyed a wonderful story read by the librarian. Afterwards, they had the chance to explore the library and choose books to look at. It was a fantastic experience that helped bring their love of books and space to life in a whole new way!



Well done, Reception, for your fantastic enthusiasm and curiosity about space!

Spotlight on Year 1 & Year 2

Our whole school PSHE topic has been linked to 'Dreams and Goals' with the children thinking about the steps they need to take to achieve their future goals. As part of their learning, Year 1 made some jam sandwiches. They thought about the steps they needed to take to make them and spoke about how some of the steps were easier than others. The children loved making their sandwiches, especially eating them afterwards!



The children have enjoyed visits within our community to extend their learning. They've visited Liverpool Central Library and Crosby Library to learn about Alexander Bell. Without his great invention of the telephone we would have found it difficult to communicate with our family and friends.



As part of their Science work, exploring seasonal changes, the children enjoyed a visit to Victoria Park. I'm sure there will be more visits planned throughout the year to explore how the park changes during Spring and Summer.



Year 2 has really enjoyed learning about significant people in history linked to our space travel topic. They have enjoyed finding out about Neil Armstrong, Tim Peake and Helen Sharman's achievements.



Our work around this topic inspired lots of children to be creative during their Christmas break creating models of rockets and the planets. The children loved sharing their project with their friends, talking about the steps they took to make their fantastic creation. We were very impressed with their efforts and were happy to give out so many merits for outstanding work.



This half term Year 2 has started learning how to play the ocarina, a wind instrument.

They are working with a music teacher from Chesterfield High School to develop their skills in playing this musical instrument. They have explored how to play notes from 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star', 'Hot Cross Buns' and 'Oh when the Saints'. We are very grateful to have this opportunity and can't wait to learn more tunes so we can perform these to other children and staff in our school community.



Spotlight on Year 3 and Year 4



In Year 3, The children enjoyed making use of our local library in the community and were enlightened about their next science topic, which will be light. They were delighted to learn how light travels in a straight direction, how it reflects and how it can be blocked to make shadows! This trip was a real highlight for the children! The children are now very prepared for their future science lessons and will have many bright ideas to share!



In Year 4, the children had a blast during their Geography topic learning all about volcanoes. They have made astounding working models of volcanoes and demonstrated their eruptions to the whole class; it was a lava-ly sight to see. This topic has really ignited their creativity and passion for Geography!

Spotlight on Year 5 and Year 6



Pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 have been working on their aspirations and goals for the future. Through PSHE lessons, they have researched different career opportunities and the potential skills and qualities that are required to fill different roles in our society. They have been

considering long term goals and how these can be broken down into smaller, achievable short term goals.

We highly appreciate the volunteers from different sectors of our community who attended our careers event and provided pupils with first-hand insight into the valuable work they do.



"I liked the careers event because there were lots of inspiring people there, such as a police officer, a nurse and an advert maker! I really loved that day; it was very inspiring." (Connie Y6)

Pupils learnt a lot!

Our Year 6 pupils had the fantastic opportunity of visiting Liverpool University. They had a lecture about what the university has to offer and then enjoyed a tour of the campus. It made a real difference to really feel what university life can be like and all it has to offer.



"First, we had a tour around the campus. We also learnt quite a few things about what you can become and how to become it." (Layla Y6)

Our Year 5 children have been developing their culinary skills in their DT lessons and loved researching, preparing and tasting delicious, nutritious bowls of scouse.

They have been learning about nutrition, hygiene and the origins of the dish.



Spotlight on our ASD Unit Provision

In December, as part of our topic 'Colour' we had a 'Drop everything and ART' day in the unit classes. Each class decided how they would enjoy the day and all of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed getting in a mess. We created some wonderful art projects collaboratively and individually.



Moving forward we are excited to have a whole host of different enrichment days planned for the pupils within the unit that are linked to the topics we will be covering as part of the curriculum, as well as taking part in the whole school enrichment sessions every Friday. The unit enrichment clubs are Sing and Sign Club, Craft, Music and Cause and Effect toys. All of the pupils will have the opportunity to take part in the different clubs over the next few months.

Inclusion update

If your child is on the SEN register, their Spring term SEN plan is now available so please log into your Edukey account to view it and make a comment if you wish: <https://edukeyapp.com/parent>. Many of you will have discussed the plan and targets with teachers during last week's parents evening. If your child is new to the SEN register or you have not yet created an account, you need a code that is unique to your child so please ask their teacher or contact the office for this. We are not routinely printing plans for parents as we are mindful of how much paper this would use so where possible, please create an account. If you have any issues with this, please contact the office.

Enrichment/Wider Opportunities

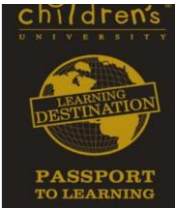


Children who participate in Children's University have the opportunity to learn in a rich range of contexts, experience new places, visit universities and attend their own graduation ceremonies. This adventure introduces children to the joy of learning, brings a sense of wonder in the world around them and develops their confidence and aspirations for the brightest futures.

As a school we offer a wide range of after-school activities from Year 1 upwards. Every time a child attends an extracurricular club at lunch time or after school, the time they spend is logged on the club register. They will receive one credit for one hour extra learning.

Credits can be earned by attending other clubs outside of school, but they must have been accredited by Children's University. Always look for this sign and get your passport stamped.

- Bronze = 30 hours
- Silver = 65 hours
- Gold = 100 hours



For those who earn enough credits, they will be awarded at a graduation ceremony at Edge Hill University.

We have lots of extracurricular activities to get involved with and earn credits!

There's always an opportunity to try new clubs at Waterloo Primary School!



Cookery with Miss Robertshaw and Mrs Williams

Have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 24th February.

Gates and doors will open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am.

Kind regards,

Ms Maciver and the Waterloo Team

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