



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy but fantastic half term we've had! The children have worked incredibly hard and embraced a range of opportunities in lessons, enrichment activities, their wider contributions to school life and in the local community. Just last night some of our Y5 pupils danced brilliantly at the Equality & Diversity CAPITAL concert in Liverpool and today our Y3s are enjoying a day out at Martin Mere - What a beautiful day to be at one with and immersed in nature!

In response to parent survey feedback, we are in the process of having the website revamped and updated. We will be phasing out the use of ParentApps over the summer, as the new website will enable us to contact parents and provide links to important information as well as booking things like parents' evenings.

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

The school average attendance is 93.28% (93.9% excluding Nursery), so we continue to have some way to go to achieve the national expectation of 96.5%.

Currently, we have 39 children with 100% attendance (9%), 130 children with attendance of 98% + (30%), but only 165 children (38%) with attendance higher than the national expectation.

Please ensure that your children are in school every day (unless they are too ill to be) as it has a detrimental impact both academically and socially when they aren't in school.

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

Safeguarding

I'm sure that many of you will have heard the publicity around or maybe watched local actor and producer Stephen Graham's most recent Netflix series, 'Adolescence.'

Having watched it, I again urge you all to be vigilant in supervising and understanding your children's online activity and how they communicate online (code and emoji language is prevalent). I ask you all to also seriously consider your children having access to technology through the night and request that age-related safety measures also be set on your children's devices. Should you require any assistance with this, our tech team or Mr Otten will be happy to help you.

I would like to remind all parents of the parent e-safety posters on a range of themes that we have on our website.

[E Safety Parent Support Guides | Waterloo Primary School](#)

Pastoral

This half term, we have had two visits from Martin Hanbury, our School Improvement Partner, who on both occasions highly praised the children for their confident communication, care for each other, and the behaviour and values they demonstrated.

In his most recent report he wrote, 'It must be noted that throughout the visit, pupils' behaviour was exemplary. Pupils were welcoming, friendly and polite. They were consistently kind to each other, sensitive in their discussions about one another's work and resilient in receiving constructive criticism. In lessons that were visited, pupils were calm and respectful of each other and adults. Pupils seemed to feel safe and secure in their environment and were characteristically assured and confident. This speaks volumes about the ethos in the school and the care and attention paid to the pupils.'

We are also delighted to announce that the children have achieved the Bucket Fill total for this half term, so they have earned an hour of choosing time next half term.

It's so easy to be proud of our amazing children when they embody our school values and ethos through their words and deeds!

Pupil Voice

Our pupil leadership team, AKA The Shine Squad, has rewritten our school mission statement so that it represents the school now and is easier for all to remember.



Mission Statement

At Waterloo Primary School we support pupils to SHINE through:

S	Social and emotional education
H	High expectations
I	Inclusivity
N	Nurturing growth
E	Empowering every learner

They have also produced a school rap to reinforce our code of conduct that links with a backing track learnt in music (Fresh Prince of Bel Air). Children have been practising in assembly, so please use the link below to take yourselves back to the 90s and have a go with them at home!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLCejsx5CeI>

Shine Squad Rap

At Waterloo Primary where pupils shine

We listen, value and respect all the time

We care and encourage help each other to fly

We forgive all mistakes and always try

Having looked at results from the pupil well-being survey, Jasmine and Erin, our Ambassador Chair and Vice Chair, prepared and delivered a brilliant assembly covering: Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, what constitutes bullying, and ways to tackle it. This raised awareness and reinforced understanding and feedback and interaction from the pupils was overwhelmingly positive.

Survey Results

QUESTION	% Strongly agree/Agree
My child is happy at school.	93%
My child feels safe at this school.	96%
The school makes sure its children are well behaved.	97%
My child has been bullied, and the school dealt with it effectively.	66% never bullied 19% yes and dealt with effectively 15% yes but not dealt with effectively
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn throughout the year.	93%
When I have raised concerns, they have been dealt with properly.	88%
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support that they need to succeed.	90%
The school has high expectations of my child.	94%
My child does well at this school.	96%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	96%
There's a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	97%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	93%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	91%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	93%

All survey results are greatly valued, as your and your children's feedback is essential to us driving forward improvement and ensuring that our pupils are happy and receive the best education possible.

Should you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff and they'll either address the matter themselves or arrange a meeting with someone who can.

Spotlight on Early Years

This half term has been full of exciting hands-on learning for our Nursery and Reception children!

Nursery has been exploring life on the farm, discovering where our food comes from, and even making their own butter! After lots of shaking (and plenty of perseverance!), the children were delighted to see the cream turn into butter, which they then enjoyed tasting on bread the next day—what a delicious experiment!

They have been exploring creating different representations of Daffodils. We explored what they felt like, what they smelt like and what colours we could see. We had to use our eyes to look carefully and paint our very own daffodils on the cling film - It was so much fun! We also explored using the petals of the flower and adding them to our drawings to add texture! We have also been beginning to learn about positional language. We have been using words such as "underneath", "behind", "on top of" and "in front of". The children loved moving the sheep around the classroom!



Meanwhile, Reception has been diving into the magical world of traditional tales, bringing stories to life through role-play and creative activities. They have explored *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Enormous Turnip*, and *The Three Little Pigs*, acting out scenes and immersing themselves in storytelling. Alongside this, they have been busy planting potatoes, broad beans, garlic, and wildflowers—linking their learning to nature and growth. Our young learners have also stepped into the role of authors, creating their own wonderful versions of these classic stories!

A special highlight for both Nursery and Reception was a visit from Squirrel, a miniature Shetland pony! The children had the opportunity to ask questions, look at one of Squirrel's baby teeth that had fallen out, and even stroke the pony.



It's been a fantastic half term of discovery, creativity, and hands-on experiences. Well done to all our Nursery and Reception children. **Spotlight on Year 1 & Year 2**

Year 1 recently enjoyed a visit from Squirrel, a miniature Shetland pony. Like our Early Years children, they enjoyed having the opportunity to pet Squirrel and ask questions about how to care for him. They were fascinated looking at one of his teeth that had fallen out. I wonder if Squirrel will get a visit from the tooth fairy for his missing tooth!



Year 1 enjoyed reading 'Handa's Surprise'. They were inspired by all of the delicious fruits in the story to make their own fruit kebabs in their DT lessons. What a very healthy snack!

Year 2 enjoyed dressing up this term as some of their favourite book characters and rock stars. They had a great time having a class battle to see who would be the champions. It was very close, but 2NA took the lead in the last two minutes. Well done 2NA rock stars! We had some fantastic entries for our Potato competition - who'd have thought we could be so creative designing a character from a

potato!



In English Year 2 has been writing instructions thinking about all of the key features. After learning about how to keep themselves healthy in Science they designed and made their own fruit flapjacks in DT. They really enjoyed working together to make this delicious snack. Their learning continued in English when they wrote up their instructions for their recipe. We love making connections in our learning!

Spotlight on Year 3 and Year 4

Years 3 and 4 have been working very hard learning their times tables. They had a great time on their TT Rockstars day being Rockstars and battling it out to see who would be the battle of the bands champions. We had the best dressed rockstars and some very competitive children (and teachers). Who knew learning times tables could be this stylish and fun!



Some of our Year 4 children also visited Forefield Juniors to play some times table games with our Forefield Juniors and Valewood Primary friends. While Mrs Redman watched - stunned at the speed and accuracy of the children's times tables- I watched feeling very proud at the communication, teamwork and resilience displayed by the children.



Somehow, in between all of the fantastic times tables, Year 4 found the time to visit Chester and learn even more about the Romans and become Roman soldiers with shields and all. I am sure that they enjoyed learning all about Roman life, cooking like a Roman, building like a Roman, and dressing like a Roman soldier.



Year 3 also had a fun trip to Southport as part of their Geography topic. They were very focused and observant as they compared the physical features and human features in Southport to those that they observed in Llandudno when they visited Wales earlier in the year. Afterwards they had great fun in the park. What a great reward after all of their hard work on this topic!



Year 5 have had an incredibly busy half term. They had a very successful visit to our local library. Whilst here, they learnt all about South America and used secondary sources of information to support their Geography topic. In DT, they researched recipes for scouse! We know all families have their own special recipes for scouse and these vary widely. They used expert chopping and peeling skills, ensuring that they had clean hands for good hygiene and used their tools carefully and safely.



Some of our Year 5 pupils chose to take part in the Diversity show in Liverpool on Thursday 2nd April. The children have been rehearsing incredibly hard in their PE lessons and gave a fantastic performance on the night. Well done Year 5, we are so proud of your hard work and commitment.

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this half term in the run-up to their SATS. The children have shown great determination and perseverance and we are so proud of each and every one of them. Alongside all of their hard work, they were visited by The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside this half term. Mark Blundell came into school and told the children all about King Charles, his life and his duties. The children enjoyed learning interesting facts about the Royal Family.



Both Year 5 and Year 6 celebrated World Book Day earlier this half term. They enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters, had visits from other members of staff to read to their class and got to 'drop everything and read' in the afternoon.



Spotlight on our ASD Unit Provision

Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2025

In our Unit classes, we are all neurodiverse, we use a range of teaching strategies in the classes to support each child in their learning. We work at individual workstations, we use a communication strategy called 'Colourful Semantic' which helps pupils build and structure sentences, and we use the pupils' interests and motivators to engage them in their learning, to name but a few.



To celebrate Neurodiversity Week in Bluebell Class, we used another teaching strategy suited to our pupils' needs - Attention Autism or Bucket Therapy. In this session, we worked on joint attention (the pupils loved ripping brightly coloured tissue paper!) and collaboration, making a beautiful piece of artwork based on the rainbow infinity symbol that is used to represent acceptance and support for all neurodiversity.



Inclusion update

This term, we celebrated Neurodiversity Celebration week. During this, pupils in different year groups took part in different activities that helped them develop **empathy and awareness** for neurodivergent individuals, promoting a more **inclusive** and **supportive** learning environment.

An example of one activity was the Year 5 **Sensory-Friendly Research Activity** - Pupils investigated their classroom to identify areas that might be overwhelming and thought about how to make it more inclusive. They designed their own **sensory-friendly classroom** with features like quiet areas, soft lighting, and fidget tools.

Also, this term, a group of pupils were selected to become Inclusion Champions in school. We haven't completed our voting process yet, but everyone is keen to help Mrs Jones to support inclusion in school. These children will meet with Mrs Jones each term and will explore a variety of areas related to inclusion.

Enrichment/Wider Opportunities

Every half term, children can choose a new activity as part of Enrichment Friday. This allows children to try something new and exciting. Team Community visited the elderly residents of Nazareth House Care home. Everyone had a wonderful time sharing biscuits and juice whilst they coloured in.



Year 5 and 6 felt calm and peaceful as they painted by numbers in Relaxation.



Year 3 and 4 enhanced their computer literacy skills in Touch Typing.

Thank you for your incredible support this term - We couldn't do it without you, as you know your children best! Have a lovely Spring Break and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

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

Kind regards,

Mrs Maciver and the Waterloo Team

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