



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a very short but busy half term, and the children have continued engaging in fabulous learning experiences - a highlight being our VE Day bake off and tea party.

We have undergone NASEN (SEN provision for all) and school improvement partner audits, and were also selected as a link school for the LJMU OFSTED Inspection this week -All of which have been positive.

The icing on the half-term cake has been being nominated and winning a Sefton Parent Carer Forum award for the category of 'Supportive Specialist Setting'. Thank you to the parents who took the time to nominate us. We are proud to support all of our children in their learning journey and celebrate their successes. Diversity is what makes our Waterloo family so special.



The next half term is going to be just as action packed and we will be focusing on preparing children for transitioning to their new classes. A Parentapp will be sent in the half-term holidays to advise you of classes for next year.

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

The school average attendance is 93.64% (94.19% excluding Nursery). The national average attendance currently for primary schools 94.8% and the expectation set by the DfE is 96.5%.

There has been a significant increase in holiday requests in term time, which we cannot authorise. In line with the national requirement, the Local Authority implements a fining system, which is explained in our attendance policy.

Currently, we have 34 children with 100% attendance (8%), 115 children with attendance of 98% + (26%), and 172 children (39%) with attendance higher than the national expectation.

Sadly, 82 children (19%) (59 without Nursery (13%)) are classed as persistently absent, which means that they are missing more than half a day a week of education and 26% of children are missing more than a day a week of learning which equates to 273 days (more than one academic year) of their school life. Missing a whole year of school education significantly disadvantages a child academically and socially and reduces their future life chances.

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

Safeguarding

Now that the weather is improving and children will be playing out more, please be mindful if your children are out in the sun or playing in water.

Pastoral

Children are regularly reminded of the importance of our values and code of conduct. Your appreciation in reinforcing these is greatly appreciated, as children respond far more effectively when they know that school and home are working closely together and share the same expectations.



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

Code of Conduct

At Waterloo Primary School we:

- Listen** and welcome the opinions of others.
- Value** everyone and everything.
- Respect** everybody and everything.
- Care** for others and our world and help everybody stay safe.
- Encourage** each other as we learn together.
- Forgive** each other!
- Try** our best in all things and never give up.

In the Spotlight

We are incredibly proud of Kaitlyn, who has been reading her self-penned stories at Kingsley's and Co. They loved it that much that she has been asked to lead a workshop to encourage other young writers. AMAZING!



Pupil Voice

For the last 11 years, we have supported Amie Lamin and her family in Sierra Leone and enabled her to access education. As a result, she has now found herself at the age of 16 in the position to move to a more developed area and access better future opportunities.

School Council has decided that they wish to continue sponsoring a child, so we are now supporting 5-year-old Fatmata, who lives in Imperi in Southern Sierra Leone. We look forward to receiving updates on her progress and the developments in her village.



Spotlight on Early Years

This half term, our Nursery children have been diving into the wonderful world of Julia Donaldson's stories. They've enjoyed exploring a range of her much-loved books, but *The Gruffalo* has been a particular favourite!

The children have had great fun getting creative - they've made their very own *Gruffalo* masks and transformed the mud kitchen into a *Gruffalo Café*, where they've been busy serving up imaginative treats like owl ice cream and roasted fox!

It's been a joy to see their enthusiasm for storytelling grow, and we're so proud of how they've brought these stories to life through play and creativity.

Our Reception children have been thoroughly enjoying their exciting topic, *Around the World*. They've been learning about different parts of the globe and discovering how animals live in a variety of habitats - from the freezing polar regions to the hot and dry African savannah.

The children have loved comparing these contrasting environments and finding out which animals call them home. Did you know that polar bears have black skin under their thick white fur to help absorb the sun's warmth? Or that lions can sleep for up to 20 hours a day to conserve their energy for hunting?

As part of their learning, the class has worked together on a wonderful collaborative art project, creating a large collaged globe that now takes pride of place in the classroom. It's been a brilliant way to bring the topic to life and showcase their creativity.

A highlight of the topic was our fantastic school trip to Knowsley Safari Park. The children were so excited to see some of the animals they'd been learning about up close, and they behaved brilliantly throughout the day. A huge thank you to all the parents for your support - your help made the trip possible and truly memorable for the children.

We're so proud of how engaged and curious the Reception children have been throughout this topic!

Spotlight on Year 1 & Year 2

Year 1 has enjoyed learning about the Titanic. They have learnt some very interesting facts about this period of History.

They ended their day today with a Titanic ball, coming into school in their smart clothes and dancing with partners like the ladies and gentlemen would have on the Titanic. What a lovely end to the topic and half term.

Our Year 2 children recently enjoyed a field trip to Rimrose Valley Park, where they had the opportunity to use their map skills.

Mr Donoghue shared his knowledge of our local area, linking this to our history work. He talked about transport links along the canal and how people would have travelled by horse and cart.

Our trip was made even more exciting because Rosie released the butterflies that she had been caring for into the wild.

We loved seeing the butterflies flying off. One of them wanted to stay with Rosie, and another flew back and landed on someone's arm.



In English, we have enjoyed reading the story Leaf, a story about a polar bear who finds himself far from his home. The children produced some fantastic letters writing as one of the woodland animals, sharing their fears and concerns about him being in their habitat. After discussing their own feelings about the situation, the children wrote some powerful letters encouraging the animals to consider how their actions and behaviour towards Leaf were hurtful.

Spotlight on Year 3 & Year 4

Both Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic time during their trips to Martin Mere. The children were very excited by the story and the giant puppets and loved "bonding with nature," in the words of Mr Donoghue.



During their Art topic, Year 3 made use of our very own local area and took a walk to the beach to study Antony Gormley's Iron Men. While there, they used their golden ticket reward from the PTA and had ice-lollies to cool themselves down in the hot weather!



Spotlight on Year 5 and Year 6

Amongst many other things, our Year 5s have been learning how and when to use the recovery position, and as part of their dance lessons with the Chesterfield dance teacher, they have been studying cheer-dance.



Our Year 6s have worked incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs and demonstrated both confidence and resilience during SATs Week. They all tried their best and were really supportive of each other, which made us incredibly proud. Throughout June, they will be building up their writing portfolios for evidence, as this is teacher-assessed and part of the statutory process. They will also be honing in on their wider curriculum subjects in readiness for transition to High school, so they must continue to attend regularly and punctually as the year is by no means over for them.

As a reward for their excellent effort, they enjoyed Fab lollies (because they are fab!) and a well-earned trip to the beach.



Spotlight on our ASD Unit Provision

One of our unit classes has been lucky enough to be offered the opportunity to attend a workout session at The Inclusive Hub (<https://theinclusivehub.co.uk/>) this half term. The pupils attended the session, worked with coaches, and came away feeling a little bit fitter and healthier! They represented the school beautifully, listening to the coaches and training in a safe manner. Well done, Argo Class!



Inclusion update

Our SEND pupil group is off to a great start, and we're looking forward to continuing our conversations after half term! These regular sessions with Mrs. Jones provide pupils with a platform to discuss SEND-related matters and contribute to shaping inclusive practices in our school.

Alongside this, some parents will be working with Mrs. Jones as SEND Champions, supporting collaboration and strengthening our SEND provision. If you're interested in joining this group, please reach out—we'd love to hear from you!

Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming Sue and Monica from the Sefton Parent and Carers Forum (SPCF). Their expertise in SEND was invaluable, and we hope to work together in the future to enhance support for families. We recently shared their flier with you as they had their conference on the 23rd May. We will continue to share any resources with you that may be beneficial. Let us know if you attended their conference and how you found it!

Enrichment/Wider Opportunities



Mezzo Soprano, Sophie Clarke, taught a series of singing workshops over three weeks to Year 1, 2, 3, and 4. The children loved learning how to sing songs from *The Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins*. They were even more delighted to know that Sophie attended Waterloo Primary School as a child! The sessions concluded with a performance in the hall accompanied by classical guitarist Ravi.



Rob Steele from Chess in Schools and Communities held a chess strategy session for our budding chess players. He kindly donated four brand new chessboards for our chess class.

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday 2nd June**.

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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Important Dates for your Diary

More information will follow; however, please note the following key events

Date	Event	Time
Monday 2nd June 2025	All children return to school following half term break	8.45 am
Tuesday 10th June 2025	Year 2 visit to Kenyon Hall Farm	usual school day
Wednesday 11th June 2025	Year 5 taster day at Chesterfield High School	10am -2.45pm
Wednesday 11th June 2025	Children's University Graduation Ceremony Year 2&6	1.30pm to 2.30pm
Thursday 19th June 2025	Year 2 visit to Philharmonic-schools' concert	10.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday 26th June 2025	All years transition day	usual school day
Friday 27th June 2025	All years transition day	usual school day

Wednesday 2nd July 2025	Year 1 end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.30pm to 3.15pm
Thursday 3rd July 2025	Year 2 end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.30pm to 3.15pm
Thursday 3rd July 2025	Sports day KS1 -morning KS2-afternoon	TBC
Friday 4th July 2025	RESERVE-Sports day KS1 -morning KS2-afternoon	TBC
Friday 4th July 2025	PTA Summer Fair	end of day
Monday 7th July 2025	Bluebell & Sycamore Class Sports Day & End of Year Assembly	2.00pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday 8th July 2025	Reception end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.30 to 3.15pm
Wednesday 9th July 2025	Nursery end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.00pm to 3.15pm
Thursday 10th July 2025	Lyra Class Sports Day & End of Year Assembly	2.00pm to 3.15pm
Thursday 10th July 2025	Year 4 end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.30pm to 3.15pm
Friday 11th July 2025	Year 5 end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.30 pm to 3.15pm
Friday 11th July	Argo Class Sports Day & End of Year Assembly	2.00pm to 3.30pm
Monday 14th July 2025	Year 3 end of year assembly & prizegiving	2.30 pm to 3.15pm
Wednesday 16th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers service	2.00pm to 3.15pm
Thursday 17th July	Last day for all pupils. NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	3.25 pm