

WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE— 93.7%

Friday 15th December 2023



Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for what has been a really good term.

It really has been full and busy, with a great deal of trips out and visitors coming into school. It has also been wonderful to see so many parents and carers through the door.

We have been really excited to see how our Year R have settled and made such amazing progress since September and we have also enjoyed showing a huge number of prospective new starters around our school. I feel very proud of all the children, the learning behaviours they demonstrate and the welcome they give to visitors.

This week has been busy with Christmas preparations and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our family members a very happy Christmas and start to the new year. Christmas can sometimes be a tricky time with children home and the pressures of family life. With this in mind, I thought it might be useful to share a website that provides advice and support for parents on a wide range of topics. The website is aimed at parents and has lots of useful advice:

<https://www.myfamilycoach.com/>

We will look forward to welcoming children back to school on 3rd January following our inset day, where staff will all be taking a first aid refresher course.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas!

Kind regards,

Emma Moakes
Headteacher



IMPORTANT DAY TO DAY INFORMATION



Parental engagement

Since the last newsletter, we have had even more parents into school, for Year 6 singing assembly and Year 3 and 5 Forest School, sessions. Also with a great number of parents joining us for performances and our Christingle. It is always a pleasure to see so many visitors and to receive their feedback and comments. Many of these are displayed in the entrance hall. Keep them coming and together we can work to 'be the best that we can be'!



Thank you additionally for the responses to my first questionnaire. The responses have been overwhelming positive. I have noted that some parents do not feel that they know enough about what their child is learning or how their achievements compare to those of their peers. These comments have been taken on board, but I hope that by providing regular opportunities for you to come in and join us to see what your child is learning, this understanding will develop. There will also be a curriculum newsletter coming out to all classes in January at the start of spring term and there is a wealth of information, both here on the newsletter, but also on our new website. Additionally, I hope parents have found the interim reports useful. There will be another of these at the end of spring term and a full report at the end of the summer term. Our Parent Forum is also set to meet again on January 10th at 9am, to discuss the sharing of expectations in learning for each year group. If any other parents are interested in joining us, please let Miss Jacobs know.

Governors were also not surprised to read that not all parents know who they are or what they do in terms of leading the school. We are lucky to have a strong governing body with a large representation from the parent body. Governors will be responding to this feedback in the new year in a number of ways.



Inset days

Please be reminded that we will be closed on the following dates for inset:

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 26th February 2024

Friday 28th June 2024

Monday 1st July 2024



A rich and engaging curriculum



Christmas at Waterside!



Hey Ewe!

Years R, 1 and 2 performed their play 'Hey Ewe!' to parents on Monday and Tuesday of this week. For our Year R, this was the first time most had performed to an audience of any size and they did an amazing job! There will be lots of photos on our website, so please do take a look!



Christingle

Our first proper Christingle service for 4 years was held at St John's Church this week. Thank you to all the family members that joined us. We hope you enjoyed the singing and the special service. Many thanks to both Reverend Lee and Chris who led the service.

Our 'Singing Stars' also sung at the Senior's Lunch Club meal. Well done everyone!

Christmas lunch

The children all enjoyed Christmas lunch on Thursday.

I am very grateful to the PTA who provided festive table coverings, napkins and crackers to make the event more memorable.

Christmas Fayre success!

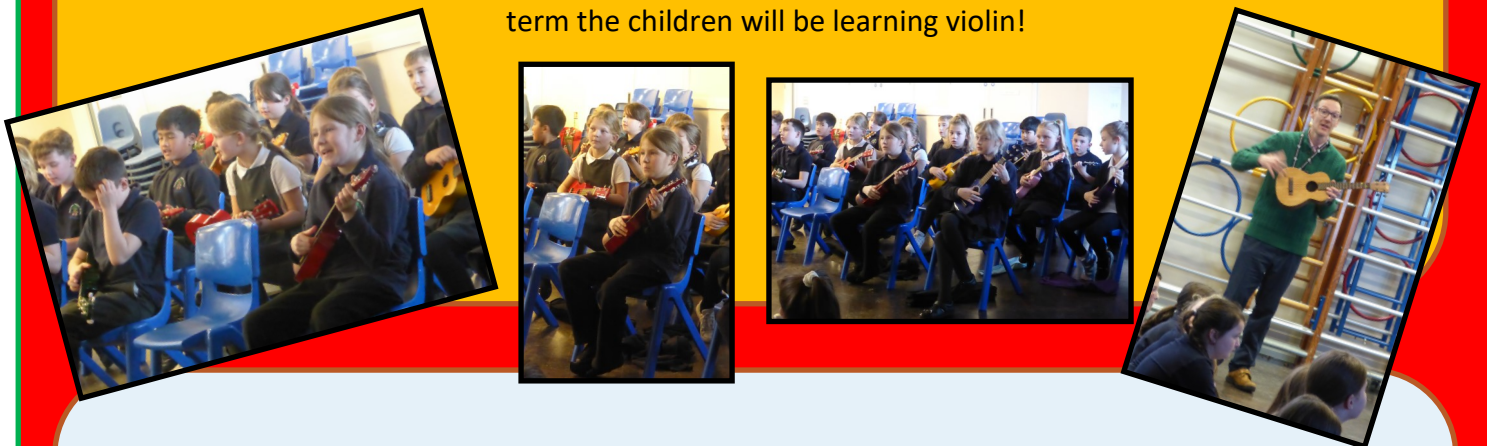
A big thank you to the PTA, who organised our annual Christmas Fayre, last Saturday. Lots of fun was had by all and through your contributions they managed to raise an amazing £670 for the school.

The PTA work tirelessly to raise funds for the school across the year. Funds are used to enhance the curriculum, purchasing invaluable resources and supporting school trips and they need all the help they can get! If you are interested in helping out at an event or becoming a part of the PTA team, please contact The PTA chair, Mrs Wells, via the school office. All help will be gratefully received.



Listen to me

Year 4 and 5 entertained us with their ukulele playing on Monday afternoon. This was a concert to celebrate the progress they have made with learning an instrument over the past term. Mr Ivan, our music teacher, took parents through the steps in the children's learning journey demonstrating the progression in skills and musical knowledge. Next term the children will be learning violin!



Dance Festival

Last week children from our upper school participated in a dance festival. They joined with children from across the New Forest to choreograph a dance around the theme of winter. It was fabulous to see the children working collaboratively and creatively.

A massive 'Well done!' to all involved!



Continuing to be the 'Best we Can be!'

Reading Ambassadors

In the new year Miss Jacobs will be appointing Reading Ambassadors from across the school. This children will have a special role in helping Miss Jacobs drive attitudes towards reading and reading for pleasure across the whole school.

Who will wear the shiny badges with pride?

To apply please write to Miss Jacobs telling her;

Why you love reading,
About your favourite book
Any ideas that you have to get children in our school excited by reading and books.

These letters can be written with grown ups at home or independently and handed to Miss Jacobs or emailed.

Applications by 8th January 2024



Emotional health and wellbeing support

In recent weeks we have seen a huge increase in the number of children affected by online issues whilst using social media apps they are not old enough to use. This is becoming increasingly difficult to monitor and support.

Lots of social media apps including messenger and Instagram have updated their parental controls to support you in supporting your child to communicate safely. Whilst we don't promote the underage use of apps, if allowing your children please consider what you can monitor in order to keep them safe.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/new-parental-controls-available-on-instagram-and-messenger/>

There are lots of other brilliant pieces of advice on the Vodafone digital parenting website. In addition further advice in supporting your child's mental health and well-being can be found at;

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/solihullapproach>

Diary Dates (new dates in bold)

Useful contacts:

Emma Moakes (Headteacher)

E.MOAKES@waterside.hants.sch.uk

Kira Jacobs (Deputy Headteacher)

K.Jacobs@waterside.hants.sch.uk

Lesley Ralls-Baird (SEN/Inclusion lead)

L.BAIRD@waterside.hants.sch.uk

School office manned 8am—4pm

023 80842143

There is an answerphone for any messages left out of hours.

15.12—Break for Christmas

2.1—Inset Day

3.1—Back to school

10.1 Parent Forum 9am

11.1 Coffee, cake and chatter (9.15am)

15.1 Author visit

17.1 Cinderella panto

18.1 Census day

6.2 Jump Start Jonny visit

9.2 Break for half term

19.2 Back to school

22.2/23.2 Calshot visit for Year 4

26.2—Inset Day

13.5 SATS WEEK for Year 6

13.5—17.5 Bikeability Year 5

28.6—Inset day—school closed

1.7—Inset day—school closed



**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**