

WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE— 93.6%



Friday 9th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support this half term. Both staff and pupils have been badly impacted by the winter illnesses and I am just hoping that the half term will provide everyone the opportunity to get rid of the winter bugs and return to good health.

It was lovely to welcome children back to school on Tuesday night for the PTA discos. The children behaved perfectly and it really was a pleasure to see them enjoying themselves with their friends and classmates. Thank you to the small team of people who made the event happen and for the £227 raised! These funds really do make a difference to your children and the activities we can offer. PTA have most recently provided additional funding to pay for an extra activity for all Year 4 children attending the Calshot residential in February, keeping costs down for parents, but fun at a premium for the children!

May we take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy weekend and half term to follow and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 19th February.

Many thanks,

Emma Moakes
Headteacher



IMPORTANT DAY TO DAY INFORMATION

Attendance

As you will be aware from previous communications, our aim as a school, is that we have children in school learning, with an expectation that most children will have an annual attendance figure of around 96—97%. Learning and progress happens when children are in school and data clearly indicates the impact poor attendance has on attainment but also the future prospects of our children.

Parents will be aware that when the attendance of your child dips significantly, for whatever reason, we make contact firstly to inform you of this, but also to offer possible support and guidance.

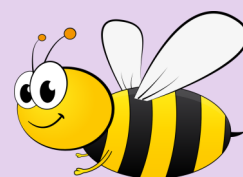
When a child's attendance dips below 90%, they are considered a 'persistent absentee' on our data trackers and this requires us to take a more forensic approach in order that we can see significant improvements.

Illness does of course result in authorised absence, but parents should be reminded that we no longer expect children to be kept off with mild symptoms. Further information for parents can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

As part of our continued drive to improve attendance, we are going to make cohort attendance a feature of our celebration assemblies on a Friday after half term. I will be rewarding classes with improved attendance as well as working with individual children and families where attendance is an area for improvement.

Data from across the school currently can be seen in the grid below. The aim would be that each class aims for improved attendance and a class figure above 95%.

Year group	Attendance percentage to date
Year R	93%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	93.6%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	94.4%
Year 6	91.8%



**Let's aim a bit
higher!**

**Let's 'Be the
Best that we
can Be!'**

IMPORTANT DAY TO DAY INFORMATION



Safer Internet Week 2024:



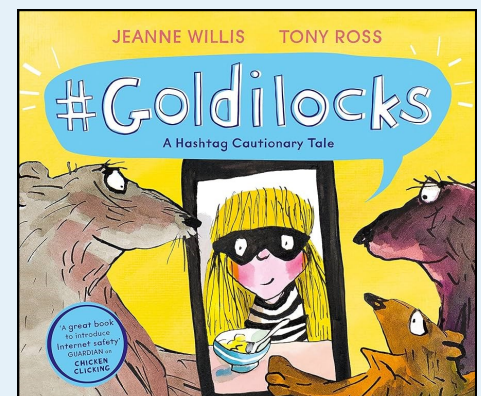
This week in school we have enhanced our the conversations around internet safety whilst celebrating safer internet day 6th February based on the theme 'Inspiring Change, Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.



This week the children have thought about;

- Uses, positives and opportunities that the internet offers
- Influencers—their roles
- Impact and validity of what is posted online
- How to keep themselves and others safe from: scams, phishing, fake news, bullying and abuse
- How to look after their mental health whilst online

This has been explored in a number of ways, storytelling, discussions, role play, poetry, poster competitions.



Children across the school have also been working on producing a film, covering these themes—which we will share with parents next half term.

During this week children have also signed their new in school user agreement for the safe and responsible use of technology within the school community. A parent agreement will also be shared after half term.



Parent Guidance and Support;

Lots of our pupils enjoying playing games and using devices at home; but do we know exactly what the children are seeing, hearing, receiving online. Make sure you are clued up, and know your facts and how parental control features can be installed.

Lots of great support and information can be found at;

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>

Game/App Name	Age Certificate	Key Stage
YouTube Kids	0+	N/A
Pokemon Snap	3+	N/A
Mario Games <small>*please check each game</small>	3-7+	KS1/KS2
Pokemon Games	7+	KS2
Roblox	7+	KS2
Among Us	7+	KS2
Minecraft	7+	KS2
Secret Neighbor	7+	KS2
Fortnite	12+	KS3
FaceTime	13+	KS3
Facebook	13+	KS3
Instagram	13+	KS3
Snapchat	13+	KS3
YouTube	13+	KS3
TikTok	13+	KS3
House Party	13+	KS3
Five Nights at Freddie's	13+	KS3
Twitch	13+	KS3
WhatsApp	16+	KS4
Apex Legends	16+	KS4
Grand Theft Auto (GTA)	18+	KS5
Call of Duty (COD)	18+	KS5

A rich and engaging curriculum

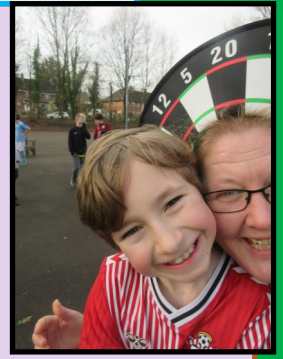
NSPCC Number Day

Last Friday children and adults came to school dressed and thinking about numbers. We were amazed by the imaginative ways you dressed your children and incorporated numbers into their costumes. As part of day children from across the school took part in the one day TTRS NSPCC Rocks competition.

For a small school once again we did exceptionally well in the speed and commitment to x tables.

We came 775th out of 3793 schools countrywide.

Year 6 shone exceptionally well placing 379th out of 22,268 classes!



Children's Mental Health Week

As well as it being Internet Safety Week for us in school, it is also Children's Mental Health Week. For us the two are intrinsically linked, as from our work with children we know that many problems in school can be attributed to online communication and the impact of technology on mental health.

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week is officially, **'My Voice Matters'** and is about giving children an opportunity to talk about their emotions, their anxieties and ultimately their own mental health.

Seeking pupil voice and providing opportunities for our children to express themselves is very much a feature of our school and of our curriculum.

Place2Be have put together some useful resources for parents so that these themes can be followed up at home and they can be found following the link below:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

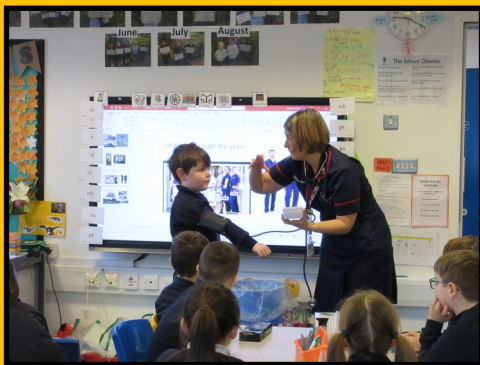
Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

5-11
FEB
2024

Year 2— Nurse and Hospital Visits

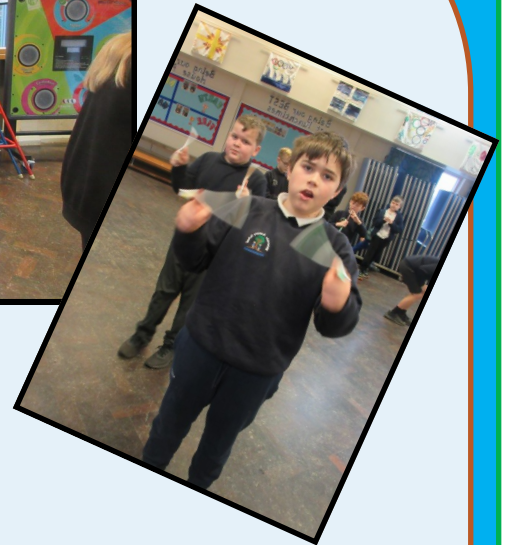
As part of their Florence Nightingale topic, Year 2 have been learning about what life working in hospitals was like in the past and how different that is now.

Last week Year 2 had a visit from nurse Claire Lowther; she spoke to the children about the history of hospitals in Hythe and showed them how to use some of her equipment! The children then set to work checking each others heart rates and blood pressures just like real nurses!



This week they have been to visit the new Hythe Hospital and, pupils returned excited having seen ultrasound scanning and x ray machines! Thank you to the parent helpers who assisted on this trip.





Year 6 Circus Skills Day

Year 6 children have had a wonderful end to the half term. They have had the opportunity to work with Doody, who has been teaching them a range of circus skills!

The sessions that ran throughout the day were hugely enjoyable for the children, but also encouraged them to work together, to demonstrate responsibility and respect as well as developing independence and resilience.

It was an added bonus to be able to invite parents to a demonstration of what had been learnt at the end of the day.



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.

9.2 Break for half term

19.2 Back to school

20.2 Year R parent sharing event (9.15am)

21.2 Year 1 parent sharing event (2pm)

22.2/23.2 Calshot visit for Year 4

26.2—Inset Day—school closed

1.3—Year 6 Flourish Theatre 5 week project begins.

4.3—Year 5 Trip—Winchester Science Centre

14.3 Year 4 parent sharing event

21.3 Year 4 parent sharing event

21.3 Year 3 parent sharing lunch (12 noon)

22.3 Year 3 parent sharing lunch (12 noon)

28.3 Break up for Easter holidays

15.4 Back to school

2.5 School closed for polling

13.5 SATS WEEK for Year 6 begins

13.5—17.5 Bikeability Year 5

28.6—Inset day—school closed

1.7—Inset day—school closed

