



WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE— 94.1%

Friday 30th January

Dear Parents and carers,

Can you believe we are at the end of January? What a month it has been! This week we took the opportunity to visit all classes and to observe and take in some of the learning going on across the school. It was absolutely brilliant to see every child, engaged and motivated in their learning and proud to show off what they had been up to.

We are really proud of the focused start to the term. As we near half term you will see that there are lots of exciting opportunities and dates coming up— make sure you take note of the back page.

In addition we will be holding our Spring Parents Evenings straight after half term, offering you an opportunity to see your child's learning and progress in books first hand. You can book appointments through SCOPAY up until half term, for parent's evenings which will be held: 3.30—6pm on Monday 23rd February and Wednesday 25th February.

We hope you all have a great weekend and we look forward to another good week ahead.

Thank you as always for your continued support and engagement.

Emma Moakes and Kira Jacobs
Headteacher Deputy Headteacher



A rich and engaging curriculum



NSPCC



On Friday 6th February, we will take part in NSPCC number day—children may come dressed in their own or number themed clothing—with donations going to the NSPCC.

EVENT DETAILS

START DATE:
Friday 6 February

END DATE:
Friday 6 February

TIME:
7:30am to 7:30pm

LOCATION:
UK

DAILY CAP:
1 hour per player

In school all children will have a day focused on number based activities and the school will compete once again in NSPCC partnered competition with TTRS—NSPCC ROCKS.

Where will Waterside feature on the leader board?

New Bee Keepers!



Last Friday we celebrated a successful handover of bee keeping from Year 6 keepers who passed the mantle to their Year 5 successors!

Congratulations to; Imogen, Layla, Frankie, Nathaniel, Demi, Lily, Lexie, Amelia, Damon, Lulabelle, Sera and Coen.



We look forward to hearing all about you work in the coming months and maybe to tasting some honey!



A rich and engaging curriculum



A Reading Ambassador Update:

Reading Ambassadors have been busy getting exciting things ready and up their sleeves—all promoting the love for reading!



1) Reading Ambassadors have been visiting classes and sharing book recommendations and stories. This week they have bought books for classes using money raised at their Winter Warmer event.

2) This week they have also launched **a competition**. We have 5 x £5 book vouchers up for grabs!

Make the Best Blurb!

Can you write a blurb that will entice readers in? Your challenge is to write a blurb for a made up book. The entries which we find most enticing will win a **£5 voucher** to spend at the Book Fair.

All entries to be in before Monday 23rd February 12noon!

3) They have booked and planned a **Scholastic Book Fayre**.



This will be open for sales;

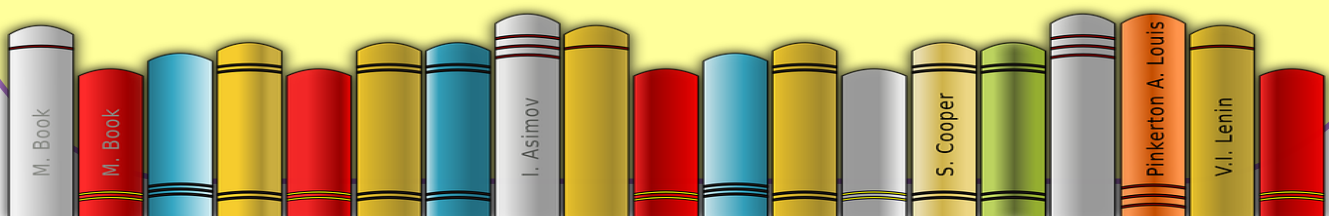
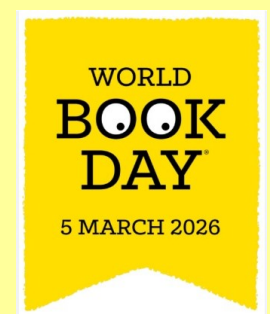
Tuesday 24th February 3.15—4pm

Wednesday 25th February 3.30—6pm (during Parents Evening)

Thursday 26th February 3.15—4 pm

4) **World Book Day:**

Children will be able to dress up as characters from their favourite books and will engage in a number of reading based activities.



WOW Ambassadors Update!

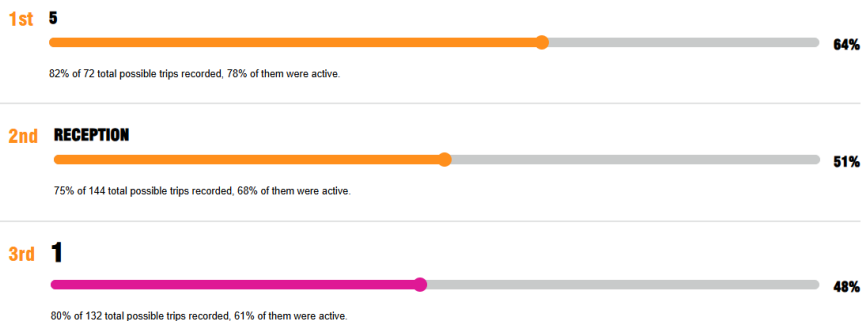
We have now been recording our travel to school for 2 weeks. This is what the data looks like!

At the end of the first week:



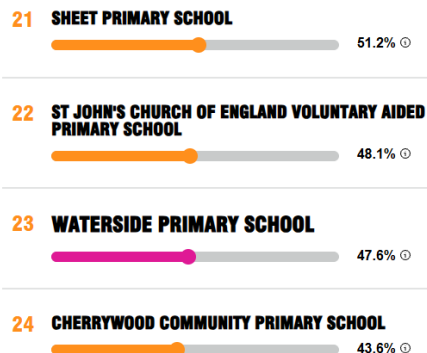
CLASS OF THE MONTH

These classes have recorded the most active trips this month.



BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

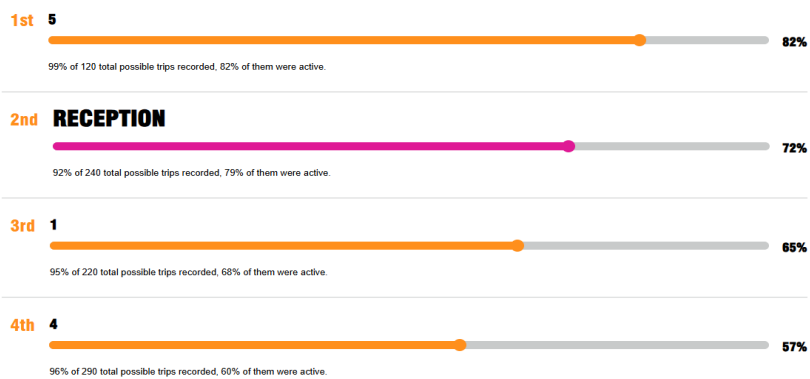
How does your school compare to others in your local authority area for combined activity and engagement?



At the end of this week:

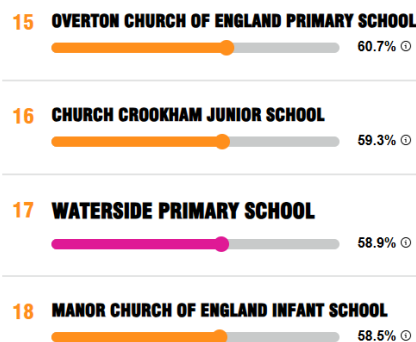
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BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

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An amazing 133 children earnt their first WOW badge!

For more information on the scheme, please follow the link below:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/wow-ambassador/>

The Contented Child:

The Contented Child is a South-East based company that offers parents/ carers and professionals a wide range of training, consultancy and resource based packages aimed at nurturing the whole child. Lots of useful resources and advice around tricky behaviours, just like this, can be found at:

<https://thecontentedchild.co.uk/>

'POSITIVE APPROACHES TO BEHAVIOUR' TRANSITIONS FROM SCREENS WITHOUT MELTDOWNS

WHEN TURNING SCREENS OFF FEELS IMPOSSIBLE

Screens offer predictability, dopamine, focus and a strong sense of control. For many, especially neurodivergent young people, switching them off isn't a simple request — it's a sudden neurological drop. What looks like refusal is often a nervous system overwhelmed by the shift from digital engagement to real-world demands.

WHEN THE BRAIN NEEDS TIME TO ADJUST

Two-step warnings give the brain space to prepare. "In five minutes we're finishing, and then it's time for dinner" helps reduce the shock factor. Without warning, the transition can trigger fight, flight or freeze responses, because it feels abrupt, confusing and dysregulating.

WHEN TIME NEEDS TO BE VISIBLE

Visual timers minimise arguments because they make time concrete. Many neurodivergent children experience time blindness, so a countdown they can see externalises the demand. It also removes the adult from the role of 'time enforcer', which instantly reduces tension.



WHEN CONNECTION COMES BEFORE DIRECTION

Co-regulation before the transition changes everything. Sitting beside them, noticing what they're doing, or offering a gentle cue helps shift their nervous system into a safer state. A regulated adult creates a regulated pathway out of hyperfocus.

WHEN THE BODY NEEDS A BRIDGE

Sensory bridges support the physical shift. Stretching, standing up, cold water on hands, a favourite fidget, or a quick movement break helps reset dopamine levels and ease the jump from screen focus to the next activity. Think of it as a warm-up for the nervous system.

WHEN RITUALS MAKE LIFE SMOOTHER

Predictable, repeated end routines like "pause → save → stretch → drink → next activity" give the child something familiar to anchor to. These rituals reduce anxiety and establish a rhythm the brain can rely on every time, making meltdowns far less likely.



Waterside Primary School's

Valentine's DISCO

Tuesday 10th February 2026

Lower School - 3:15 to 4:15

Upper School - 4:30 to 5:30

£2.50 Entry!

Includes a sweet treat
for each child to take home!

(Please advise of dietary requirements when purchasing tickets)



WATERSIDE
garden, wear
something green day

6th March

£1 donation,

All proceeds go
towards the

garden

Diary Dates (new dates in bold)

Useful contacts:

Emma Moakes (Headteacher)
E.MOAKES@waterside.hants.sch.uk

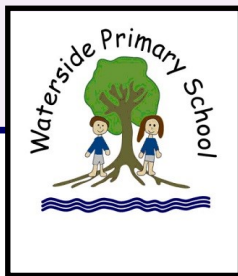
Kira Jacobs (Deputy Headteacher)
K.Jacobs@waterside.hants.sch.uk

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.



www.waterside.hants.sch.uk

INSET DAYS

We have three remaining INSET days this year. These will be on the following dates:

Thursday 7th May

Friday 26th June

Monday 29th June

6.2 NSPCC Number Day

10.2 School Disco

(LS: 3.15—4.15 / US: 4.30—5.30)

13.2 Break up for half term

23.2 Back to school

23.2 Parents Evening

25.2 Parents Evening

3.3 Year 5 to Science Centre

5.3 World Book Day (Dress up)

4/5/6.3 Year 5 residential trip

6.3 **GREEN DAY (wear something green fundraiser)**

6.3 Year 6 Circus Skills day

11.3 Year 5 parents to singing assembly (9am)

13.3 Year 5 to Gregg School

16.3 Listen 2 Me Concert 2.15pm

18.3 Year 4 parents to singing assembly (9am)

25.3 Rock Steady Concert 10 am

27.3 Last day of Spring Term

13.4 Back to school

29.4 Year 3 parents to singing assembly (9am)

7.5 INSET DAY—Closed for Polling

11.5 SATs WEEK starts for Year 6

16.5 Spring Fayre (tbc)

11.5 Class photos (tbc)

13.5 Year 2 parents to singing assembly (9am)

22.5 Break up for half term

1.6 Back to school

10.6 Year 1 parents to singing assembly

26/29.6 INSET DAYS