



WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE— 94.3%



Friday 6th March, 2026

Dear Parents and carers,

We have enjoyed another very busy and exciting week.

Year 5 have been out on residential, we have enjoyed World Book Day and our very own 'Green Day'!

As well as enjoying all the events in school we have also been mixing with a star! As some of you know, our lovely RockSteady band leader Josh, appeared on Britain's Got Talent last weekend with his band S.O.S! The band have successfully made it through the first stage and are now awaiting to see if they will be in the live finals. It is definitely a 'YES' from us all here at Waterside!

We wish you all a fantastic weekend and look forward to seeing you all next week!

Kind regards,

Emma Moakes and Kira Jacobs
Headteacher Deputy Headteacher



IMPORTANT DAY TO DAY INFORMATION



Attendance

Attendance remains one of the most important factors in ensuring children reach their full potential and have the best possible outcomes.

As a school we have access to data from across the country and whilst attendance has improved, we remain low in comparison to other similar schools.

The data clearly demonstrates that this is not due to time being missed for illness (authorised absence), but rather that linked to holidays and unauthorised absence.

Policy and practice across the country continues to change to reflect the government's concerns around attendance and we have now been informed that we should seriously consider issuing a penalty notice for periods of unauthorised absence even when it does not meet the 10 session threshold that historically has been in place.

Please see paragraph below from new Hampshire County Council guidance:

'For future reference, please note that, inline with the Department for Education guidance schools are now authorised to issue Penalty Notices to parents / carers where Leave of Absence during term time that have been scheduled where a student is taken out of school for less than 10 sessions, in some cases, to avoid the issuing of a Penalty Notice by only declaring 9 sessions on a Leave Of Absence Form or is taking the holiday during the week of an INSET day so only 6-8 sessions of G coded holiday are recorded'.

If any parent/carer has any questions about the new guidance or school policy, please do not hesitate to contact me or further information can be found in our attendance policy on our website.

Further guidance from HCC can be found following the link below:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/behaviour-attendance-parents>

A rich and engaging curriculum



WOW update!

It has brilliant to see the results of our Travel Tracker over the past month. Last Friday our WOW Ambassadors awarded 131 badges across the school. This means that over two thirds of the school are now travelling sustainably to school (walk, wheel or scoot) at least once a week!



This has not gone unnoticed by the travel team at Hampshire County Council and we have this week been awarded a Bronze award for our efforts!

Well done Waterside!!!



Gym festival

Last Thursday Mrs Marsh took an excited group of Year 3 and 4 girls to Noadswood for a gym festival.

The children were able to participate in a range of activities and use a range of apparatus. Mrs Marsh was incredibly proud of all the children, their behaviour and attitude.



Parental engagement

Thank you to all parents who attended Parents Evening last week. There was lots of pride to share and many great conversations had sharing expectations between home and school.

Thank you to all the Year 1 parents who attended the sharing event on Wednesday afternoon. It was lovely for the children to have you visit their classroom.



Year 6 Circus Day

Year 6 have had a wonderful day today learning a wide range of tricks and skills, including balancing and juggling. The class worked all day with a range of circus equipment. They were required to listen and to demonstrate resilience in order to pick up the skills.

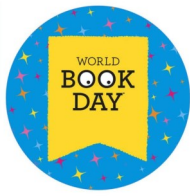
The session links brilliantly with the text Year 6 have been working on in literacy and was a fantastic way of immersing the children in the world of the circus.

The day was run by Doody the clown who entertained the children with his own skills and quick wit!

Green day

Thank you to all those children and families who supported our 'Green day' fundraiser! Every penny donated will be used to support the further development and improvement of our school grounds! A massive thankyou to Roberta Eastman and Kim Nicholls for all their hard work and I can't wait to see all the new developments that are in the planning!





World Book Day

Thursday 5th March was World book day and we were thrilled and excited to see all the magnificent costumes that the children wore in to mark the day.

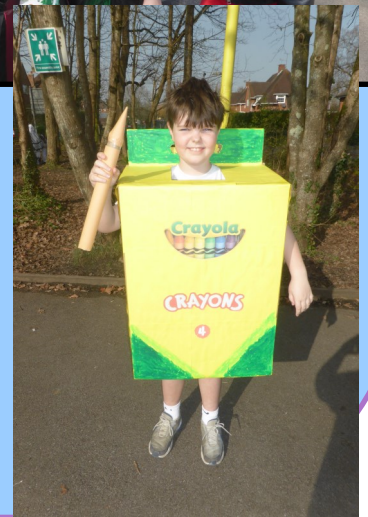
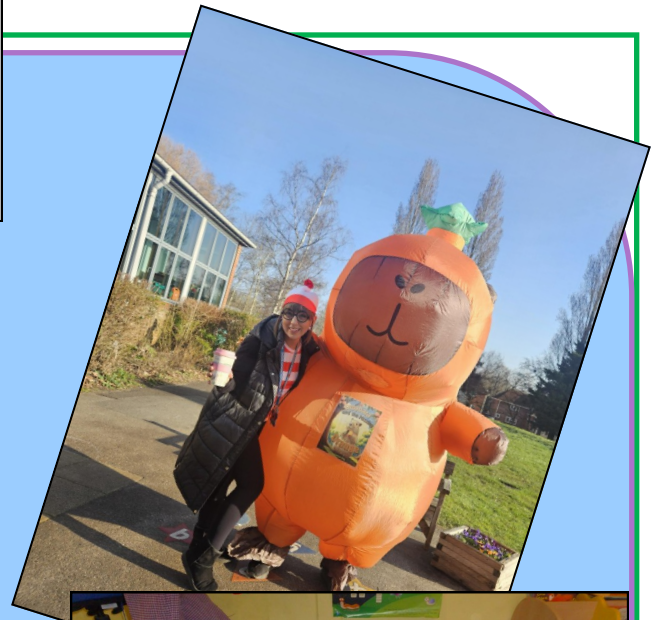
We came together for a whole school assembly in the morning, so that we could all see each others costumes and talk about reading and how we can make it fun for everyone!

In the afternoon, reading ambassadors took a lead in promoting reading for pleasure across the school.

Thank you to all parents and carers for their support in providing costumes and for making the day memorable for all.

Thank you too , to all the parents who came in and bought books from the Scholastic book fayre last week.

Having sold over **£700** worth of books we have earnt over **£300** to spend on books for the school!



Year 5 Trip

The first instalment of Year 5's adventures this week, a trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium on Tuesday —linking to the classes Science work.



Pictures to follow from their residential!

Comic Relief

Comic Relief is in it's 41st year! The charity raises funds to support good causes right across the world. Comic Relief takes place this year on **Friday 20th March**.

At Waterside children and staff are invited to **wear something red** on this day, and bring a donation. All donations will go directly to the Comic Relief Charity.



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

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)

19.3 Applemore College Production of 'High School Musical'

20.3 Comic Relief—Red Nose Day!

25.3 Rock Steady Concert 10 am

27.3 Easter Egg Hunt

27.3 Last day of Spring Term

13.4 Back to school

24.4 Non uniform today (details to follow)

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

22.7 Last day of school year—Break up for summer holidays!