

# WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE— 94.2% (WE NEED TO GET IT HIGHER!)**

Friday 10th November, 2023



Dear Parents and carers,

What a strange start to the half term!

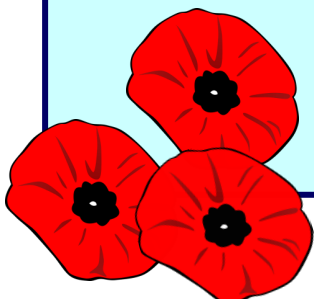
Can I begin by thanking you all for your patience and understanding last week. Closing the school is always a last resort, but following weather and health and safety warnings Wednesday evening and then being faced with a lack of water, we had no option but to close the school to pupils on Thursday and Friday, along with the majority of schools locally.

Thankfully we have been able to return to normal this week and we have had a super week. In our assemblies we have been thinking about Remembrance Sunday and the symbol of the poppy. The children have all shown a real interest and respect for the subject matter. Year 1 have even made their own wonderful wreath.

Whilst it might sound very early, we are starting to think about Christmas and as I write this newsletter, I can hear the sound of singing coming from our Year 1 class who are preparing for our Christmas production. Please keep an eye out for key dates and times. Some of these can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you once again.

**Emma Moakes**  
**Headteacher**





# IMPORTANT DAY TO DAY INFORMATION

## Attendance

Sadly, I have had to write individually to a number of parents about attendance this academic year. This is a real concern, as we know regular, consistent attendance at school is one of the most important factors in determining a child's academic outcomes and thus their life chances thereafter. Please think carefully before keeping your child home from school and in the event of an absence contact us immediately. We are happy to advise around illness and when it is best to keep a child home, but otherwise we ask that we work together to improve attendance and ensure that every child is in school and therefore receiving the education they are entitled to.

## Uniform

The weather is certainly getting colder and we have definitely had our fair share of rain this autumn.

With this in mind, please ensure children come to school with an appropriate coat and footwear that keeps their feet both warm and dry.

For games it is recommended that the children bring joggers and a navy or black sweatshirt to keep them warm outside.

The children have looked really smart this year and are coping well with changing for PE and forest school. Thank you for supporting us with this transition.



## Driving and parking around the school

This is just a reminder to parents to drive with care and caution on the roads around the school site. The speed with which some drivers pass the school concerns me incredibly and I would hate for there to be an accident involving a member of the public or a child from the school.

When parking, please also be respectful of local residents who may need to leave or return to their property accessing a driveway.



# A rich and engaging Curriculum

## Parental engagement

It has been wonderful to welcome so many parents in to the school this term, whether this be to classroom or forest school sessions or to one of our whole school events. I know children have enjoyed the opportunity to share their work and we have received some wonderful feedback from parents about what they have learnt from their visits.

Here are some pictures of family members learning alongside their children.



## Viking Day

Year 5 ended last half term with a wonderful celebration of all they had learnt in history. The children came dressed as Vikings and spent the day completing a range of activities and research based tasks on the topic. It was wonderful to also have some parents join us in the afternoon to share the work that had been produced.

### Children in Need

We are excited to be supporting Children in Need again this year!

We will be collecting pennies to fill a Pudsey Bear outline.

Please donate small change to help fill the Pudsey Bear! Children may come to school in something spotty on this day if they wish.



### Waterside honey

At the start of term, our bee keepers from Year 5 chose 2 jars of honey, made in our school hive, to send to the National Honey Show.

The great news is, that our jars received a "commended" award! This means that the judge thought it was really tasty honey! This was a national competition and so we were up against entries from across the country!

We do have a few jars left for sale and these can be purchased from the school reception and cost £4.00.



### Online safety

We have been really concerned about the online activity of some of the children this term. We are incredibly grateful to the parents that have brought this to our attention and the maturity of some of the children who have sought support and guidance.

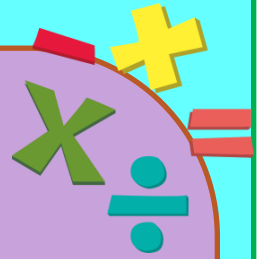
Whatsapp appears to be the platform causing most of the problems.

Whatsapp is rated as 16+ and this is to safeguard against some of the issues our children have been experiencing.

Please monitor your children's online activity and keep us informed of any concerns so we can respond appropriate in collaboration with you.







### TT ROCK STARS—A new challenge!

As part of our commitment to make times tables exciting and high profile in our school, we are taking part in a friendly competition involving schools in England. The competition runs from 07:30 Tuesday 14th November 2023 to 19:30 Thursday 16th November 2023. It's all done online via [play.ttrockstars.com](https://play.ttrockstars.com). All children in Years 3-6 have access.

Last year we came 1st out of 249 nearby schools!

Children can play in any game mode with every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, earning themselves, their class and the school a point.

To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60-minutes per player. We will use some of this time in school.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans.

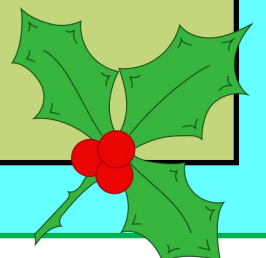
Good luck!



## Christmas is coming!

Keep an eye out for information on our other celebratory events!

More information to follow.....



## Parent Forum

Last week we held our first Parent forum discussing curriculum and opportunities for pupils across the school. It was great to have feedback and talk about what we do already and how we can further enhance the provision or communication with parents about what we do. Here are some of the key discussion points from this meeting.

### WE ASKED:

WHAT PART OF THE CURRICULUM AND OPPOTUNITES DO YOU FEEL YOU KNOW MOST ABOUT?

### YOU SAID:

- The things their children had found exciting during the day
- Bee Keeping and Forest school
- Elements shared in parent sharing events – such as Literacy and History
- Musician of Month
- Work in Year 2 with countryside trust
- Summary of topic shared in curriculum newsletters and website

### WE ASKED:

WHAT ASPECTS OF OUR CURRICULUM DO YOU FEEL YOU KNOW LEAST ABOUT?

### YOU SAID:

- The wider music curriculum
- End of year expectations in terms of outcomes for each year group
- Specific elements of Maths – perhaps knowledge organisers and correct methods
- Well – being curriculum

### IN RESPONSE:

We spoke about the growing Music curriculum under Mrs Gilder's new role and leadership and upcoming opportunities including potential instrument instruction which could be provided by Hampshire if there were uptake.

We have taken on board the other feedback around Maths and well- being and curriculum leads and teachers are thinking about how to enhance communication in these areas.

Discussions also took place about suggestions for future enhancements which included, calming extra-curricular clubs, the use of more visitors to raise awareness and aspirations in certain areas. We have taken these suggestions on board – Watch this space!

Our next topic for discussion will be expectations, outcomes and assessment.

## Diary Dates (new dates in bold)

### Useful contacts:

Emma Moakes (Headteacher)

[E.MOAKES@waterside.hants.sch.uk](mailto:E.MOAKES@waterside.hants.sch.uk)

Kira Jacobs (Deputy Headteacher)

[K.Jacobs@waterside.hants.sch.uk](mailto:K.Jacobs@waterside.hants.sch.uk)

Lesley Ralls-Baird (SEN/Inclusion lead)

[L.BAIRD@waterside.hants.sch.uk](mailto:L.BAIRD@waterside.hants.sch.uk)

School office manned 8am—4pm

**023 80842143**

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



15.11 Year 5 parents invited to singing (9am)

17.11 Children in Need

23.11 Coffee, cake and chatter (SEN)

29.11 No Pens Day

29.11 Year 6 parents invited to singing (9am)

7.12 Praizin' Hands puppets

9.12—Christmas Fayre

11.12 Flu immunisations

11.12 Listen2Me concert Year 4/5 (2pm)

11.12 Lower School Christmas production (3.30pm)

12.12 Lower School Christmas Production (2pm)

**15.12—Break for Christmas**

**2.1—Inset Day**

**3.1—Back to school**

17.1 Cinderella panto

18.1 Census day

**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

**Do you know a child who is 4 or who will turn 4 before 1st September 2024?**

Appointments can be made via the school office or by calling **023 80842143**

Although our official visit dates have passed, we are still making individual appointments.

Applications should be completed online at [www.hants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions)

The application window for Year R places runs from 1st November 2023 to 15th January, 2024.



**WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
OPEN DAY FOR CHILDREN STARTING  
SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2024**



**Is your child due to start school in  
September 2024?**

Please come along to our open day at Waterside Primary School where you can meet the team and look around the school.

Please ring the school office (**023 80842143**) to book a tour at one of the following times:

Saturday 14th October—9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am or 12.30 pm

Monday 16th October—9.30 am, 10.30 am or 11.30 am

Applications open on 1st November 2023 and close 15th January 2024

[www.waterside.hants.sch.uk](http://www.waterside.hants.sch.uk)

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