

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With Christmas and New Year a distant memory and the dark, icy January days fading away (apart from Storm Ciara!), I have thoroughly enjoyed reflecting back on another half term with another newsletter packed full of wonderful personal, group and community achievements at Waterside.

EYFS Development

I once heard a rumour that Santa sometimes visits schools... Luckily, this year, he chose to visit the reception classroom at Waterside to drop off some wonderful new pieces to add to the classroom. Supported by his elves and our PTA, he managed to construct a Waterside Fire Station, treehouse, construction area and vets! These new structures will continue to evolve over the course of the year with the thematic approach we have in Early Years. Currently the fire station has become a 'Gruffalo Cave' to compliment the current Julia Donaldson theme of learning. It has been great to see how the children have interacted with their new surroundings and we appreciate the positive comments from parents about the additions. If you would like to thank Santa in writing, please send a letter to the following address: Santa Claus, North Pole, HO20 HOHOHO.



I have also been fortunate to secure a £10,000 grant for the early years area so we can continue to develop the classroom and outdoor area to facilitate the highest-quality of teaching and learning for our children. We are also currently in discussions with Buckinghamshire County Council regarding the prospect of admitting two-year-old children into our nursery from September 2020. Please contact our school office if you (or know any families who) would be interested in this service to help us in our decision making process.

Opera House Trip

Children in year five attended the Royal Opera House in London on Monday 3rd February 2020. This was an enriching experience for the children, through an initiative for 1,200 children to witness world-class operatic performers in an adaptation of Alice in Wonderland. Not only did they enjoy the performance, they had the opportunity to explore famous landmarks in London and eat their lunches in Trafalgar Square! I have to commend the children for their exemplary behaviour on the trip – I have heard that they were all excellent ambassadors for Waterside!



Clubs

Clubs have continued with great engagement this half term, even during wet weather and dark nights! If you have a chance, please do look at some of the wonderful work produced by the Art Club on Twitter, as they were inspired by our assembly about the

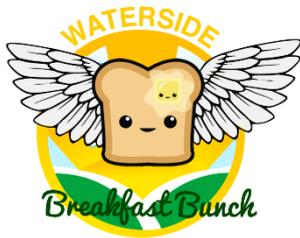


growth mindset and resilience of local artist Henry Frazer who stayed positive in the most challenging times in his life. The photo on the right shows the children completing artwork with their feet!



The Waterside striders have also been striding around the local footpaths, which has been great fun (and great exercise!). It would be fantastic to see more children attending our clubs next half term. Please visit the office to register your child after the break.

Breakfast Bunch



After overwhelming feedback from parents, we were delighted to finally toast the opening of a breakfast club at Waterside with a freshly squeezed orange juice. Although it is still in its infancy after two weeks, the uptake has been very juicy, with an average of 15 children attending every morning, including many cereal attendees. I would like to thank Tilly and Sebastian (Head and Deputy Head Pupil) for their efforts in organising the club, including helping Miss Golbourn design the logo (left) and assisting with planning a jamming programme of activities. With the start of any new initiative, I am aware of the extra workload that is placed upon the staff at Waterside. Mrs Read, Ms Crate, Miss Golbourn, Miss Bell and Mr Yearwood have all gone over and above to ensure that the Breakfast Bunch has got off to an utterly butterly start (other butters are available). It would be lovely to see numbers grow at the club over the next few months to ensure that it can be continued long term – tokens are available from the office for only £1 per day! (Apologies for the plug and the awful puns!).



Reading & Phonics

A big thank you to all of the parents who attended our phonics and reading sessions during January. I hope you found these sessions useful and appreciate your support in raising the profile of reading across the school. If you were unable to attend, the information about these new programmes (Accelerated Read and Read Write Inc.) can be found on our school website. For further details, please feel free to speak to our English Leaders, Mrs Mason and Miss Duggan.



Both programmes are already having a very positive impact on pupil progress and enjoyment of reading across the school. All teachers have seen excellent results in the most recent round of assessments, with some children making over two years of reading progress on their Star Reader assessments in only one term! Well done to all of the children for their hard work!



It was also lovely to see many of you make the most of the free book collection last month. I hope that these are being well-used at home! Thank you to Chiltern Hills

Academy who donated these books, many of which have been used to fill our Woodland Library.

Curriculum



Another term means another new Pathways topic for every class. Highlights so far this term have included a trip to the River Chess, a visit from Amersham Museum and morph figure animations. We have been blown away by the engagement from parents and guardians in the curriculum so far this year. Please keep an eye on the calendar for further events where you can come in for curriculum sessions with your child's class, as this helps to reinforce the children's enjoyment and love of learning. As you will see from the photos, the year one parents loved playing with the Victorian toys during the museum afternoon!

PTA

The PTA beat me to it this month with the release of their newsletter. As you will see from this, the projects that they have funded this year have had a significant impact on all of the children at Waterside. Please do read their newsletter and continue to support their events as all money is reinvested back into the school. A special mention has to be made for Robert Wilfort who raised over £2,000 from the online auction of the signed Gavin and Stacey script. I am sure that you will agree, this is 'absolutely crackin'!'

It was also a pleasure to meet with the PTA last week to discuss further projects. When the children return after the break, we will be launching 'Active Playtimes', with £1,000 spent on new playground equipment, which has been selected by all pupils under the guidance of the Pupil Parliament.

Following this meeting, we met with Jeremy Wyman from the Chesham Rotary Club who presented us with a cheque for £500 for our participation in the Santa Sleigh evening. Thank you again to everyone who participated in this event and helped raised this money.





Waterside Primary Academy Newsletter Friday 14th February 2020

Goodbye Mrs Rutherford

It is with a heavy heart that we had to say goodbye to Mrs Rutherford today following her successful placement with us in Year one. Although she was only placed with us for six weeks (while Miss Peel worked at her school), she has truly been an asset to our team and will be missed by all. I have witnessed first-hand her dedication to the school and the profession and we all wish her well for the rest of her training at St Mary's in Amersham. Thank you, Mrs Rutherford! We are, however, very lucky that Miss Peel will be returning to us after the break following her time at St. Mary's.



Looking Ahead



We are currently in the process of developing our main corridor into our learning street, 'Waterside Way'. This will be an area to showcase all of the learning at our school and is one of many exciting developments we are planning in the next few months.

There are many more events to look forward to, including World Book day on Thursday 5th March 2020. This will involve the children coming to school in their pyjamas with their favourite book to share with their class. I have just placed an order for hot chocolate, which I will be serving as we enjoy all the reading activities during the day. We are also looking for secret readers to come in to share their favourite childhood books with the children. Please let us know if you would be willing to be involved in this.

I wish you all a relaxing half term break!

Waterside Wishes,

Mr Atherton

Key Dates for your Diaries

Key Date	Event	Further Details
Monday 24 th February (8.45am)	Children Return to School	
Monday 2 nd March	Invictus Athlete Visit	All children will require their PE kits.
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 2 College Lake Trip	Letter to follow.
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	Letter to follow.
Monday 9 th March	SCHOOL CLOSED	Staff INSET
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 2 – Restore Hope Trip	Letter to follow.
Thursday 19 th March	Parent Consultations	See Letter.
Friday 3 rd April	Easter Service @ Christ Church	9.30am – parents welcome.