

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a tree-mendous month at Waterside, with many more personal, class and whole school achievements to inform you about! Hold tight everyone, grab a drink and a biscuit... it's a whopper!

The Woodland Trust - Gold 'Green Tree Award'

Firstly, it is with great pride that I can announce that we have achieved our first school award of the year. Following our assessment week in October, I challenged our whole-school community to achieve the Bronze Green Tree Award. However, due to the excellent work by all of our children, we rapidly progressed to silver and then straight on to GOLD! Having spoken to a member of The Woodland Trust, they informed me that they rarely see a school achieve this feat in such a short space of time – it really shows how much we can all achieve together as a school community. Well done everyone!

As the staff and children will tell you, I have been proudly (and maybe too regularly) parading these certificates around the school and rewarding the children with extra golden time for their efforts. We have now received the Gold plaque, which has taken pride of place in our entrance lobby. The culmination of this challenge saw every child in the school plant a tree on our school grounds. It was wonderful to have parents and members of 'Chesham in Bloom' join us for this day and, despite a minor rain storm, we managed to plant 200 trees which we hope will grow into a lovely habitat for local wildlife. Not wanting to settle for Gold, we are now aspiring to gain the top award (Platinum) in the Spring Term.

As you are aware, Outdoor Learning will form a key element of my vision for Waterside, as I believe that it is vital that all children have a solid understanding of the world around us, especially as we are so fortunate to be positioned in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty!



Armistice Day Assembly

Year 6 Wye Class led a very moving remembrance assembly on 11th November, including a two-minute silence to remember the people who have sacrificed their lives and died in wars. Along with the year 6 children sharing their own readings, poems and prayers, children from each class also laid poppies on our memorial at the front of the hall. The assembly ended with the song 'Remember', which was sung beautifully by all classes and was a moving moment for everyone. It was lovely to have so many parents attend this assembly and I am sure that they will join me in crediting the year 6 children for the loving and respectful manner in which they conducted the event. I am pleased to announce that we managed to raise £248.18 from the Poppy Appeal, which will help to continue to fund vital welfare and benevolent work.



Pupil Parliament



Following our work on British Values, each class democratically elected a member of their class to represent them on our school's 'Pupil Parliament'. This is a position of great responsibility, including gathering feedback from all children and feeding this back to our Senior Leadership Team in monthly meetings. They also have received a Pupil Parliament badge which was a very popular addition to the role this year! We are sure that all new members will be an asset to their classes and make many meaningful decisions to improve life at Waterside.

This year, we have also decided to appoint two children for very special roles. Following a formal interview process this week, I am delighted to announce that Tilly Spicer has been appointed as our Head Pupil and Sebastian Mano as our Deputy Head Pupil. These children will take an active role in life across the school, acting as role models to all children and being tour guides when we have visitors in the school. I am sure that you will join me in wishing all of these children the best of luck in their new roles.

Parent Consultations

I was delighted to witness such a fantastic turnout at Parent Consultations last week. Not only was this a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with the teacher and look at their work in books, it was lovely to hear such positive feedback about this term.

I truly believe that teaching is the best job in the world, however it can also be extremely challenging at times. This term, I have witnessed first-hand the lengths our staff go to (often during holidays, late nights and weekends) to improve our learning environments and plan exciting and engaging lessons for your children. Your positive comments really do mean a lot to us all – thank you!



I would also like to congratulate all of the children on their hard work this term – your work in books looks fantastic and I am looking forward to seeing more of this over the course of the rest of the school year. We are very proud of you all!

Pathways Curriculum

In order to ensure that we are creating deep and meaningful learning opportunities for the children, we have implemented a new curriculum approach into the school. These lessons take place on a daily basis, based on and around a topic which is decided upon by the children. It incorporates all curriculum subjects, which we will hope will



allow all children to flourish across the curriculum and expose them to the full breadth of the National Curriculum. This is vital as all children have different skills and talents, including those found in the foundation subjects (Art, Design Technology, Music etc.). Although this is still under development, it has been wonderful to hear the children talking with great enthusiasm about their 'Pathway' and being able to articulate very proudly all of their learning. It has also been great to see that children have extended their learning at home,

including many wonderful creations. A sample of these can be found below. Please do encourage your children to follow up on their class work at home – we have a dedicated display in our entrance lobby for this wonderful home learning.



Magnificent Morning Mile Marathoners

I could not let this newsletter run away with me without mentioning the first two children to complete a full marathon as part of our Morning Mile challenge. Zak and Noah have shown great dedication, commitment and stamina to complete 104 laps of the whole field over the last couple of months! They have battled through freezing temperatures, rain and fog to complete this challenge – their determination has been inspirational. Hopefully their achievement will inspire more children (and parents) to participate in the Morning Mile every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 8.30am.



New Woodland Library



Another source of great excitement for the children has been the construction of our new 'Woodland Library'. We are currently reviewing reading in the school to ensure that we have a clear, structured reading programme which creates a love of reading in every child. Central to this plan was the construction of an exciting, welcoming and multi-sensory library for our whole school community to

enjoy. Over the coming weeks, we are hoping to fully stock this area and invite a VIP to hold a grand opening ceremony. Once I have a date confirmed for this, I would like to invite you all to attend and experience this wonderful new area with your children. In the meantime, here is a sneak peek...





A BIG thank you to our PTA who have funded the construction of this unique learning area and thank you to the staff who assisted me in this homemade project!

Home & School Partnerships - Communication

We have been reviewing our communication policy recently and are starting to trial new ways of keeping you informed about school life and key events. Since September, it has been wonderful to see many of you engage with our School Twitter account, which we have now expanded to include accounts for each class. I would strongly urge you to subscribe to these, as the feedback we have received so far has been very positive. I will also be holding a couple of drop in sessions during the final few weeks of term to assist parents with signing up and following our account.

You will also have noticed that an electronic information screen (a fancy name for a television) has been placed outside the main entrance. Along with this newsletter, we are also trialling a 'School News Podcast'. We will send this link out to you shortly, with it being read by children from different year groups. We hope you enjoy this!

Looking Forward

We have many exciting events coming up over the last few weeks of term. Please look at the list below – it would be lovely to see you attending these events, including the PTA Christmas Fayre tomorrow.

Finally, congratulations to all of you who have made it to the end of this newsletter. Although it is lengthy, it is a sign of all the wonderful things happening at Waterside. As a prize for getting to the end, you have won a mince pie on the last day of term (Thursday 19th December @ 2pm). Please quote the secret code 'MINCEPIENEWSLETTERMARATHON19' as you leave the school site on this day to claim your free mince pie!

Wishing you all a happy and fun-filled festive period.

Mr Atherton

Key December Dates for your Diaries

Date & Time	Event	Further Details
Friday 29th November	Christmas in Chesham Town	From 6.00pm in town
Saturday 30th November	School Christmas Fayre	1.30pm to 4.00pm
Monday 2nd December	Book Fair Week begins	Before and after school
Thursday 5th December	PTA Santa Float	Starts at 5.30pm. Starting point to be confirmed
Wednesday 11th December	Nativity Production	1.30pm and 5.30pm
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Lunch	Dining room
Wednesday 18th December	PTA Movie Night	3.30pm in the main hall
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Service at school	10.30am in the main hall
Thursday 19th December	School closes for Christmas	2.00pm
Monday 6th January 2020	INSET DAY	
Tuesday 7th January 2020	Children return to school	8.45am