

### Home learning

*Spellings*—spellings will be given out on a Monday and tested the following Monday.

*Reading*—your child should read at home on a daily basis. This may be a school reading book or their own book (fiction or non-fiction), library books, comics, newspapers, poetry etc. When your child reads, the majority of this can be done by reading aloud to you or another adult to improve their fluency and expression, on some occasions they may wish to read independently then discuss afterwards. Make sure you ask your child questions about their reading to develop their comprehension skills. Every time they read, whether independently or aloud, please sign their planner and make a comment if needed. It is important your child has their reading book and planner in every day for us to monitor their reading.

*Mental Maths*—Details of your child's current target will be in your child's planner. Please continue to practise these on a regular basis.

*Home learning*—this will be given out on a Friday and should be returned the following Thursday. This will consist of either an English activity based on their SPAG/spellings or a KIRF maths task (KIRF information sheet to follow). In Year 1 children will also have a phonics activity.

### Uniform

We encourage our children to wear school uniform and hope you will support us in this. All clothes should be clearly labelled with your child's name as this helps to ensure they are responsible for their own belongings. Uniform consists of:

Black school shoes (not trainers)

Navy/black/grey trousers or skirt.

Pale blue/white polo/t-shirt or shirt.

Navy blue sweatshirt,/fleece/jumper/cardigan

Girls—blue checked dresses

Blue shorts and pale blue t-shirt for indoor P.E. For outdoor P.E. trainers, navy or black tracksuit/jogging bottoms, sweatshirt are recommended.

Waterhouses is a healthy eating school. We provide fruit for the children at morning break. Milk is also available at a small cost together with toast. Money for toast is payable daily and should be brought into school in either a purse, envelope or money bag etc. Water is available throughout the day as your child requires.

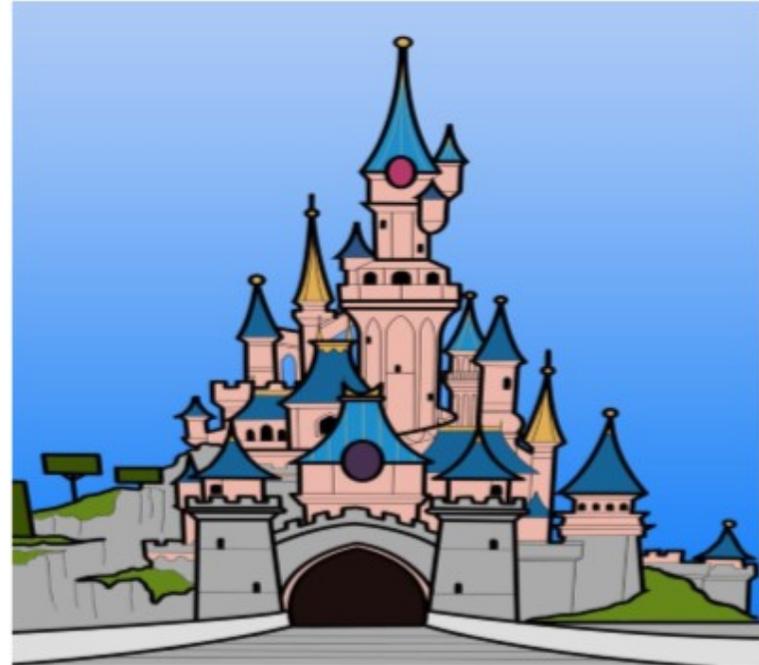
If you need to speak to me, have any questions, please feel free to come and see me at the end of the school day or between 8.45—8.50 am. Alternatively, you can make an appointment if you require a longer meeting.

I wish to thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to ensure your son/daughter has an enjoyable and rewarding half term.



**Waterhouses C of E Primary Academy**  
**"Celebrate Learning Achieving and Friendship in God's love"**

Once Upon A Time



**Otters' Class**  
**Year 1/2**

Welcome back to a new term and we all in Otters' would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year. This is a brief outline of what we will be learning this half term.

### English Writing

This half term we will be looking at instruction texts. We will be exploring the features before writing our own set of instructions. We will also be exploring fairy tales. We will identify the characteristics and language and the children will use this to retell or write their own version of a well known fairy tale.

### Maths

The children will continue to have their own mental maths target which is indicated in their planner. The children are practising this target daily in school. Over this half term they will be covering:-

Y1— addition and subtraction within 20 and place value to 50.

Y2—multiplication and division and fractions.

The children will be developing their fluency in these areas and using these skills to reason and problem solve.

### Topic/Science

Our topic this half term is *Once Upon A Time*. The children will use fairy tales as a lead in to exploring different types of castles. They will look at how and where they are built, find out about castle life and learn about the main methods of attacking and defending a castle. In science the children will be finding out about everyday materials. They will explore the properties and their uses. They will also find out about scientists who developed materials; look at natural and man-made materials; identify forces and how these can change the shape of different materials and explore the role of plastics looking at recycling and upcycling.

### R.E.

In RE our topic this half term is called Who was Moses? They will find out all about him and how this links to the Jewish festival of Pesach (Passover).

### Music

This half term our music is entitled Round and Round. We will look at film music, action songs, marching bands and learn The Dragon Song.

### Computing

This half term the children will be introduced to programming using Scratch Jr. They will be encouraged to understand algorithms and how to create precise instructions for use of working programmes. They will develop a sense of creating, debugging and logical reasoning which are skills required for future programming.

### Design and Technology

The children will investigate mechanics here they will look at winding mechanisms. They will find out how a drawbridge works before designing and making their own. They will also investigate castle size, shape and structure.

### PHSE/British Values

Our value this half term is Trust. We will be learning about the this value and its relevance in the Christian community. The children will identify what it means to trust someone and the importance of being trustworthy. We will also continue to explore individual liberty as part of British Values. We will continue to encourage the children in developing a strong sense of self and forming understandings of similarities and differences between people. We will also encourage our children to have confidence in their abilities and explore and learn in their own individual ways.

In PHSE they will the topic is Me and My relationships where the children will learn about valuing themselves and identifying the similarities and differences between other people. They will look at different families and how they are all special. They will also so look at friendships and the difference between good and bad secrets.

### P.E.

P.E. lessons will continue to take place on a Friday and this term the children will be learning to become gymnasts where they will explore floor work before transferring their skills to the equipment. If possible, children should keep their P.E. kit in school all week enabling us to have P.E. another day if required. As hygiene is part of the learning, it is important that your son/daughter has a separate P.E. kit and not a school uniform top or clothes worn that day. Jewellery, including watches, is not allowed during P.E. and is better not worn for school at other times either. Children with recently pierced ears will not be allowed to take part in P.E unless their earrings can be removed or are covered. P.E. is a vital part of your son/daughter's learning and healthy lifestyle so please ensure they have their correct kit available and do not miss lessons due to minor illness such as a cold. If there is any reason why they should not take part in a lesson, please send a note to explain.

### Swimming

Swimming is on a Monday. Please make sure you child has a swimming kit comprising a one piece suit for girls, swimming shorts (not baggy shorts) for boys, a towel and a swimming cap in their house colours, available from the school office. This needs to be in school on a Monday. Jewellery is not allowed for swimming and needs to be removed before a lesson. Once again swimming is a vital part of your child's learning and healthy lifestyle so please ensure they do not miss lessons due to minor illness, and that a note is provided to explain any reason why they should not take part in a swimming lesson.