

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new and exciting academic year here at Waterhouses Foundation Stage. The children all look very smart, healthy and ready for learning. We hope you have had a wonderful summer, one that has been filled with exciting memories and beautiful sunny days. The children have all returned ready for their learning and are all eager to share some of their lovely holiday experiences with us.

We hope that your child has found their first week at school to be an enjoyable experience. It has been a pleasure to welcome old and new children into our Foundation Stage as they begin or continue their exciting educational journeys - journeys that we hope are packed with opportunities to ensure your child's learning reaches its full potential. The purpose of this letter is to provide all the key information you need for this term. Please ensure that you read all newsletters and letters as the term progresses. We also send regular text messages with important information. Please update your mobile numbers, if they change, with the office.

School hours:

School door opens at 8.45am and we expect all children to be in school by 8.55 am.

Nursery finishes at 12 noon.

Reception and Wrap around care finish at 3.20pm.

Please ensure that you collect your child on time to save them being upset.

Working together (school and home) is vital to enable your child to get the most out of their time in school and ensure that not a moment of learning is wasted. In this letter, you will find information about your child's learning and what we expect from your children and how we would like you, as our partners, to contribute to your children's education. Our aim is to try to make your child's learning exciting, fun, meaningful and challenging. We work to high standards of which the children and ourselves are proud. To explain a little more, we have also prepared an overview of what your child can expect this term and how you can support their learning at home. Please remember that if you ever have any questions about your child's education, do not hesitate to contact one of the Foundation Stage staff for help and support.

Nursery and Reception: Miss B. Hall, Mrs J. Hulme and Mrs A. Bradbury
Wrap Around Care educator and learning support: Ms. T. Fowler

We are beginning the term with the theme 'Do you want to be friends'? I know that all the children in our care are individuals and we will focus on what makes us unique, what we look like and what special qualities we have. Linked with 'Do you want to be friends'? We will think about who our friends are, what they like, what they like to play with and we will discuss being kind, saying kind words to one another and working together as a team.

Question · Explore · Give · Succeed

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We will be thinking about different emotions e.g. sadness and happiness, and how our actions may affect how others feel. We will be learning and following the Foundation Stage routines.

Supporting your child at home:

If you would like to support your child with this theme of 'Do you want to be friends'? You could create a 'friends and family tree' together out of pictures or photographs. You could draw different coloured lines to represent family / friends.



Another idea you could do at home together is create a 'treasure chest' with your child. Inside the treasure chest, you could ask your child to place all the things that are precious to them and these will represent what makes your child unique. If your child creates either a 'friends and family tree' or a 'treasure chest' please send it into school where they can share their home learning with their friends and teachers. We will return anything precious the same day.

In our Communication, Language and Literacy activities, we will be reading stories about ourselves, learning action and number rhymes, and researching non-fiction information about the world around us starting with a whole school topic on 'The Creation'.

We will learn to recognise and write our names using a variety of tools. In Reception, we will be writing our names with a focus on how we use capital letters for the start of our names and the teachers will be modelling daily writing of simple sentences and labels for your children to begin to read and understand how a simple sentence is formed.

Reading Your child will choose their own library book to bring home and share with you, please fill in the comment boxes in the additional record book. When you want to change your child's library book, please visit the reading boxes, which can be found in the classroom in the morning and together with your child, choose a book they would like to borrow. Please ensure that you fill in the record file on the side (please ask a member of staff if you are unsure what to do). If your child attends breakfast club or they are on the school bus please return their books in their bags and we will ensure that they change them regularly.

Reading / sharing books will be sent home for Reception next week.

All children will take part in daily phonic activities, which will underpin activities from Phase 1 for both the Nursery and Reception children and Phase 2 for Reception children from next week.

The Reception children will have key sounds and words to learn as well as their Under the Sea Math's targets to practice at home once they have settled into the routines of the Reception year (please look for these in their home learning bags over the next few weeks).

In Mathematics we will be counting to 5, 10 and above, counting objects, recognising and ordering numbers, using 'more' or 'less' to compare numbers and recording or tallying numbers through practical activities.

All children will have a baseline assessment during their first three weeks at school and the teachers will be joining in children's play activities as this will encourage your child to be part of our language rich environment - one that is filled with a wide range of vocabulary where your child is surrounded by talk.

Our value for this half term is Generosity and this will link with our Harvest Festival, which you will be invited to come and join us during this autumn term.

Reception P.E. - will usually take place on a Thursday afternoon and they will need their P.E. kit in school - see below for kit information.

Uniform reminder:

Black school shoes (not trainers); please avoid laces until your child can tie them independently.

Navy/black/grey trousers, pinafores or skirts.

Pale blue/ white polo t- shirt or shirt.

Navy blue sweatshirt/ fleece / jumper / cardigan.

Girls - blue checked dresses.

Reception - Blue shorts and pale blue t-shirt for indoor P.E. trainers or pumps.

Please could all parents provide a pair of named wellington boots for outdoor learning.

***** ALL UNIFORM MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED ***** This includes things like socks, shoes, hats and gloves!

If everything is named, we will save a huge amount of time that is wasted when searching for your child's lost clothing.

Hair: We would like to request that all long hair (boys & girls) be put up for school in an effort to help prevent the outbreaks of head lice, which are so common.

Jewellery: Children should not wear any jewellery to school.

Finally, please could we remind you to let us know if someone other than the person who normally collects them will collect your child from school.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Mrs Hulme, Mrs Bradbury, Miss Hall and Ms Fowler