

# Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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## Newsletter 22 May 2020

We hope that you are all well. Next week will be another unusual holiday period, following on from Easter. We continue to remain open for the children of our Key Worker parents next week, and I want to thank the staff for what they have been during these unprecedented times. We await the government announcement on May 28<sup>th</sup> as regarding the wider re-opening of schools. We will communicate with you if this has any implications for our initial plans as soon as we are able to. Keep well, and thank you for your continued understanding.

Mr Wood

Judging by the recent photos and work that teachers are seeing there is still great enthusiasm out there and an abundance of creativity. Well done children and parents!

Mrs Lafford will be updating our home learning page with some of your latest work, keep an eye out: <https://waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk/parents/home-learning/>

### Half Term Value - Tolerance (Explore)

Our next school value is tolerance. It is the "willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs that are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them". An activity sheet is attached.

Another meaning, and something which we can all relate to at this time: "the ability to deal with something unpleasant or annoying, or to continue existing despite bad or difficult conditions".

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### Mental Health Awareness



### [Mental Health Awareness Week 2020](#)

Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Awareness Week will take place from 18-24 May 2020. The theme is 'sleep'. The week will focus on the connections between our sleep - or lack of it - and mental health. Want the latest updates from this campaign? How can I get involved? What resources are available?

[www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

Mr Dodson thought we might all find some helpful resources on the Mental Health Foundation website.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

The theme is sleep - which is so important to feed our resilience, tolerance and happiness. It also looks at kindness; how a small act of kindness can be so beneficial to all involved: a phone call to someone you've not spoken to in months, to simply say hello or a smile to someone standing next to you in the supermarket queue.

## Online Safety

So much of life is online at the moment; here is some timely information links gathered together by our Online Safety Lead Mrs Cooper.

### **Learning about online safety at home (ThinkUKnow)**

ThinkUKnow have created a page to support parents and young people online. The site includes home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities support children's understanding of online safety at a time.

There is also parent support information for primary and secondary age groups.

The resources can be found here: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>

### **Be SMART: Online Safety Video Lessons for 6 - 9 year olds (Childnet)**

Childnet have released six new easy-to-follow videos for parents and children to work through together. The 10 - 15 minute videos offer simple, clear online safety advice using fun activities, games and discussion. There are optional follow-up activities to extend children's learning.

The videos can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

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## TT Rock Stars

Congratulations to **Ryan P**, **Charlie Hi** and **Savannah C** who have become Rock Legends! They have been spending time on the TT Rockstars website and have been answering multiplication and division facts up to X12 in under 2 seconds!

## Accelerated Reader



Lots of reading is still taking place and we attach the latest Accelerated Reader Word Count Leader Board. Reading a book is a wonderful way to switch off and enter a world of imagination or immerse yourself in facts and information of a favourite subject. As it is the end of half term certificates will be sent out to those children who have reached their Points Targets.

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## National Book Tokens Competition



National Book Tokens have an annual competition for a school to win £5000 of tokens to purchase books for their library. Follow this link: <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools> to the nomination page. Also, everybody that votes are entered into a draw to win £100 of book tokens for themselves.

## Competition Winner!



Congratulations to **Jack B** who won the KS1 age group of the QEGS Sports poster competition. Pupils were asked to create a colourful poster that incorporated the sporting activities at QEGS and a motto that could be used for 2020-21.

His winning poster will be used for advertising events and displayed at QEGS.



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## Universal Free School Meals Food Hampers

The next food parcels have been ordered and will be delivered on Tuesday 2nd June. If any parents/carers of children in R, Y1 or Y2 would like to start to receive a food parcel, please email the school office.

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## Some Thoughts from Mrs Hulme

Some parents may be worried that they may have done no formal schooling one week, this is my reply:

You say you have not done any work but your family have been making the memories that will last for a long, long time. Learning is not always about reading, writing and maths - yes we need those skills in our lives but we also need to know how to bake, to share, to take turns and how to live in harmony with our families - this is learning and key life skills for the future so never apologise for enjoying this time in your lives.

Also, I thought I would share this post. Please read it and be proud of who you are X

Dear Parents.

Today marks six full weeks since our country went into lockdown.

You have had your children home for the same time now that you would if they were on summer holidays. People will say 'but they are your responsibility' and while that is true no-one could be expected to have imagined this period before they chose to conceive.

You have protected, nourished, educated, supported and entertained your children during a period of national and international uncertainty and fear.

You have experienced emotions for yourself and your family that you never knew existed, never mind experienced before.

Six weeks is a long time.

Think about how you feel at the end of the summer holidays, how ready you are for routine,

how badly your house needs cleaning, how much work you are ready to catch up on. Remember that exhausting feeling of having so little sleep, much less money and hearing 'mummy/daddy' every time you happen to sit down.

And you wonder why you are exhausted after six weeks of lockdown?

You are amazing! You have achieved something no other parent ever has!

You have faced six weeks unable to take your child or children anywhere, six weeks of no parks, holidays to break up the boredom, no day trips, no family to help.

On top of that you have juggled work demands, loneliness on a level never experienced before, information overload from the internet and emotional turmoil of not being able to see people you hold dear. Even getting food to eat has been a major drama!

So, it's ok to feel drained.

It's ok to feel like you would sell your soul right now for five minutes alone.

It's ok to feel uninspired about another day of home-schooling, another day of never ending laundry and cooking.

It's ok to be so very tired.

Six weeks is a long time.

But you have made it.

Be proud of yourself.

Stand tall.

History will show you for your courage, your children will remember this period as a time knowing they were safe and loved and teachers everywhere are deeply grateful that you are there for your children when they should be but can't be.

In short: you are awesome!

And so are your children. ♡



*From all the staff at Waterhouses: Stay Safe, Look out for one another and have a lovely Half Term Holiday!*

Question • Explore • Give • Succeed

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