

# Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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## NEWSLETTER

"Celebrate Learning, Achieving and Friendship in God's Love"

No. 7

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020



SUNRISE BREAKFAST CLUB available daily: 7:45am-8:45am  
SUNSHINE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB available daily: 3:30pm-6:00pm

To book either please telephone **01538 308356 Option 3** (Mrs Derbyshire)  
or email [Derbyshire.D@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Derbyshire.D@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk)



Our Value for next Half Term is **HAPPINESS**

HAPPINESS IS



...happy, healthy children.

HAPG101  
[instagram.com/theofficialhappinessis](https://www.instagram.com/theofficialhappinessis) [facebook.com/itsthehappyface](https://www.facebook.com/itsthehappyface) (c) [loftemen.com](https://www.instagram.com/loftemen.com) 2015

### Christmas Plays

Our Christmas plays this year sadly had to be performed behind closed doors. However the pupils in Ladybirds and Otters rose to the challenge giving delightful performances which were caught on camera. The performing pupils have taken a dvd home for their families to enjoy.

Thank you to Mrs Porteous for giving her time for filming the plays and editing and producing the dvds.



### Otters' Christmas Play

Last Friday, wearing costumes over coats, the children in Otters' class performed their Nativity - 'The Landlord's Cat' - a tale about a cat who was fed up with being ignored by her owners. One night, whilst on the verge of leaving home a man and his pregnant wife arrive at the inn where she lives and are shown to the stable. Our wily and intuitive cat sensed these were no ordinary couple and that something special was about to happen. Naturally she was determined to find out just what it was ...



WE HAVE NOW LAUNCHED  
OUR VERY OWN  
WATERHOUSES TWITTER  
SITE: @WATERHOUSESPA

PLEASE FIND AND ADD US  
TO YOUR TWITTER FEED TO  
RECEIVE LITTLE NEWSY  
ITEMS DIRECT FROM THE  
CLASSROOM, AS THEY ARE  
HAPPENING!

Despite all the current restrictions this year, the children braved the cold and sometimes rain to practise and all their hard work paid off with them giving a stellar performance which provided



moments of amusement whilst bringing a tear to the eye in equal measure.

Well done Otters; Mrs Cooper and Mrs Derbyshire are very proud of you.

### Christmas Jumpers



The school got very festive on Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th when the children (and staff) enjoyed coming to school in their Christmas jumpers. There were some fantastic designs on display. Thank you for your donations, the money raised will go to PTFA



funds which will be used to enrich further the children's school life.

### Christmas Meal

Thank you to Mrs Andrew for once again cooking up a magnificent festive feast for the school. Turkey with all the trimmings was greatly enjoyed by everyone.



**In other news from the kitchen ....** the All day Breakfast will continue on a Monday except for the first week back when it will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Pizza and potato wedges will be served on the first day back Monday 4<sup>th</sup>.

The current menu will continue, starting with Week 1 when we return.

### Admission to Primary and Middle schools September 2021 entry

A reminder that the closing date for applying for a **Reception** place is **Friday 15th January 2021**.

You need to apply for September 2021:

- if your child's **5th birthday** is between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 for a place at **primary school**
- if your child will be in **year 4** in September 2020 for a place at **middle school**.

[See the timetable](#) for key dates in the process.

Letters have been emailed out to our current Nursery children. Parents wishing their child to start in our **Reception** in September 2021 can now apply for a place online via the Staffordshire County Council web page:

[https://ems.staffordshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal\\_LIVE%2F](https://ems.staffordshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F)

Children in Year 4 who are staying in our setting into year 5 do not need to apply for a place. No further action is required to stay on.

## Christmas Tree and Calendar

Thank you to Lafarge for the donation of the wonderful tree again. It has brightened these dull days twinkling away beautifully near the community entrance and bedecked with the children's hand made decorations.



### Community Links

We have not been able to invite the community into school this year so we have sent out some Christmas cheer from school.



All the pupils either decorated baubles or created beautiful cards which were delivered to our friends in the local area. We hope it raised a smile.



Also a big thank you from Leek and District Food Bank for the harvest donations that you kindly brought into school earlier in the year.



Our budding artists and designers have once again contributed to the Lafarge 2021 calendars with some beautiful artwork - this year it was on the theme of animals. All the children and school community have been provided with a calendar. We hope you enjoy them.

### Forest School

It has been another amazing term for our children, with both the Ladybirds and White Tigers enjoying some fantastic activities and outdoor learning. With the recent cold weather, I know both classes have enjoyed hot chocolate around the camp fire to finish off each session.

Everyone at Waterhouses would like to say a massive thank you to Katie, our Forest School Practitioner who continues to provide amazing outdoor learning opportunities for all our children.

**From January 2021 White Tigers and Otters will take part in Forest School on Fridays**



Finally a big thanks to Mr and Mrs Hine for their wonderful donation of wooden Christmas Trees, the photo above is one of them taking pride and place in the Forest School area.

## A Mexican Christmas!

"Feliz Navidad!" - Happy Christmas from the White Tigers. The Christmas tree in their room has been decorated with a 'Day of the Dead' theme complete with colourful paper skulls and a sombrero tree topper!



Clay skulls, made on their topic enrichment day and marigold garlands were placed around the base of the tree.

Other activities included colourful scratch art design Christmas cards; a star decoration, complete with colourful tassels and mini piñatas to honour the 'Posada parties' take place on the nine days before Christmas day in Mexico.

A 'Posada' is an inn or lodging and the Posada parades, which take place on the run up to Christmas, remind the people of Mexico of the trouble Mary and Joseph had in finding room in the inn when Jesus was born. Neighbours will knock on each others' doors until they find a Posada with room for a party!

No doubt these parties are another victim to Covid-19 Lockdown rules!



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## Accelerated Reader Achievements

If there's one thing we can still do at the moment, and have been able to throughout the whole of the pandemic, it's read! Our children have come back to school enthused to get back to their regular reading habits and have been ploughing through the new books that we were so lucky to get during the summer months last year. We want to say a big well done to you all but especially those who have met their reading targets for the first time, made excellent progress in their reading assessments or made it onto the top 10 leader board for the first time. Keep up the fantastic work! The last leader board of 2020 is attached to this newsletter.

Special certificates have been awarded to our 'Most Improved Readers' of the term as well as book prizes in our in-class celebrations today. Our top readers are:

Ladybirds/ Reception - **Imogen H**

Y1 - **Charlie F**

Y2 - **Lola A**

Y3 - **Lucas W**

Y4 - **Mia H**

Y5 - **Skye C**

Y6 - **Millie H**

The winner of our reading raffle (tickets for 100% quizzers and regular reading) was Elizabeth-Rose O. She has also taken home a book prize to enjoy over Christmas.

We hope the children all enjoy their presents off Santa, he had an elf leave them under the Christmas tree this year as he couldn't be with us. Many thanks to the PTFA for their generous gifts of a new book for every child for Christmas.



**Total Words Read This Year**

**2,814,009**



1. Ruby-May F  
73,417



2. Millie H  
63,308

3. Imogen F  
39,847



4. Ryan P  
33,338

5. Phoenix W  
32,200



6. George H  
27,536

7. Sam R  
26,869



8. Faith G  
16,354



9. Grace S  
15,028



10. Constance G  
13,757



**From the Office**

We hope you are finding the new Parent Pay system easy to use. Please remember to log on and make payments for Dinners and Sunshine Club as required, thank you.

On our return we will be changing our text and email service to Groupcall. In the future you may see texts coming through with this name attached.

**Local Church Services over Christmas**

December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Midnight Mass @ Calton Church

December 25<sup>th</sup> - 9.15am @ Cauldon Church

December 25<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am @ Waterfall Church

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

From all at Waterhouses Primary

Have a very Happy and Safe Holiday

**School re-opens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>  
January**

Question • Explore • Give • Succeed

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