

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Mr David Wood



NEWSLETTER

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

No. 8

Date: 12th January 2021

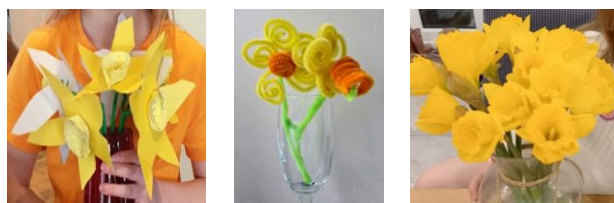


SUNRISE BREAKFAST CLUB available daily: 7:45am-8:45am
SUNSHINE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB available daily: 3:30pm-6:00pm

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



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



Dear Parents and Carers

What a half term it has been.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your support and understanding. As parents ourselves, we fully appreciate the challenges that we have all been facing with supporting our children's learning, whilst at the same time doing all we can to ensure that theirs, as well as our own, mental health and wellbeing is as strong as it can be. We know this is far from easy. You are all doing the best that you can, remember that. We know that there will have been times when it has been a real struggle, and completing the learning activities may not have been possible. We appreciate that, and want to reassure that you will not have been on your own in that regard.

As stated on previous occasions, we will find out about the full re-opening of schools at the same time as you do. We know that the earliest date will be March 8th, and that the government have said that they will give us all 2 weeks prior notice to when school restrictions will be eased. Unfortunately, we can offer no more information than that at this time. Rest assured, we will

communicate to you all as soon as we have had time to digest and make sense of the announcement and what it will mean for us as a school, whilst placing the safety of the community central to this.

We also want to take the opportunity to thank you for wearing your face masks when on the school site, and keeping your distance from others. We appreciate this is not easy, but we know why we are doing it. Please continue to following these precautions when we return after half term.

Thank you to those of you who have passed on your appreciation for the support that you have received from our dedicated team of staff. It is greatly appreciated and means a lot to them. I too want to thank them again for their hard work and dedication.

As many of you will know, Mrs Cooper fell and suffered a nasty injury a couple of weeks ago. She continues to support the remote learning for Otters whilst recuperating at home. We thank you for this Mrs Cooper. We hope that her recovery continues to go well and very much look forward to welcoming her back in person in the not too distant future.

Take care and stay safe.

David Wood
Headteacher

Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies Initiative

Just a reminder about our 'Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies' initiative to be introduced from the 22nd of February 2021. This initiative recognises the importance both play in the wellbeing of our pupils. As previously stated via Class Dojo, this the initiative will initially run simultaneously for the children working remotely from home and the children in school. Once all children have returned to school it will run as originally planned with tokens being distributed by all members of staff. However, we will continue to encourage parents to share and celebrate any instances where your child has demonstrated a 'Healthy Mind' or a 'Healthy Body'.

Healthy Minds

Success in all areas will continue to be celebrated at Waterhouses but this new initiative looks to celebrate non-academic achievements, from sporting success to excellence in the arts (for example, this could be for artistic excellence or learning to play the piano) and will also recognise the importance they play in a child's wellbeing. It will also appreciate the importance of teamwork, friendship, fair play, dedication, resilience and overcoming adversity and will cover a multitude of areas. This is to ensure all children have an opportunity to shine, and as a school we have an opportunity to celebrate their successes, which can only be beneficial for your children's wellbeing.

Healthy Bodies

Diet, nutrition and sleep also play an important role in the mental, physical, and social development of a child. The establishment of healthy eating in childhood can reduce the risk of health problems such as coronary heart disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis in later life. With this in mind, we aim to continue to establish good eating habits, to promote good growth and to hope that these will be continued into adulthood. A piece of fruit is already provided for every KS1 and EYFS child in school, with any surplus fruit distributed to KS2 children. With this in mind, we will be encouraging children to understand the importance of a balanced diet on their wellbeing. We ask for your support in continuing to provide healthy snacks for playtime and to discuss the importance of a balanced diet when packing lunchboxes.

We will use our 3 Houses, Dove, Hamps and Manifold to celebrate wellbeing.

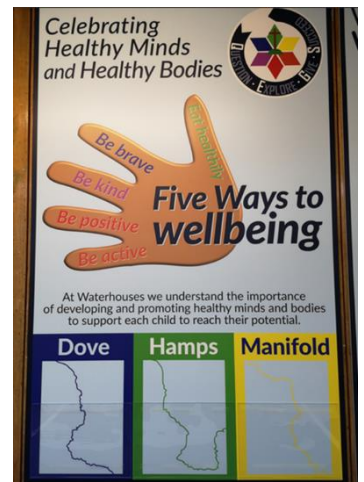
Children will receive tokens (in the colour of their House) from any member of staff to celebrate occasions where they have demonstrated a 'Healthy Mind' or 'Healthy Body.' However, if you are currently working from home, please submit a photo or let your child's class teacher know if you believe they deserve a token. These will then be given virtually until all children return to school (hopefully in the near future).

Remember, to receive a token the focus is on; Eat healthily, Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Positive and Be Active.



Here are some ideas of how tokens at home could be earned; trying a new vegetable/fruit, helping younger siblings, playing a musical instrument, going for a walk, having a positive attitude to home learning (especially when something is difficult), having a positive attitude to helping tidy up, being brave if going to the dentist/doctors/hospital. The list is endless so please keep sharing these with your class teacher. They in turn will add a dojo point onto the relevant House so we can ensure all of the children are involved.

These tokens will then be totalled up at the end of each term, where the winning House will receive an 'enrichment award'. This may be delivered by members of Waterhouses staff or by external organisations (as and when permitting). Each member of the winning house will also receive a virtual raffle ticket. At the end of the year, there will be a range of prizes to be won in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and the winners will be revealed at the end of each term, with a final celebration assembly taking place in July each year.



Examples of some of the main prizes that will be on offer in July.



Until schools open we will also continue to set aside every Friday afternoon to focus on wellbeing, for pupils, parents and staff alike. Please check out the Whole School Story each Friday for further information, ideas and suggested activities.

I will also be looking to introduce a new 'Empowered Learner' award after half term which will look to develop children's independence and resilience and builds on from the Zones of Regulation which has already been introduced across the school.

Here is a brief overview below, but more details will follow in the coming weeks.

All pupils at Waterhouses will be given the opportunity to work towards achieving the 'Waterhouses CE Primary Academy & Nursery Award' This is the most prestigious award that any pupil at Waterhouses can achieve and involves a considerable amount of hard work, dedication and commitment from the pupil that extends beyond the school day. This award is designed to encourage our pupils to try new experiences, develop new interests and acquire new skills. We recognise the importance in supporting our children to become life-long learners and developing the whole child, which includes 'Behaviour for Learning.' We recognise the impact that personal skills can have on the academic success and well-being of our children. They play a vital role in developing the ability of learners to enjoy and reflect on their learning across the curriculum.

The six areas for personal development.

- 1. Self-Management,**
- 2. Effective Partnership**
- 3. Resourceful Thinkers**
- 4. Reflective Learners**
- 5. Independent Enquirers**
- 6. Team Workers**

Once again I would like to thank you all for your support and engagement over this very challenging term.

Matthew Dodson

Deputy Headteacher and Wellbeing Lead

HALF TERM VALUE - SERVICE

Our value for this half term is service and within that we are also thinking about the way that we serve others in our ordinary lives. The Christian life is one of service to others, where we show love and kindness to all and we carry each other's burdens.

Serving doesn't just make you feel good. Studies have shown that there are mental and physical health benefits to serving, like reducing depression, lowering blood pressure and lengthening your lifespan. Putting other people's needs before yours also strengthens your relationships.

As a family, you may like to look at some of the activities on the attached worksheet.

Wellness Resource Pack from Lichfield Cathedral



The February half term break is approaching and usually families would be welcomed to the Cathedral to join in craft activities. As this isn't possible this year, they have put together a downloadable resource pack based on the theme of *Wellness*. Each activity encourages children to think about their mental health in an age appropriate way and gives an opportunity to discuss their emotions with a parent or care giver, while being fun and creative.

This pack includes the following three activities:

- Making a worry doll
- Making a prayer cube
- How to grow a rainbow experiment

These can all be completed by children at home with simple resources such as pens, scissors and glue. The prayer cube is attached to this newsletter.

To get the downloadable pack use this link:

[WELLNESS FOR FAMILIES - Lichfield Cathedral \(lichfield-cathedral.org\)](http://WELLNESS FOR FAMILIES - Lichfield Cathedral (lichfield-cathedral.org))



TT Rockstars Shoutouts

Our first **Rock Hero** (the ultimate accolade in TT Rockstars) whose current speed (multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12) is a mind blowing 0.91 seconds, yes you read that correct, 0.91 seconds per question is ...

RYAN P - Year 4

A big well-done Ryan who originally started out at 10.17 seconds. It just goes to show practise makes perfect.



A big shoutout also goes to the following children.

Grace S (Y6) Rock Legend who has gone from 10.17 seconds per question to 1.52 seconds.

Skye C (Y5) Garage Rocker who has gone from 22.02 seconds per question to 9.52 seconds.

Esme B (Y5) Rockstar who has gone from 17.14 seconds per question to 3.37 seconds.

Flo R (Y5) Rockstar who has gone from 13.64 seconds per question to 2.90 seconds.

Faith G (Y5) Rockstar who has gone from 10 seconds per question to 2.96 seconds.

Raif S (Y4) Rock Legend who has gone from 13.04 seconds per question to 1.89 seconds.

Constance G (Y4) Rock Star who has gone from 13.04 seconds per question to 2.51 seconds.

Harley H (Y4) Headliner who has gone from 30 seconds per question to 3.71 seconds.

Mia H (Y4) Gigger who has gone from 11.11 seconds per question to 7.79 seconds.

Thomas B (Y4) Headline who has gone from 24 seconds per question to 3.11 seconds.

Beatrice T (Y3) Unsigned Act who has gone from 28.57 seconds per question to 6.74 seconds.

Alfie B (Y3) Rockstar who has gone from 7.14 seconds per question to 2.63 seconds.

Leighton C (Y3) Rockstar who has gone from 10.34 seconds per question to 2.53 seconds.

Freddie F (Y3) Gigger who has gone from 9.38 seconds per question to 7.32 seconds.

Isabel H (Y3) Support Act who has gone from 13.33 seconds per question to 4.76 seconds.

Lexi R (Y3) Headliner who has gone from 7.06 seconds per question to 4.05 seconds.

Phoenix W (Y3) Support Act who has gone from 20 seconds per question to 4.65 seconds.

Lucas W (Y3) Gigger who has gone from 11.32 seconds per question to 7.50 seconds.

Archie B (Y2) Busker who has gone from 19.35 seconds per question to 8.75 seconds.

Jack B (Y2) Busker who has gone from 13.04 seconds per question to 8.82 seconds.

Details held on File

For contactability and safeguarding, please remember to keep us informed of any change in family or emergency contact details. Also please ensure we know of any medical conditions, allergies or dietary requirements.

Please contact the school office if you would like to update us (email: office@waterhouses.staffs.sc h.uk)

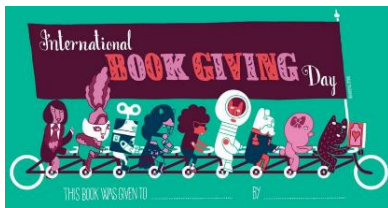
Thank you



Accelerated Reader

With the freezing cold weather outside, what better thing is there to do than curl up with a book inside where it's warm! And it certainly looks like that's what the Otters class have been doing as today 11 points target certificates have been sent home to Year 2 children who have reached their Accelerated reader targets this half term. Well done! A smaller number of certificates have been awarded in both Key Stage 2 classes but Mr Dodson and Mrs Lafford know lots of reading has been going on as we have enjoyed listening to so many stories over the phone during the last couple of weeks! It has been lovely to stay connected via our shared love of books. Our class stories have also been a regular feature of the day's remote learning offer and both teachers have enjoyed sharing a selected story with their classes. Remember, the stories that we share become ideas for our own, so keep reading!

Attached to the newsletter is our word count leader board for the half term which just goes to show that there certainly has been a lot of reading going on at home over the past few weeks! Well done to our top 10.



If you are not the slushy, romantic type, instead of celebrating Valentine's Day on Sunday, you could always acknowledge a shared love of literature with a loved one by celebrating **International Book Giving Day** - also celebrated on the **14th February!**

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

On Friday 29th January through to the 31st, children at home and in school took part in the RSPB Great Garden Bird Watch. We had a fun-filled day on Friday in school observing the birds, graphing our results and making artwork from the natural materials in our school grounds. Birds we observed in school were: robins, crows, blackbirds and magpies. What did you see at home? Here are a few pictures of the children's artwork, created in school and at home. Our Forest School display board has also had a bit of an update!



JOIN OUR NURSERY!

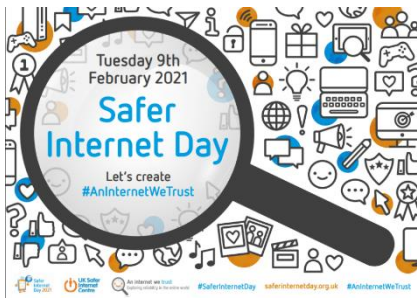


Any parents who would like their children to start in our Nursery in either the summer term or September, please either complete the Nursery application form on the website: [Admissions - Waterhouses CE Primary Academy](#) or email the school office with the information. Please also provide details of the days and hours in which you are interested.

There are lots of fun activities both indoors and outside, and lots of learning through play.



Re our **summer intake** we will be sending out induction packs after the half term, including details about applying for the extended hours of government funding.



As we are all spending so much more time online these days this Safer Internet day 2021 on Tuesday 9th February was even more important to acknowledge. This year's theme was "An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world" In school we accessed the BBC live internet assembly as directed on Class Dojo. The 30 minute video is still available if you follow this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/safer-internet-day-live-lesson/zdh2wnb>

A Celebration of Learning

There has been some wonderful learning going on at home and in school. There have been some the lovely daffodil designs shared on the Class Dojo, representing Hope - 3 can be seen at the top of this newsletter.

Maybe children would like to take a moment to think about their highlights: Mrs Hulme's entertaining phonics videos, we do hope the children enjoyed rocking gently as cuckoos; Mrs Cooper's curly caterpillars and one-armed robots helping her pupils to create beautiful shapes in their handwriting; Mr Dodson's busy bees helping with the maths, and joining him to read 'The Darkest Hour' with his dog Mindy snuggled on the sofa sharing the story; and Mrs Lafford's pupils wonderful work on the topic of World War II, some excellent poems and shelter designs. I think we have all enjoyed spending time outside in nature, even if it has been a little chilly this half term. Becky Hunt continues to provide virtual music lessons and two pupils, Ryan P & Ruby-May F have performed their tunes via the Class Dojo.



A reminder that Waterhouses CE Primary Academy & Nursery have joined the My School Fund initiative. The scheme combines the spending power of parents, guardians and carers in order to boost school budgets. By registering, parents can link their spending to the school, meaning every time you make a purchase with participating retailers we both benefit through an innovative cashback scheme. So far 10 people have signed up and we have raised a total of £8.51. Thank you!

How does it work?

Parents and Carers can sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback when they purchase at participating retailers including Sainsbury's and Argos. As you spend you will receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers which can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school we will also receive 1% cashback. The eGift Cards can be accessed by logging into your account on the My School Fund website ..

Please visit www.myschoolfund.org and get involved. Thank you.

Coronavirus Update

Coronavirus Update

The NHS is now asking **people aged 70 and over and clinically extremely vulnerable adults on the Shielded Patients List who have not been vaccinated yet to come forward and make an appointment.**



The easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service which can be accessed at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. Anyone unable to book online can **call 119** free of charge, anytime between 7AM and 11PM, seven days a week.

In Staffordshire everyone who has a legitimate reason for being out and about during lockdown, are being asked to get tested at least weekly at one of our community testing centres for people without symptoms.

Community Testing Centres are open seven days a week for people without symptoms, **Brough Park Leisure Centre in Leek is one of our closest**. Walk-in testing without appointment is available on the day or people can book in advance at [Welcome to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Test Sites Appointment System \(zipporah.co.uk\)](https://www.zipporah.co.uk)

More information on Covid-19 can be found on the Staffordshire County Council site [here](#).

Half Term Activities

See below for an activity you might like to do as a family this weekend. Wrap up warm and take a flask of hot chocolate out with you and count stars. For further information go to <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2021/>

Star Count 2021: 6th to 14th February



The countryside charity

Starry skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. Light pollution not only limits our views of these skies, but also disrupts wildlife's natural patterns. We want to reclaim our dark skies.

We run an [annual star count](#), helping us to see where light pollution is a problem and where the darkest skies are. We use this evidence to advocate for better-controlled lighting, and we offer advice about what we can all do to reduce local light pollution.

We think that [dark and starry skies are a special part of our countryside](#). Nothing beats looking upwards to see velvety blackness, with twinkling constellations as far as the eye can see.

Our buildings and streetlights emit light, though, and this can affect our view of truly dark skies. We want to make sure that we can all enjoy starlit nights, and we need your help in measuring what effect light is having on our views of the galaxy.

What is Star Count?

The best way to see how many stars we can all see in the sky is... to count them! So we're asking people from all across the country to become citizen scientists and look heavenwards from home for one night. Join in by choosing a clear night between **6-14 February 2021**, looking up at the constellation of **Orion** and letting us know how many stars you can spot.



This year we're asking everyone to take part from home. You can stargaze from your garden, balcony, doorstep or even bedroom window.

Dates for your Diary

11 - 17 Feb: Random Act of Kindness Week

Tuesday 16th Feb: Shrove Tuesday

24 Feb to 8 Mar: Fairtrade Fortnight

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

Friday 19th March: Comic Relief

Have a lovely half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back, either to school or to their home learning, on Monday 22nd February.

Question • Explore • Give • Succeed

Proud to be part of the QEGSMAT, The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP
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Accelerated™ Word Count Leader Board Reader

Total Words Read This Year

4,372,791



1. Faith G
693,882



2. Grace S
212,073

3. Ruby-May F
193,704



5. Phoenix W
114,904



4. Millie H
136,442

7. Ryan P
64,371



6. Charlie K
74,649

8. Willow S
63,705



9. Oscar G
52,476



10. Leighton C
44,437





Make a Cube

