



# Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery

“Let your light shine”

*Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Matt 5 v 16*

## Newsletter 2: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

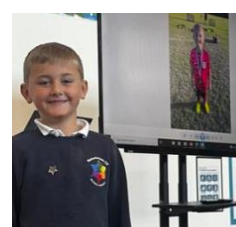
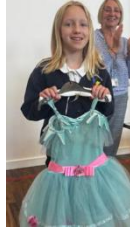
Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to share with you some of the remarkable events and achievements that have taken place within our school this term.

We have celebrated the wonderful children in our school at Celebration Worship. All the children have worked hard on their academic learning,



And the staff, governors and community are amazed at the level of talents of our children who celebrated their awards from the summer holidays too!



## Grandparents Lunch:

Thank you to all Grandparents who attended lunch to celebrate Grandparents Day. Delicious food was served by our catering team, and it was lovely to see children and their Grandparents sharing this special time together. Thank you to the amazing Waterhouses Team, which includes Mrs Jackie Pakes, one of our Governors, for your support in serving over 180 lunches.





### **Harvest Celebration:**

Our recent Harvest Celebration has been a resounding success, demonstrating the strong sense of community and compassion that underpins our school vision: *Let Your Light Shine*. The children have learnt the importance of the harvest. Given thanks for the food they have and did some brilliant singing!

The generosity displayed by our pupils, parents and staff through their donations has been truly heartening and as a school we have donated to the food banks in Leek and Ashbourne, who joined us for our celebration and explained the importance of this service.



### **Tri-Golf festival:**

The pupils from Penguins and White Tigers Class attended a Tri-Golf festival at Parwich Cricket Club.

The events included a putting range, a pitch and put course and a driving range. The children had a lot of fun taking part and really enjoyed the afternoon. As always, their behaviour was exemplary.

Thanks to Mr Evans, Mr Walker and Mrs Salt for accompanying and supporting the children throughout the afternoon.



### **Forest School:**

White Tigers are enjoying their Forest School sessions this half term, they have explored the wooded environment, engaging with nature and built rope swings.

These hands-on, child-led activities foster self-esteem, creativity, and a love for the natural world.



### **PTFA Fundraising Event:**



Our wonderful PTFA held their first community event at the end of September 'Pig Racing'. The event was sponsored by local businesses and hosted by John, Dave and Mave.

Delicious food was served by the local Manifold Station Cafe who gave a kind donation to PTFA funds.

Thank you to our wonderful PTFA and every single person/business who helped make such a successful night which raised over **£1,300**.



### **Swimming kit plea:**

If your child has outgrown any swimsuits or swim shorts – particularly if they are in the older year groups – we would be very grateful for any donations please. These items will be stored at school and used as spares during the swimming lessons.



Please ensure any donated swimwear is clean and in good condition. Donations can be handed in to Mrs Duffield or Mrs Hulme. Thank you for your support.

### **Uniform:**

We have had a few items that have gone missing. Please can you double-check that other people's jumpers etc have not been brought home by mistake, and an even bigger plea that if you have not already to put names on clothes, please. Also, if you have any outgrown uniform please can you send it into school for our uniform bank.



### **Jewellery:**

Jewellery should not be worn to school to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. Only single stud earrings are allowed to be worn but must be removed on swimming and PE days thank you for your cooperation.

### **Secret Story Tellers:**

As a school, we are promoting the love of reading for pleasure. We are keen to starting our "secret reader" again. Thank you to the parents, carers and families who have already volunteered.



The idea behind it is that someone comes into class to share a story without the children knowing.

If you would like to come into school to share a story with one of our classes, please can you contact the school office or your child teacher to arrange a suitable day and time.

### **Communications**



Each morning there will be a staff member on the door to pass on any messages to class teachers. Alternatively, you can message them directly via DoJo and they will do their best to respond by the end of the day. The school office will continue to send out communications via Email and DoJo. A newsletter is also sent out monthly.



The school staff will also use Facebook and/or DoJo to highlight any events which the children have taken part in.

### **School Photographs:**

Alethea Simpson has been into school this morning to take photographs. All the children looked very smart in their school uniform.

Information will be sent out next week regarding your child / ren's photographs.

### **Attendance**



We pride ourselves on our excellent attendance data and we are in the top 10% of primary schools in England. Our recent Ofsted inspection also noted this. The governors, staff and QEGSMAT are keen to ensure that pupil punctuality and attendance is of the highest standard. All state schools are unable to authorise any request for holidays in term time. More information about this is on our website. If you do need to request leave for an exceptional reason, please contact me to discuss your situation beforehand.

Evidence and research show that pupils who arrive in good time and attend school have the very best chances of progress and success. School is open for pupils from 8:45am (unless attending Breakfast Club) and lessons start promptly at 9am. The Government does not set specific attendance targets, but schools are expected to set their own. An attendance rate of **95%** is generally considered good; this allows for children to miss 9.5 days for sickness/illness across the school year. Persistent absence (PA) is defined as an attendance rate of 90% or below. As previously, the school will send out the attendance data for your child for your information each half term.

### **Dates for the Year**

At the end of this letter, I've set out as many of the dates for the year that we have already have in place. Over the year, more will be added, and reminders will be sent out by staff. A copy of each newsletter will also be put up in the school notice board. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter at any time, please drop into the school office.

Best wishes,

Joy Hulme (Mrs)

### **Dates for the Year 2025-6**

<b>Autumn Term 2025</b>	
13 Oct	White Tigers : Safe and Sound at Leek – details to follow
15 Oct	3.45 -6pm Parents Evening
20 Oct	Police drop in 3-4pm 'Police drop in' type surgery after school for any parents/carers who may want to speak to the local PCSO with any concerns.
22 Oct	Aut 1 Half termly homework to be handed in
23 Oct	3.45 -6pm Parents Evening
24 Oct	School closes for half term
3 Nov	School opens for Autumn 2 Flu Vaccines R – Y6 Aut 2 Half termly homework set

7 Nov	Forest School for Penguins this half term each Friday
10 Nov	Police drop in 3-4pm 'Police drop in' type surgery after school for any parents/carers who may want to speak to the local PCSO with any concerns.
11 Nov	Y3-6 Primary Stars Cross Country at Parwich
14 Nov	Children in Need Day – PJ and slippers day for a donation Penguins to bring Forest School clothes in a bag
19 Nov	Whole School Art Day
21 Nov	TT Rock Stars / relaunch day – a day filled with maths activities We want children to feel like rock stars for the day! Did we say just children obviously, we mean staff too! Children and staff come to school dressed as rock stars (Penguins have Forest School pm)
24 Nov	Y3 Bikeability
28 Nov	9:15am Celebration Assembly
3 and 4 Dec	Y1/2 Christmas Play 2:15pm
10 Dec	Aladdin - Buxton Panto – more details to follow
11 Dec	Parents Christmas Lunch – details to follow
12 Dec	Ladybirds Nativity – 9:30am
15 Dec	Aut 2 Half termly homework to be handed in
16 Dec	6pm :Community Carol Service
17 Dec	Children's Christmas Lunch
19 Dec	Christmas disco – more information to follow. School closes for the Christmas holiday

## Spring Term 2026

5 Jan	INSET Day for Staff
6 Jan	Children return for Spring 1
7-9 Jan	White Tigers: Stanley Head : more details to follow
9 Jan	Forest School for Otters this half term each Friday
20 Jan	Primary Stars Event at Waterhouses R- Y6
27 Jan	Primary Stars Event at Waterhouses Y3,4,5 and 6
30 Jan	9:15am Celebration Assembly
4 Feb	3.45 -6pm Parents Evening
12 Feb	3.45 -6pm Parents Evening
13 Feb	School closes for half term holiday

23 Feb	Children return for Spring 2
27 Feb	Forest School for Ladybirds this half term each Friday
5 Mar	World Book Day
11 Mar	Mother's Day lunch – 11:30am children to sing. Lunch served at 12 noon
17 Mar	Primary Stars Event at Waterhouses R- Y6
20 Mar	9:15am Celebration Assembly
27 Mar	School closes for Easter holiday

## Summer Term 2026

13 Apr	INSET day for Staff
14 Apr	Children return for Summer 1
4 May	School closed for Bank holiday
11-14 May	KS2 SATs
22 May	9:15am Celebration Assembly School closes for half term holiday
1 June	INSET day for Staff
2 June	Children return for Summer 2
16 June	Primary Stars Rounders at Parwich
26 June	Sports Day - Ladybirds AM Y1-6 PM
3 Jul	Reserve Sports Day
7 and 8 Jul	Queen Elizabeth's Y7 Transition days
9 July	White Tigers and Penguins Play : 2pm and 6pm
10 Jul	9:15am Celebration Assembly Annual reports sent out to parents
14 Jul	Last Swimming for the year 3.30 and 4pm : Meet the Teacher
15 Jul	3:15 – 4:15pm Drop in Parents - a chance to discuss your child's report
16 Jul	2:30pm Leavers Assembly
17 Jul	School closes for the Summer holidays