



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 3: November 7th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that we are already moving towards Christmas and the children in Ladybirds and Otters are practicing their Nativity songs.

I am delighted to share with you some of the remarkable events that the children have taken part in during this term.

Derby Faith Trial:

Penguins and White Tigers went to the Derby faith Trial.



The children learnt about lots of different religious cultures and took part in interactive activities.

Thank you, Mr Bettany, Mr Evans, Mr Walker and Mrs Johnson, for accompanying the children on their visit. Mrs Johnson said that the day was very informative, the children asked relevant questions, were well behaved and a credit to our school.

Safe and Sound:

White Tigers visited Leek Fire Station to learn about keeping themselves safe.



Thank you, Mr Bettany and Mr Walker, for accompanying White Tigers on their visit.

Multiskills:

Miss Hall took Otters class for a fabulous afternoon filled with multi skills. The children worked together on different skills such as throwing, catching, dribbling and balancing.

The children's behaviour was impeccable and a big thank you goes to Mrs Derbyshire, Mrs Boyington, Miss Mallen and Miss Hunter who supported the children during their visit.



Forest School:

White Tigers continued to enjoy their Outdoor Learning at Forest School during autumn 1.

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



Penguin class are taking part in Forest School during Autumn 2 and photographs will be in next months newsletter.

Thank you, Sam, Mr Walker and Miss Hunter who accompany the classes, during their adventures.

Worship Leaders at Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery 2025 – 2026





The first group of Worship Leaders are already planning their Worship which they will deliver next week to their friends at school.

Odd Socks Day:

Odd Socks Day Monday 10th November is an event that marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week in the UK.

The day encourages children and adults to wear mismatched socks to celebrate individuality and promote acceptance of diversity, while also raising awareness about bullying.

It was initiated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, and we support the theme both during the week and throughout the school year to promote kindness and inclusivity with all our children.



Children in Need:

On **Friday 14th November** your child is invited to wear their pyjamas and slippers for the day.

We are raising money for Children in Need please send a voluntary donation in for our collection.

During the day the children will take part in activities that support their healthy minds as well as their healthy bodies. The children will also enjoy a warming drink of Hot Chocolate.

The funds raised during this event will support various projects aimed at helping disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, addressing issues such as poverty, disability, and mental health challenges.

Penguins, please bring your Forest School clothes in a bag for the afternoon.



Rock Stars Day:

Friday 21st November:

We are holding a TT Rock Stars / relaunch day/ The day will be filled with maths activities, and we want the children to feel like rock stars for the day.

Children and staff are invited to come to school dressed as rock stars (Penguins please bring your Forest School kit into school for the afternoon).



Christmas plays:

Please save the dates



The children will soon be performing their Christmas plays and the dates for the performances are below:

Offers Christmas Play - Y1/2 Christmas Play Wednesday 3rd December 2:15pm (afternoon performance)

Offers Christmas Play - Y1/2 Christmas Play Wednesday 3rd December 6 pm (evening performance)

Ladybirds Nativity (Nursery and Reception children) Friday 12th December – 9:30am

Everyone is welcome to attend the Christmas Plays.

Community Carol Service at Waterhouses:

Tuesday 16th December 6pm.

We are excited to be holding our Carol service in school on Tuesday 16th December starting at 6pm.

This event will be led by our pupils and staff, and everyone is welcome! Please do spread the word and invite friends and family. Please come and join us while the children retell the Christmas story through readings and carols.

There will be refreshments available.



Parents Christmas Dinner:

On Thursday 11th December. Miss Mandy and Miss Irene will be cooking a delicious Christmas lunch. Staff and volunteers will be serving parents and children with their lunch.

It is also Christmas Jumper day for a small donation in aid of Save the Children.

More information to follow.





Christmas service at the Methodist Chapel:

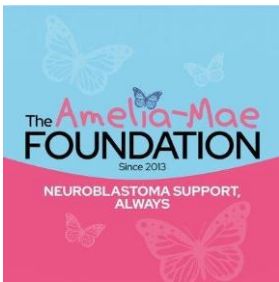
Rev Julie Hassall will be celebrating Christmas with us on Thursday 18th December at Waterhouses Methodist Chapel (on the main road next to Boydens coaches).

Please meet at the Chapel from 8.45am onwards for our service at 9am on Thursday 18th December. We will arrange for the school bus to drop them off at the Chapel. Staff will walk any children in breakfast club over at 8.30am and at the end of the service, staff and pupils will walk back to school. If you are able to help walk with the children back to school, any help is greatly appreciated.

We would like the Nursery children and parents to come and join us for Worship. For safety reasons we are asking Nursery parents or carers to stay with their child which will enable someone to walk them back to school safely.

If this is not convenient for **Nursery children**, please bring your child to school at 10.15am.

If the weather is poor, we will hold this service in school. More details to follow.



Charity supported by Mrs Bradbury and family:

As some of you are aware Mrs Bradbury supports this wonderful charity, and it is one that is very close to her heart for personal reasons.

The charity collects and shares out presents for children who unfortunately through no fault of their own will be spending Christmas in hospital.

Mrs Bradbury is collecting items that include toys, books, puzzles, dolls, dinosaurs, lego, pencils, colouring books, selection boxes, little crafts sets, puppets toiletries from birth to teenagers etc.

We are asking that the items are new due to the nature of the children's conditions and their low immune systems. Please send smaller gifts that are not too big as many children are bed bound.

Please send them into school by the end of November so that Mrs Bradbury can forward them onto The Amelia Mae Foundation in time for Christmas.

Attendance

We pride ourselves on our excellent attendance data and we are in the top 10% of primary schools in England. At the end of autumn 1 2025 our data for attendance was 97.57%.



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 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

Autumn Term 2025	
7 Nov	Forest School for Penguins this half term each Friday
10 Nov	Odd Socks Day: Your child is invited to wear mismatched socks to school as this marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week in the UK. 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 Dec	Y1/2 Christmas Play 2:15pm (afternoon performance) Y1/2 Christmas Play 6pm (evening performance)
4 Dec	Stanley Head Presentation for parents in White Tigers 3.45pm. Information from Mr. Bettany about the visit in January.
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
18 Dec	Christmas Service at Waterhouses Methodist Chapel (weather dependent) if the weather is poor, we will hold this service in school – more details to follow
19 Dec	Christmas disco – more information to follow. School closes for the Christmas holiday No After School Club
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 No After School Club
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 No After School Club