



## 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*

### Christmas Newsletter 2025

#### Dear Parents/Carers

This has been a busy term in school, and we know we are very lucky to work with your children who are always wonderful. However, there is no doubt things have been made much easier by the goodwill and support we have received from so many parents, carers and the local community. Thank you for working with us.

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

During November we held our Celebration Worship, and it was wonderful to see so many parents, the local community and governors join us to celebrate the children's successes both at school and at home:



#### Bikeability:

The year 3 children have taken part in Bikeability training where they were learning to ride their bikes safely.



## Remembrance Day:

Within school the children and staff took part in a Celebration Worship for Remembrance Day.

They remembered that it's not all about war but it's about being part of a community similar to our school and the surrounding local areas.

The children learnt about courage and care and that Remembrance Day isn't only about looking back It's about recognising how people have worked together to make the world a safer, more peaceful place, and thinking about how we can show care, friendship and gratitude in our own lives, even as children.

Some of the children in White Tigers class sold poppies to the other classes

All the children in school made a poppy and thanks to Mrs Derbyshire who created our school wreath some of the children joined at the local community at the Cenotaph to lay our school wreath.



## Children in Need 2025

As a school we celebrated Children in need Day thinking about healthy minds and bodies.

The children and staff dressed in pyjamas and slippers for the day and brought a small donation towards this amazing charity. As a school we raised an incredible £150.



The children in Ladybirds class created Pudsey headbands, made split pin bears and coloured in Pudsey pictures. They created biscuits which they ate at snack time to celebrate Pudsey day.

All the children gathered together in the hall to hear the new Pudsey story written by Tom Fletcher called 'Thread of Hope' before enjoying a drink of hot chocolate with marshmallows.







## TT Rocks Stars



We celebrated the relaunch of our TT Rock Stars Day.

The children looked amazing dressed as rock stars as did the staff.

The children took part in extra maths activities during the day and Mr Bettany who is part of a group played his guitar as the children danced and rocked around the hall.

Times Tables Rock Stars is used in our school from Year 1 to 2 to help your child with their times tables. It is really engaging and fun and your child will be able to complete challenges against their friends and even the teachers too!

The children regularly practice during morning time and Penguins class also do the Rocking and Rolling Numbers songs from their website!

White Tigers children complete a game on 'soundcheck' mode which is the mode that works and looks like the end of Y4 multiplication check. It is out of 25 and we currently have most children getting 20+ with lots of superstars getting 25 out of 25 regularly already!

Children in Year 1 access Numbats before they access TT Rock Stars in Year 2.

Your child has a log in and a password to access TT Rock Stars and Numbats.

Please practice at home with your child.





### Art day:

The children celebrated art and design in school, which gave them opportunities to work, learn and participate together as a school community.

Through Art Day, which started with an Assembly that celebrated how art had travelled through history from cave paintings to the modern-day Banksy the curriculum came to life and children were inspired to learn about different artists.

The children learnt an impressive range of skills during the day which can be seen from the photographs and the teaching staff were very proud of the children who were engaged, inspired, motivated to produce outstanding artwork.



### Handball competition

Our Year 4 children were invited to take part in a Handball competition at Leek High School.

This was organised by the staff and sports leaders at Churnet View. Despite the rules being slightly different to how we play it here at our school, our children adapted well and were soon scoring goals for fun. Their collaboration and teamwork were there for all to see and it was lovely to see them engaged and supporting each other throughout.

Special mentions to Bobby, Ava and Cobie who scored most of our teams' goals.

As always, behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school thank you Mr Walker for organising the visit.





### Christmas Nativity Plays:

Otter's children performed '**The Fleece Force**' which told the story of how Bethlehem was being looked after by The Fleece Force, who were keeping the peace and making sure that only those who are there for the census are let in!

Parents watched as the Nativity story unfolded as shepherds, kings and angels and other characters turned up to worship the newborn King.



All the children performed to large audiences with excitement and joy and hopefully put everyone in the Christmas spirit

Ladybird's children performed a '**Wriggly Nativity**'.

They remembered their parts and sang songs to a full audience filled with the children's families.



### Pantomime:



The children were very excited to attend a viewing of Aladdin at Buxton Opera House.

The children joined in with the cast characters and were provided with a bag of cookies during the interval, paid for by the school.

The cost of the bus was kindly funded by Holcim and a donation towards the ticket costs was sent by the PTFA which enabled all children to attend the theatre.

### Christingles:

Last week the children made Christingles.

This is an inclusive Christmas tradition where the children made them using an orange, candle and sweets/fruit to learn about Christianity and to celebrate hope and light during Advent.

The children learnt about the Christingle, and its meaning: orange = world, candle = Jesus' light, red ribbon = love/blood and fruits = seasons/gifts.





The children shared in a whole school assembly with the older children in school supporting the younger ones.



### **Christmas lunch:**

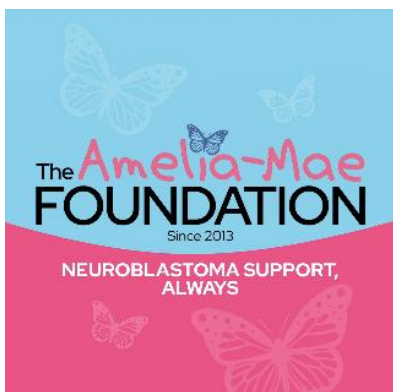
Thank you to the parents and family members who attended the Christmas lunch last week, we had a brilliant turn out! Thank you to all our amazing staff who helped at lunchtime, without such a brilliant team we couldn't have made it happen.

Thank you to Mandy, Irene and Ange, who served nearly 200 lunches! The food was delicious and there were so many positive messages passed on.



The children and staff all wore their Christmas jumpers.

Thank you for all the donations towards Save the Children charity as a school we raised £106.



### **Message from Mrs Bradbury:**

'I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has brought and donated so many wonderful gifts and toys to the Amelia Mae foundation appeal. They have all been distributed and sent out to all the children who will be spending this Christmas in hospital. The support you have shown means the world to me and is very much appreciated. Thank you so much xx ❤️ 🎄



### Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies initiative:

Mr Walker was pleased to announce that the winning house in our Autumn Term Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies competition was ★♥👉 HAMS!! 👈♥★

Well done to all the children in Hamps in what was a very closely fought battle with Dove.

Their enrichment activity was a fun-filled swimming session co-ordinated and supervised by Kyle, our qualified swimming instructor – thank you Kyle.

Autumn term Final scores:

♥ Hamps - 1,474 (Green Counters) ♥

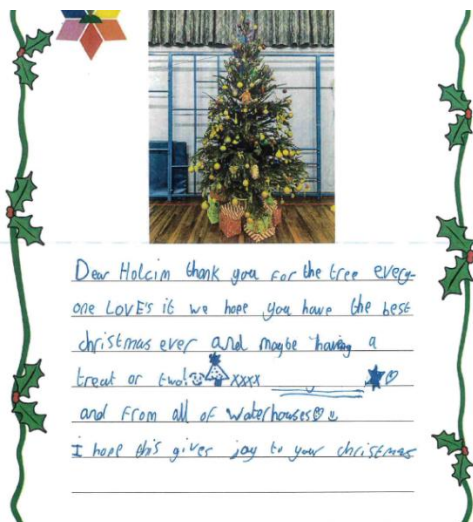
♥ Dove - 1,440 (Blue Counters) ♥

♥ Manifold - 1,120 (Yellow Counters) ♥

Thank you to Freya and Molly who count the tokens each week.

Mr Walker would like to congratulate all the children for taking part and we look forward to doing it all over again in the spring term.

### Thank you, messages, from the children at Waterhouses:



Thank you very much to Holcim who have very kindly donated our huge Christmas tree this year.

🎄 Also thanks for the donations of Christmas decorations and homemade decorations.

We also had some lovely baubles donated by a friend of Mrs Derbyshire.

🎄 Thank you to Mr Mason for bringing the magic together with some White Tigers volunteers to decorate the tree for us!



### Community Carol service:

The children performed a Nativity play called 'All About Mary' to a packed hall full of parents, families and the local community.

This event was led by our pupils and staff and the community joined in with traditional carols during the play.

Thank you to Mr Prescott for supporting the children with the play and music.

Thank you to Mr Bettany, Mr Evans, Mrs Derbyshire, Mrs Boyington, Mrs Bradbury and Mr Walker for practicing the songs, lines and for sorting costumes out for the children.

The evening was a success, and many positive comments were received about how families and the local community are brought together to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



### PTFA

Following the Nativity play our wonderful PTFA drew their Christmas raffle, and local businesses were thanked for donating such incredible prizes.

The children who sold the most tickets were: Tilly, Cody and Oscar who sold an amazing 425 tickets between them.

The total raised from all in ticket sales was **£1,598.50**.



### Well being

"It's that time of year which for some of us is exciting: meeting and catching up with friends and family, putting up glittery decorations and sparkly lights, giving and receiving shiny gifts, parties, dressing up, singing songs and watching TV specials!

Yet for many children and adults, this time of year can be filled with emotional and sensory overwhelm. An increase in noise, multiple voices, crowds, social expectations, changes in routine, flashing lights, different textures brought into the house, loud and busy music and surprise gifts.

So, what can we do to ensure a more joyful, or tolerable time for **ALL** the family?"

[Managing the Christmas Sensory Overload](#) has top tips for managing celebrations, food, lights, noise, gifts and changes in routine, helping to create a more peaceful holiday period for children and adults alike.

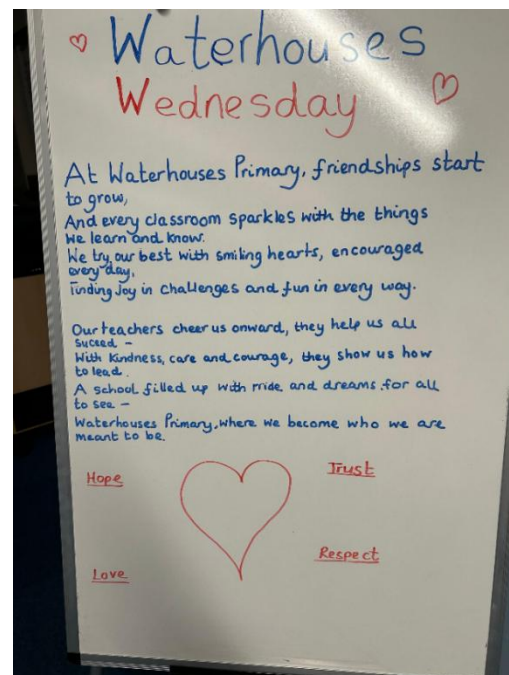
Why not have a look at the 'Christmas' section of their [resources page](#), which has lots of helpful advice for taking the stress out of Christmas, including [The Christmas Ad Christmas: An Alternative Survival Guide?](#)



### **Happy Heads Club:**

Mrs Boyington supports the children at school.

She runs her club Happy Heads each week and each day puts a beautiful message on the wellbeing board like the one below. Children read and respond to the different messages and are eager to see what each new day brings.



Continuing the theme of building knowledge of emotions and resilience, take a look at the 'Where Will it End?' website especially at Christmas time.

<https://violencereductionalliance.co.uk/young-people/>

The website supports parents to access information and videos and advice when children need support.

Some children will be having new devices this Christmas It also builds children's resilience whilst online continuing the theme of building knowledge of emotions and resilience.

This teaches children how to manage their emotions whilst online and helps them learn when to turn off.

Click on the link above to explore the website.

### **Christmas wishes:**

We wish everyone a safe, restful Christmas. Hopefully you will be able to spend some time with friends and family. Take good care and we will look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

### **Message from Mrs Linton**

Mrs Linton has recovered from her surgery and is looking forward to returning to school in January 2026, she wishes everybody a Happy Christmas.

### **Inset Day**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Children return to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Swimming will take place on the first day back in school.

### **Dates for the Year**

At the end of this letter, I've set out as many of the dates for the new 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 2026

Spring Term 2026	
5 Jan	INSET Day for Staff
6 Jan	Children return for Spring 1 swimming starts
7-9 Jan	White Tigers: Stanley Head
9 Jan	<b>Forest School for Otters this half term each Friday</b>
20 Jan	Primary Stars Event at Waterhouses R- Y6 more information to follow
27 Jan	Primary Stars Event at Waterhouses Y3,4,5 and 6 more information to follow
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	<b>Forest School for Ladybirds this half term each Friday</b>
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 more information to follow
20 Mar	9:15am Celebration Assembly 6pm: Chocolate Bingo
27 Mar	School closes for Easter holiday
Summer Term 2026	
13 Apr	INSET day for Staff
14 Apr	Children return for Summer 1
	Yr 3, 4, 5 and 6 QEGS Primary Arts Day more information to follow
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
4 June	Year 6 Goblin Car event more information to follow
16 June	Primary Stars Rounders at Parwich more information to follow
26 June	Sports Day - Ladybirds AM Y1-6 PM No After School Club, more information to follow
30 June & 1 July	Churnet View Yr 5 / 7 transition days
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	End of year disco School closes for the Summer holidays No After School Club