



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 : January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your warm wishes upon my return to school. It is wonderful to be back fully recovered and seeing all the children so happy and eager to learn. January is already at an end and we seemed to have packed in a great deal in the life of our school. I am pleased to share some of the brilliant events and achievements that have taken place since the start of 2026.

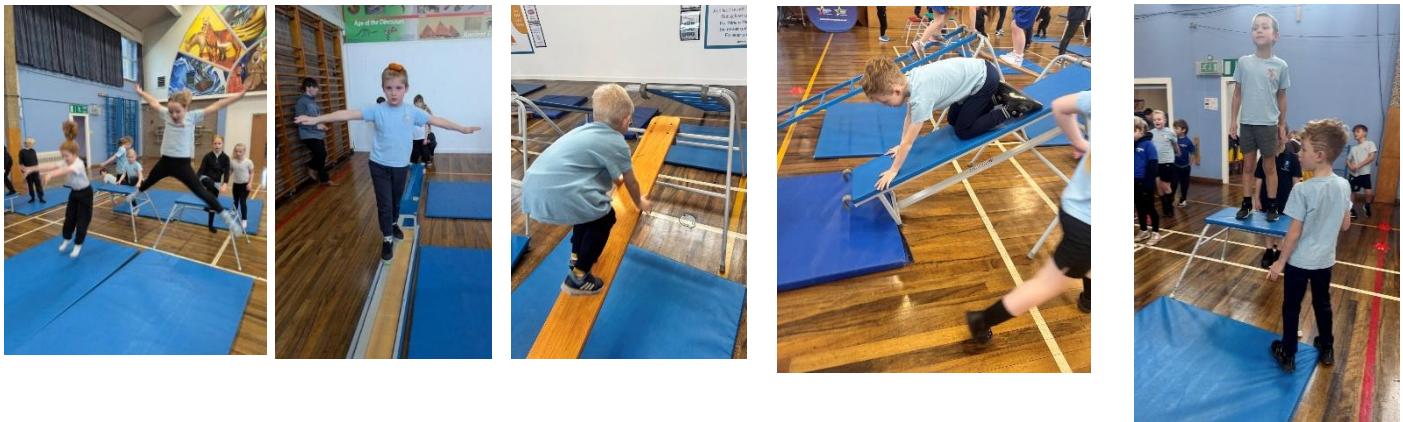
White Tigers - Stanley Head Residential

During the first week, White Tigers headed off to Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre to experience a wide range of adventurous and fun activities. Despite the snow, they enjoyed Crate stacking, abseiling, climbing, axe/ knife throwing and orienteering. Mr Bettany and Mr Walker who accompanied our pupils were so very proud at the positive behaviour, attitude and can do mentality when facing the various activities. Stanley Head staff also reported to me that our pupils were one of the best groups they had had visit. Well done White Tigers!



Primary Stars Gymnastics –

All the children enjoyed a half day festival with other local schools to demonstrate and celebrate their gymnastic skills. It was wonderful to see how much talent we have!



Otters – Forest School

Otters have been enjoying their Forest School sessions. They have been exploring the forest school area and going through the rules. They enjoyed the rope swing and climbing trees. The children have also made bird feeders for the big bird watch weekend and had great fun in the snow!



Collective Worship – Open the Book, Kay and George

The team from Ashbourne Methodist Church led our Collective Worship, teaching us the parable about the Widow and the Mite. The children learnt how little things make a difference and are noticed.

Kay and George from Ashbourne Elim visited to teach about Prayer. The children listened how George explained that prayer is just talking to God. They learnt about a man called Christian who prayed for many years about ending the separation between East and West Germany.



Ladybirds have had a busy half term, learning about weight and capacity. They have also loved looking and learning about the old toys and playing some Maths games



In Science, **Penguins** have been investigating about Rocks. They have carried out a variety of experiments to discover which ones are the hardest and which ones absorb water.



Celebration Worship – Friday 30th January

We held a fabulous Celebration Worship. It was super to hear about all the achievements of our pupils at home and at school. My apologies to Molly A who I missed out when



announcing the Accelerated reader top 10!



After School Club

CANCELLED

There will be no after school club available on Friday 27th March. This is the last day of Spring 2 term. Thank you for your understanding.

A Message from the PTFA



Firstly, we would like to thank Waterhouses YFC who have made us a very kind donation following their Bonfire night back in November. It was a brilliant night and wonderful to see it so well supported by school families.

We would also like to thank the PTFA 'dads' Steve, Will & Andy who gave up a full day over the Christmas period to come into school and remove an old wall in the Ladybirds area and replace it with new tarmac. This has increased and improved the area so that the new playground markings will be able to be done in the Ladybirds area as well as the main playground. We are hoping the marking will be done before Easter!

Please do follow us on our facebook page - Waterhouses CE Primary Academy PTFA to keep up to date with exciting upcoming events.

Thank you! Jo, Rach & the PTFA team 😊

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support. I've updated the dates for the year, please note the change of date for the White Tigers and Penguins play. This is now on Monday 13th July at 2pm and 6pm.

Best wishes,

Rachel Linton

Headteacher

Dates for the Year 2025-6

Spring Term 2026	
30 Jan	9:15am Celebration Worship
4 Feb	3.45pm -6pm Parents Evening
5 Feb	3:30pm -4:30pm PTFA Disco
9 Feb	9:15am Becky Hunt's musicians to perform in Worship – open to everyone
10 Feb	Safer Internet Day
12 Feb	3.45pm -6pm Parents Evening
13 Feb	School closes for half term holiday
HALF TERM	
23 Feb	Children return for Spring 2
27 Feb	Forest School for Ladybirds this half term each Friday
2 Mar	Pep the Poet to visit school
5 Mar	World Book Day – information to follow
6 Mar	Non uniform day – please bring in a donation for Chocolate Bingo
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 Evening – PTFA Chocolate Bingo – all welcome
27 Mar	School closes for Easter holiday : No after school club available
Summer Term 2026	
13 Apr	INSET day for Staff
14 Apr	Children return for Summer 1
15 April	Queen Elizabeth's Dance teacher to visit White Tigers/Penguins
1 May	9am – 2.30pm Penguins and White Tigers – Primary Arts Festival at Queen Elizabeth's
4 May	School closed for Bank holiday
11-14 May	KS2 SATs
22 May	9:15am Celebration Assembly School closes for half term holiday
HALF TERM	
1 June	INSET day for Staff
2 June	Children return for Summer 2 Y4 MTC check over next 2 weeks
4 June	Y6 – Goblin Car Festival
8 – 12 June	Y1 Phonics Screener
16 June	Primary Stars Rounders at Parwich
26 June	Sports Day - Ladybirds AM Y1-6 PM
30 June/1 Jul	Churnet View Transition days

3 Jul	Reserve Sports Day
6 Jul	Dress Rehearsal for Penguins and White Tigers Play
7 and 8 Jul	Queen Elizabeth's Y7 Transition days
10 Jul	9:15am Celebration Assembly Annual reports sent out to parents
13 July	2pm and 6pm Penguins and White Tigers Play : PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
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
1 Sept 2026	INSET Day for staff