



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 : May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Huge congratulations to our fabulous Y6s who worked so diligently and with a smile all the way through the KS2 SATS last week. They demonstrated amazing resilience and perseverance. We are so very proud of all your achievements at Waterhouses. Well done, Skye, Arthur and James!



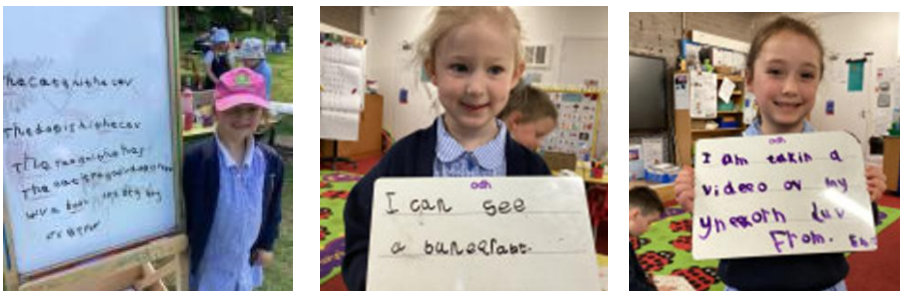
School life has been busy with the children enjoying many different learning activities.

In Ladybirds...

The Reception children have been learning about 3D shapes they recapped on their previous 2D shape learning which they applied to seeing the 2D shapes: square on a cube, rectangle on a cuboid and circle on the base of a cone. We also thought about a sphere. The children-built towers finding out which were the shapes they needed to build the most solid towers. They also worked together with their friends to follow a design and learnt how to preserve when things get tricky. The children experimented with the 3D shapes to see which would roll down a ramp and those that only slid down the ramp. The children discussed creating models with 3D shape reclaimed materials and drew designs ready for their models.



The children have been completing independent writing around the Ladybirds environment and the staff in Ladybirds class are very proud of the children.



In Otters ...

Over this half term the children in Otters have been learning about healthy eating and balanced diets during DT, this involves lots of taste testing in order to choose the best ingredients for their

smoothie or wrap. Additionally, the children have been learning about the Great Fire of London. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about what London was like over 350 years ago and how this impacts us still today. In science the children have had 'green fingers' they have been looking at what a plant needs to grow effectively. They have conducted experiments involving the removal of light or water and observed the effects.



In Penguins ...

In Penguins this half term, we combined our D&T and Computing learning to create our own wearable technology that we programmed ourselves! Our briefing was to design and make a device that children could wear for a purpose - we had a range of step counters, nightlights and games that the children designed and programmed using their Micro bits. We even had a couple of devices programmed to play Rock, Paper, Scissors and Hot Potato! We were very proud of our devices and even asked the Otters class to test them out for us!



In White Tigers, the class have been learning how artists respond to global issues through creating images, sculptures and photographs. As a class we discussed the impact of global warming and how the ice caps have melted considerably. This in turn has affected the population of polar bears. The children began by making pencil sketches of polar bears. We then moved onto using old plastic bags and tape to model them into a polar bear shape. Finally, they covered them in 2 layers of plaster mod rock. We are thrilled with our final pieces.



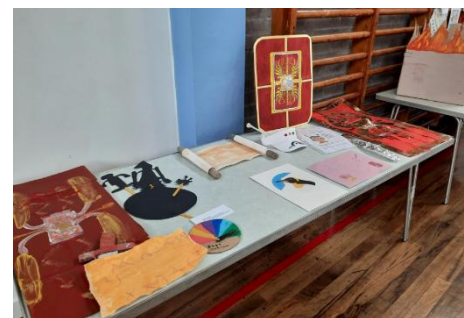
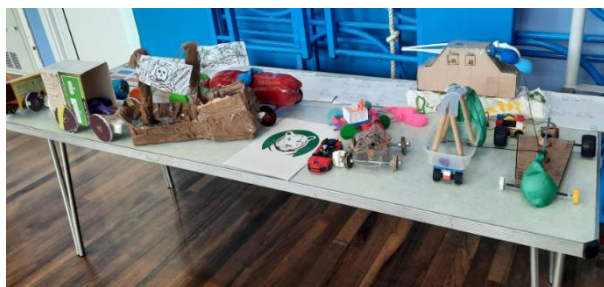
Treasure discovered!

Ted, Teddy and Albert were digging outside found a coin outside. We discovered it was a Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. 20th November 1947-1972 Wedding Anniversary Coin.



Half termly Homework

Thank you to everyone who completed their half term homework – we are pleased to share some a selection of some photos.





Staffing and classes for September

The class structures for September 2026 remain unchanged.

Ladybirds – Nursery and Reception.

Otters – Y1 and Y2

Penguins – Y3.

White Tigers – Y4, Y5 and Y6.

Mr Bettany, Mr Walker and myself will be teaching Y3 and Mr Evans will become the class teacher for White Tigers. We have a meet the teacher in the diary for July 15th, please do come along to find out more about what your child/children will be doing next year. Due to shrinking pupil numbers and the school budget, we are very sadly going to be losing Mrs Boyington at the end of Summer term. We will miss her greatly – she has worked with such dedication and supported our pupils at lunchtimes and as a teaching assistant.

Thank you



A big thank you to Mr John Martin who gave up his time to tidy and weed the garden area by the children's entrance. It looks smart and the new bark mulch will hopefully help to keep the weeds at bay.

Reminders

Forest School next half term : 5 and 12 June - White Tigers

19 June, 3 and 10 Jul - Penguins.

Please can parents/carers not park on the yellow lines outside the school or use the staff car park. The safety and well-being of all our school community is paramount.

Arrival and Collections : We open the school doors for the children to arrive between 8:45am and 9am. We have noticed that some children are arriving later and this is starting to impact learning time as lessons begin at 9am. Please can children be collected promptly at 3:30pm unless they are attending an after-school club.

Jewellery: No jewellery, please. If your child wears earrings, these must be **studs only**.

Sun safety: Please apply sun cream before school. If your child needs to bring their own, a roll-on is preferred. Children should also have a named hat, and hair should be tied back.



Wet weather: If showers are forecast, please send a raincoat, as children will still go outside at playtimes.

Footwear: If school shoes are worn out, we understand it's nearly the holidays. In the meantime, please ensure your child wears dark-coloured trainers or other appropriate footwear.

The TMPF Trust, the staff and I thank you for your support in these important matters.

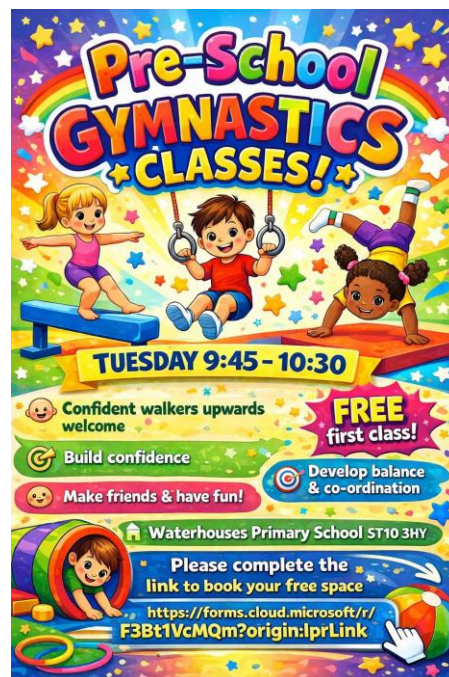
Scooters and Bikes



From a safety point of view, we politely ask that children do not use their bikes and scooters by the blue seating area and the entrance way where children are being dropped off and collected at the end of the day.

Gymnastics Club – Tuesday mornings

Sally Mellor has started a Gym club for preschoolers and there is a different theme each week. Please find more information on her Facebook page – Funtastics School of Gymnastics



Parental Feedback Comments – April/May 2026

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our annual questionnaire. We welcome all comments and will always act upon any concerns and issues in a timely fashion. I am pleased to share the results of our recent parental survey. We had 45 replies. I've listed below the comments and replies to these in blue.

Question	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know or N/A
My child is happy at this school.	34	11			
My child feels safe at this school.	35	10			
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	27	17	1		
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	3	6			38
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	32	13			

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	18	14	1		3
The school has high expectations for my child.	25	19	1		
My child does well at this school.	32	13			
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	23	22			
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	31	14			
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	35	10			
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	28	17			
I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes 45		No 0		

- "I'm pleased with how the school educates my child. All the staff are wonderful, I always feel like my child is thriving here. I wouldn't want her anywhere else at a primary school." [That's lovely to hear, thank you.](#)
- "Clearer goals and feedback on the swimming programme would be great." [We can speak to the swimming teacher about this.](#)
- "Waterhouses is a lovely friendly school, and my child absolutely loves coming!" [Thank you for your kind comment.](#)
- "I believe the expectations for learning is too high at the age my child is. I feel there is quite a lot of pressure sometimes." [Our expectations are high and are set out by the Government- they are national expectations for education in England.](#)
- "We would like to know what my child has done to get points on Class Dojo." [DoJo gives a reason for the points.](#)
- "My child is very happy at Waterhouses and will be sad to leave but we feel he is ready to move on. Middle school does offer subjects which Waterhouses couldn't provide such as cooking and woodwork." [We are glad to hear your child has been so happy at Waterhouses. We are a primary school, and our offer is different to a middle and secondary school. Although our children do have opportunities to do some basic cooking within our DT curriculum.](#)
- "Would be nice to still see play through Y1/2 – the transition is hard and play is such a useful learning tool. Would be nice to see more outdoor/Forest school learning sessions." [Otters class do have many opportunities for outdoor learning and play – however the National Curriculum doesn't give us much space within it to provide play for Y1/2. Forest School is an optional subject for schools. The provision for the whole school costs the school over £4800 per year, which is approximately £125 per afternoon session. This is the going rate for buying in the expertise, insurance, resources and equipment. We would love to provide more sessions but sadly our budget doesn't allow it.](#)
- "As a parent- too many requests for money/donations from PTFA and not always clear what they spend the money on. Discos and school plays should not have costs as it risks becoming prohibitive. My child says other children do not always follow the rules and says school is better for little kids." [The PTFA have paid for new playground markings this year which is where the majority of the fundraising has gone. They also pay for other items such as donations for trips/classroom experiences, leavers hoodies and bags for new admissions.](#)

- A fantastic well-run school and it is lovely to see how happy my child is here. It is great to see how she has progressed." [Thank you for your kind comments.](#)
- "It would be good to see some stronger connections with middle schools as many children take that route – sports events, science week etc"
[We can investigate this in the future.](#)
- "School is a really nice place, and I wish I could stay forever." [Thank you, that's lovely to know.](#)
- I can't praise all you amazing staff enough. You're truly wonderful and are such a lovely school. My child loves coming to school and that's down to you all. He's so excited to start in reception in September. [Thank you for being so amazing! We are so pleased to hear your child loves coming to school and thank you for your thoughtful comments.](#)

After School Club

There will be no after school club available on Friday 26th June (Sports Day) and Friday 17th July - This is the last day of Summer 2 term. Thank you for your understanding.

Parent Pay

Please can all balances be cleared by the end of May. Many thanks.
The TMPF trust do not allow balances to exceed £35.



A Message from the PTFA



We are currently busy organising the leavers hoodies for this year's leavers, we will hopefully be able to share some photos once they are finished and handed out to the leavers. We also have our 'Break the rules day' coming up on 12th June back by popular request. I'm sure all the children will be very excited.

We would also like to take the time to thank the Waterfall and Winkhill Association for their extremely kind donation from their recent Waterfall Show and also to the anonymous donation who doubled the money. It is wonderful to be part of such a supportive community.

Please do follow us on our Facebook page to keep up to date - Waterhouses CE Primary Academy PTFA or email us on waterhousesprimaryptfa@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

Thank you!

Jo, Rach & the PTFA team 😊

Celebration Worship Awards

Another lovely Celebration worship on Friday to showcase the many talents of our children in school. It was special to hear of all the other activities and learning which takes place outside of school. Thank you to everyone who joined us and a fabulous well done to our award winners. Our next celebration worship is on Friday 10th July.





The staff and I wish you a very happy half term holiday. School reopens for pupils on Tuesday 2nd June.

Best wishes,
Rachel Linton
 Headteacher

Dates for the Year 2025-6

Summer Term 2026	
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 June	Saltmine theatre company to perform to Y1-6 Whole School PSHE Day
8 – 12 June	Y1 Phonics Screener
12 June	PTFA Break the Rules day – details to follow
16 June	Primary Stars Rounders at Parwich
17 June	11:30 Father's Day lunch – deadline for payment is 3:30pm Wed 3rd June
25 June	AM : Class and Leaver's photos
26 June	Sports Day - Ladybirds AM Y1-6 PM Please join your child for a picnic lunch at 12 noon.
30 June/1 Jul	Churnet View Transition days
1 Jul	Nursery and Reception Parents meeting : 3:30pm – Ladybirds Classroom
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
8 Jul	9:15am Chapel service at Waterhouses Methodist Chapel – All welcome
9 Jul	Immersive Experiences in school for all the children – paid by PTFA – Thank you!
10 Jul	9:15am Celebration Assembly Annual reports sent out to parents
13 July	2pm and 6pm Penguins and White Tigers Play : Mary Poppins
14 Jul	Last Swimming for the year
15 Jul	3:10 – 4:30pm Drop in and Meet the Teacher Parents - a chance to discuss your child's report 3.40 and 4pm : Meet the Teacher presentations
16 Jul	2:30pm Leavers Assembly
17 Jul	1pm : DNA Disco for all the children – paid by PTFA – Thank you! School closes for the Summer holidays
Autumn Term 2026	
Tuesday 1 Sept 2026	INSET Day for all staff
Wed 2 Sept	School opens for all pupils – Autumn 1