



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 1 : September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



A huge welcome back to all our pupils and especially those children starting our school this week. We are all looking forward to getting to know you and hope you settle in swiftly.

I hope you have all enjoyed the beautiful weather over the holiday and have been able to take the time to spend time with family and friends.

Reception and Nursery Pupils

To enable our youngest children to settle in smoothly into school, we are encouraging parents to bring their child into Ladybirds and stay with them for a few minutes. Mrs Hulme and Mrs Bradbury will be there to answer any questions you may have. We hope that this will help your child feel confident and comfortable to come into school like the other children after a couple weeks. From September 21st, parents will be asked to drop them off at the door and come into school with the rest of the children.

Safety outside school

Following an incident towards the end of last term we kindly ask that you **do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines** around the school at any time.

We appreciate that pick-up and drop-off times are busy outside of our school and this can cause an increased safety risk to both children and parents.

These yellow zig-zag lines are there for a very important reason:

- They keep the area directly outside the school clear for children to cross the road safely.
- They ensure emergency vehicles (fire engines, ambulances, etc.) can access the school quickly if needed.
- They provide a safe, unobstructed space for parents, staff, and children to get in and out of cars.

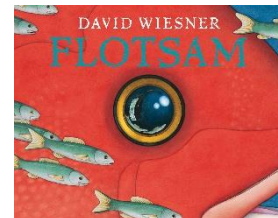
We all want our children to arrive and leave school safely every day.

By keeping the yellow zig-zag lines completely clear, you are helping to protect every child at our school.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support with keeping our school community safe.

Flotsam – Beach Trip – Thursday 10th September

As a school our focus text this half term will be Flotsam by David Wiesner. To support this learning, we are taking a trip to Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea Beach. During the day, the children will be taking part in activities including sandcastle building. If you are able to send your child with a bucket and spade, this would be much appreciated.



We will be leaving school promptly at 8am and returning by 4:30/5pm depending upon traffic. Please refer to the messages which have been sent out over the Summer for more information. Final details and information will be sent out early next week.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal, or if you would like to order a school packed lunch, please complete the form using the following link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/fU4wgCkmMG>

The cost of the visit is £8.70 per child. Payment can be made via ParentPay or by cash at the school office.

Summer Activities

For any children who completed any of our Self-care Summer holiday activities which were sent out at the end of term, please send any photos or bring in any items to your class teacher so they can be shared and celebrated.

PSHE and RSE Parent Workshop – Thursday 24th September

As part of the curriculum changes and updates for PSHE and RSE we will be holding a workshop for parents/carers in September. This session will not be suitable for children due to the issues being discussed. We will go with the majority of parents/carers requests. Please use the link to express your interest, name and preferred time by Monday 1st September.

<https://forms.office.com/e/pFEqixtQKK>

Attendance and Punctuality – Arrival and Collection

We pride ourselves on our open-door policy and excellent attendance. We are in the top 10% of schools in England and Wales. The Trustees, staff and I are keen to maintain these high standards. The school will open from 8:45am for pupils to arrive. The children have a range of learning and settling activities until 9am when lessons commence. Research shows that those children who benefit from these settling activities are better prepared and are more focussed towards their learning throughout the day. Thank you for your support. We also politely ask that children are collected promptly at 3:30pm unless they are attending after school club.



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

Waterhouses Woodland Work - WWW

You may have read in the press that the Government funding for Sports Premium is going to be stopped from December 2026. This was direct funding set up to support schools as part of the London 2012 legacy. As a school, we have received funding of £16000 a year which has been used to support our swimming, Forest School, competitive events, resources and equipment and some staff training. This is a huge blow to all schools, and it has meant we



have had to make difficult decisions to decide which areas we can continue to fund in an already very tight budget. School swimming will continue for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 as we value this as a life skill and also given the fact we have our own pool.

This uses up all the remaining budget for Sports activities. The staff and I are keen to continue our Forest Learning and from September, we will be calling Waterhouses Woodland Work. These sessions will be a teacher-led outdoor education programme. All our pupils will spend regular sessions in our local woodland area developing confidence, resilience, social skills and a deep connection with nature. All the sessions will be carefully planned and delivered by our own trained teaching staff.

Staff will communicate via DoJo when the children need to bring in WWW clothes for their lessons. For sports cluster events, we have set up links with some of the other local schools in our Trust and Mr Walker and I are in the process of arranging events throughout the 2026/7 academic year.

Reminders for Uniform for September

Below are our expectations for our uniform and footwear. We do have some good condition second hand uniform which you are more than welcome to help yourself to. Thank you for your support.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING ARE NAMED, SO IF THEY DO GET MISLAID, THEY CAN BE RETURNED TO THE OWNER!

Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo with black/grey trousers, skirt or shorts; white/pale blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. In summer, shorts or a blue and white checked dress may be worn. Dark coloured appropriate school shoes are required (not trainers).



School uniform with the school logo (*items with logo required) is available to buy from:

SuperSport: Hope Silk Mill, Macclesfield Rd, Leek Tel: 01538 386226
(<https://www.supersport.co.uk/schoolwear/waterhouses-primary.html>)

*Navy sweatshirt with embroidered school badge from 3/4 years up to 11/12 years

*Navy cardigan with embroidered school badge from 3/4 years up to 11/12 years

PE: Indoor - pale blue or white collarless t-shirt (with or without logo) and navy-blue shorts,
Outdoor - trainers and navy blue or black tracksuit/jogging bottoms and sweatshirt are recommended for colder weather.

Swimming: All in one plain swimsuit or fitted swimming trunks (not baggy beach shorts). No sequined items please. Swim caps must be worn. £4 from the school office
Reception has a full swimming programme. Nursery will have some taster sessions in the Summer Term.

Waterhouses Woodland Work: Suitable outdoor clothing including waterproof jacket and trousers or splash suit and wellingtons/sturdy weatherproof footwear.

Earrings – only studs. These will need to be removed for swimming and PE.

****Please note we DO NOT accept draw string / pull string bags in Nursery and Reception. Please send your child's items in an alternative format. ****

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.

Swimming



We are so fortunate to have our own swimming pool.

AquaVentures who will be teaching all our swimming again this year. All lessons will take place on a Tuesday. Our first school swimming will start next Tuesday 8th September. Please remember to name your towel and kit.

A Message from the PTFA



On behalf of all the children and staff, I would like to thank all the PTFA for the incredible hard work and support they give our school. The financial support and events really do make a difference to the offer we can provide for our children. From supporting payments for events and trips such as the immersive dome, end of year disco, hoodies, coaches and PE equipment, we are so grateful. Mrs Linton

'Hog the date!' On 16th October we shall be hosting our very popular Pig Racing Evening (no real pigs involved!). Please add the date to your diary, stay tuned on Dojo and follow our Facebook page for more info! Come along with family and friends to support us for a Pig-tacular evening! 🐷

Also coming up will be our big Christmas raffle which will be drawn at the Community Carol service on 16th December. More details will come out closer to.

We are also looking to recruit new members to our PTFA to ensure that it is strong in the years to come so please join us at our meetings or send us an email to be added to our WhatsApp group - waterhousesprimaryptfa@gmail.com, we know that everyone leads busy lives (us too!) but any help you can give makes a huge difference.

Thank you to all those that have supported us whether helping out or attending our events, we really value your support.

Jo, Rach & the PTFA team 😊

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,

Mrs R. A. Linton

Headteacher

Dates for the Year : 2026-7

Autumn Term 1	
1 Sept	INSET DAY for staff – school closed for pupils
2 Sept	School opens for pupils - Aut 1 No after school club due to all staff attending statutory safeguarding update training
9 Sept	Phonics workshop for all parents of Ladybirds 3:45pm
24 Sept	PSHE/RSE Parent workshop – 5pm This workshop is not suitable for children due to the sensitive content being raised.
30 Sept	Grandparents Lunch – details to follow
9 Oct	Individual and Sibling photos
15 Oct	3:40 – 5:50pm Parents Evening
16 Oct	9:15am – Celebration Worship – all welcome PTFA Pig Racing -details to follow
19 Oct	White Tigers – Safe and Sound – details to follow
21 Oct	3:40 – 5:50pm Parents Evening Aut 1 Homework due in school – please bring into the Hall – tables will be set out for each class.
23 Oct	School closes for half term holiday
HALF TERM	
2 Nov	School opens for Aut 2
19 Nov	Flu Programme for R-Y6
4 Dec	9:15am – Celebration Worship – all welcome
8 Dec	Panto – Buxton Opera House – Sleeping Beauty - Whole School Trip – details to follow
9 Dec	Parents Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day
10 Dec	2pm and 6pm Otters Christmas Play
11 Dec	9:30am Ladybirds Nativity play
14 Dec	Aut 2 Homework due in school – please bring into the Hall – tables will be set out for each class.
15 Dec	No Swimming this week
16 Dec	6pm Community Carol service – all welcome
18 Dec	School closes for Christmas Holiday
Spring Term 2027	
4 Jan	INSET DAY for staff – school closed for pupils
5 Jan	School opens for pupils – Spr 1 Swimming starts
3 Feb	3:40 – 5:50pm Parents Evening
5 Feb	9:15am Celebration Worship – all welcome
11 Feb	3:40 – 5:50pm Parents Evening
12 Feb	School closes for half term
HALF TERM	
22 Feb	School opens for pupils – Spr 2
3 March	Mother's Day lunch : 11:45am
24 March	Easter Lunch for the children
25 March	9:15am Celebration Worship – all welcome School closes for Easter Holidays
Summer Term 2027	
12 April	School opens for pupils

3 May	School closed for Bank Holiday
10-13 May	KS2 SATS
28 May	School closes for half term holiday
HALF TERM	
7 June	School opens for pupils
7-18 June	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
14 – 18 June	Phonics Screening Check for Y1 Otters
16 June	11:45am Father's Day lunch
25 June	Sports Day
1 July	Annual Reports out to parents/carers
2 July	Reserve Sports Day
6 July	Last swimming for the year
7 July	Drop in Parents – 3:15 – 4:30pm
8 July	White Tigers and Penguins Play – 2pm and 6pm
15 July	Leaver's Assembly : 2:30pm
16 July	School closes for the Summer holidays