

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2023**

## **A WONDERFUL FIRST WEEK BACK**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break, it has been lovely to be back with the children this week – the Summer Term has certainly got off to a very busy start!

### **New Playground Equipment**

As part of our plan to make playtimes and lunchtimes more exciting for the children, we have invested heavily in re-designing our playground areas. It has been lovely to see how much the children have enjoyed using the new playground equipment and markings this week. We have spent a great deal of time risk assessing the new playground equipment on the Year 1 playground, so we can ensure that the children are as safe as possible when using it. Whilst we are more than happy for your children to play on the equipment before and after school, this is on the understanding that they do so under your supervision during these times. In the interests of their safety, please do ensure that your children are closely monitored during these times.

### **Coronation Celebration Lunch**

You should already have received a letter about our Coronation Celebration Lunch on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May**. If your child normally has a packed lunch, and would like to have a celebration lunch on that day, please return the reply slip and any money required, by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the latest. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May will be a non-uniform day in school and we would like to invite the children to come to school in red, white and blue clothing.

### **Life Skills Course**

It was lovely to see some of our families taking part in the first session of the Life Skills course this week. The Life Skills course is a 6-week course, delivered in an extremely relaxed and friendly environment, which focusses on a range of topics such as cooking on a budget and making money go further. If you would like to know more about this fantastic course, please speak to a member of The Haven team.

### **Safeguarding Audit**

We recently underwent a safeguarding audit which was carried out by Blackpool Council. These audits are routinely carried out in schools every few years. It was a rigorous process, where the inspection team looked at all our safeguarding measures and procedures. They spoke to the children, the staff and they surveyed the opinions of parents and carers. I'm delighted to be able to tell you that the outcome of this audit was extremely positive and that the safeguarding team were extremely impressed with the systems and procedures we have in place at school. It was particularly lovely to hear the feedback from the children.

***During the day we attended, we were able to observe a calm and purposeful learning environment across the school site...***

***It was a pleasure to spend some time with students who were polite, very open and were able to express how they felt safe in their school. They conveyed that teachers cared about them. The students stated they could approach all staff with confidence that they would always listen and support any issues no matter how big or small they may be.***

As part of this process, parents and carers were surveyed and the survey highlighted that a number of parents and carers are unsure of who the DSLs are in school. The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) is a named person who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety).

At Waterloo, that person is the Head of School, Mrs Brown. Schools always have a Deputy DSL who is fully trained and able to take on the role in the absence of the DSL. In a school our size, we have three Deputy DSLs so we can ensure that there is always a DSL on site. Our Deputy DSLs are our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Woodcock, our Assistant Headteacher, Miss Huson and our Pastoral Manager, Chyna Courtney. This information is available on our website and is displayed around school. If you have any concerns of a safeguarding nature, you should report them to the DSL.

## Uniform

It was lovely to see so many of our children returning to school this week looking so smart. Can I politely remind all parents and carers that **trainers are not part of our regular school uniform** and are only permitted to be worn on PE days. A number of children returned to school in trainers this week and it would be lovely to see them back in their school shoes next week please.

We appreciate that in this economic climate, many demands are placed on our finances, but please don't let financial pressures be a barrier to school uniform. Please do come and chat to a member of The Haven team if you would appreciate some support with this. All conversations will be treated in confidence.

## Parent Consultation

As you are aware, we use the Dimensions, Learning Means the World curriculum to teach our foundation subjects. As of September 2023, we will be making some changes to the content of our PSHE and RSE lessons. The PSHE and RSE curriculum has been clearly outlined for parents and carers to view in the PSHE and RSE policy documents. These can be found in the **Policies** section under **Key Information** on our website. Please take some time to read through this important information regarding Relationships, Sex and Health Education for your child at Waterloo. If you wish to comment, or raise any questions about this material, please speak to a member of the school office team who will arrange for a member of the Senior Leadership Team to contact you. We politely ask that any specific feedback is received by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May (when this formal period of consultation closes), but we are of course happy to discuss any queries you may have at any point throughout the year.

## Strike Action Information

You may be aware from the recent media coverage, that the National Education Union (one of several teaching unions) have once again declared strike action. This is due to take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**. The strike is taking place due to a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school.

I can once again confirm, that school **will be open as usual** on these dates and so children are expected to attend as normal.

Thank you to you all for your continued support. Everyone at Waterloo, wishes all our children and their families, a very relaxing weekend.

Kind regards,



Jenny Brown  
Head of School