

7th July 2023

ANOTHER BUSY WEEK AT WATERLOO!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We might be nearing the end of term, but everyone is working incredibly hard and things are still really busy in school.

Sports Day

I would like to thank all the children in KS1, who took part in Tuesday's sports day. It was lovely to see the children having so much fun and joining in so enthusiastically. Huge thanks to all the staff who were involved in Tuesday's event, particularly Mr Bradley and Mr Jordan who co-ordinated it and the wider staff team, who encouraged the children and led them through the activities so brilliantly.

Thank you also to everyone who came along to watch and support; both the Year 1 and Y2 events were really well attended. Having your support always means a great deal to the children and we are very grateful to you all.

Music Day

On Wednesday this week, we held a school-wide music day. Each class had the opportunity to showcase an item from their music curriculum and they had the chance to watch children from other year groups perform too. Our children are so encouraging of one another; it was lovely to see some of our youngest children performing so confidently in front of some of our eldest. The feedback from the children has been so positive, it will definitely be something we will look to do again. Our thanks go to Mrs Casey for organising the event and to all the staff, who enabled the children to perform so well.

Wacky Hair Day for Little Princess Trust

On **Tuesday 18th July**, we are going to be holding a 'wacky hair day' in school, in support of the Little Princess Trust. The Little Princess Trust provides free, real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. One of our much-loved pupils, Thea-Rose, was diagnosed with alopecia areata over a year ago. She is an extremely brave young lady, who has faced her hair loss with real courage. As a school, we would like to support her family as they seek to raise £3500 to help 5 children with alopecia or cancer, get a custom-made wig from Little Princess Trust, like Thea did.

Having spoken to Thea's mum, we have decided to hold a wacky hair day, in return for a £1 donation (£2 maximum where there are more than 2 children in a family), which will go towards this worthwhile cause. We are also encouraging the children to wear non-uniform that day and to wear something blue – the colour associated with alopecia awareness. The children can choose to just wear blue, to adopt a wacky hairstyle, or to do both. The only thing we politely ask, is that children **do not dye their hair**. Very often, these dyes do not wash out and then the colour remains in the hair, beyond the designated day.

On the day, we will have collection buckets stationed at the school gates, should anyone wish to make a further donation. We'd like to thank you in advance for your support. We know that your generosity will make a huge difference to the lives of some incredibly brave young people and their families.

Friends of Waterloo Fundraising Group

As you will have seen, the **Friends of Waterloo** have been very busy over the last couple of weeks, selling tickets for today's raffle. We are very grateful to them for all the time and effort they have put into gathering prize donations and selling tickets. All the money raised will be put towards resources for the children in school. We will let you know the total amount raised in due course, but our thanks go to all the team.

Online Problems

We have seen a sharp increase in the amount of time we are having to dedicate to unravelling online fallouts, that have occurred between children overnight. More and more children are coming into school upset or bearing a grudge, due to something that has occurred when they have been gaming with their friends, or chatting in social groups. These fallouts result in lost teaching time (as the teacher has to unravel the situation) and lots of unnecessary upset. We really need your help with this. Many of the apps used by the children have an age-rating, even WhatsApp is rated 16+. This is to try and prevent younger children becoming involved in the kinds of conversations we see happening more and more. Often, the children say things online that they would never say to their friends, if they were face-to-face. It's easy to forget that there is a real person, with feelings, on the receiving end.

We really need the help of all parents and carers to try and bring an end to this situation. Please, please help us by regularly checking the apps that your child is using, the groups that they are part of and the kinds of conversations they are engaging in. We try really hard to make school a safe place to be, but unfortunately, we are powerless overnight. We need your help so we can bring an end to this worrying trend. Thank you so much in advance, working together, we can help support our children to develop happy and healthy friendships.

End of Term Arrangements

Just a reminder that school finishes on **Friday 21st July, at 1pm**. This change to our normal hours means that **there is no after school club on that day**. When we have an early finish, we often have children who are left behind. We politely ask that all children are picked up promptly on the final day. Our last day will be a non-uniform day in school. Y6 children may bring an old shirt to school, for their friends to sign, should they wish to do so.

Diary Date reminders...

Monday 10th July – Nursery sports day

Tuesday 11th July – Reception sports day and Y6 Pleasure Beach trip

Thursday 20th July – Y6 Leavers' Celebration Assembly and Y6 Prom – details about both to follow

After another very busy week, everyone at Waterloo wishes all our children and their families, a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards,



Jenny Brown
Head of School