

8th September 2023

WE'VE HAD A FANTASTIC FIRST WEEK BACK!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week – many have returned after the summer break and some have joined us for the very first time. Our first few days back have absolutely flown by!

Thank You

We have a lovely school uniform, and this year, we are really encouraging the children to take pride in their appearance. It has been fantastic to see so many children returning to school dressed so smartly this week. A huge thank you to everyone at home for supporting us with this. It has been wonderful to see so many children dressed in smart, black school shoes. I know it sounds like a small thing, but it really does make a difference in school.

As I have mentioned before, we are conscious of the economic climate and the cost of living. If you feel that support with uniform would be helpful, please do not hesitate to speak to one of The Haven team.

Contact Details

Over the course of a summer holiday, it is not unusual for families to move house, or for individual circumstances to change. It is absolutely vital that we hold up to date contact details for all parents and carers, in case we need to get hold of you. Please do take a moment to pop into the school office and update your details if anything has changed.

Amaven PE Assessments

Next week, the children will be undertaking a PE assessment during their PE lessons. As they take a little extra time to complete, some classes will be undertaking their assessments on a different day. **Children in Y5NC, Y5RJ and Y5JR should wear their PE kit on Monday 11th September, as well as on their normal PE day. Children in Y2AH and Y6LB should wear their PE kit on Wednesday 13th September, as well as on their normal day.**

Swimming

Just a reminder that swimming starts for Year 5 next week (**Wednesday 13th September**). Swimming is part of the National Curriculum. There is an expectation that all children should be able to swim confidently and proficiently, over a distance of at least 25 metres, by the end of Key Stage 2. Historically, we have taken Years 3&4 swimming. However, we have found that many of the younger children do not become proficient swimmers over this distance, as they are still very nervous around the water. Many other local primary schools take their Year 5 children swimming as they are older and, on the whole, more-able to become proficient swimmers. After many lengthy conversations, and following some external advice, we have taken the decision to take our Year 5 children swimming. In making this decision, we hope to ensure that as many of our children as possible become confident and proficient swimmers.

School Photographs

On Monday 9th October, Tempest will be taking individual and sibling group photographs in school. Nursery children, who do not normally attend Nursery on Mondays, are invited to come into school after lunch to have their photographs taken. More details to follow nearer the time.

Nursery and Reception New Starters - September 2024

It seems strange to already be talking about next year's new starters, but the window for school place applications has already opened! If you, or someone you know, has a child who is due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2024, we would like to extend an invitation to join us for one of our open events. These events provide a great opportunity to come and visit school, meet some of the staff team and find out what makes being part of the Waterloo family so special.

Please do join us on:

Wednesday 20th September from 1:45pm - 2:45pm or 6pm - 7:30pm

or

Wednesday 4th October from 1:45pm - 2:45pm or 6pm - 7:30pm

Some Dates for the Diary...

Thursday 14th September – Reception Reading and Phonics Talk (details on a separate letter)

Wednesday 20th September – Open Event for September 2024 new starters

Wednesday 4th October - Open Event for September 2024 new starters

Monday 9th October – Individual/sibling photographs being taken

Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th October – Consultation Evenings (more details to follow)

You Have Been Amazing!

I cannot write to you this week without mentioning the most important people – the children. All I can say is that your children have absolutely done you proud! Returning to school, after such a long time away, is not easy but they have all done brilliantly. It has been lovely to see friendships rekindled and new relationships between teachers and their classes being formed. The atmosphere in school has been so calm and focused and the hard work has already begun.

A huge well done to all the children and the staff team, who have once again worked incredibly hard.

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

Kind regards,



Jenny Brown
Head of School