

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## ANOTHER BUSY WEEK AT WATERLOO!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week in school and we couldn't be more proud of how well the children have settled into their new year groups and how hard they are working.

### Waterloo Way

You may or may not have heard your child talk about the **Waterloo Way**. This is a new behaviour curriculum that we have launched this year. Alongside teaching our children subjects such as English, maths and science, we are focusing a great deal on behaviour. This curriculum supports the important work we already do in developing each child's character while they are with us. The Waterloo Way curriculum is underpinned by **3 Expectations for Excellence – Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Ready to Learn**. These expectations are being explored by all children from Nursery to Year 6. We already have a good standard of behaviour in school, but this year, we are aiming for excellence. When children leave Waterloo, we want them to be academically ready to face the next stage in their lives, but we also want to ensure that they leave us having developed a great character. We want Waterloo pupils to live lives of purpose and to live as a force for good, in today's ever-changing world.

The children are taking to our new curriculum really well. School has a fantastic atmosphere, the children are working extremely hard and it's wonderful to see and hear them demonstrating such wonderful manners. If you have any questions about this new curriculum, please do speak to your child's class teacher.

### Reception Reading Talk

Thank you to all the Reception parents and carers, who gave up their time to attend the reading talk yesterday. Investing time in your child's reading is one of the most important things that you can do. If you missed it, please do make the time to speak to your child's class teacher, as the talk was full of really important information.

Thank you so much to the wonderful Reception team, who led the session so well.

### Jeans for Genes

As you already know, at Waterloo, we believe it is important to teach our children to help others. Next week is Jeans for Genes week and we will be marking this important occasion with a special assembly and our own Jeans for Genes day (**next Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September**).

The Jeans for Genes campaign raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic condition and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected. It is a great cause and one which we have supported for many years.

We would like to invite the children to attend school (next Friday) in their jeans, in support of this worthy cause. We always ask children to wear their school uniform (t-shirt and jumper or cardigan), so that their jeans are really obvious and stand out much more effectively than when they dress in complete non-uniform. In return for wearing their jeans, we ask for a £1 donation per child (£2 maximum donation for families with more than 2 children) to go towards this charity.

On the day, Mrs Cropper and her team will be selling iced biscuits. If your child would like to purchase a biscuit, please send them to school with an additional 20p. We are limiting the biscuits to 1 per child this year, as icing and decorating over 500 biscuits is a mammoth job!

Huge thanks to Mrs Cropper for organising Jeans for Genes day again this year.

## Reading

Research tells us that children who are able to read fluently, are much more successful in school and go on to have far better opportunities in life, than those who can't. This is why we place such importance on developing our children as readers. Helping your child develop into a confident and fluent reader is something that we really need your help with. Your child will either already have a school reading book, or will be preparing to bring one home in the next few days. I know that family life is incredibly busy, but please, please, please try to prioritise reading time with your child or children as part of your daily routine. A few minutes every day, is far better than a longer time spent reading once a week or once a month. We listen to your children read regularly in school, but additional, regular reading at home, will have a huge impact on your child's progress.

Whilst it gives us great pleasure to send books home for the children to enjoy with family, they are incredibly expensive. Last year, we invested a huge amount of money in our reading books. Sadly, over the course of the year, 332 books were either lost or damaged – this was 22% of the new stock that we had invested in. The average cost of a book is £5, so this loss cost us £1660! We simply cannot afford to replace books at this rate. Please ensure that any books that are brought home, are well looked after and returned in good condition.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> September from 1:45pm - 2:45pm or 6pm - 7:30pm (next Wednesday)**  
or

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 1:45pm - 2:45pm or 6pm - 7:30pm**

## Some Dates for the Diary...

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September** – Open Event for September 2024 new starters

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** – Jeans for Genes Day

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** - Open Event for September 2024 new starters

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October** – Individual/sibling photographs being taken

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October** – Consultation Evenings (more details to follow)

At the end of another busy week, I want to thank you for your continued support – we couldn't make school so successful without your help.

Everyone at Waterloo, wishes all our children and their families, a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,



Jenny Brown  
Head of School