

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY WATERLOO!**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Easter break. It has been lovely to be able to welcome the children back this week, they have all returned to school looking really smart, so a big thank you to everyone at home for helping us with this.

### **Our 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

As you know, this has been a very special week for us as a school. Yesterday, we celebrated our 120<sup>th</sup> birthday and we marked this very special event with some lovely celebrations. It was wonderful to see so many of the children dressed up for our Edwardian school day. One Year 5 pupil came to chat to me at the end of the day and said, "It's been a good day Mrs Brown, but I'm not sure that I like all the Edwardian school rules. They make our rules not seem so bad after all!"

Thank you to everyone at home for all your support with costumes – the children really did look wonderful, as did the staff!

We opened our doors for a special afternoon tea yesterday and were joined by lots of past pupils and staff. It was lovely to talk to people who remember Waterloo over the years. When one guest left, she thanked us and said how moving she had found the afternoon. She had been able to find her name, her mother's name and her grandmother's name in the old school registers. As they had both sadly passed away, she was delighted to see their names recorded in school history. Every guest commented on how lovely the afternoon had been and how impressed they were with the special displays in the hall. If you have not yet been to see them, and you would like to, please do speak to a member of staff who will be happy to accompany you.

Today, we have had lots of fun celebrating our school birthday with the children. The big birthday lunch was a real success and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying this very special event. The kitchen team worked incredibly hard to cater for so many extra children, and we are incredibly grateful to them for all of their hard work.

Events like this don't just happen, they take hours and hours of planning and preparation. My thanks go to all the staff who have made the last two days so very special. A particular thank you to Mrs Harrop, who has worked incredibly hard planning this special birthday event over the last few months. Her passion for keeping Waterloo's history alive is infectious and all her hard work really has been rewarded.

### **Consultation Evenings**

Thank you to everyone who came to the consultation evenings in the last week of term, they were really well attended, which was wonderful to see.

## Book Fair

Thank you so much to everyone who bought a book from the Book Fair. In due course, we will be able to tell you how much money has been generated for school, but we are really grateful to everyone who was able to support us in this way.

## Science Week

A massive thank you to everyone who supported Science Week, by sending in photographs of the children carrying out science experiments at home. Mrs Cowling was blown away by such a positive response – it's always lovely to be able to partner with everyone at home, to support the children's learning.

## Punctuality

I know that getting back into a routine after the holidays can be really challenging, but I'd like to politely remind everyone that **school starts at 8:45am**. Learning begins in classes before 9am, so if your child arrives even a few minutes late, they have already missed an important part of their day. Before the holidays, we saw a sharp rise in the number of children who were late for school on a regular basis. Please make it a priority to ensure that your child arrives on time, as this will set them up well for the rest of their day.

## Pavement Safety

Can I politely remind everyone that the pavement outside Nursery should not be used as a dropping off point in the mornings. There have been a couple of incidents recently where cars have swung on to the pavement and have frightened pedestrians (including some of our youngest children). Please park safely when dropping off and collecting your children, as we really do want school to be a safe environment for everyone.

## Staffing News

Chyna, our wonderful Pastoral Manager, leaves us at the end of this week to begin her maternity leave. Although we will all miss her terribly, we are very much looking forward to celebrating her good news soon. We wish her all the very best at this exciting time.

The other members of The Haven team are still fully operational and here to support you in any way they can.

At the end of an extremely busy first week back, everyone at Waterloo wishes all our children and their families, a relaxing and restful weekend.

Kind regards,



Jenny Brown  
**Head of School**