

15th July 2024

AS WE HEAD INTO OUR FINAL WEEK...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe how quickly this year seems to have flown by! Ahead of the end of term, there are just a few things to mention.

Year 6 Leavers' Celebration and Prom

A reminder to all parents and carers of Year 6 children, that we are holding a special celebration (in school) on **Thursday 18th July, at 10am**. We will open the Harris Avenue gates at **9.45am**, but please do not park on Harris Avenue, as we do not wish to upset our neighbours.

We are looking forward to seeing the children at the Y6 Prom on Thursday evening. Children can arrive from **6.30pm** (there is no early finish to the school day on Thursday). Please use the staff car park when dropping off your child. The evening finishes at **8.30pm**, so please ensure that your child is collected promptly. Thanks to the Year 6 staff team, for organising such special celebrations, to mark this important time.

Swimming

Swimming is a compulsory 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 found that many of the younger children did not become proficient swimmers over this distance, as they were still very nervous around water. This year, we took the decision to move swimming to Year 5, and this has really paid off. We have seen the majority of our Year 5 cohort, learn to swim confidently and proficiently, which is fantastic! Swimming will therefore continue to be part of our Year 5 curriculum, next year. More details will follow in the autumn term, but this is an advanced warning, just in case your child has outgrown their swimming costume.

Music Showcases

Every year, many of our children have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, which is wonderful. Huge thanks to everyone who came to hear Year 4 showcase all that they have learned, during their cornet lessons – playing for a live audience always makes such a difference.

A reminder that we have a guitar and woodwind showcase on Thursday morning, at 8.55am in the Sports Hall. If your child has elected to play, you will already have received a separate letter, outlining the details of this event.

Our Book Giveaway

At Waterloo, we love to read and we encourage all of our children to develop a love of books. Ahead of our return to school in September, we are overhauling and refreshing many of the books in our year group libraries. As a result, we are in a position to be able to give away some of our existing books, to the children. We know that reading regularly makes a huge difference to your child's academic achievement and to their life prospects. We want to do all that we can, to help your children to achieve amazing things! Our book giveaway is a wonderful opportunity to pick up books that your child can read and enjoy over the summer, as keeping up with their reading, is the best way to ensure that they have a great start to the new school year. On Wednesday, the books will be outside (on the front playground), after school - please feel free to help yourselves.

Summer HAF Programme

Lots of children are very excited about the summer HAF programme. This is being run during the holidays (in school), by Blackpool Football Club. If you have already booked a space for your child, please ensure that they attend on the days that you have signed up for. This avoids any spaces being 'wasted' and saves the team from having to chase people on the day. Please remember that this wonderful provision is not being run by school. If you have any questions over the summer, please contact Blackpool Football Club and not the school office.

Pre-loved Uniform

We are in desperate need of some pre-loved uniform. For some time, we have had a plentiful supply of uniform in school, but this has now virtually run out. We use the pre-loved uniform to support families and individual children as the need arises, but we are finding it increasingly difficult to do so. If your child has outgrown their uniform, or they are leaving school and you have no further need of it, we would really appreciate any washed items for our school clothing bank. Please bring any items of uniform to The Haven – many thanks in advance for your help and support with this.

Staffing News

The end of term, often marks the departure of some members of staff, and this one is no different. As you all know, after 29 years at Waterloo, Mr Woodcock is retiring at the end of this week. He has been a much-loved member of the Waterloo family for a very long time and he is well-known to many of you – some of you were even taught by him during your time here! Mr Woodcock has been an important part of the fabric of this school and he will be greatly missed by us all. We are incredibly grateful to him for everything that he has contributed to Waterloo life over the years, the staff will miss his quirky sense of humour and the daily injection of fun that he brings! We all wish him a very long and happy retirement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank another much-loved member of staff, for all that she has contributed to life at Waterloo, during her time with us. Miss Burrows is well-known to many of the children across school. At the end of this week, she will leave Waterloo, to pursue a new and exciting role, outside of education. She will be greatly missed by the whole staff team and we all wish her every happiness, as she embarks upon this new and exciting adventure.

End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that school finishes this **Friday (19th July), at 1pm**. This change to our normal hours means that **there is no Nursery afternoon session and 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 Friday.

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.

If you have any outstanding payments, we politely ask that these are all settled before the end of term.

School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd September, at the normal time. Whilst I completely understand the reluctance to buy new uniform, so close to the end of the year, we have recently seen a sharp rise in the number of children wearing trainers. Unless it is a PE day, **trainers are not part of our school uniform**. Please ensure that all children return in smart school uniform (including black school shoes), ready for the start of the new academic year.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole Waterloo family, for a wonderful year. The children have worked incredibly hard and have achieved such a lot since September. Every member of staff has given their all, day in, day out, to help the children to flourish in such a wonderful environment and for that, I'm extremely grateful. I would also like to thank every parent or carer - your support makes all the difference!

Everyone at Waterloo, wishes all our children and their families, a fantastic summer holiday when it arrives. We look forward to seeing you all again in a few weeks, ready for the start of a brand new year and all the exciting opportunities that it will bring.

Kind regards,



Jenny Brown
Head of School