

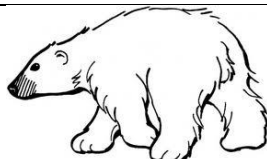
# Waterbeach Community Primary School

## Year 2 Penguins and Polar Bears Team Letter

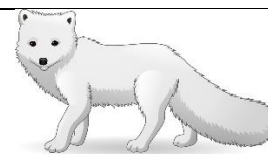
### Autumn 2023



**Penguins**  
**Miss Gregory**



**Polar Bears**  
**Miss Grime**



**Arctic Foxes**  
**Miss McGroary**

The purpose of this letter is to give you important information about the year ahead. You will find details about home learning, reading books and other documents that you will be receiving to help you to support your child in their learning. There is also information about the exciting things that your child will be learning next year. A copy of this letter and other information will be posted on the school website. Have a great Summer.

### EXCITING THINGS THE CHILDREN WILL BE LEARNING IN THE AUTUMN TERM...

Our topic for the first half term is **Houses and Homes**. In this topic we will explore how homes have changed through time, from the Celtic roundhouses to modern day homes seen in Waterbeach. This links into our Geography learning about the human and physical geographical features of Waterbeach; both the village and surrounding farmland. We will complete some fieldwork out in the village, observing and discovering which of these geographical features Waterbeach has, including the wonderful Village Green and river as well as the homes, shops and railway. In music we will be learning songs about castles and in PE we will be creating our own dances linked to the weather. Throughout the term in outdoor PE, we will learning and refining our throwing and catching skills. In PSHE we will first learn more about having a growth mindset before we learn about rights, rules and responsibilities. We will discuss our school rules, who looks after us and the different responsibilities we have at home and at school. In RE we will be learning why faith is important to Christians and what they do to celebrate and show their faith in the world. In Computing, we will be learning about online safety.

In the second half of the Autumn term our topic will be **Marvellous Materials**. In Science, we will be investigating the uses of a variety of everyday materials, how we could change the shape of them and what effects they have on the environment. We will work scientifically to investigate and test the best material for a waterproof coat. In our Design Technology learning we will be learning about nutrition as we design, make and evaluate our own delicious soup. In music we will be singing songs about protecting our planet and learning about the pitch, duration and dynamics of metal, wooden, plastic and body percussion. We will then spend time playing our own musical instruments made from recycled materials as we think of dynamics, duration and pitch. In Art, we will be learning about sculptures inspired by nature and created by Andy Goldsworthy before we move on to study Barbara Hepworth and design and create our own clay sculptures in her style. In RE we will be thinking about why Christmas matters to Christians, reading the Christmas story and where the children might see signs of the Christmas story in their everyday lives leading up to Christmas. In PE we will be practising different gymnastics positions using a different number of points of contact then creating our own motifs. In PSHE we will be thinking about our own emotions; naming them, understanding and managing them. We will also focus a series of lessons on anti-bullying; learning the difference between falling out with our friends and bullying, respecting differences and knowing who we can talk to if we have worries about friendship difficulties or bullying. In Computing we will begin to learn how to code.

### More information about our curriculum

More information about the curriculum content can be found in our [‘Curriculum Captures’ \(click here\)](#) on the school website. These are useful for parents to see the content of what is being taught and to use this information to help support your child at home.

### NEW SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

8.40 – children come into class and settle into an early morning activity. An adult will greet the children at the Year 2 door.

8.45 – registration opens.

8.50 - the doors will close at. After this time, children will need to come to the office to be signed in.

12.00– 12.45 – Lunchtime

3.15 – End of the school day



### Class Teachers & Teacher PPA (Planning, Preparation & Assessment) Time

On Friday Miss Gregory, Miss Grime and Miss McGroary have their PPA time; the classes will be taught by Premier Sport, Mrs Toone and Mrs Page. Miss Gregory's management time and Miss Grime's ECT time will be covered by Mrs Toone and Mrs Waddup.

### Teaching Assistant Support

Mrs Toone and Miss Ash will be supporting across the three classes in the mornings. There will be some teaching assistant support in the afternoons.

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#### EATING & DRINKING

Children should bring a named bottle with **WATER ONLY** for them to drink during the day. Juice is not permitted to be drunk throughout the day (only with their lunch). Please, please do not put water bottles in book bags, we have had so many reading and home learning books ruined due to leaking bottles. You may wish to purchase a separate bottle carrier that attaches to the side of the book bag.

#### SNACK & LUNCH

Children will continue to have a fruit snack provided by the government. All children in Year 2 are entitled to Free School Meals. Please help your child to make their choice for school lunches by sharing the menu with them before school. [The school lunch menus can be found here.](#)

#### BOOK BAGS

Children should bring a suitably sized bag to school for their guided reading book and reading diary. The [school book bag](#) is a good size for these items. The children have minimal space to store their items in a well-used corridor and large rucksacks are often hard to fit onto pegs. Items in the corridor can block the fire escape route. Water bottles should be kept away from reading books as we have had many a school reading book ruined from leaked water bottles. As in other year groups, there will be a trolley for the children to place their water bottles and lunchboxes on for the day.

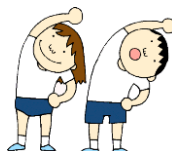
#### COATS

Children should have a coat in school daily as the weather is very changeable. The children will be outside if there is light rain so, please make sure they are prepared. A small raincoat in a bag, such as kag-in-a-bag, during the warmer months is ideal. Sun hats and sun cream should be worn when necessary.

#### PE

**PE days are Tuesdays and Fridays.**

Children should have a PE kit consisting of: their house colour T-shirt, dark plain shorts, jogging bottoms, a jumper and a change of shoes for outdoors. No jewellery should be worn during Physical Education lessons including swimming. It is also not safe to cover earrings / studs / sleepers with tape. **If children wear earrings to school they need to be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons.** If your child is unable to do so, earrings should be removed before coming to school. We advise that if you are going to allow your child to have their ears pierced, that this is done at the start of the summer holidays so that their PE entitlement is not compromised. We ask that all PE kits are kept in a drawstring bag and are left in school. We send home PE kits at the end of each half term for washing during holiday time. **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING – even socks! As per the school policy, we record if a child does not have their PE kit with them and send a letter home if it is repeatedly forgotten.**



#### Welly Wednesday

Year 2 will be going to the woodland area on a Tuesday. **This will not be every week.** Please look out on the Weekly Learning Sharing email for information on whether the children shall be attending the woodland area the following week. On these days children should come to school dressed in old clothes that are suitable for getting mucky and practical for activities such as climbing trees and den building **in all weathers** therefore dresses are not appropriate. Children should also bring a change of shoes, preferably wellies with them on these Wednesdays to wear whilst they are in the forest area. **Please make sure they wear their normal school shoes to school. Named wellies can be kept in school if you wish.**

#### BEHAVIOUR INFORMATION

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for everyone so that we can all work together in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe that we can do this by trying to keep the school rules.

We are gentle	We are honest	We are kind and helpful
We try our best	We listen	We look after property

For more details on our behaviour policy please see the [follow this link to the school website page.](#)

#### HOME LEARNING

##### Summer Home Learning

This year we would like all children to focus on reading for their home learning. There are so many ways that you could do this such as sharing a book together, reading to your child or joining the library [Summer Reading Challenge](#). In our experience, many children tend to lose some of their good reading habits during the holidays and this can set back their progress. As we need to be able to read to access nearly all other subjects, we really want all our children to retain the skills they have worked so hard to achieve this year. So - lots and lots of reading please! Thank you. Miss Green.

##### Autumn Term Home Learning

Children will bring home a guided reading book each week chosen by the teacher, please continue to support us by keeping reading books and reading diaries in bags at all times as the children will read in school through the week. Please continue to aim to read daily to your child as well as hearing them read and discussing their reading book with them. It is worthwhile reading the same book more than once; the first times to decode, the following times to comprehend. Here are some [comprehension questions](#) to ask as you read.

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#### Weekly Home Learning:

In September, we will be sending you the **home learning activities** – a ‘passport’ - for your child to complete at home. These will be a range of English, Maths and topic related activities. These will be set as assignments on Teams. Children can choose an activity to complete each week which we ask you to share with us via your child's **Teams account**.

#### Weekly Learning Sharing:

Every Friday, you will receive a **Weekly Learning Sharing** email. This is where we will share our learning for the following week so you can support your child. It will also contain important notices such as information on Forest School, school trips or school events. Please ensure you have shared your email address with the school in order to receive this email.

#### Online Learning Platforms:

During this term, the children will also be encouraged to use our online platforms: **Mathletics** and **Spelling Shed**. We may set tasks from time to time linked to prior learning in class on Mathletics and Spelling Shed; please check each platform for tasks for your child to complete.

The children will also be introduced to **TimesTables Rockstars** to practise their multiplication and division fact recall.

#### Online Learning

There are suggestions for online learning on the school [website](#).

**Login details will be shared as soon as we can in the Autumn Term for all online platforms. It takes some time for the applications to re-sort the children into their new classes so please bear with us.**

### COMMUNICATION

We aim to have open communication channels to keep you informed about everything that is going on in school and to give easy access to speak to us if needed.

#### Ways we can communicate:

**School/team letters** – letters are sent via email.

**Weekly Learning Sharing** – every Friday an email is sent out to give you an overview of what the children will be learning about the following week. This may also have important notices on.

**Website** – we hope the website is a good reference source. If there are things that you would like to see included please let us know.

**Email** – you can send emails to your child's class teacher or team leader. The protocol is that teachers will respond within 3 working days. If you need a more urgent response then you can leave a message with the school office or send a note to your child's class teacher.

Penguins Class Teacher and Joint Team Leader - Miss Gregory – [cgregory@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:cgregory@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk)

Polar Bears Class Teacher – Miss Grime – [sgrime@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:sgrime@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk)

Arctic Foxes Class Teacher – Miss McGroary – [rmcgroary@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:rmcgroary@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk)

Joint Team Leader – Mr Stafford [astafford@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:astafford@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk)

**Appointments** – if you would like to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher, please contact them via email.

**Concerns** – if you have any concerns about an issue within the class, please email or speak to the class teacher in the first instance. Then if needed concerns can be raised with the team leaders, Mr Stafford, or Miss Gregory. When necessary, you may then wish to contact Mrs Ogilvie or Miss Green.

### Autumn Term Key Dates

We aim to keep to these dates but occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control, they may need to change.

Please see separate attachment for the school key dates.

[For term dates for the rest of the year follow this link.](#)