




Waterbeach Community Primary School
Year 5 Team Letter
End Autumn - Spring 2023-24



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| Gorilla Class – Ms Barkes  | Koala Class – Miss Sparkes  | Wolves Class – Mrs Cobbe & Mrs Norman  |
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What a fantastic year we have had, so far. The children have settled into Year 5 well and have thoroughly enjoyed our ‘Industrious Victorians’ topic.

We hope you have a great Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in 2024!

A copy of the letter and other information will be posted on the school website.

Exciting things the children will be learning in the Spring term...

During Spring term our overarching topic will be **World War Two (WWII)**, in which we will be focussing on agriculture and the Home Front. We are all very excited about this. As part of this, we will be learning about the geography of Europe. Our key texts for this term are *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll and *Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian, linking our English work to the WWII theme to create greater learning connections for the children. We will be writing fictional accounts of being an evacuee and, later in the term, the children will be writing their own persuasive speeches based on Winston Churchill’s *The Finest Hour* speech. Our Art is linked to our topic with a focus on Propaganda posters. In Science we are learning about classification, life cycles and reproduction in both animals and plants. This will be linked to our WWII topic with a focus on growing food (Dig for Victory), as well as our DT food-tech unit in which we will be considering healthy eating and cooking ration-book recipes. We hope to have an Evacuee Experience Day, TBC. For Mathematics, the first half term will be focussing on multiplication and division. During the second half term, we will be focusing on time and measures, including conversion, area, perimeter and volume.

Teacher PPA (Planning, Preparation & Assessment) Time

Ms Barkes and Miss Sparkes and Mrs Cobbe will continue to have PPA time on a Wednesday, covered by Mrs Page, Mrs Seymour and Mrs Norman.

SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

8.40am – Children can come into school via the Link door by the KS2 play equipment. The doors will close at 9:00, after this time, children will need to come to the office and be signed in.
 10.30 – 10:45 – Breaktime
 12.30 – 1.15 – Lunchtime
 3.15 – End of the school day

If you would like you child to walk home on their own after school, OR walk to another part of the site on their own, then you will need to send written permission for them to do this.

PE

Outdoor PE: Monday; Indoor PE: Tuesday (Koalas & Gorillas) and Thursday (Wolves)

Children should have a PE kit consisting of:

- a house colour T-shirt without buttons,
- 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!**

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.

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|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 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 school website – About Us/School Policies

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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 or reading to your child. In our experience, many children tend to lose some of their good reading habits during time away from school 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. If you would like to see which books have Accelerated Reader quizzes, you can check using this [website](#). They can then quiz these on their return to school.

We would also like the children to use TTRS to work on times tables fluency, and to practise the spellings they have been taught during the week.

!Jewellery!

Please can all additional jewellery be left at home. There have been several children wearing necklaces be that in plain sight or underneath clothes – please can these be kept at home thus reducing the risk of necklaces being caught in class/corridors or lost in school especially if they hold sentimental value.

We are continuing to have a difficult time with hooped earrings being worn by some children – can we insist that children wear just studded earrings reducing the risk of earrings being caught accidentally in class/corridors.

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.

If you have any worries or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher. Contacting us by email is always the best way as teachers are very busy before and after school, and if we know that you would like to meet with one of us, we can put some time aside on an evening when we don't have meetings. All the teachers' email addresses are provided for you below.

Ways we can communicate:

School/team letters – where possible we would like to send all letters via email.

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 (Mr Smith). 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.

Gorillas Class – Ms Barkes – abarkes@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Koalas Class – Miss Sparkes - asparkes@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Wolves Class - Mrs Cobbe – [jacobbe@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:jcobbe@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk)

Wolves Class - Mrs Norman – enorman@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Team Leader – Mr Smith - dsmith@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

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

Spring Term Key Dates

Please see the school [website](#) for upcoming dates with any additional dates appearing in the weekly letters.
Term dates and key dates can be [found here](#).