



February 2024

[Head teachers message](#)



February - time of pancakes, Valentines Cards and half term, technically half way through the academic year. We are now in the run up to statutory assessments for year 6, phonics screening check for year 1 and the multiplications check for year 4. Teachers and children are preparing for these as well as delivering our curriculum. The day to day life of the school is both lively and full and throughout this there are many children who are working hard with positive attitude and a determination to do their best.

The growth mindset is evident throughout. I always smile when I hear children telling each other that they need to "have another go" and "don't give up". I think such an attitude sets them up for life in a difficult and challenging world. If you are interested in finding out more about the theory and research behind this there are many books available - but I have personally found this one to be a guiding light. Mindset - Updated Edition: Changing The Way You think To Fulfil Your Potential by Carol Dweck (toppingbooks.co.uk)¹

(Other book shops are available)

I hope that you all have a great break at half term.

CAN YOU HELP?



We are looking to enhance our reading area for all of our children. Do you have any good quality magazines/ comics that are suitable for children to read (such as Aquila, The Week, Phoenix, Beano, Dandy, Whizz Pop Bang- science magazine) that you could donate to our school. Instead of throwing

¹<https://www.toppingbooks.co.uk/books/carol-dweck/mindset-updated-edition/9781472139955/>

these away please do send them in. We will be grateful and will use these in our designated reading areas.

STAFF NEWS



So far, we have had a year of surprise announcements. Last week, Mrs Evans gave birth to her lovely son. He was a little earlier than expected but both are doing well and we are so pleased for them. Ms Laws will also be leaving at Easter to start her maternity leave.

Ms Gregory has also told us that she is expecting her first child and we are thrilled for her and her family. Such lovely news. She will be with the Penguins until the middle of the summer term before departing to start her maternity leave.

We are really sorry to be losing Ms Barkes at Easter. She has exciting plans for the future and everyone wishes her well! She has been with the school since her initial teacher training and will be greatly missed. Ms Barkes has led science across the school and , with Ms Fowler, worked really hard last year to successfully attain the Primary Science Quality Mark for the school. Ms Fowler will be continuing her good work.

Throughout the last half term, we have been working to recruit people for the classes mentioned above and have been successful in doing so. Once all checks and appropriate paperwork have been completed we will let you know the names of teachers who will be working in each class.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN SCHOOL?



All children in Key stage 2 (year 3 - 6) have seen **an assembly by the NSPCC**. This assembly showed them ways to stay safe - "Speak out and Stay Safe". The assembly clearly explained that all children

experience difficulties at some times but sometimes these may be overwhelming and they may need help from a safe adult or even by calling the NSPCC ChildLine. We have also been lucky enough to have workshops for our children in year 5 and 6. These were delivered by trained members of the NSPCC. The focus was "Speak out and Stay Safe", with emphasis on how talking about things usually helps. The children also learnt how to remember the help line number. The NSPCC also offers support for parents which can be found by following this link. Support for parents | NSPCC²

BAILEY'S COLUMN - Our "Pets As Therapy" dog.



Hi, I am Bailey....I am a PAT dog. That means I work with my Mum, Mrs Graves, in the school office and I help people. Sometimes children are upset when they come to school. My Mum and I meet with them and walk them around school. Sometimes children will play with me - which makes me feel great! Look at my picture - it was taken a long time ago - I still love listening to children read.

I am very happy working in this school but I do sometimes feel a bit sad about things that children and adults do. Sometimes children can be cruel to each other - especially when using those phone things out of school. I get to hear about them and think that it must be really upsetting if you get a mean message from someone. I really hope that children know that they can talk to the grown ups in school about this if it is happening to them. They can come and talk to me too if they wish! My Mum will sort it out. I really like to help - so please ask if I can help you!

Woof Woof

²<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/?source=ppc-brand>

Bailey

RIDING SCOOTERS AND BIKES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS



PLEASE, PLEASE can parents stop all children from riding bikes and scooters on the school grounds. We now have over 500 children in our school and at drop off and pick up times it is very very busy.

Even tiny children on little bikes and scooters can trip children up - last week I witnessed a very narrow escape as a child tripped and was nearly hit by someone on a scooter. We are not just being grumpy when we ask you not to let the children do this - we are acting for your child's safety. Thank you all for your cooperation in this.

Online Safety and Wellbeing



Do you find it hard to start a conversation about your child's wellbeing?

Are you concerned about their mental health?

These two posters have top tips on how you can start a conversation and support your child.

Waterbeach Community Primary School - Parent Help Posters ([waterbeachschool.org.uk](https://www.waterbeachschool.org.uk))³

³<https://www.waterbeachschool.org.uk/page/?title=Parent+Help+Posters&pid=1845&action=saved>