

Waterbeach Community Primary School
Year 6 Team Letter
End of Autumn 2024 – Spring 2025



 <p>Panda Class – Mr Smith</p>	 <p>Tree Kangaroo Class – Mrs Freeman</p>	 <p>Lemur Class – Mrs Ferris</p>
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The purpose of this letter is to give you important information about the term ahead. You will find details about home learning, reading books and general information about how a typical week will look. A copy of the letter and other information will be posted on the school website. Have a great Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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

Our topic this term will be **‘Magnificent Mayans’**.

One of the school’s themes is farming and so we shall be establishing how the Mayans farmed and comparing this to the Ancient Egyptians and more modern farming that the children would have studied in previous years. We shall also be exploring some of the Mayan’s religion, their role in chocolate and what technology they used which is still used today in some form.

In Science we will be investigating properties of materials taking in the differences between reversible and irreversible changes and their importance in everyday life. In RE, we will be answering two key questions: What does it mean to be a Buddhist and can we all be enlightened and What did Jesus do to save human beings. In PSHE, we will be looking at how to work together and financial capability. We shall also be exploring a unit on Relationship and Sex Education. In Computing, we will be understanding how to create and used spreadsheets before moving onto coding using Scratch. In PE, the children will be completing a group sequence in gymnastics before doing a dance unit based around our Mayan topic. For our outdoor sessions, we shall be completing a unit on Tag Rugby and Tennis. In Art, we will be working with clay to create a Mayan sculpture. In D&T, we will be making electrical fan buggies. More information can be found by accessing the [‘Curriculum Captures’ here.](#)

Teacher PPA (Planning, Preparation & Assessment) Time

Mr Smith (Pandas) has release time on a Wednesday which is covered by Mrs Blackaby.
 Mrs Ferris has release time on a Tuesday which is covered by Mrs Blackaby.
 Mr Smith, Mrs Freeman & Mrs Ferris have PPA time on a Thursday covered by Mrs Blackaby, Mr Maynard & Mrs Page

SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

8:40 - Doors open and children make their way to their classroom.
 8:55 – Registration, the doors will close, after this time, children will need to come to the office and be signed in.
 12.45 – 1:30 – Lunchtime
 3.15 – End of the school day

If you would like you child to walk home on their own after school then you will need to send written permission for them to do this. If this arrangement had been made during the previous term, it would be a good opportunity to reconfirm with the office so we are able to update our records. See [link](#)

PE
Pandas & Tree Kangaroos – Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays
 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](#)

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.

You will have also seen a letter detailing the strategies we use for the four main mathematical operations. If you wanted to complete any examples over the Christmas period or beyond, it is always good to keep these skills bubbling over in the background while we learn new concepts in class.

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.

Acrylic nails have also made the odd appearance which aren't probably the most appropriate for school use given some of the subjects we cover during the week.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring these rules are adhered to as the children begin to get ready for secondary school when the uniform rules become stricter.

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.

Lemurs Class – Mrs Ferris – lferris@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Tree Kangaroos Class – Mrs Freeman – cfreeman@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Panda class/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

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

January	
Monday 6 th	Training Day
Tuesday 7 th	Spring Term Opens
Monday 13 th – Friday 24 th	SEND Parents Meetings
Wednesday 29 th	Year 4 Assembly
Thursday 30 th	Year 4 Assembly

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<u>February</u>	
Wednesday 12 th – Thursday 13 th	Open Classrooms
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	Half Term
<u>March</u>	
Wednesday 5 th	Year 3 Assembly
Thursday 6 th	Year 3 Assembly
Wednesday 5 th – Friday 7 th	Year 5 Grafham Water Trip
Wednesday 19 th – Thursday 20 th	Parents Evenings
Thursday 20 th – Friday 21 st	Year 3 Thorpe Woodlands Trip
Wednesday 26 th – Thursday 27 th	Year 5 Assembly
<u>April</u>	
Friday 4 th	Spring Term closes
Monday 7 th – Monday 21 st	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd	Training Day
Wednesday 23 rd	Summer Term Opens
Monday 28 th – Friday 2 nd	Sporting Fund Raiser
Monday 28 th – Friday 9 th	SEND Parents Meetings