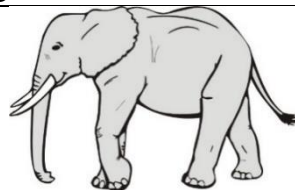




Waterbeach Community Primary School
Rhinos, Elephants and Meerkats Team Letter
End Autumn 2024/Spring Term 2025



Rhinos
Miss Pritchard



Elephants
Mrs Barham



Meerkats
Mr Stafford

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 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 useful information will be posted on the school website. **We hope you all have a good Christmas break!**

EXCITING THINGS THE CHILDREN WILL BE LEARNING IN THE SPRING TERM...

Our topic for this term is **London's Burning**. We begin the topic with Geography by exploring the UK and its capital cities with a focus on modern day London. In Music we will learn and listen to some folk songs from around the UK. In Science we will explore signs of Winter and what the weather is like. As part of Design and Technology, we will explore Tudor houses and compare these to modern houses, we will use our knowledge of materials to choose what is best to make our own Tudor house model.

During the second half of the term, we will travel back to the past and explore what London was like in 1666. In History, we will learn about the events of the Great Fire, how it started? Why did it spread? And the reasons for why it is called the 'great fire'. In art, we will take inspiration from the Great Fire to create London Fire pictures using the technique of collage. In PE, we will also create our own fire dances in and listen to traditional songs and rhymes linked to London e.g., London's burning in music. In Science, we will continue to explore the seasons, we will start to explore Spring and how the weather has changed, what affect this has had on plants and animals and how these changes compare with Autumn and Winter.



As part of PSHE, we will be teaching Relationships and Sex Education, more information to follow closer to the time.

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.

SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

8.40 – children are met at their classroom door/gate by their teacher and settle into an early morning activity.

8.45 – registration opens

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

12.00– 12.45 – Lunchtime

3.15 – End of the school day

Children will have a 15-minute break during morning and during the afternoon.



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

On Thursday afternoon Miss Pritchard, Mrs Barham and Mr Stafford have their PPA time, the classes will be taught by Premier Sport, Miss Foster and Mrs Page. Mr Stafford's' management time will be covered by Miss Foster on a Tuesday morning.

Teaching Assistant Support

Miss Ash, Miss Foster, Miss Fu and Mrs Johnstone will be supporting across the three classes during the mornings and some afternoons.



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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.](#)

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.

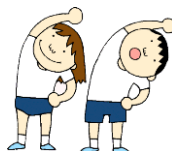
SNACK & LUNCH

Children will continue to have a fruit snack provided by the government. All children in Year 1 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 menu can be found here.](#)

PE

PE days for all classes are Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Children should have a PE kit consisting of their 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! 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.**



MUDDY MONDAYS

Year 1 will be going to the woodland area on a Monday. This may not be every week so please look on the weekly Learning Sharing for information on which classes will be going for the week ahead. 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. Dresses are not appropriate for Muddy Monday. Children should also bring a change of shoes, preferably wellies with them on Mondays to wear whilst they are in the forest area. Please make sure they wear their normal school shoes to school. Wellies can be kept in school if you wish.

HOME LEARNING

Reading: Each week the children will bring home a Little Wandle Reading book linked to the child's phonic knowledge. This is a book that they should 'show off' and celebrate their reading with you after they have three reading practice sessions in school. **It is important to return this book to school every Monday.**

Children will also bring a 'choice/sharing' book home from our library which we ask you to read to your child and share the pleasure of reading a book together. It is important to aim to read daily to your child and share the pleasure of reading and discussing books with them.

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 – all letters are sent via email.



Waterbeach Community Primary School

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End Autumn 2024/Spring Term 2025

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.

Rhinos Class Teacher – Miss Pritchard ipritchard@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Elephants Class Teacher – Mrs Barham fbarham@waterbeach.cambs.sch.uk

Meerkats Class Teacher and Team Leader – Mr Stafford 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 leader, Mr Stafford. When necessary, you may then wish to contact Mr Lloyd or Mrs Ogilvie.

Spring Term Key Dates

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

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

January

Monday 6 th	Training Day
Tuesday 7 th	Spring Term Opens
Monday 13 th – Friday 24 th	SEND Parents Meetings

February

Wednesday 12 th – Thursday 13 th	Open Classrooms
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	Half Term

March

Wednesday 19 th – Thursday 20 th	Parents Evenings
Tuesday 18 th March	History off the Page

April

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