

December 2024 Newsletter

As we end the term and break for Christmas, I wanted to reflect on all the amazing things that have happened recently and also to share some notices with you all.

Winter Fayre

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Winter Fayre last weekend and thank you to the community for supporting the school. So much effort went into organising, setting out and then taking down the stalls and games and I am grateful to the everyone who donated their time and effort as well as for the prizes. In murky weather, people were still arriving for the last hour and the event raised around £3,000! There are plans in school to redevelop the outdoor environment for Reception and to build a sensory room for children (and adults!) to use. I'll keep you posted on how these develop and it will be made possible by the generous support of the PTA and of the wider community.

Christmas events

The run up to Christmas is always busy in a primary school and we have enjoyed a lot of festive events. The Y6 children were invited to take part in the Christingle service at Ely Cathedral. They represented the school so well with their wonderful singing and good behaviour. I had the privilege of taking children from last year's choir to a service in King's College Chapel. Two children did readings from the Nativity story and the chapel choir sang some of the music from this year's Carols from Kings which will be performed for a global audience on Christmas Eve. It was a beautiful morning and thank you to the parents who came to support. Last week saw Y1 perform their Nativity for the rest of the school and then for parents. It was so much fun and their confidence and singing were fantastic. Then this week, we took Y1-Y6 to the local churches; thank you to St John's, the Baptist Church and to the Salvation Army for inviting us to celebrate the Christmas story together. And to top it all off, the Reception classes performed their Christingle celebration for parents this week. They sang traditional songs and shared their glowing Christingles from the stage.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for supporting Children in Need last month and for supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Because this money was donated to school rather than directly to the charity, I can share that we raised £590.72 to support the work of the British Legion.

The house captains have chosen charities to fund raise for and will begin writing to parents in January with details of the fundraising events that they will organise.

The Beano

Congratulations to Ben in KS2. In the summer, he wrote a comic strip which was submitted to The Beano and which was then published last month. He brought it in to share with the school and it is an amazing achievement. Well done!

Online safety

A reminder that, as the holiday comes, children may spend more time on devices – if they have them. We teach children about online safety in school and [our school webpage](#) offers links to lots of supportive sites that can help parents manage their children’s use of devices and their online behaviour.

GDPR

Concerning GDPR, on 23rd Oct an email was sent to a number of people with parental responsibility and we omitted to bcc in the email addresses on this occasion. I want to apologise for this oversight. Here at Waterbeach Primary School we take data protection especially seriously and have sought advice from our Data Protection Officer. We have been advised to record this as an internal data breach and are updating our processes to ensure that such an incident does not happen again.

Arbor

As you’re no doubt aware, the school has changed systems for managing information. The best way to communicate and keep organised is to download the Arbor app available from both the Apple store and Play stores.

Parking

Please can I remind everyone to park considerately round school. We are a big school with entrances on two different streets. Please be mindful of the road markings and of any restrictions. Thank you.

School Dinners

Thank you to those of you who have contacted us about issues with school dinners. We are liaising with the catering provider and monitoring the system in school to prevent this from happening.

Governor Vacancy

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, there is a vacancy for a parent governor. You are eligible to self-nominate or be elected if you are a parent of a registered pupil at the school at the time of the election, or if you are a person who is not a parent, but who has parental responsibility for a child here. If you are paid to work at the school, you must work less than 500 hours per year and you cannot be an elected member of the local authority.

If you would like to self-nominate, please [follow this link](#).

Thank you for your support this term, have a safe and restful break and however you celebrate, enjoy the holiday period. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2025!

Mr
headteacher

Lloyd