



School Newsletter 2

October 2015

www.waterthorpeinfantschool.co.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are half way through our first half term and it is lovely that we are having the 'Indian summer' that Mr Rodgers forecast. (Mr Rodgers is the 'font of all knowledge', or so he tells me, but he has also commented that we are going to have the worst winter in 50 years so let's make the most of the sunshine we have now!) Many thanks for the great support given with children having meals on census day (1st October). The numbers of meals taken are collected at two points in the year, on Census days, and this helps to calculate part of the funding we receive. We had a really good take up of meals on Thursday! Please read on to find out about things happening in school. Hopefully everyone will see opportunities to be involved in school activities in some way. Please tell us about any ideas that you have for future events.

Your comments, as always, are welcomed and I would be happy to see you at any time if you want to catch me in the playground or call in at the office to make an appointment. If you do have any concerns or worries please have a word with your child's teacher as I know that they will do their best to help and to put your mind at rest.

Helen Stokes, (Headteacher).

Senior leadership team



Mrs Helen Stokes
Headteacher



Mrs Caryn Moffatt
Foundation Stage
Leader



Mrs Shelly Appleby
Key Stage 1 Leader



Mrs Helen Towers
Special Needs
Co-ordinator

This is the **School** version of the September Newsletter.

F2: Red Base

Y1: Blue Base

Y2: Yellow and Green Base

To help you in seeing which items you may need to take action on a list is below:

Actions for you to take:

- Please return the data forms we have sent to you and return them to school as soon as possible.
- If you would like to attend Reading Volunteer Training please let the office know.
- School Photos 8th October: If you would like a photo taken with younger/older brothers & sisters please arrive at the Infant school hall at 8:15 a.m.
- Please support your child with their homework and completing their 'Passport'.
- Log onto 'Parent view' and share your opinions about our school.
www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk.
- Please collect a pantomime slip and make your payment (If you haven't already).
- For children who have been offered a 'bike skills' place on 6th October ~ remember to bring your bike and helmet
- Travel to school without the car (or 'Park and walk') 5th to 16th October.
- On 6th October meet the circus performer at 8:15a.m. (Owlthorpe Greenway underpass at the end of Pedley Avenue) and join them on the walk to school or join us in the playground at 8:35a.m. for a circus performance.
- Please ensure that your child attends any clubs, they have a place on, every week and please pay for clubs in advance.
- Consider whether you would be interested in becoming a governor ~ write a letter about yourself and return to Mrs Stokes in the office by 14th October
- Yellow Base parents: join us for our class assembly ~ 15th October at 9:15a.m.
- Harvest Festival: Please send in a donation for our Harvest Festival on 20th October.

Items for action

Reminder: Parent/Pupil information update forms

Please return the data forms we have sent to you and return them to school as soon as possible. If you need new forms or would like any help in completing them we would be happy to assist you. Please call at the office.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who has returned the slip to say that they would like to volunteer in school. We have passed your information onto the members of staff responsible for leading different activities in school. If you haven't had any response please call at the office or email school (enquiries@waterthorpe.sheffield.sch.uk) and we will get back to you.

READING VOLUNTEER TRAINING REMINDER:

If you are interested in reading regularly with children in school we are offering training on 21st October 1:15p.m. to 3p.m. Please contact Mrs Appleby or Mrs Stokes for more information and to book a place.

School photos

Individual and family group photos will be taken on 8th October. **If you would like a photo taken with younger/older brothers & sisters please arrive at the Infant school hall at 8:15 a.m.**



Passports and Homework for children in Key Stage 1 (Blue, Yellow and Green Base)

All children in Key Stage 1 have brought home a scrap book as their 'Passport'. A letter explaining this is stuck inside the book along with a list of things to do or achieve. Between now and July 2016 children can tick off things on the list and stick, write or draw any evidence of this (photos, pictures, writing, tickets etc.) in the book. They can bring their book in to share with their class at any point when they have put something interesting in it.

Children have also brought home a menu of homework activities. They can choose something to do from this each week. When they return their homework to school they will get a mark on the homework chart. Children who do a piece of homework each week will receive a certificate at the end of each half term.



To help your child make good progress in school it is important that they learn any spellings sent home each week and that they read at home on a regular basis. (Please make note of when they have read in their reading diary so they can work towards earning a bookmark and certificate.)

Please support your child with their homework and completing their 'Passport'.

Pantomime

On 3rd December we are taking all the children to Rotherham Theatre to see the Cinderella Pantomime. The cost of this trip is £12.00. If you would like to pay this in instalments please ask at the office. Thank you to everyone who has returned the slip and payment.



Please collect a pantomime slip and make your payment (If you haven't already).

Bike-it sessions

On Tuesday 6th October we are running cycling sessions with Henry from 'Bike-it'. Letters have been sent out to children to confirm places. **If you have received a letter please remember to bring your bike and helmet on Tuesday.**



10 day Active Travel Challenge



Our school will be taking part in Sheffield City Council's 10 Day Active Travel Challenge starting on **Monday 5th October** and finishing on **Friday 16th October 2015**.

The challenge is for pupils & their families to choose an **active way** of getting to school over the 10 day period.

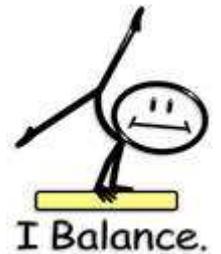
During the challenge the children in Blue, Yellow and Green base will have a wall chart, in their class, on which pupils who have travelled actively will record their journey by adding a special sticker to the chart. Those pupils with 9 or 10 stickers on the chart at the end of the 10 day challenge will be awarded a footprint enamel badge. In Red Base they will do a Head count and the children who actively travel to school (not in cars) will also be able to earn a badge.

On 6th October we are having a circus performer visit the school **Families can meet up at 8:15a.m. (near the Owlthorpe Greenway underpass on Pedley Avenue) and enjoy a performance on the journey to school. A playground performance has been organised for 8:35a.m.** This event is to celebrate our Active journeys to school. A letter is attached



After-School Clubs

We have waiting lists for many of our clubs and a number of children who would love to be able to attend them if there was a space. We are also finding that some children often do not attend the clubs when they are on the register. It is important for these children to attend the club every week unless they are ill. We heavily subsidise the clubs we run in order to offer most of them at £1 per session. Children will be charged for their place, if they do not attend, unless they are absent due to illness.



If children are not attending regularly we will offer their place to another child. To help us continue to run these clubs:

- **Please try to pay for all clubs in advance and ensure that your child attends regularly.**

Parent Governor

We have several parents who sit on our governing body. They attend termly full governor meetings, sit on committees, attend training, make visits to school and write short reports to tell us about what they have seen. Parent governors have an important role in our school community and they contribute to the plans for the future of the school. Meetings and training is often in the evening or occasionally at weekends. Some meetings are also held in the afternoon and visits to school are during the day. Some employers will give staff leave of absence to fulfil governor duties.



If you are interested in being a parent governor, and feel that you could commit the time to this role, please write a short letter about yourself containing the following information and we will get in touch with you to arrange a meeting.

- Your name
- Your children's names and ages
- Your job, skills and interests
- Why you would like to be a governor
- What you feel you can offer to the governing body
- Anything else you want to tell people

Please return your information to the school office by 14th October. Many thanks.

We need your opinion...!



- Parent view is one of the ways OFSTED and school collect views about a variety of different aspects of school life. The website you need is www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. Even if you have completed Parent view previously please do log your views again for the school year 2015/2016. Many thanks.

Harvest Festival Tuesday 20th October 9:15a.m.

Our Harvest Festival this year is on 20th October. The theme for this year is a 'Fruit Harvest' to link with our 'Handa's Surprise' topic in Key Stage 1.



Please can children bring a small donation that they will bring to the front in assembly. Any tins, bottles, packets of food would be welcomed. Fruit based items would link well with our theme. Please ensure all items are in date.

Thank you.

Assemblies coming up:

Yellow Base class assembly ~ 15th October at 9:15a.m. in the school hall: Parents and carers welcome to join us.

Harvest Festival ~ 20th October 9:15a.m. Parents/Carers welcome.

Items for information:

Emmanuel Open Evening for current Y2 pupils

On 7th October at 5:15p.m. Emmanuel are hosting an Open evening for our Y2 children and their parents/carers to go and have a look around and find out more about the Junior school.

Flu vaccinations

Nasal spray Flu vaccinations will be carried out in school, for children in Blue, Yellow and Green Base, later this term. You will soon receive a letter to return to school to give your permission for this to go ahead. Children will not be vaccinated if the letter is not returned. Please do consider the protection that this immunisation will give your child.

E-Safety



On 19th October (note date change) we will run some focus groups to discuss with children how much they know about keeping safe online. This will help us to plan our work in school. In February we are running an evening e-safety workshop at Westfield School for parents and children.

Westfield Family of Schools website

This can be found at www.westfieldfamily.org. There is lots of useful information on the website and links to each school's individual website. Please have a look.



There is a link on our school website to the Family of Schools website.

Winners of Litter Poem!

In the summer term our School Council/ECO Team children entered a 'Litter Poem' competition run by Amey. We were delighted to hear that they have won and the Sheffield Star will be arranging to come into school to photograph the authors and will be publishing their poem.

Litter

*Litter looks dirty, messy and vile,
especially when it's been there for a while.
To keep Sheffield tidy and clean,
make sure litter can't be seen.
So if you drop it on the floor,
pick it up so there's no more.
It can be dangerous to animals in the open space.
MAKE SURE YOUR LITTER GOES IN THE RIGHT PLACE!*

By The ECO Team, Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School

Stepping Stones Playgroup ~ Places for 2 year old children

The Stepping Stones Playgroup, that runs in the community rooms, has places for children over 2 years old on Monday, Tuesday and, from November, Thursday mornings 9a.m. to 11:30a.m. The cost is currently £8.50 per session, which includes a snack. This will rise to £9.25 per session in November due to additional costs. If you would like more information, or to apply for a place, please call Diana on 0780 1349756 or Angela on 07787 518778. Stepping Stones are able to take children on the free 2 year FEL (Free Early Learning) places.



Information about free places for 2 year olds can be found following this link:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/education/information-for-parentscarers/care-support/childcare/parents/earlylearning/2-year-early-learning.html>

Short Break Grants for Families with Children who have Disabilities

The short break grant applications have been opened for this year! Families can apply for up to £400 to go towards a short break / support / respite activity.

The Sheffield Short Break Grant Programme provides a one off payment up to a maximum of £400 per family to support parents or carers of disabled children and young people to access a short break from their caring responsibilities. This could be things like gym membership, day trips, contribution to a holiday, cinema tickets, etc. that could be used at times that provide the greatest benefit to them as a family.

They accept applications from parents or carers who have a disabled child aged 0-19, where the parent or carer is a resident of Sheffield and where we have a responsibility for the child or young person, such as education.

If you are a parent or carer of a disabled child or young person, you are now able to apply for a Short Breaks Grant for the year 2015/16. Application forms are available from the school office or from the Sheffield City Council website:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/caresupport/childfam/children-disabilities/short-breaks/grant.html>



Waterthorpe Toddler group

Up to 5yrs

1.50 per child
(50p additional children)
Juice and snacks provided

**Call Lucie:
07447483546**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9-11am, term time

!!First session is free!!



Emmanuel
Community
Rooms
Thorpe Drive
S20 7JU

[https://m.facebook.com/
groups/419280811432506](https://m.facebook.com/groups/419280811432506)



Westfield Family of Schools Attendance Information for Parents



Important
information
for you and
your child



We believe that *all* our pupils should be given the best chance to do well in life. We know that coming to school on time, every day, is important if your child is to get the best start. There is a clear link between good attendance and good results, and we want to work together with you to achieve this by:

- Encouraging all pupils to arrive on time, ready to learn
- Talking to each other if there is a problem causing your child to miss school
- Recognising and rewarding good attendance
- Encouraging you to play a vital role in supporting our school and helping your child to succeed
- Working with school to achieve our attendance target

Our target for attendance this year is 95%

- Your child should be in the school yard (or hall if the weather is bad) by 9am, ready to be taken to their classroom for registration
- Registration begins at 9am and finishes at 9:10am. If your child arrives after 9am they are late and must report to the office.
- If your child is absent for any reason please contact us as early as possible on the first day

DID YOU KNOW?

90% IN A TEST IS GOOD BUT 90% ATTENDANCE IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE = 1 YEAR MISSED AT SCHOOL!

10 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY = 33 HOURS LOST LEARNING EACH YEAR

1 DAY ABSENCE EVERY WEEK = 2 MONTHS LOST LEARNING EACH YEAR

ARRIVING 5 MINUTES LATE EVERYDAY ADDS UP TO 3 FULL DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST.

ARRIVING 15 MINUTES LATE EVERYDAY ADDS UP TO TWO FULL WEEKS OF SCHOOL LOST.

ARRIVING 30 MINUTES LATE EVERYDAY ADDS UP TO 19 FULL DAYS OF SCHOOL LOST.

If your child is unhappy or having difficulties at school please get in touch and let us know, we will try to help. Mrs Stokes is at the end of the telephone and will make every effort to be helpful.



Telephone school on 0114 2484943

We want your child to do well at school and in later life -
let's work together

What our school expects from parents/carers

- The Law says that your child has to have a full time education between the ages of 5 and 16, and that you as the parent/carer are responsible for making sure they receive this. We expect this to start as soon as any child joins our school family and expect that parent/carers will help us by starting good attendance habits early
- To contact the office on the first day of absence if your child is not coming to school
- To tell us if there is any problem that is stopping your child from coming to school
- To make appointments for the dentist, doctor etc, out of school time whenever possible
- To only keep your child off school if absolutely necessary. A trip to the hairdresser, shopping or a day off for their birthday is neither acceptable or allowed!
- Any leave of absence from school must be requested in advance.

What you can expect from our school

- A good education, which is dependent upon regular attendance at school
- Regular information about how your child is progressing in school and prompt action to any problem you tell us about
- Contact from school if any absence is unexplained
- Encouragement for your child to attend regularly and on time,
- Regular praise and rewards for improvements in attendance
- Encouragement and celebration of good attendance.
- Notification to Parents/Carers over concerns regarding attendance through a tiered letter system.

Holidays in Term Time

Children between the ages of 5 and 16 are not legally entitled to holidays in term time. We would ask that you consider the impact of your child missing time from school, even at a young age. It can prove difficult to settle a child after any absence, particularly a holiday. S/he will have missed valuable learning and may find difficulty making friends again after a long absence. Parents/Carers can receive a fine for taking their child out of school for a holiday.

- If you intend to take your child on holiday in term time please ensure that you have informed school. You should read the Local Authority ' Exceptional Leave in Term Time' policy' available at school or at sheffield.gov.uk and complete a *term time leave request for leave in exceptional circumstances* form explaining why you are doing so
- The Head teacher can only authorise a holiday under exceptional circumstances, there is no automatic right to take leave
- Any parent taking a child out of school without authorisation is liable to receive a fixed Penalty Notice fine of £60 (per parent/carer) payable within 21 days. If unpaid the fine increases to £120 with a further 7 days to pay and, if still unpaid, a summons is issued for the unpaid fine.

PLEASE HELP US TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD GETS THE BEST START POSSIBLE TO HIS/HER SCHOOL CAREER, GOOD HABITS STARTED NOW WILL PAY DIVIDENDS LATER

Breakfast Club

We offer childcare at our breakfast club from 7:55a.m. This includes a nutritional breakfast and a range of activities. The price of this is £3.50 per day. Children from nursery or school may attend but places must be booked in advance.

Kid's Club



Parents, do you need extra shopping time, or care for your child while you are at work?

Kids, fancy a fun, friendly place to play after School?



COME TO WATERTHORPE KIDS CLUB!

- We run from 3-6pm on School Days, for £7.50 per child, per session (subject to a one off £2.00 registration fee per family).
- We plan lots of fun activities, both inside and out, with lots to make and do!
- We offer yummy, nutritious snacks!
- We provide safe, Ofsted registered care with kind friendly staff.

If you are interested please call in to Emmanuel Community Rooms for a chat with Sue, Lewis or Kezia, or call Sue on 07788 951 277.



All bookings and payments must be made in advance at the school office.

The new club phone number is: **0777 280 6417**

Attached to this newsletter/sent out separately:

- 10 Day Active Challenge letter

Diary Dates 2015 ~ 2016

Oct	5 th	10 day Active Challenge begins
	6 th	Bike Skills Day and 'Walk to school' Circus Parade
	8 th	Individual photos (brothers & sisters 8:15 a.m.)
	15 th	Yellow Base Class Assembly 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	19 th	E-safety Focus groups with children
	20 th	Harvest Festival 9:15a.m. in hall (families welcome)
	21 st	Reading Volunteer training 1p.m.
	22 nd	Break up for Half term
	23 rd	INSET Day: School closed to children
Nov	2 nd	Return to school
	11 th	Charity Day
	12 th	Parent's Evening 3:15p.m. to 7p.m.
	13 th	Children in Need Day
	16 th	Anti-bullying Week
	18 th	SEAL Family workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All school Families welcome
	19 th	Blue Base class assembly 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	26 th	Green Base Class Assembly 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	26 th	R.E. Family Workshop 2p.m. in hall ~ Blue/Yellow/Green Base families
Dec	3 rd	Pantomime For children in school (Cinderella) ~ School starts 8:30a.m
	8 th	Art Family Workshop 5:30p.m. in hall ~ everyone welcome
	9 th	Christmas dinner day
	11 th	Red Base Nativity Assembly in school Hall 10a.m.
	15 th	Y1/Y2 Nativity 2p.m. in church (no younger children please)
	16 th	Y1/Y2 Nativity 10a.m. in church (Crèche provided ~ please book)
	17 th	Nursery parties in Community Rooms (Normal Nursery closed today)
		School Christmas Party 1:15p..m.
	18 th	Nursery Nativity in Church 9:30a.m.
		No Nursery sessions today
	18 th	School breaks up for Christmas at end of day (Games/Toy day)
Jan	4 th	Return to school
	4 th	Clubs start this week
	13 th	Literacy Family workshop 3:15p.m. in hall ~ Blue/Yellow/Green Base families
	21 st	SEAL Family workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All school Families welcome
	28 th	Yellow Base Class Assembly 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
Feb	4 th	Safer Internet Day ~ Family Workshops at 5:30p.m. (Westfield School)
	5 th	Half term
	15 th	Return to school
	18 th	Class Assembly Green Base 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	22 nd	Fair Trade Fortnight
	23 rd	Fair Trade Family Workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All school Families welcome
	25 th	Class Assembly Red Base 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	29 th	SEAL Family Workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All school Families welcome
Mar	3 rd	World Book Day

	7 th	Humanities Family workshop 3:15p.m. in hall ~ Blue/Yellow/Green Base families
	9 th	Individual reports out today
	10 th	Blue Base Class Assembly 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	10 th	3:15p.m. to 7p.m. Parent's Evening
	15 th	Easter Garden Assembly 9:15 in hall (families welcome)
	16 th	Easter Bonnet Parade & Easter Draw (Children only)
	17 th	No Merit and Birthday Assembly. WW2 Day in Emmanuel (our children invited)
	18 th	INSET DAY ~ School closed to children
	18 th	Easter holidays
Apr	4 th	Return to school
	6 th	Science Family Workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ Blue/Yellow/Green Base families
	21 st	SEAL Family Workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All school Families welcome
	27 th	Maths Family Workshop 5:30p.m. ~ All school families welcome
	29 th	INSET DAY ~ School closed to children
May	2 nd	May Day Bank Holiday
	12 th	Class Assembly Blue Base 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	13 th	1:30p.m. PE Family workshop ~ All families welcome
	19 th	Sponsored event
	26 th	Class Assembly Red Base 9:15a.m. in hall ~ families welcome
	27 th	Break up for Half term
June	6 th	INSET DAY ~ No children in school
	13 th	Arts Week
	17 th	Arts sharing assembly 9:15a.m. (No merit and birthday)
	21 st	SEAL Family Workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All school Families welcome
	29 th	Technology Family Workshop 9:15a.m. in hall ~ All families welcome
July	5 th	Sports Morning
	6 th	Class Swap day for transition (Y2 to Emmanuel)
	7 th	Parent's evening: Individual consultations 3:15 p.m. to 7p.m
	11 th	Nursery Consultation Day ~ Nursery closed to children
	12 th	Y2 Leaver's performance for Families 9:15a.m. in hall
	13 th	End of year Awards assembly 9:15a.m. in hall (Families welcome)
	14 th	Y2 Fancy Dress Party 1:15p.m.
	15 th	Final Merit and Birthday Assembly
	19 th	Break up for Summer Holidays

Your feedback and comments:



10 day Active Travel challenge

Dear Parent / Carer,

Our school will be taking part in South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership's 10 day Active Travel Challenge starting on **Monday 5th October** and finishing on **Friday 16th October** 2015.

The challenge is for pupils & their families to choose an **active way** of getting to school over the 10 day period. There are prizes for individuals, classes and the whole school available - including you! So we need everyone to take part and make an effort to be active on their way to school during the challenge. Walking, cycling, skating and scooting are all active ways of travelling and we hope by taking part in the challenge it will:

- Improve health & wellbeing of our pupils & their families
- Encourage pupils and families to be more active
- Reduce congestion and parking problems around our school
- Make the roads around our school safer
- Promote active travel for the journey to school even after the challenge has finished

During the challenge each classroom will have a wall chart on which pupils who have travelled actively will record their journey by adding a special sticker to the chart. Those pupils with 10 stickers on the chart at the end of the 10 day challenge will be awarded a prize.

Green Top Circus Event

To kick start the challenge and to encourage you to keep active on your journey to school we have been specially selected to run a very exciting **Walk to School** event on **Tuesday 6th October** in conjunction with **Green Top Circus**.

We would like you to meet us and our special guest at **Owlthorpe Greenway Underpass at 8.15am**. (See map overleaf for meeting point and route to school). Here you will get to see our special guest in action, bringing smiles and laughs to everyone. We will then all walk to school together following the route shown on the map. Arriving at school for around 8.35a.m. our special guest will wow us with their skills once more before we start school for the day.



We really hope you can join us at the start of the walk to school to make our guest feel welcome and to have a really fun, exciting and very different journey to school. We are very lucky to be hosting such an event, so don't miss out on this unique opportunity to have fun on your way to school.

Happy travelling,

Helen Stokes

Map showing Meeting Point and journey to school

