

END of 2015~2015 Messages for Families ~ Waterthorpe NI School

Thank you to all the children and families for helping us to make our school a lovely place to be this year. I know all the children are ready for a nice rest, as are the staff. When we get to this time of year everyone is weary from all their hard work and looking forward to recharging.

We are saying Thank you, Goodbye and Good Luck to:

- Mrs Towers (Red Base Teacher and SENCO)
- Ellie Humphries (Red Base Apprentice Teaching Assistant)
- Paige Willoughby (Office Administration Apprentice)
- Mrs Askin (Teacher covering for Mrs Robertson)

We also want to say thank you to our many volunteers who have made so many things possible such as gardening, cooking, kerbcraft, swimming, trips, additional reading without these people giving up their time we would not be able to do many of the things that make children's time in school special.

A few messages about the end of term and the beginning of the new one (If we have missed anything you want to know please tell us):

Old PE kit/pumps and uniform

If you wish to donate your child's old uniform or PE pumps/kit, we would be very grateful to use these as spares or for other children. These can be handed into the office or class teacher.

Lost Property

The lost property boxes have been put just outside the main entrance. Please check through the boxes before the summer holidays when we will dispose of everything.

Last Day of School

Tuesday 18th July is the last day of the school year. Children may bring toys and games to school for the last day. Please make sure they have your child's name on them and are not of any great value in case they get lost or broken. Please also send a bag to take their things home in.

Reading Books

Please return all reading books before the end of term so that we can stock-take during the holidays. Thank you.

Big Read

Information cards about the summer holiday library reading challenge have been sent out. Children need to go to the library to register. The target is to read 6 books over the summer to earn a reward. These are usually sent to the school and presented to the children in September.

Parent School Improvement Consultation

Thank you to the 57 parents who took the time to complete this. The survey is now closed. The responses about the things we have done this year were very positive. We have taken the following action on points raised:

- 12 parents were not aware of the 'News Update' Page on the website ~ This is changed weekly and we do our best to ensure that it has up-to-date information about the things that are happening in the coming week ~ please go to www.waterthorpeinfantschool.co.uk and click on the 'News Update' tab to check.
- Our Parent Class Reps have proved very helpful in sharing information with families. A Parent Facebook site has been set up by Laura Green who shares weekly events on the site. To request membership please go onto Facebook and search for 'Friends of Waterthorpe'. To ensure that everyone knows who the Reps are we will share details again in September. We are also asking for new Reps for Nursery in particular but we would welcome other parents who would like to receive information to share with others each week ~ please call at the office and leave your name and email address if you are interested.
- We now do a separate newsletter for school and Nursery to make it less confusing for Nursery parents about which information is for them. Most of the information is the same for morning and afternoon children but, where it is different we will try to make this clearer.
- We have made sure the photograph dates are included in the list of dates on the newsletter.
- We have added 'Absence request forms' to the website. Click on the 'Parents' tab and select 'Information for New Parents'. We will look at adding a tab for you to click on that has all the forms families may wish to access.
- Homework ~ We are reviewing what homework we give to children from September. We want the children to practise the important things such as reading, phonics and spellings as well as have the opportunity to do something fun. We don't want parents to feel overloaded though. We will add homework information to the website next year.
- Booking Parent's Evening online ~ We are not able to do this at the present time however, when it is parent's evening time, I am happy to arrange appointments with the teachers if you email me at headteacher@waterthorpe.sheffield.sch.uk with the times you are available and who your child's teacher is. I will arrange an appointment and get back to you.

Return to school in September

We return to school on Monday 5th September. Children will be in their new classes.

Payments

The school budget is constantly under strain and we do all that we can not to reduce the staff in classrooms. As a result we have had a reduction in staffing for the office so, to help reduce office workload, from September these are the changes to the way you pay for things at school:

- All payments should be put in an envelope and posted in the black post box inside the office door with the following information on:
 - Child's name
 - What the payment is for
 - Any dates if you are paying for breakfast club, nursery sessions, kid's club etc.

Cheques should be made payable to Waterthorpe NI School. We will send you a receipt and any change due.

- Payments for Kid's Club should be made directly to the club, either when you collect your child or by putting the money in an envelope with 'Kid's Club', your child's name and the dates you are

paying for, written on the front and posted in the black letter box on the wall just inside the school front door. Sue Moore will check this each morning.

- Payments for after-school clubs must be made at the beginning of each half term. This will usually be around £6 and you will be told the amount when you get the letter acknowledging that your child has a place. Refunds will only be given for illness or if we get 7 days' notice that your child no longer wants to attend the club.
- Payments for Nursery sessions and lunches should be paid in the first week of each half term. Nursery parents will receive an invoice in the last week of each term for payment at the beginning of the next term.
- Milk for children receiving income-based Free School and for under 5's is free. All other children wanting milk pay at the beginning of each term. The payment for September to Christmas is £11.90. Cheques for milk should be made payable to Sheffield City Council.

Receipts will be given for all payments. This will act as proof that you have paid. If you do not receive a receipt please check at the office as we have copies of all receipts given.

Morning Maths and Lexia Clubs

Each term we invite some children to attend our Easi-maths or Lexia clubs from 8:30a.m. each morning. In September these will continue to run from Monday to Thursday. The clubs will not run on Friday mornings. These clubs are by invite only.

After-School clubs

After-school clubs start in the week beginning 12th September and run until 9th December. Places have been allocated to children who have returned letters. Some of the clubs are now full. Children in Red Base are not invited to attend clubs until the summer term as we have previously found it is too much for many of them. Please note that there was an error on the club letter regarding the payment for karate. The correct amount is £15 per half term/£30 per term payable directly to Kara at the club.

PE Kits

Children, who will be in Year 1 and 2 (Blue, Green & Yellow bases), should bring a PE kit at the beginning of term that includes a plain t-shirt, shorts and pumps. They should keep this in school on their peg.

School Meals

School meals continue to be free to children in Infant Schools. The price of a dinner for Nursery children is £1.75 per day and this is included in your invoice from us. In September we will be on Week 1 of the menu. A copy of the menu is available on the website at www.waterthorpeinfantschool.co.uk A new menu starts in November.

Food Bank

Our first 'Food Friday', when we are collecting for the S20 Foodbank, is on 16th September. We will send out information about this at the beginning of next term. Please ask to see Mrs Stokes if you are in need of a food parcel.

Dates for next year

A list of all the dates for 2016~2017 was on the last newsletter. This is available on the website. Please keep this list to refer to. If we make any changes we will let you know in the Newsletters but it is then important that you throw away old diary dates and replace them with the new to avoid you having the wrong dates.

School Holiday Dates for 2016/17

Please find following the holiday dates for 2016/17:



Autumn Half Term 1

Term starts Thursday 1st September 2016 - Friday 21st October 2016

Half-term holiday Monday 24th October 2016 - Friday 28th October 2016

Autumn Half Term 2

Term starts Monday 31st October 2016 - Friday 16th December 2016

Christmas Holiday Monday 19th December 2016 - Monday 2nd January 2016

Spring Half Term 1

Term starts Tuesday 3rd January 2017 - Friday 17th February 2017

Half-term holiday Monday 20th February 2017 - Friday 24th February 2017

Spring Half Term 2

Term starts Monday 27th February 2017 - Friday 7th April 2017

Easter Holiday Monday 10th April 2017 - Friday 21st April 2017

Summer Half Term 1

Term starts Monday 24th April 2017 - Friday 26th May 2017

May Day Holiday Monday 1st May 2017

Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2017 - Friday 2nd June 2017

Summer Half Term 2

Monday 5th June 2017 - Friday 21st July 2017

INSET days will be: -

Thursday 1st September 2016

Friday 2nd September 2016

Monday 31st October 2016

Friday 7th April 2017

Monday 5th June 2017