Newsletter 2 - End of term review

Waterwells Primary Academy & Pre-School

October 2026

The children have had an excellent term and it has been lovely to see them settle into their new classes and year groups, with lots of successes to celebrate already. It was lovely to see so many of you at the recent parents' evenings.

Today, Thursday 22nd October, is the last day of term and the children return to school after the half-term break on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

Congratulations to the children who earned themselves an end of term BEST certificate. Well done!

				Pre-school Ducklings	Alma Elsie Jasmine		
R Robin	Jasgun Louis Olivia William	**R Wren**	Lanita Noah Jayce	**1 Penguin**	Ahenfie Areez Ava Celia Karim	**2 Flamingo**	Alfy Azeem Hannah Kamil Kairo
3 Crane	Candice Edward Mia Zion	**3 Heron**	Edwin Elijah Mia Zara	**4 Raven**	Aila Barnaby Freya Tilly William	**4 Starling**	Esme Kareem Olivia Sahara Thomas B
		**5 Swift**	Isla-Rae Keira Nathaniel Rocco Saskia	**6 Eagle**	Anita Arnav Imogen Marshall Morgan	**6 Owl**	Alfie R Amelia Emanuel Mariah Milena

Autumn 1 House BEST point winners

Each half term, the house with the most BEST points has a non-uniform day. The house with the most BEST points for Believing, Engaging, Succeeding and Trying this term is **Meteor** (**Yellow** house). Meteor **children only will have a non-uniform day on the first Friday of next term, Friday 6th November**. If children have PE, please ensure they wear appropriate clothing/footwear for physical activity. Well done **Meteor**!

Harvest

Well done to the Year 3 and Year 4 children on their wonderful harvest singing!
Thank you to those who generously donated food items and toiletries.
All items have been passed to the Quedgeley Community Pantry, helping those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Y6 Secondary School Applications

The deadline for Year 6 secondary school applications to the local authority is midnight on **31st October**.
Further information can be found at:

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions/transfer-to-secondary-school-or-from-middle-to-high-school-september-2027/

Parking around the School



Please park considerately when dropping/collecting your child from school. For the safety of all road and pavement users, please:

* Avoid parking on corners and opposite junctions as this forces cars to go on the wrong side of the road.
* Do not perform a three-point turn in the road outside the school.
* Do not park in front of residents' driveways.
* Leave plenty of time to drop off/collect your child, especially in bad weather.
* Be mindful of your surroundings, and drive slowly past the school.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in keeping the school and local community safe.



- **Half Term - Friday 23rd October - Monday 2nd November (inclusive)**
- **Tuesday 3rd November** First day of Autumn term 2 / children return to school.
- **Friday 6th November** METEOR Winning house non-uniform (House with most BEST points last term)

Meteor children with PE on this day to please wear appropriate clothing/footwear for physical activity.

The Importance of Attendance

At Waterwells Primary, our current attendance rate is 95.7%, which is **below** the national average of 96.3% at this point for the school year.

Regular attendance plays a key role in every child's success, both academically and socially. When children attend school consistently, they engage more fully in lessons, strengthen friendships, and maintain a structured routine that supports their overall well-being.

While we understand that some absences are unavoidable, we encourage families to prioritise attendance whenever possible. Every day in school helps build a brighter future for your child.

Let's continue working together to raise the attendance even higher!



Pre-school Ducklings

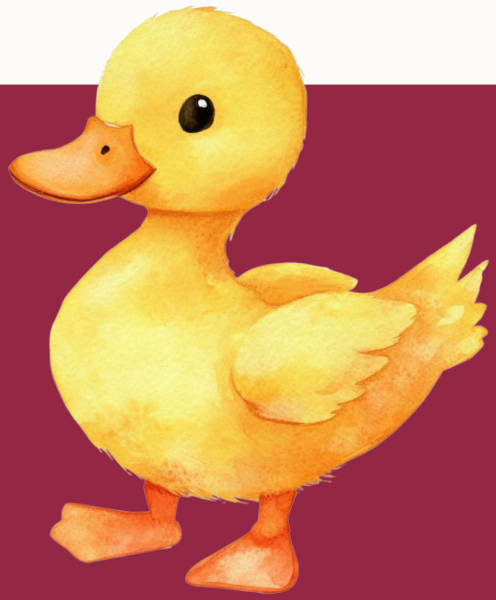
We are so proud of how wonderfully our new Preschool children have settled in! They have been superstars learning our daily routines, finding their pegs, making new friends and growing in confidence.

Our focus story, Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox, has inspired lots of exciting learning. We have celebrated what makes us all unique, counted our fingers and toes, and explored our five senses through textures, sounds, scents and games.

We have also been encouraging our “I can do it, I can have a try!” attitude, helping children develop independence and resilience. From putting on coats and pouring drinks to tackling tricky puzzles, we are celebrating every little achievement and the confidence to have a go!

You can support this at home by encouraging your child to put on their own shoes and coat, and chatting about their favourite parts of the school day.

Thank you for helping us give our Preschool children such a fantastic start!



Year R Robin Wren

A Fantastic First Term in Reception!

We are incredibly proud of how beautifully the children in Robin and Wren classes have settled into school life. It has been an amazing first term, and every single child has shown wonderful progress and adaptivity as they navigate their new routines.

Our learning has been brought to life through some fantastic storytelling. Together, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the rhythms and adventures of We're Going on a Bear Hunt, We're Going on a Leaf Hunt, and the classic tale of The Little Red Hen. These stories have sparked so much brilliant language work, creativity, and collaborative play across both classrooms. Thank you to all of our Reception families for your continued support during this important transition period. We are so excited to welcome the children back next term to watch them grow, learn, and achieve even more!





Year 1 Penguin

What a brilliant start to the school year! Year 1 have settled the new school year life like absolute superstars. We are so proud of their enthusiasm, positive attitudes, and huge smiles every single day. Here is a look at what our busy little learners have been up to this half term:

Wednesday afternoons have become our favourite time of the week! Taking inspiration from the artist Kandinsky, our budding artists have been experimenting with primary colours. We've been mixing and blending to discover how to make shades lighter and darker—and having a wonderfully messy, creative time!

In History, we took a step back in time to explore family trees and compare old and new toys. The children loved bringing history to life by looking at what children used to play with compared to their favourite toys today. Ask your child if they can tell you how a toy from the past is different from one now!

Science has been full of exciting hands-on experiments! We turned into real scientists to test different materials to see which ones were waterproof. Our goal? To help Postman Pat keep dry and build umbrellas and boats after Jess the Cat made a splash!





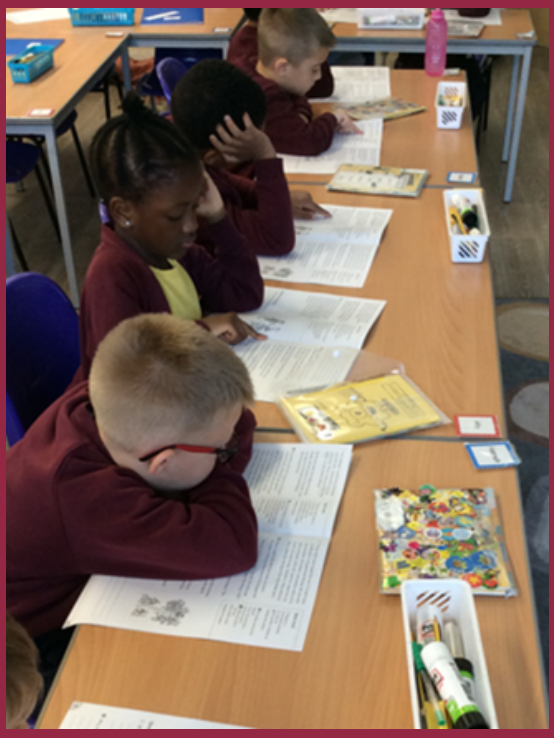
Year 2 Flamingo

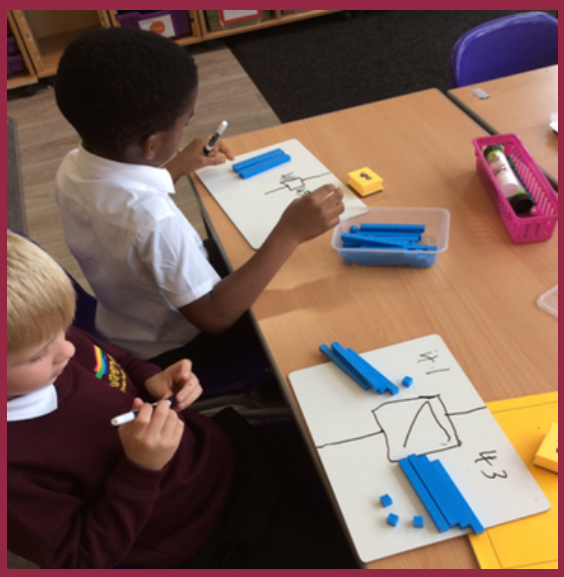
Term one completed!

It has been a very busy start to Year 2 and the children have been working very hard. In writing this term we have been hunting for treasure with our story ‘How to Find Gold’ and science has had the children investigating the most suitable materials to help our characters Anna and the Crocodile from our writing. During our History work we have been learning about London in 1666. We looked at what London looked like and how people lived, including an important individual called Thomas Farriner. In Maths we have been exploring numbers through place value and addition using lots of manipulatives which has helped them visualise strategies.









Year 3

Heron Crane

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year, with the children thoroughly enjoying the art unit focused on Joan Miro's work. They worked hard to create their abstract designs on paper first and then brought them to life on the fabric.









The children have also enjoyed their RE unit based off of the key enquiry question - Who is God to Hindus? They did great matching the gods and goddesses names to their role and image.





Year 4 Raven Starling

Raven Class and Starling Class have all settled well into Year 4 life. We have had a busy term, learning lots of exciting new things. In Maths, we have identified 4-digit numbers, rounded numbers and identified and described properties of shapes. In writing, the children have loved recalling traditional tales through freeze frames, and applying it to their fantasy writing based on the book 'Into the Forest' by Anthony Browne. They have been able to add fronted adverbials of place and time and experimented with rich vocabulary when using expanded noun phrases.



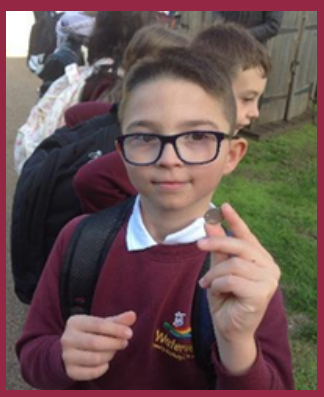




In History the children have loved finding out about the Anglo-Saxons. In particular, they loved our trip to Warwick Castle. We visited the gaol, Kingmaker, Great Hall and watched the trebuchet and falconry display. The workshop was very funny too. We finished off the day having more fun in Zog's playground.









Year 5 Swift

Year 5 are now fully settled in and are quickly becoming used to expectations and new classroom routines.

In Science, we have been learning about Earth and Space. We have been learning about the planets in our solar system, how we get night and day and about the phases of the moon.

We used fruit and other items to create a scale model of the solar system. Neptune was a long way from the Sun! We're all looking forward to our trip next term which will consolidate and extend our learning.



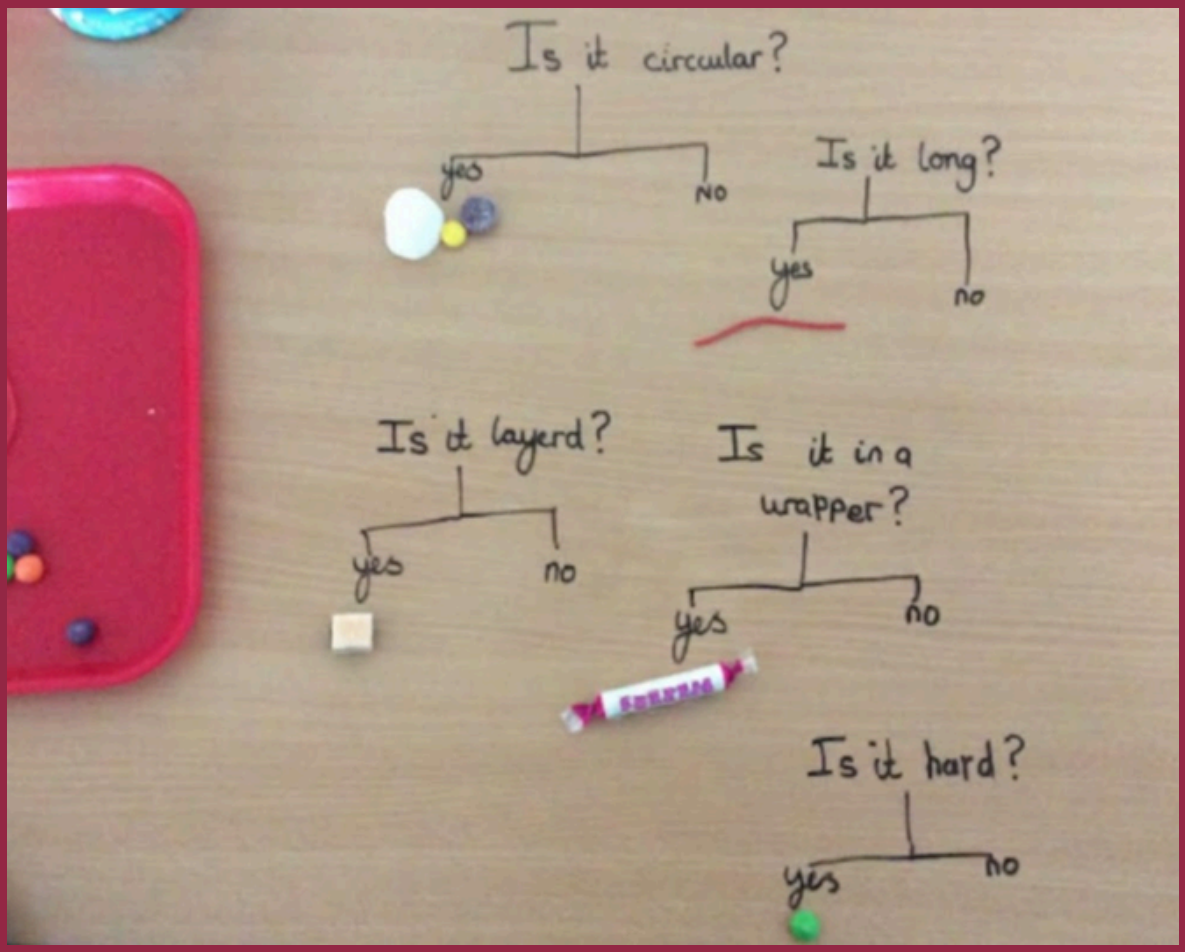
Year 6

Eagle Owl

It's been a busy but successful start for our Year 6 children. As the oldest in the school they have settled brilliantly into their new roles and responsibilities and are excellent role models to the younger pupils. A particular highlight for the children has been sitting on the benches during assembly! Our Macmillan coffee afternoon was a huge success and it was lovely to see so many people enjoying our cakes and bakes - thank you so much for supporting us.

In maths we're currently mastering long division whilst in science we've classified plants, animals, micro-organisms and sweets - yum! Our writing this term has focussed on mystery story writing, based on The Wolf Wilder and we've made great progress with our sentence structures and vocabulary choices.

We hope you all have a well-deserved rest over half term and we look forward to seeing you ready to tackle more challenges when we return.



From Gloucestershire County Council

Annual SEND surveys 2026

SEND families and young people are invited to help shape SEND services in Gloucestershire in the Annual SEND Surveys.

The surveys opened on Monday, 5 October 2026 and will close on Friday, 4 December 2026. They were also promoted in October's edition of the SEND Families in Partnership newsletter Launch of latest Annual SEND Surveys 2026 | Gloucestershire County Council.

Parent Carers of children and young people (aged 0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are being encouraged to share their experiences and help improve support for families across Gloucestershire.

Run by Gloucestershire's SEND and Inclusion Local Area Partnership, which includes Gloucestershire County Council, local NHS partners and the voluntary and community sector, the surveys give families an opportunity to say what is working well, what could be better and what matters most to them.

Feedback from families is used to help shape support and services across education, health, care and early help. Importantly, what families tell us is helping to make a difference.

Survey findings are analysed and reported through the annual 'you said, we did' Local Offer reports. The two 2026 reports were published on 10 September and featured in the September SEND Families in Partnership newsletter:

- Report for parent carers on the Have Your Say pages on the Local Offer
- Report for young people on the Future Me website

Hearing from all communities

Last year, 679 Parent Carers responded. Most respondents were from White British communities and had school-aged children aged 5 to 16. This year, we particularly want to hear from:

- SEND families and young people from all communities across Gloucestershire.
- Young people aged 16 to 25 and their families.
- Families with children in Early Years.

Parent Carers in SEND families can have their say now by completing the Gloucestershire Parent Carer SEND Survey

Young people (aged 16-25) with SEND can have their say now by completing the Gloucestershire Young Person with SEND Survey

Every response can help us improve support for children, young people and their families. Thank you for helping us gather a fuller picture of SEND experiences across the 0 to 25 age range and all communities in Gloucestershire.

For more information on how Parent Carers can have their say, please visit Gloucestershire's Local Offer website for Parent Carers, Support for Families with SEND in the 'Have your Say' pages.
Any queries, do please email localoffer@gloucestershire.gov.uk.