



What a busy term it's been! Lots of wonderful festive celebrations, including the Year 2 Nativity, Reception winter show and festive carols in the juniors too. The children have been amazing and have made us very proud.



A big thank you for your support, and to staff and Friends of Waterwells (FOW) for the Christmas Fair, which raised a total profit of £350.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and we'll see you when the children return to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2025.**



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



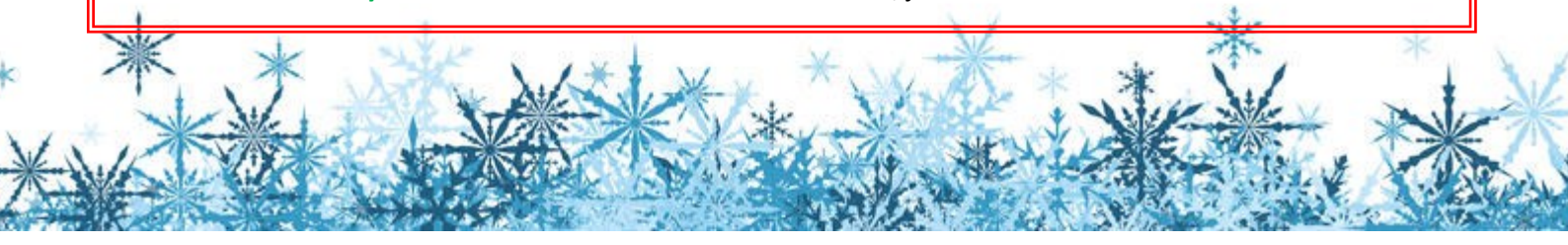
Pre-school Ducklings	Maja Isla Gianna				
R Puffin	Theo Kamil Daniela Ruben Hannah	1 Parrot	Dominic Johnny Mila Liyah	1 Penguin	Matteo Inari Edward Graham
2 Flamingo	Sophia Aila Ocean Teddy Layla	2 Kingfisher	Arlo Sahara Thomas B Maks Rory	3 Crane	Saskia Taylor Kamal Bleubelle Max Emily
4 Raven	Marshall Sienna M Eden Elsie Liliana	4 Starling	Polly Denny Lily Avyan Sonny	5 Skylark	Kacper Hollie Bailey Muna Shaharyar
5 Swift	Chanel Olivia-Mai Cruz Jenson Orion	6 Owl	Rose Ohenewaa Sidney Charlie Hanna	6 Eagle	Alex Milo Viki Nicole Yashica

Autumn 2 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 **Whitley (green house). WHITLEY children only** will have a non-uniform on the first Friday of next term, Friday 10th January.

Well done Whitley!

Whitley children with PE can still wear non-uniform, just comfortable clothes for PE!



The Importance of Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's development, both academically and socially. Each day, our school is filled with rich learning opportunities that not only promote academic skills but also enhance social and emotional wellbeing. When children attend school consistently, they engage more fully in lessons, strengthen friendships, and maintain a structured routine that supports their overall wellbeing. We understand that occasional absences can happen due to illness and are unavoidable, ([see NHS guidance on 'Is my child to unwell for school?'](#)).

We would also like to remind everyone of our attendance [policy](#) regarding absences. Absences, unless for exceptional circumstances may result in a fixed penalty notice.

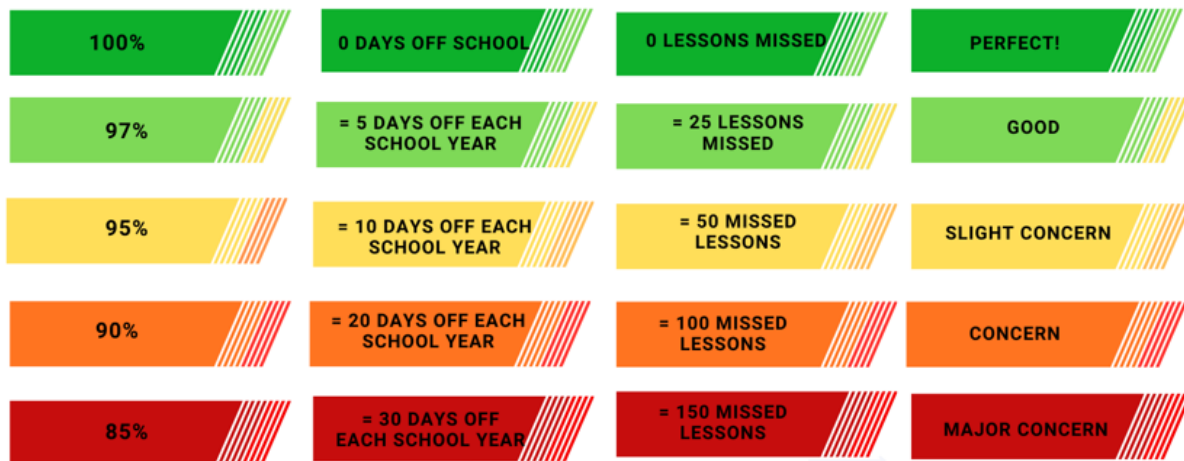
Holidays during term time cannot be authorised in accordance with DfE guidelines and our school policy. If your child is unwell, please inform us by 8.30am either by email, or leaving a message on the school answerphone (01452 881962—option1). This not only helps us keep track of children's wellbeing but also supports us in planning for them when they return.

Additionally, if you find that your child is struggling with attending regularly, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support both you and your child in any way we can, whether it's through advice on easing any anxiety they may have or discussing any adjustments that may be needed.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your children thrive at Waterwells Primary Academy. Together, we can foster a love for learning that we hope will stay with them throughout their educational journey.



How Much Time Are you Missing?



Every Day Missed = Lost Learning

Waterwells Primary Academy & Pre-School

Pre-school

This term at Pre-School has been absolutely jam-packed with fun as we work on building friendships and boosting our vocabulary through play. We've had a blast exploring early phonics, listening for sounds, and figuring out how loud or quiet they can be, plus where we might hear them around us!

Our little ones have also been busy strengthening those hand muscles to help with their pen control. We've been using all sorts of tools in activities like tweezers, dough gym, threading, and peg activities—such a great way to get those fine motor skills going!

On top of that, we've been having a great time with the story of *Dear Zoo*. The kids have loved describing animals in all sorts of fun ways, picking up words like big, small, tiny, huge, tall, short, stripy, and spotty. We've even chatted about where these animals live and what their environments are like. It's been such a wonderful term!



Reception - Puffin

Puffin Class have had a brilliant and very busy term in school. We have really enjoyed our reading *Stickman* by Julia Donaldson. We have made stickmen using clay and playdough.

In maths we have been ordering numbers to 10 using Numicon. We have been exploring how to make models using construction. The magnetic tiles are a firm favourite.



Year 1 - Parrot and Penguin

Year 1 have settled really well into their second half term at school in their new classes. In DT we have been learning all about Sliders and Levers and how to use them to make a moving part. Look out for these in your child's Christmas card!

In Geography we have been looking at Great Britain and the 4 countries it is made up of. We have also learnt about their capital cities and famous landmarks. The children have all enjoyed learning about the different seasons in their Science

lessons. We have become weather reporters and have found out that it rains a lot in England!!

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and are looking forward to seeing them again for Spring term 1.



Year 2 - Flamingo and Kingfisher

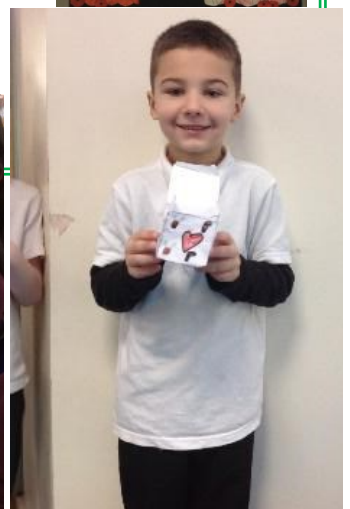
Firstly, we would like to say a huge *well done* to all the children for presenting such a wonderful Nativity.

They worked incredibly hard to learn all the songs and their lines, and we are so proud of their efforts.

In **DT** this term, we have been exploring nets to help us design and create the perfect box for a very yummy treat. The children experimented with size, strength, and design to make their boxes as effective as possible.

In **Geography**, we have been looking closely at our planet, learning about the different oceans, continents, and climate zones that make up the world around us.

We hope you all have a restful, joyful, and fun-filled Christmas with your families. **Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year!**



Year 3 - Crane

This term has been jam packed with learning and fun! Cranes showcased their creativity and problem solving skills by making a moving cat using pneumatics.



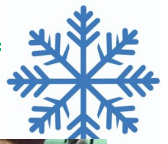
They learned and practiced a variety of mental methods for adding and subtracting, allowing them to sharpen their number skills and improve their growth mindset when faced with a challenge.

The children have greatly improved their focus and communication skills in PE when working as a team to be more successful in invasion based games (and avoid being hit by a ball!).



But a real highlight of the term was our class book, *Varjak Paw*, about a 'ninja' cat on a journey to find a dog and save his family. It completely captivated the class with its suspense and unexpected twists, always leaving us wanting just one more chapter. It inspired many pieces of creative writing alongside meaningful conversations about kindness, bravery and looking out for your friends.





Year 4 - Raven and Starling

In the run-up to Christmas, year 4 have explored the different levers and linkages that they could use to make a moving winter card, with split pins and all!

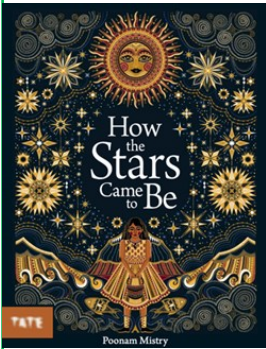
In contrast, their French learning has taken them back to summer as they have been learning all about ice cream. They have learnt the French words for those much-loved flavours and how to ask for one, or many, scoops!

In maths, they have battled learning various mental methods for adding and subtracting as well as solidifying their understanding of the 6, 7 and 9-times tables!

In writing, the children have immensely enjoyed their text for writing, 'How the Stars Came to Be' and have written a number of beautiful explanation texts, setting descriptions and poems based on the night sky and all the shimmering additions to it!

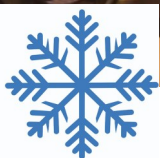
Similarly, the children have been ecstatic with each science lesson as the topic states of matter has involved many fun experiments. A most loved one was when Miss Amey showed the children the rather explosive reaction you get from placing Mentos into a coke

They also experimented with tin foil boats to investigate and record the melting time of different types of chocolate buttons.



Year 5 - Skylark and Swift

Earlier this term, we had a fun and educational day at 'We the Curious' in Bristol where we consolidated and extended our learning about the solar system. We had a workshop all about space (including an experiment which resulted in a fireball!!) and visited the 3D Planetarium. We also had time to explore the rest of the interactive exhibits.



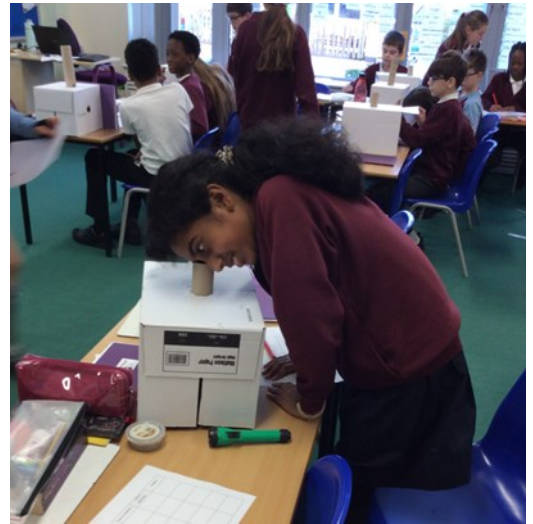
Year 6 - Eagle and Owl

This term has absolutely flown by – year 6 have been incredibly busy and we are certainly all in need of a well-deserved break!

Our science this term has involved lots of investigations as we have explored how light travels and how we see things. In D.T. we have been learning how to safely use saws to cut wood in preparation for making a birdhouse – we can happily report that



there have been no missing fingers which is a definite sign of success!



Our book 'October, October' has been the inspiration for our focus genre of balanced arguments. Even when children have had a strong opinion for one side, they have

managed to write without bias to present both sides of the argument.

Thank you to everyone that supported our year 6 fundraising by buying our hand-made tree decorations at the Christmas Fayre, guessing the name of the teddy and guessing the number of sweets in a jar.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

