



**March 2024**

## Head teacher's message



### **Message from me**

As I move towards my last term as Head teacher here at Waterbeach Primary School, I know how important it is for the children and staff to get to know the person who is going to take over in my role in September. Mr Neil Lloyd will be coming in to school occasionally, in the summer term, in order to meet everyone and to complete some hand over sessions. I will also be working with him during the Easter break in order to share key documents and strategies that are the school's main focus. He is looking forward to joining the school and meeting everyone and will be arranging opportunities to meet with parents in the Autumn term.

### **Fond farewells and happy hellos.**

As we say "goodbye" and "good luck" to Ms Laws as she leaves to start her maternity leave, we say "hello and welcome" to Mrs Edwards who will be teaching the Sea Turtles for the summer and autumn terms. She is not the same Mrs Edwards who is currently working in Sea Turtles, so the children will not have to learn a new name.

We are also saying a sad "goodbye" to Ms Barks who has been with us since her final teaching practice ten years ago. Everyone wishes her all the very best for the future and hopefully she will keep in touch to let us know how she is getting on. Ms Spratt will be taking over in Gorillas class until the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming her to the team.

### **Attendance and illnesses- an update.**

This term has been very short but busy. There has been a high level of staff and pupil illnesses across the school this term and we have increased the amount of deep cleans and reinstated the hand sanitising regime. However, with 520 children in school alongside nearly 90 adults everyday - it is very difficult not to spread these stubborn viruses once they find their way into the building. We try to warn parents if we feel there is a building pattern of a certain illness but it is not realistic to expect school to let everyone know of each specific illness unless it is statutory.

To help us manage this, please can you support our drive to keep these viruses at a minimum. Something as small as making sure children keep their hands clean, especially after they have been to the toilet, will really help.

There is a lot of government focus on school attendance at the moment and we have a very clear policy and monitoring system to track children's absence. However, we also understand that if a child is ill they should not come into school, this will only make the illnesses spread more rapidly. I know that it is a true dilemma for parents - "Are they well enough to go to school or not?".

School usually takes action when there is a pattern of absence where children are consistently off school for minor ailments/ unexplained reasons. Sometimes we see a pattern where children can be absent every Friday or Monday. We understand if your child has had a terrible bug or needs a variety of medical appointments and, of course, this absence will be authorised. Sometimes, I invite parents in to discuss this because it is easier than the usual letters that are sent out. However, there are instances of children having attendance as low as 70% because of days where they have not come into school for reasons not related to illnesses and or with no reason at all.

Fundamentally, it needs to be understood that school has a legal duty to ensure children on roll are both safe and receiving an education. For the vast majority of our families I know that this is also their priority and am grateful for this. Thank you.

### **Eco Council - good work**

A huge "shout out" from me to the children who are leading this project for our bid to get the Eco Schools flag. They are planning on holding a presentation on Thursday 25th at 2.30pm in the hall. It will be on a first come first served basis - so please do not be offended if we have to turn people away. If this is a popular event we will repeat it next term so people can come to see the children leading their very own presentation about their work on Eco Schools bid.

### **The Great British Spring Clean**

As I write this, we have knowledge of 35 bags of rubbish that have been collected - great work! We have been told about some amazing effort being put into this and I would like to thank the parents who have taken the time to send in photographs of the children picking up litter! Great effort - thank you!

### **Swimathon - a huge THANK YOU!**

I am so grateful to everyone who has donated to my Just Giving page to raise money for the PTA. As I write this, the page has donations of £869! WOW! It has been heart warming to read your many messages of encouragement, support and the fact that one child has even donated her pocket money! Thank you so much I really do appreciate this.

If you would still like to donate the link is here.

Jane Green is fundraising for Waterbeach PTA ([justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com))<sup>1</sup>

I must apologise for any confusion with my other Just Giving page. I have set one up for friends and family to raise funds for Cancer Research and Marie Curie - this is the official charity for the Swimathon event and one that is very close to my heart for personal reasons, so I am sorry if there has been any confusion about this.

**And finally...**

I hope that everyone has a fabulous break in the holidays - I am looking forward to lighter evenings and drier weather - that's for sure! Next term has some exciting events planned and we return to school on Monday 15th April. There is NOT a staff training day so the children are expected to return on the Monday.

Have a great holiday!

Miss Green



**HELP! WE ARE DROWNING IN LOST PROPERTY**



**Please, please can you put names in your children's clothes?**

It is so sad to see lovely and expensive coats, shoes and jumpers all abandoned in our lost property boxes. Once sorted we place our lost property outside the front office - please do come to have a look if your child has lost something.

Thank you

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.justgiving.com/page/jane-green>