

Welcome back everyone and a warm welcome to our new starters, new Reception children and their families too. It was lovely to see so many smiley faces upon return this week and children settling happily into their new classes.

During the summer, we have had some work undertaken in school:

- Pre-school have moved back to the purpose built yellow building at the front of the school, enabling us to gradually expand and increase numbers and our Pre-school offer.
- The boys junior toilets have been refurbished
- A new intercom entry system has been installed at the main office, enhancing security (please see full details on the ClassDojo post).

This term's key dates and events are outlined below. **Further information for events and reminders will be posted on ClassDojo nearer the time**, so please make sure you are signed up to ClassDojo and that we have up to date contact details for you.

If you have any problems with ClassDojo, please contact the main office and Mrs Penswick will try and assist you.

AUTUMN TERM	
Monday 15 th September	Reception parents' Phonics and Reading talk, 3.15-3.45 (In the Reception classroom)
Thursday 18 th September	Footy Kids taster day in school - Inflatable football. All classes need to wear PE kit to school on this day.
Friday 26 th September	Year 6 Macmillan Coffee afternoon
Friday 3rd October	Non-uniform – Suggested £1 donation (Raising funds for the children's BEST shop & BEST experience rewards)
Tuesday 7 th October	Sibling & individual photos (details to follow)
Wednesday 8 th October	Parent Book look drop in (Years 1-6) Classrooms after school, 3.20-3.50pm 'Drop in' to your child's class after school to look at their books.
Wednesday 15 th October	House Cross Country / Cross country trials (Y2-6)
Thursday 16 th & Friday 17 th October	School nurse – flu vaccinations (*for those that have given consent only)
Tuesday 14 th October & Wednesday 15 th October	Parents' Evenings Tuesday 14 th October: 3.30-6.30pm (Reception to Year 6) Wednesday 15 th October: 3.30-5.30pm (Reception to Year 6) Booking details to follow.
Friday 17 th October	Reception Harvest Stay and Play 2.15pm
Friday 17th October	'Show Racism the Red card' - raising awareness Wear something red (no donation)
Tuesday 21 st October	Harvest Festival 9am Years 3 & 4
Tuesday 21 st , Wednesday 22 nd & Thursday 23 rd October	Year 6 Activity Days (Worcester University)
Thursday 23rd October	Last day of term
HALF TERM	Friday 24th Oct – Monday 3rd Nov (inclusive)
Tuesday 4 th November	First day of Autumn term 2 / children return to school

Class Dojo Messaging



Please remember that class teachers will not access or respond to ClassDojo messages. To avoid important messages being missed, please either pass them on at the school gate to a member of staff on duty in the morning, or telephone/ email the school office admin@waterwellsprimary.co.uk

Teachers can be spoken to directly at the end of the school day (once the children have been seen out) if it is of a less urgent nature.

Outdoor Play Resources



We are currently looking for donations of the following to enhance both playtime and forest school provision:

- Cycling helmets
- Old kitchen saucepans
- Small world toys (e.g. play figures/ characters/ dinosaurs, cars/vehicles, dolls, toy food etc.)
- Wooden pallets
- Wooden planks
- Pipes/Drain pipes

If you have anything you are happy to donate, please drop them off outside the main office – thank you!

Nut Free School



Please remember that Waterwells is nut-free school. Please do not give your children any snacks, spreads, or lunch items that contain nuts.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Secondary School Applications

The Year 6 Secondary application process is coordinated by the Local Authority. The application window is now open and closes on 31st October.

Gloucestershire County Council send by post to school, individual pupil letters which gives full details to parents of how to apply for a secondary school place.

Schools normally receive the letters by post in the first/second week of term and these will be sent home to you as soon as they are received. A message will be posted on the Year 6 Clasdojo pages informing parents when these will be coming home so you can look out for them.

Full details can be found on the GCC secondary applications webpage (which also has the link for applying):

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions/transfer-to-secondary-school-or-from-middle-to-high-school-september-2026/>

Attendance

A reminder that if your child is not in school/ is unwell, please inform us by 8.30am either by email (admin@waterwellsprimary.co.uk) or leaving a message on the school answerphone (01452 881962—option 1). As part of safeguarding procedures, time is spent texting/emailing/calling and doing home visits to establish children's whereabouts. Thank you in advance.

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.

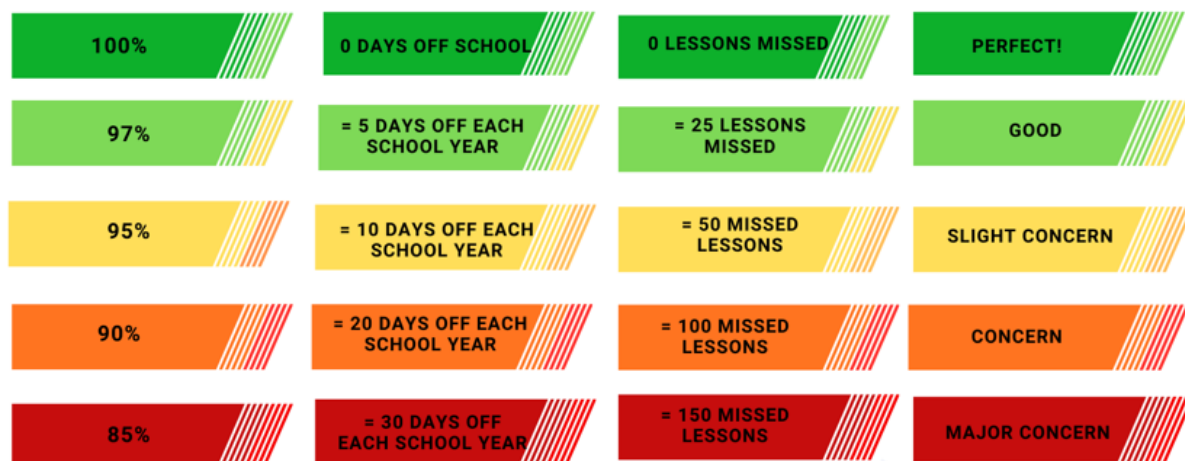
Holidays during term time cannot be authorised in accordance with DfE guidelines and our school policy. If your child is unwell, please inform us by 8.30am either by email, or leaving a message on the school answerphone (01452 881962—option1). This not only helps us keep track of children's wellbeing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

Homework and Reading

In response to last years' parent survey, we have made some changes to the homework expectations.

Please see the homework overview below (2025-2026).

If you have any questions about homework, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Year Group	HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS
Reception	<div style="float: right; text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Home Reading Children progress through the following stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound ring - Progress to sound booklets. - Progress to ditty sheets (daily) - Progress to Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) books* two books (Floppy copy & book bag book) on a 3 day book change cycle. <p>*Minimum 4 reads/4 adult signatures from home per week in yellow home reading records, checked on Fridays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library book changed on Fridays.
Year 1	<p>Home Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read, Write, Inc. books (Floppy copy & book bag book) depending on colour group, children will either be on a 3 or 5-day book change cycle. - Minimum 4 reads/ 4 adult signatures from home in yellow reading record per week, checked on Fridays. - Library book changed on Fridays. <p>Spelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Half termly spellings (tested in school at the end of each term). <p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fluency sheet
Year 2	<p>Home Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read, Write Inc. books (Floppy copy & book bag book) depending on colour group, children will either be on a 3 or 5-day book change cycle. <li style="padding-left: 40px;">*Children then progress to Oxford Reading Tree scheme (ORT) when they finish Read, Write, Inc. Grey books. - Minimum 4 reads/ 4 adult signatures from home in yellow reading record per week, checked on Fridays. - Library book changed on Fridays. <p>Spelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Half termly spellings (tested in school in the last week of each term). <p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fluency sheet <p>Times Tables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Spring term (January) of Year 2 – Online Times tables Rockstars (TTR)
Years 3-6	<p>Home Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum 4 reads/ 4 adult signatures from home per week, checked on Fridays. - Books changed once read and signed. <p>Spelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Half termly spellings (tested in school in the last week of each term). <p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fluency sheet <p>Times Tables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online Times tables Rockstars (TTR)