



Our Year 2 and 3 Newsletter



16 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy half term as our Year 2 and 3 pupils returned to their learning, with phonics screening completed, and now for an incredibly busy last week here at Waverley with festive, seasonal activities. As the remainder of the autumn term draws to a close, it is the perfect opportunity to share some of our recent and exciting wider learning experiences; read on to find out more!

Following self-isolation for some pupils, it is essential that pupils continue to ensure social distancing is maintained, and the regular practice of handwashing and use of hand sanitiser to keep germs at bay! The weather is a lot chillier now; please ensure that your child is wearing a winter coat (and not a jacket) with a pair of gloves and a warm hat. We continue to ask for your ongoing support with improving our school attendance at school. It is essential that your child attends school every day, and are fit and well, to make good or better progress. Every day counts!

In January, I am meeting with class teachers to discuss pupil progress, to see how much pupils have progressed and what they have achieved already. Please stay safe especially during these unusual times and have a restful break.

Ms. Zamir, Director of Learning - Years 2 and 3

Dates for your diary:

Last day of Autumn term Friday 17 th December	Pupils return to school Wednesday 5 th January
Attendance Reward Trips W.C. 3 rd January	Class 3A Assembly Martin Luther King Day Thursday 20 th January 08:40 - 09:00
Safer Internet Day Friday 11 th February	STARS Assembly W.C. Monday 15 th February 2022
Friday 18 th February Last day of Spring 1 term	Pupils return to school Monday 28 th February
World Book Day Thursday 3 rd March 2022	Science Day Wednesday 9 th March 2022
Red Nose Day Friday 18 th March 2022	Parents Evenings 22 nd & 23 rd March 2022 3:15-6:00pm
Friday 8 th April Last day of Spring term	Monday 25 th April 2022 Summer term starts

Class. with highest attendance (Y2 & 3)	2B - 97 per cent
Class. with highest attendance in Year 2	2B - 97 per cent
Class. with highest attendance in Year 3	3C - 94.8 per cent
School Attendance Target	97 per cent

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English

The children in Year 2 have been very busy creating amazing and interesting pieces of writing. We started off our term writing an acrostic poem about poppies to commemorate Armistice Day. The children began by creating their very own poppies and reading the inspiring poem 'Flanders Field' by John McCrae, a Canadian serviceman from World War I. The children produced lots of exciting vocabulary and descriptive sentences to form their own acrostic poem which spelled the word 'POPPY'. Below is a poem by Aleeza.

People wear poppies to remember the people who died in the war,

On Remembrance Day people might feel upset.

Petals are as red as a ruby,

Perfume smell fills the air,

You should respect the soldiers by wearing a poppy.

To link to our topic of The Great Fire of London, the children were introduced to the story of Toby and the Great Fire of London, about a young boy who helped King Charles II and Samuel Pepys to fight the terrible fire that destroyed so much of London in 1666. Along with some fantastic stories read during our Guided Reading lessons, the children have become true experts about the Great Fire and have written their own version of the story, Toby and the Great Fire of Waverley. The children have really used their imaginations to create some interesting narratives!



Leading up to the end of term and into the festive period, we have been looking at Christmas poetry where the children in Year 2 will produce their own version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' by Clement Clarke Moore. This is a beautiful poem that will have truly inspired the children to create some wonderful poetry, along with finishing off the term in a festive style!

Phonics

This term we have been working hard with our phonics. As the phonics screening was not done in Year 1, we started this process from the end of November and you will get the results of your child's performance in due course. Phonics tests are made up of a combination of real and nonsense words. Reading daily with your child at home will help them with their phonics ability and help them to achieve to their full potential.



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'Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world.'

Nelson Mandela

During this half term the pupils in Year 2 have enjoyed learning all about money. Introducing the concept of money to children through play encouraged learning in a fun and excellent way, which is great for developing a variety of skills, including social and thinking skills.

Numeracy-based toys, such as cash machines, have helped children learn about handling money and giving change, drawing on mathematical skills and the use of manners as well as boosting their imagination and creativity, whilst improving their understanding of the world.

"I like discussing how we found the answer. It shows me different ways of finding the answer"

Moussa 2C

Children learnt the value of money and how money is used by people on a daily basis to buy things or pay bills. Using fake money helped improve their coin recognition and early financial awareness. To consolidate their learning over the holidays, parents can get involved by discussing the cost of items whilst at the supermarket, talking to children about how to select the best priced items. Furthermore, you can help your child to count out the money and hand it over to the cashier, checking they receive the correct change in return.

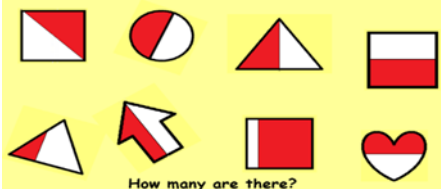
For next term, children will learn all about fractions, will explore making and recognising equal and unequal parts as well as using both real life objects and pictorial representations of a variety of shapes and quantities.

Common Exception Words

Common exception words are tricky words that your child should know by the end of year 2. This term we have been using common exception words in most of our lessons in order for children to recognise and remember them. Please do practice these at home to ensure children knows how to spell them. The teaching staff in year 2 moderate all of the English writing and look out for these words. If your child is unable to spell them they will not be able to achieve Age related expectations at the end of Year 2. A list of the words is below to help familiarise yourself with them.

Year 2 Common Exception Words.		
after	eye	only
again	fast	parents
any	father	pass
bath	find	past
beautiful	floor	path
because	gold	people
behind	grass	plant
both	great	poor
break	half	pretty
busy	hold	prove
child	hour	should
children	improve	steak
Christmas	kind	sugar
class	last	sure
climb	many	told
clothes	mind	water
cold	money	who
could	most	whole
door	move	wild
even	Mr	would
every	Mrs	
everybody	old	

Can you spot the shapes with **half** of the shape coloured?



How many are there?

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Year 3



Over the past term, pupils have been developing their writing skills focusing upon sentence structure, punctuation and grammar. We have been learning spelling rules for suffixes and classifying words whilst pupils have also learnt how to use inverted commas for speech. As part of our Romans topic, we have been reading and discussing myths and legends; immersing ourselves with characters and settings. Pupils have read the legend of Romulus and Remus and used this to describe characters, through drama and acting. Most recently, we have been reading The Twelve Labours of Hercules. Children thoroughly enjoyed watching the Disney movie as a result of which pupils produced great character descriptions and used play scripts to act out their favourite scenes. While innovating the text, pupils created their own mythical creatures for an alternative ending to the legend.

"I liked learning about Hercules because he is powerful and strong. He can save everyone! I included adjectives in my work and I used inverted commas for speech."

Ibraheem Mohammad 3C

"Hercules is a powerful, independent and muscular demigod. His athletic arms defeat his competitors. He is always confident and ready to fight. He's stronger than a giraffe sized monster."

Yasin Khan 3A

"Dear Diary,

I'm so exhausted but grateful because I defeated the violent King Amulius with my beloved brothers help. I'm so grateful I have a brother who cares for me. After the fight, I was as tired as a soldier. I'm also ecstatic that the selfish King Amulius is dead so he doesn't harm my loving family."

Aleena 3A

"I am feeling enraged, livid and dejected when I should be feeling glad because my brother will be the next King. I have a plan for tomorrow to push my brother off a cliff so I can be King!"

Ibraheem Muhammad 3B

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Year 3

Opening paragraph needed

"In maths I found division hard because you don't add the numbers up. I learnt new ways of completing the division. I also found my 11 times tables hard, which I started to practise at the back of my book."

Ayesha Raees, 3B

"I enjoyed doing my 4 and 8 times table as I have become faster at it by practising every day. I found the bar models a bit challenging but I have now become more confident at it. I am starting to improve on my 12 and 9 times table."

Yasin 3C

"I enjoy maths because I learnt a new trick to do my 8 and 9 times table, which makes it much easier when I am working out maths questions. I am so grateful for this trick but I still need a bit more practise with my 7 and 12 times table. I am thankful for my teachers who help me with my learning."

Aleena 3A

"I really enjoyed the story Romulus and Remus and doing my own version of it. I learnt a lot about using adjectives to describe the characters. I enjoyed doing a diary entry but could improve my inferring the characters thoughts and feelings."

Hajira 3A

Year 3 Common Exception Words

Practice your spellings!

The year 3 and 4 common exception words are tricky so why not learn them over the Christmas holidays, and that way you are already achieving one of the year 3 targets before you return in January!

Challenge!

Can you put any of these words into an amazing sentence?

Remember, an amazing sentence includes expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, adverbs and punctuated all correctly!

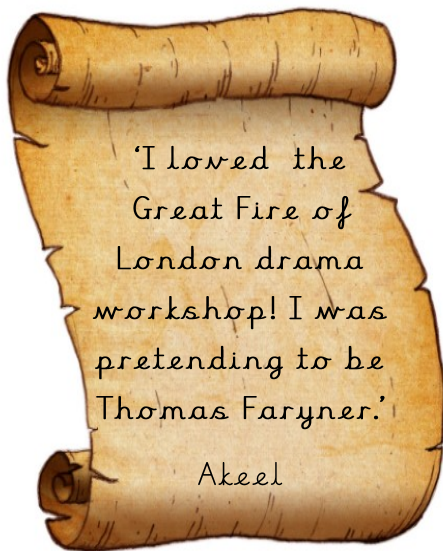
Word	R	W	Word	R	W	Word	R	W
accident			consider			group		
accidentally			continue			guard		
actual			decide			guide		
actually			describe			heard		
address			different			heart		
although			difficult			height		
answer			disappear			history		
appear			early			imagine		
arrive			earth			increase		
believe			eight			important		
bicycle			eighth			interest		
breath			enough			island		
build			exercise			knowledge		
busy			experience			learn		
business			extreme			length		
calendar			famous			library		
caught			favourite			material		
centre			February			medicine		
century			forward			mention		
certain			forwards			minute		
circle			fruit			natural		
complete			grammar			naughty		

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This term in history we focused on the Great Fire of London. We researched historians of this era, and used various historical skills including time and chronology, cause and affect and using evidence. We looked at primary and secondary resources including accounts by Samuel Pepys. Pupils really enjoyed learning about the timeline of the Great fire of London and writing diary entries as villagers from that time. The teachers organised a fun and engaging workshop on the Great Fire of London. It was exciting and fun to see

the different clothes that people wore during this time. Pupils role played and engaged discussions.

This helped them imagine how it would have felt for the people in London during the Great Fire of London. This learning extended further through our art lessons. Where pupils created silhouettes paintings of the houses in the Great Fire of London. We learnt about shadows, silhouettes and colour mixing. Pupils loved using water colours and tissue paper to create the different art-works.



'Anyone
who has
never made
a mistake
has never
tried any-
thing new.'

Albert Einstein



This term we have learnt the colours and numbers up to 20 in Spanish. We have practised the colours reading the story 'Elmer', which apart from colours, values such as diversity or tolerance are included into its narrative.

Next term we will be learning about the weather, days of the week and months of the year in Spanish.

Waverley now have access to a brilliant online Spanish resource where students can play, practice and review all the contents they are working on at school <https://www.languageangels.com/schools/>

LOGIN LOGIN PUPILS GAME USERNAME: waverley

PASSWORD: 1234

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We are Scientists

In Science this term our focus was solid, liquids and gases. Pupils were introduced to this topic through a fun and exciting workshop. In the workshop they were able to carry out experiments, including changing liquids to solids.



'This was the best day ever! The man taught as how to make slime!'

Ismail

They observed how this change takes place and discussed how to carry out safe experiments. In class pupils researched the properties of solids, liquid and gases. They identified the different between these matters. Pupils also carried out fair tests such as melting chocolates to see how states can change under different temperatures. They enjoyed making a cake to investigate how some changes are irreversible. The hands-on science this term promoted and enhanced the teaching and learning of this subject this term.



ANIMALS



transfer into other curriculum areas and as a result produced some work to be really proud of!

For Spring 1, we will be having a science focus and learning all about animals and their habitats as well as classifying animals, learning about their life cycles and the key things animals need to survive. This is a very exciting term for the children as they will get to have some experience handling real life animals and creatures. Also, pupils will have the opportunity to take their learning outside and practice their observational skills and become more independent learners. Learning about this science topic lends itself really nicely to other curriculum areas, we will incorporate data handling to link with maths, writing about the life processes of certain animals, create animal masks and include lots of speaking and listening activities.

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Year 3



Over the course of the Autumn Term our pupils in Year 3 have been taking part in multisport activities to develop their fundamental movement skills. Our pupils have made very good progress mastering the basic skills of movement and coordination in sport. Our pupils successfully demonstrated their skills in a competition against local schools during the term. Year 3 have begun to develop their understanding of invasion and evasion games through playing rugby and now have an understanding of basic attacking and defending principles.

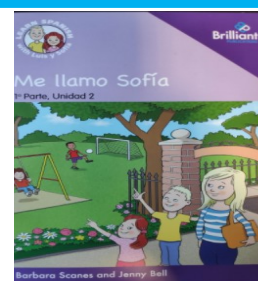
Since the start of the year we have expanded our partnerships with local football teams, bringing on board coaches from Aston Villa Foundation to be work alongside class teachers in year 2 and 3 when teaching PE. We have strengthened our relationship with Birmingham City Community and our pupils are loving their PE lessons!

Spanish

This half term we have been learning about Mexican culture and traditions as "Dia de los Muertos" (The Day of the Dead) and students have created their own "calavera" mask (skull mask).

We have also learnt and practice Spanish phonetics as "j, ch, h, ñ or ll". Some words examples are "jirafa, chocolate, hola, niña or caballo" (giraffe, chocolate, hello, girl or horse).

Finally, we have been playing a role-play script called "Me llamo Sofia" (My name is Sophia).



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We are the Year 3 Scientists and Creators

In Autumn 2, Year 3 children have also been exploring forces for two weeks. The children looked at different forces 'push and pull'. The children looked at how magnets work and learnt the terminology attract and repel. The children looked at different objects and make predictions as which objects would attract and repel.

Additionally, the children used a force meter to measure the force of gravity. The children carried out a paper experiment to look at how different forms of paper travels. The children wrote up the experiment.

Also in this term, the children looked at making bread in DT lessons. the children looked at the different types of breads we can find in the Roman times. The children will look at recipes for making bread and the ingredients. They will also be using time conjunctions to write up their instructions and follow up their instructions.

"I like Science because we learnt about gravity: We saw an apple float. It flew in the air out of space. This called Gravity. It was fun and I enjoyed it."

Aidan 3C



"I enjoyed science because I learnt about forces and magnets as well as gravity. Magnets are really fun to use as they have two poles north and south: one attracts the other repels. They also attract to different types of metals."

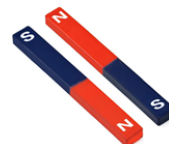
Habiba 3A

"In science we are learning about Gravity and forces-Push and pull. We learnt about the scientist called Isaac Newton who explains the idea about Gravity and how it works."

Fatima 3B

"Gravity is a force that pulls us down. It is a very strong force. If we had no gravity, we will be floating in the air."

Muno 3B



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Year 2 and 3—Anti-Bullying Workshop

Year 2 attended an immersive anti-bullying workshop where they learnt about different forms of bullying (physical, verbal and online/cyber). Children enthusiastically participated in a range of activities and games which explored acts of kindness. Activities included: alphabet soup, freeze frame and traffic lights.



Alphabet soup

Children used their bodies to perform actions which began with different letters of the alphabet.

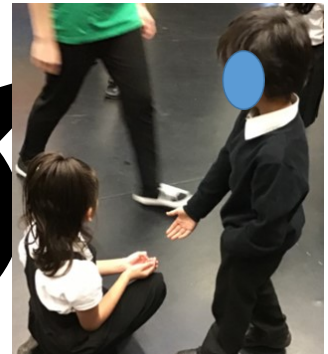
Freeze Frame

Children showed acts of kindness through 'freeze frames.'

The facilitators delivering the workshop were so impressed with the fantastic ideas generated by the children!

"I am helping Umayyah by giving her money."

Ismazeel & Umayyah



Holiday Homework

English - Next term we will be looking at some of Roald Dahl's amazing books. Can you choose one to read over the holidays and write a book review for it?

Maths - Why not have a go at the introduction to fraction games on Top Marks website? Please use the link: https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/fractions-intro/latest/fractions-intro_en.html

Topic - Create a shoebox animal habitat. Using a cardboard box, can you create an animal habitat? These will be used for a show and tell session on the first day back as well as being put up on display. If you are stuck for ideas, search 'animal shoe box project' into a web search engine (such as Google), to find lots of creative inspiration from there.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Y2 and 3 Team

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-Year 3 Autumn 2 Topics-



This half term the children focussed on the Romans topic. They had a 'wow' experience by looking at the different types of Roman feasts that the rich people enjoyed and created a menu for this. We researched the different houses that the Romans lived in, the foods that they enjoyed. Additionally, the children looked at the timeline of modern Britain from the Roman times.

We moved onto learning about who Julius Caesar was, his role, why he invaded Britain and what he did for Rome. The children also learned about Boudicca and used secondary newspaper articles to find out information about the battles she fought. Furthermore, the children also looked at beliefs and practices of the Romans in Britain.

In the days that followed, the children looked at creating mosaics using felts and colour paper and depicted what life would have been like in the Roman times. Again towards the end of the topic, year 3 went to a trip to 'Root and Branch' to enjoy an immersive, multisensory experience of a 'Roman day'. The different activities that children participated in included: exploring building ducts, showing how water travels, and creating mosaics too. Children learnt how to buy and sell over the Mediterranean Sea. They also explored how Romans would prepare themselves with the armour and shield and go to fight in the battle field and finally the children learnt how to speak some Shakespearean English phrases by participating in a play and speaking in Latin!

"I enjoyed being in the boat, standing on the top. It felt like I was in the Mediterranean sea," Adam 3B

"I enjoyed holding the shield and following instructions and I spoke in Latin." Sreen 3B

Dear Diary,

Today I woke up I was exhausted. I was forced to walk 20 miles which is a long way. I sat down with the other men to eat breakfast. After breakfast we were told we had a lot of jobs to do. I was tired but I still wanted to it. We had to build 2 roads! It was very tiring, my back felt extremely hot so I decided to drag the blocks instead. Finally, I got to sell out my tent and i feel the warmth. The food was very expensive but I was starving. I had to sleep with 8 other men. Soon the candles would be out and I could rest in peace for a long time.

Umayyah 3B

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Year 3

Roots and Branch Trip



"Even though on the day of the trip, it rained, it was wet and muddy: we managed to get through the day with determination, positivity and an optimistic attitude as well as having a huge amount of fun!"

Miss R. Hussain

"I enjoyed making the water pipes (aqua ducts) it was a lot of fun and we tried different ways of getting the water to travel without falling out."

Muhammed R 3B

"I like it when we had to make the different patterns using the felts and making mosaics." Areebah 3B

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Year 3 Children in Need



Children in Need is a charity run by the BBC, and their mission is to help ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential. The charity funds local charities and projects who help remove the barriers that children and young people are facing, so that they can thrive. Waverley had risen to the challenge in order to raising monies for Children in Need by wearing clothing which had stripes or dots on them. Some children were so generous, they gave money without dressing up!!

So a huge **thank you** to pupils, parents and staff!

Waverley raised: £338.36

Reading

Reading is vitally important; it involves an adult sharing a text with the whole class and really looking deeply into the book. It is a strategy that supports students to discover the meaning of a text. It encourages use of problem-solving strategies to figure out words they don't know, deal with difficult sentence structure, and understand concepts or ideas they have never before encountered in print. Reading also serves other purposes other than that related to its literary functions, it ultimately broadens and educates the mind. Reading allows us to be transported from our own world to another. Between the pages of a book, we can immerse and imagine ourselves in the lives of fictional characters. Books enable us to learn about other cultures that are entirely different from our own. This is especially important as we live in a multi-cultural and diverse city underpinned by British Values. Waverley School pupils uphold and actively promote our HEAR values.

Today more than ever, we need to really support our children in building a love of reading. This can be achieved by questioning the comprehension of books read, promoting inference and predicting what could happen next in a story, encouraging children to summarise texts and invest the time in listening to children read aloud. These small priceless actions can help promote reading for pleasure and develop not only children's literacy skills but confidence too! Each child at Waverley should aim to read at least 10 minutes a day and make some inferences. Let's make this winter a fun and engaging one!

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Year 3: Our Resilient Readers!

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.



Whole Class Reading

Every day for 30 minutes, each class sit together for whole class reading with their peers and teachers. In year 3 we have been focusing on the Ancient Greeks, where the children were to discover more about The Twelve Labours of Hercules while being immersed into the world of ancient Greek mythology.



"Hercules is a famous ancient Greek hero. His father was Zeus (ruler of the Greek gods) and his mother was a mortal. A curse put on him when he was young forced him to do terrible things. Hercules was desperate to be forgiven so he went to Apollo - the god of truth and healing. Apollo ordered Hercules to complete 12 labours for King Eurystheus. These labours seemed impossible. Apollo told Hercules that he would be forgiven and achieve immortality if he managed to complete all of the tasks."

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Home Readers

Waverley school pupils take a book home to read each week which should be read to parents, siblings and/or carers daily and recorded in their planners. Your child will be heard reading the book to the class TA on a weekly basis where they can share all the fun information they have learnt.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together.



Some of the things you can do include:

- ◇ Reading aloud to your child, talking about the words and pictures, and sharing ideas about the book
- ◇ Reading yourself - children who see adults reading, and enjoying it, are much more likely to want to read themselves
- ◇ Surrounding your child with books - you don't need hundreds of books at home, but go to the library or bookshop regularly to borrow books spend time together, browse and make choices. you can read the books your child takes home, In this way, reading becomes a habit!

Year 3 Homework

Homework is set every week and needs to be handed in every Monday- This is monitored very closely so it is extremely important that homework is completed to a high standard and handed in on time.

Maths: We are continuing with multiplication and division.

English: The story of Tutankhamun

Topic: The Egyptians



Homework expectations:

Neat handwriting

Neat presentation

Complete ALL tasks given.

If children find the task difficult, it should be communicated with the teachers so additional support can be put into place.

Holiday Project: The children are given a fun project: To create 3D mummies, pyramids and tombs.

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