

## Message from the Assistant Headteacher:

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy week has flown by at Watergall. Well done to all our children at school and at home for participating so enthusiastically in their learning. Class Teachers have been very impressed this week with the level of engagement across the school as now the vast majority of pupils are accessing remote learning and using the learning platforms confidently.

A huge congratulations to Jakub in Year 6 whose writing was selected as a fantastic example by Jane Considine during a live English lesson which was streamed to thousands of primary school children across the country. Everyone involved in the live lessons in Year 4 and 6 have done a super job. We are so proud of you!

We are pleased to announce that we have been able to provide many of our children with a laptop this week so that they are able to access remote learning. Mr Newstead has done a wonderful job supporting our parents to log on to ClassDojo and PurpleMash with these devices so thank you to him too!

Many of our pupils who are working at home seamlessly jump out of bed and are eager to get started, whatever kind of learning is scheduled for the day. However, we are aware that for some of our pupils, remote learning has been tough to adjust to and they often find remote learning less inspiring than being in the classroom face to face with their teacher and peers, even for the most resilient learners. For parents, it can be very easy to feel powerless and not know what to do to turn this around. Here are some top tips for parents:

- ★ Establish structure and routine. Sticking to a schedule will provide your child with structure and ensure that they are able to focus for set periods of time and minimise opportunities to become distracted. If it is easier, break the learning up into shorter periods across the day. Some learning activities will be easier to move through than others. Consider working with your child on

those tasks that are more difficult during times of the day when your child is most alert and engaged.

- ★ Provide positive feedback and rewards – children may respond well to these but you want to make it feel that they have earned their motivational treat and agree them beforehand! Something as simple as a sticker does the trick!
- ★ Let them see progress – some children respond well to visual cues so use a calendar or checklist to mark time so that they can see how much they have accomplished and how much more there is to go.
- ★ Do a related activity – Remote learning allows some flexibility to go deep on topics children really love. Build upon and extend on what they're learning e.g. look at the night sky if they are learning about space.
- ★ Reduce distractions where possible – this includes noise as well as visual noise or clutter. If you have space, a designated workstation is ideal.
- ★ Sometimes a lack of motivation can be linked to their own self-confidence in learning so it is important to remind them that they can contact their class teacher on ClassDojo who will be more than happy to support them and give them reassurance.
- ★ Adjust your expectations - Spending lots of time together in such circumstances can take its toll on your relationship with your child, especially with the pressures of home learning. Allow your child to share their worries, empathise with their feelings, take a break and move on!
- ★ Access resources for parents online – there are lots out there! If your child is identified as SEND please contact me, via the school office, if you would like a list of helpful websites and resources.

We know that remote learning is not as effective as pupils being in the classroom, however our teachers continue to work tirelessly to prepare, monitor and assess the learning so that your child continues to

make sustained progress. It is therefore important for your child to access the learning that is on offer and we would ask that you continue to encourage them to be resilient!

Thank you for all your continued support and have a safe and peaceful weekend.

### Weekend COVID-19 Updates

If your child has a positive Covid-19 test over the weekend or develops symptoms please contact the school on [office@limeacademywatergall.london](mailto:office@limeacademywatergall.london) or 07907 853657.

### Questions of the week:

We are aware that sometimes it is tricky for children to talk to parents about their learning from the week or that sometimes you get the answer “nothing” for all school questions. Therefore, we are now going to provide a prompt question for each year group every week, so that you can ask your child and get them talking about their amazing learning.

	Prompt for learning question of the week
EYFS	<i>In the story Lost and Found, where did the boy and the penguin row to?</i>
Year 1	<i>We have read a lot of stories together this week. What has been your favourite story? Why?</i>
Year 2	<i>What happened to Joe when he went to The Land of Topsy-Turvy in the story 'The Magic Faraway Tree'?</i>
Year 3	<i>How does a leaf make its own food?</i>
Year 4	<i>How do you think Ahmet feels about being in London now you know about his journey?</i>
Year 5	<i>What is a modal verb? Can you give an example of one?</i>
Year 6	<i>What was life like during World War 2?</i>

### Dinner Menu w/c: 25<sup>th</sup> January

Monday	Sausage roll or vegetarian sausage roll. Mash potato Peas	Jam sponge and custard, yoghurt, cheese & biscuits, fruit
Tuesday	Carbonara, macaroni cheese, bread, sweetcorn	Waffle and syrup, Yoghurt, cheese & biscuits, fruit
Wednesday	Chicken or Quorn fillet, carrot, broccoli, and roast potatoes	Jelly and ice cream, yoghurt, cheese & biscuits, fruit
Thursday	Savoury mince or quorn mince, mash potato, broccoli	Cornflake tart, yoghurt, cheese & biscuits, fruit
Friday	Beef burger or vegetarian burger, chips, beans, or peas	Frozen yoghurt, yoghurt, cheese & biscuits, fruit

### National Online Safety

We are very pleased to be able to invite you to join the online safety platform that we use in school for teaching about online e-safety. You can sign up for a free Parent/Carer account by using this link:

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/lime-academy-watergall>

On the National Online Safety platform you will be able to access a range of useful parental guides linked to e-safety and keeping your children safe online. There are many useful guides, tools and resources linked to the ever-growing list of apps available on mobile devices too, including Whatsapp, Tik Tok, Facebook, Instagram and online gaming. There is also a new app that you can download.

