

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Today was the last day for children to bring in Christmas cards for their friends in the same year group. Please do not send any more in next week.



STAFF NEWS

We have lovely news to tell you, Mrs Davies will be leaving us for a while at the end of term as she is expecting a baby. As Owl Class parents already know, after Christmas their teacher will be Miss Moodley. We are sorry to say that Mr Jones is still unwell, but we hope to have him back with us soon. Nightingale parents should already have received a letter about this - let us know if not.

We will welcome Mr Melling to work with Kingfisher class part time after Christmas, and are delighted to have Mrs King back with us in Heron Class. We will sadly say goodbye next week to Mrs Price from Heron Class and Mrs Ward from Kingfisher Class. They have been fantastic members of Team Watermore, and we will all miss them greatly. We wish them well for the future.

LAST DAY OF TERM

Recently the government announced an optional school closure on Friday 18th December. This could be a training day or a day of home learning for the children. The reason for this was to ensure that the 6 days between the end of term and Christmas, which are key to any track and trace requirements, do not impact on Christmas Eve. School leaders are 'on call' during this time in case we have any reported cases.

We feel this is very short notice to make such an announcement. It puts undue pressure on staff at a busy time of year, not to mention the negative impact on parents who would need to make new child care arrangements for the day. Life has already been stressful enough due to the pandemic! So we are not making any changes to our current plans and school will remain open as expected until 3.20pm on Friday 18th December. Our other local schools are doing the same. While we are staying open in part to support working parents, we fully understand families' circumstances and will support the decisions that you make to help to keep your family safe at the end of term.

MESSAGE FROM MISS HODGE

It is a real privilege to have been asked to lead your fantastic school as Acting Headteacher from January and I am very much looking forward to getting to know the children and families in your community. Mrs Hoyle and Mr Hotchin have been extremely generous with their time, giving me lots of information about what makes Watermore such a great school as well as discussing possible future priorities – time which has been invaluable in familiarizing myself with Watermore.



I have seventeen years' experience of working in schools, including teaching in Key Stages 1 and 2. Much of this time has also been as a senior leader in different roles: as Special Educational Needs Coordinator, as Deputy Headteacher and, over the last academic year, as Acting Headteacher (until the substantive head teacher's return in September). The opportunity now to join the brilliant team at Watermore is one that I relish.

Outside of school, I love walking my dog and am a keen runner - I am very impressed to hear of your 10k fundraiser! Fingers crossed that events like this will be able to resume before long.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year,
Abigail Hodge

New advice from the NHS Urgent, but not life threatening medical needs

Last week, NHS England and NHS Improvement launched the next phase of the latest 'Help Us, Help You' campaign which focuses on the [NHS 111](https://www.nhs.uk/111) service as a new way to access A&E/ Emergency Departments.

The aim of this campaign will be to direct people to use NHS 111 first when they have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, rather than going straight to A&E. If the patient needs urgent care, NHS 111 can now book them in to be seen quickly and safely in A&E/Emergency Departments.



HELP FOR FAMILIES IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Last call! We still have a little money left to help out families in financial hardship at the moment. We have had very few requests from the parents of younger year groups. Please have a word with your child's teacher or send us an email if you would prefer to ask us this way. Let us know by next Tuesday please.



Covid-19: Who do I contact if my child tests positive in the Christmas holiday?



Date	Who to inform	What information to provide
Saturday 19 December to Sunday 3 January* <small>(*excluding Christmas and new year bank holiday weekends - see below)</small>	Email the Early Years-Schools Covid-19 Incident Mailbox: ey-schoolscovidincidents@southglos.gov.uk REMEMBER: Your whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of symptoms/ booking a test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name of the school / setting• The year group and class your child is in• When your child's symptoms started• When they were tested• When they were last in school We will reply to your email with any additional advice. We will contact the school if necessary to let them know, and advise on any actions they will need to take.
*Friday 25-29 December or Friday 1-3 January	Please note there will be no response to your email on these days.	

****If you are at all worried about your child's symptoms over the Christmas holiday, please call 📞 NHS 111 and seek advice****

Why are we asking you to provide details to the mailbox?

- When Covid-19 symptoms start, the person is infectious 2 days before this and up to 10 days afterwards. If your child gets symptoms over the first weekend of the holidays and goes on to test positive, it can impact on others in their class who will also need to isolate because they are contacts of a positive case.
- If your child get symptoms from Monday 21 December onwards and goes on to test positive, it's unlikely to affect your child's bubble, class or year group in the same way but we still need you to report it so we can log these positive cases locally.

You will need to inform everyone your child has been in close contact with that they have tested positive and these other contacts will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Also remember to let any out of school care / holiday clubs / activity clubs know about your child's symptoms and test results.

If your child is isolating at the start of term 3 please contact your school in the usual way to let them know when your child will be back at school.

There's lots of useful Covid-19 Information for parents and carers here:

- [Keeping safe at school and educational settings](#)
- [Guidance for events and celebrating occasions](#)
- [Is my child too ill for school?](#)
- [My child's bubble is closed what do I need to do?](#)
- [Support Payment scheme link](#) 📞 01454 434087 (Mon to Fri: 9.00 - 17.00)

Stop the spread. Do the right thing.

www.southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus