



Watercliffe Mead\**w*

# The Thursday Green\**tion*

Autumn 1 September 2025

## Welcome Back

Well, here we are at the beginning of our 18<sup>th</sup> year at WCM. We welcome everyone back to Watercliffe Meadow after the long summer holidays. We would also like to welcome any new families to the school, if there is anything you need to know, just ask, staff will always be happy to help.

It has been so lovely in school over the last few days. Having all the children back and listening to the fantastic times they have shared with families and friends has been a delight. We have had quite a number of the Summer Reading challenges back...well done! If you have not yet completed it you have until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September; 30 reads will earn you a Reading Robot badge!

This year we will have welcomed Alissia Dunn, who is joining us as teacher in F2. If you see her around say hello!

We want to make WCM the best place possible for your children to attend but we can only do that with your help and support. If you think we are doing something wrong, come and see us with a better idea. Together we can sort anything!

## OFSTED...WCM is a GOOD School!

Our OfSTED report following the inspection that took place before the summer holidays is now published. The inspection was certainly a thorough process and we are pleased that the report reflects the key strengths of our school. Although we have never done things just to satisfy OfSTED, it is nice to be validated for the hard work that staff put in day in and day out to make Watercliffe the place that it is. One of the nicest things about the inspection for us was the number of positive comments and feedback we got from parents, we were overwhelmed with messages of support.

We are already thinking about how we can continue to improve what we do and what we offer. Thank you as always for your support.

## Communication

Communication is very important to us. We need you to feel confident in us as your child's school and listened to if you have any worries.

If you need to talk to anyone in school, please choose 1 of the following routes:

- email [office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk)
- phone 01142326603
- in person via a member of the office team
- a pre-arranged meeting with your child's class teacher
- for a quick question/chat see a member of staff from your child's class every morning or evening on the door.

Don't forget to check out our website for any information. [www.watercliffemeadow.com](http://www.watercliffemeadow.com)

The website is in it's second year now and is full of up to date information for you that you may need on a daily basis.

## Schoolcomms and School Gateway App

Please remember that we are using Schoolcomms, an online payment system which will allow you to download the FREE School Gateway app; thank you if you have already done it.

[The School Gateway app](#) is the one place you can pay and sign up for visits, after school clubs, school meals, breakfast club and milk, in addition to receiving all school texts and emails.

By downloading the School Gateway app, you will be helping us to save money as it will reduce the amount of text messages we have to pay for.

## What do I do next?

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone. Go to [www.schoolgateway.com/apple](http://www.schoolgateway.com/apple) (Apple) or [www.schoolgateway.com/android](http://www.schoolgateway.com/android) (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked, then say yes to 'Allow Push Notifications'
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, enter your email address and scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Don't have an account?' You then need to enter your mobile number, agree to the privacy notice and terms and conditions and click on send PIN.
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the

text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal. If you experience problems, it could be that the mobile phone number or email address isn't the same as what is recorded in school. If you are having any issues, please email [office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk) or call in and see us. We will be more than happy to help.

### **School Meals**

Further to our letter in July, just a reminder that the cost of a school meal for years 3 to 6 will rise to £2.95, and for Nursery to £2.65. This increase will take effect at the start of the Autumn Term.

The Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) project is still in place, and this means that all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 can be provided with a school meal free of charge. As well as hot meals, our school meal provision also includes a sandwich option (pick and mix) and is a great solution for those who would normally bring a packed lunch. The UIFSM is not means tested and is for every child in Reception, Y1 and Y2.

If your child is in Y3 to Y6 they can also have a free school meal if you are in receipt of certain allowances. You can apply for free school meals here:

[https://forms.sheffield.gov.uk/form/auto/apply\\_school\\_meals](https://forms.sheffield.gov.uk/form/auto/apply_school_meals)

Please contact the school office for help in completing forms or for more information.

### **Applying for a Secondary School Place**

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 they will transfer to secondary school in September 2025. You are now invited to apply for a secondary school place for your child. You must do so online by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October or using a paper application by 31 October 2025. You will have already been sent information about how to apply.

For more information follow this link:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

For your application you will need your child's unique reference number, which is on the letter you should have received from Sheffield City Council back in July. For an online application, you will also need a current email address.

Applications close at the end of October. You will be informed of your child's allocated place at the beginning of **March 2026**. If you have any questions about this or would like help with making an application then speak to one of the Y6 team.

### **Reception (F2) 2026/27**

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, you need to apply for their school place.

Save Time - Apply Online at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare)  
Closing date for applying 15th January 2026  
Pupil Admissions can be contacted on

0114 273 5766

It is your responsibility to apply for a school place. Missing the closing date will mean less chance of obtaining a place at your preferred school(s). Please note that even if your child attends our nursery, you will still need to apply for a school place for your child. Places are allocated based on where you live, not which nursery setting your child attends.

Please refer to the letter sent out by admissions for more information or ask a member of the Nursery Team.

### **Nursery Places**

We currently have spaces in our nursery for children to start straight away. If you know someone who has a child who is 3, please get them to contact us for an application form. Email [office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk) if you would like an application form sending out.

### **Holidays**

Please do not book term time holidays. Check out the holiday dates to see when you can go away without affecting your child's education.

**SATs for Y6 children are the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May.** Please ensure this week is kept free to ensure your child gets the results they deserve to take onto Secondary School with them. SATs for Y2s will run across the month of May, please talk to the Y2 staff if you have any questions about this.

The Y1 Phonics Screening Check is within the week 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

### **Breakfast Clubs**

Breakfast Club will continue using a pre booking system at a fixed cost of £2.00 a day. To book a place and for information on payments please email [office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk)

### **Dates for your Diary**

Wednesday 24th September - Individual Photos

Friday 3rd October - Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th October - Parents Evenings

Friday 24th October - Spooky Dress Up Day & Cosy Read

Friday 24th October - Break up for half-term

Monday 3rd November - Children back at school

Wednesday 26th November - Training Day 3

School closed to children

Monday 1st December - Step into Christmas family craft event

Wednesday 3rd December - Christmas Fayre

Week Beginning 8th December - Nativity Play F1, F2 & Y1

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas: Dinner, Cosy Read, Singing Outside, and party.

Friday 19th December - Break Up

Monday 5th January - Spring Term starts

<https://watercliffemeadow.ovw5.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=19>