



Newsletter 11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Our first full week back at school has been incredibly busy. The children were very settled and happy by the end of last week after their first 2 days back in school and so therefore this week the teachers have been teaching the full curriculum.

This week we have been informally assessing the children in reading, writing and maths and have started to make some early plans about how we will move forwards with ensuring a robust catch up approach, which allows children to catch up with the core skills should they require it since the school closure. We have used some of the proposed Government's funding (which is for the school to use to support the catch up work) on investing in catch up planning and resources for English and Maths for all of the KS1 and KS2 classes. We are also increasing the amount of support hours made available every week so that we can provide some more 1:1 support during the school day for identified individuals. We have also begun to talk about other options for supporting the children with catching up with the core skills, should they require it and I will inform you of these plans in more detail once they have been confirmed.

Inspirational class names

This year, we have decided to name each class with an inspirational person in mind. We want to inspire and encourage the children all of the time to have high aspirations and goals for themselves. No one is ever too young to believe in themselves and have great goals and dreams. Please ask your child to explain to you why the person chosen as their class name is inspirational. What do they aspire to do or be in their life?

Apologies, but we have made a few changes to the published information at the end of the summer term.

The names of the class are:

Pre school: Sir Walter Drake (explorer) - to be known as Drake class

Nursery: Walt Disney (creator) - to be known as Disney class

Reception: Julia Donaldson (author) -to be known as Donaldson class

Year 1: Grace Darling (Historian) - to be known as Darling class

Year 2: Mae Jemison (scientist) - to be known as Jemison class

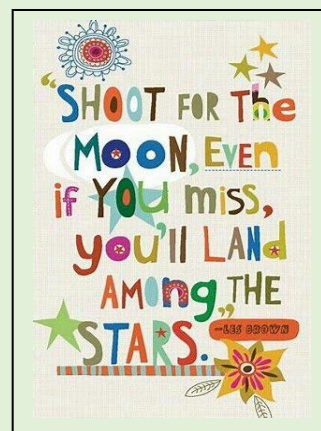
Year 3: Leonardo Da Vinci (artist) - to be known as Da Vinci class

Year 4: Michael Rosen (Poet) - to be known as Rosen class

Year 5 (Mr Ring): David Beckham (sports person) - to be known as The Beckhams

Year 5 (Mrs Roberts): Stevie Wonder (musician) - to be known as The Wonders

Year 6: David Attenborough (conservationist) - to be known as Attenborough class



Great to Be Gold

In our assembly today, we celebrated this week's Great to Be Gold awards. Well done to the following children who have excelled this week. We are incredibly proud of you all.

Pre School (Drake class)

Olivia-Mae M and Ezra M. They have both settled really well in to Preschool. We are very proud of you both. Well done.

Nursery: (Disney class)

Elizabeth F and Joseph S - both have been great role models

Reception: (Donaldson class)

Charlie O'N - for such a positive start to Reception
Frankie H - for being a great role model in class and for following and listening to instructions

Year 1 (Darlings class)

Edward S - for being a great role model
Noah H - for working to the best of his ability

Year 2 (Jemison class) Finley S for his positivity. He has really shown resilience throughout the week.

Charlie for working to the best of his ability- beautiful writing all week

Year 3: (Da Vinci) Callum R and Archie P. Both have shown excellent attitudes towards their learning and are outstanding role models for the rest of the class.

Year 4 (Rosen class)

Isabella - a mature attitude and constantly making the right choices.

Oscar - wonderful manners and great interaction with everybody in class.

Owen - a great attitude in all lessons and a real zeal for his science learning, he has been a font of knowledge on the insect kingdom this week.

Year 5 (The Wonders)

Summer R - settled in brilliantly to a new school

Lillie-Mae - super positive attitude to learning

Max K - a great start to a new school year

Year 5 (The Beckhams)

Nya for settling in well and making the right choices

Gracie for being a great role model and Yuvraj for working to the best of his ability.

Year 6: (Attenborough class)

Hollie A, Ava T and George M for settling well into Year 6 and working consistently to the best of their ability.

Transition Powerpoints

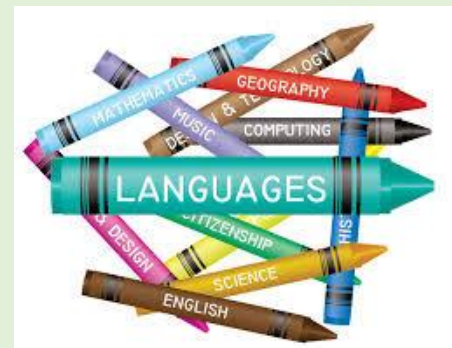
Normally, at the beginning of a new academic year, we would hold parent transition meetings for all year groups. However, this year, knowing that we wouldn't be able to host mass gatherings on site, we created class transition powerpoints and hosted follow up zoom meetings to answer your questions and queries. These transition powerpoints have all the information you will require about your child's new classes, including P.E days, learning topics, homework and what a typical day looks like.

For your reference, here is the link that will take you to all of these powerpoints on the school website.

<https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/children/transition-september-2020>

Curriculum

Look out for the curriculum plans for years 1 -6. These plans will help support you to have a better understanding of what your child will be learning about in class this half term.



Handwashing routines

Children are washing their hands frequently in school as well as using anti-bacterial gel in order to help protect them from catching the virus. Thorough hand washing protocols are extremely important and the staff have been given clear guidance to ensure that we have consistency across all phases of the school.

- On entry to school - hand wash
- At the end of phonics bubble lessons (Years 1 and 2)
- After playtime - anti-bac gel
- After any point in the day when the children use the toilet - hand wash
- Before lunchtime - hand wash
- After lunchtime and before they go to lunch play time - anti-bac gel
- On entry to school after lunch - hand wash
- In the afternoon, if there has been a change in lesson location. On these occasions children are to use anti-bac gel on their way back into the classroom.

Parent Governor Elections

In accordance with the constitution of the Board of Governors of the school, two of the twelve positions are appointed as the result of election by the other parents. Each governor is appointed for a 4 year term. The current parent governors are Liz Aston and Colin Cox. Their 4 year term ended in the summer so it is time to hold another election. Colin wishes to stand down as a governor as his children have now moved on to secondary school and Liz has been kind enough to allow herself to be re-appointed as the Local Authority appointed Governor. This means that we have two vacancies for parents to be elected to the Board this term. I am therefore inviting anyone who is interested in taking on this rewarding but quite demanding role to put their name forward. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

We will then give you further information about the role or you can speak to either Liz or Colin to get the inside story. You will be able to get their contact details from the office.

Many thanks
Charles Clark
Chair of Governors

K.S 1 Reading

We have made some changes to how we teach reading in school for the children in KS1. Children will now have a phonics lesson, which is directly followed by a reading lesson. Both the phonics and reading lesson will be delivered by the same member of staff. Children will be grouped into phonics bubbles and will remain in the same bubble until half term. **The main change for the children is that they will now be reading in school every day during the phonics/guided reading lesson (as opposed to once or twice a week using the old system).** We expect this to have a huge impact on the progress that the children make with their reading skills. As the children will be reading every day to an adult, we will no longer be writing in their reading records as this is very time consuming with large groups of children on a daily basis.

Homework

We hope that you have all now managed to download the Marvellous Me app and log into your account. The teachers have this week been sending home Marvellous Me messages and today have also used this app to communicate your child's weekly homework with you too. Don't forget to 'High 5' the teacher on your app. It's great when the teacher gets a notification to say that you have read their messages and then they can tell your child that it has been read by you. This goes a long way to boost the children's self-esteem, confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

We are starting to introduce homework slowly to the children this term, as we are aware that they haven't been set homework for some time now. We will gradually increase the homework (to expectations prior to lockdown) in the next couple of weeks, once the children are really settled into their new routines. As always, your support is so important and the extra tasks will really help to consolidate their class learning and catch up with some missed learning opportunities too.

Hertford Hockey Club



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Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School, Rectory Lane, Watton at Stone, Hertford, SG14 3SG <http://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk>
Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

Dates for your Diary

September

October

5th - 9th - Walk to school week

8th - No Pens Day

13th - Parent consultations 4pm - 7pm

14th - Parent consultations 3.45pm - 5.45pm

19th - 23rd - Black History Week

21st - Science Day - Science Boffins workshops

26th - 30th Half term

November

2nd - children return to school

11th - Remembrance Day

16th - 20th - Anti bullying week/well being week

24th - No Pens Day

25th Book fair arrives for 1 week

27th - Enterprise Day

30th - 4th Dec - Assessment week

December

16th - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (depending if mass gatherings are permitted by this date)

17th - Last Day of autumn term

January

4th - INSET Day 2

5th - Children return to school

18th - 22nd - Creative Arts Week

February

3rd - No Pens Day

9th - Internet safety day

15th - 19th - Half term

March

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School, Rectory Lane, Watton at Stone, Hertford, SG14 3SG <http://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

4th - World Book Day
5th - 9th - Science week
12th - Comic relief/sports relief
15th - 19th - Assessment Week
16th - Parent consultations 4pm - 7pm
17th - Parent Consultations 3.45 - 5.45pm
22nd - No Pens Day
26th - Last day of spring term

April

12th - INSET Day 3
13th - Children return to school
23rd - St. George's day

May

3rd - 7th - Geography fieldwork week
21st - No Pens Day
31st - 4th June - Half term

June

7th - INSET Day 4
10th - Sports Day
17th - Reserve sports Day
30th - Book fair arrives for 1 week

July

2nd - Enterprise Day
5th - 9th - Assessment Week
12th - No Pens Day
14th - End of Year reports to parents/carers
21st - Last day of summer term
22nd - INSET Day 5