



Newsletter 18th September 2020

Catch up Clubs

Last week, I informed you that we had started our 'catch up' approach for the whole school and that following our initial assessments, the teachers are now developing a better understanding of your child's abilities, strengths and next step targets for the core skills that they require to secure age related.

We are now able to inform you of our next phase of supporting children with addressing the gaps, which have occurred due to the school lockdown. From the week beginning Monday 28th September, we will be running an after school catch up club on a Monday and Wednesday for half an hour on both of these days. We felt at this point in returning to school, that many children would struggle with an additional hour lesson once a week, especially as many haven't been in school since the end of March. We also didn't want the catch up clubs for literacy and mathematics to take place during the school day as it would mean that the children would miss out on a broad and balanced curriculum with many of them missing subjects that they really enjoy.

On Mondays, the catch up club will be focusing on key mathematical skills and on Wednesdays, there will be focus on English skills, particularly grammar, punctuation, spelling and phonics. The clubs will all be led by the class teachers, who know your children the best and who will be able to focus on specific next steps that they require. Children may be asked to attend one or both of the clubs after school. We hope that you will view these clubs as a positive approach to supporting your child and that you will support the school with ensuring that your child attends the sessions.

I am sure that you will understand that these clubs will be most successful if the teacher is only working with a smaller group of children as opposed to all of the class. Many children have started the year working at age related expectations and so therefore I have no doubt they will continue to make great progress in class this year. Therefore, the teachers will be selecting children based on their current knowledge and we would aim to keep the same groups until the end of the autumn term so that the most impact can be achieved. There is a possibility that these catch up groups may continue into the spring term for different groups of children, should that be required but this would also depend on how much is left of the Government's catch up funding.

We will be providing more information next week and as always will keep you fully informed.

Attendance last week

Congratulations to Donaldson class and The Wonders who both achieved 100% attendance last week.

Attendance this week

Congratulations to both Beckham's and Attenborough class this week who have had great attendance in school

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: Evie M, has been such a happy girl coming into Preschool she has settled in really well. We are so proud of you.

Harlen H, has just been an absolute super star. He is listening and tidying up, being a kind friend and joining in with activity. Well done Harlen.

Nursery: Beatrice W for being a fantastic role model to her new baby brother and for coming into school every day.

Taylor C-H - He has been a superstar all week and tried so hard with everything.

Reception: Lily H - for always having impeccable manners
Danny and Beatriz - for their great attitude to learning

Year 1: Samuel M - Samuel got gold as he showed a real love for learning during our Grace Darling sessions. His mum told me that he went home and taught the family all about her!

Chloe - Chloe got gold for going above and beyond the expectation during a science lesson about the 4 seasons.

Year 2: Christian - Being helpful and kind

Isabelle- Always following the rules and setting a good example

Erin - for being a kind friend

Year 3: Bertie S for showing a love of learning in all areas- he has worked really hard this week in all lessons.

Maisy W for always being well mannered- she is very polite to all adults in school.

Year 4: Lacey for making a great start, here at her new school and paying attention to all adults.

Daisy - always working to the best of her ability and having a positive attitude in every subject.

Year 5: James P for super effort in all lessons.

Libby for learning 2 sets of spelling and still getting 100%

Year 5: Dexter and Luke for working to the best of their ability all week.

Year 6: Darcie, Amy and Libby for impressing us with their love of learning and for consistently aiming to achieve work to the very best of their ability. They are outstanding role models.

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 get their contact details from the office.

Many thanks

Charles Clark

Chair of Governors

Why is re-reading books so important?

In school, younger children reading the decodable phonics books will spend a whole week during guided reading looking at the same book with an adult. We are teaching not only the skills of decoding the words, but will also be teaching the important skills of fluency and comprehension. There are many benefits to re-reading books, particularly for young children learning to read. Here are 3 reasons why.

1. Decoding the phonics

The first time a child looks at a new book, there will be many new words that they have never seen before and their efforts will go into decoding these words using their phonetical knowledge and skills. When children read the book the 2nd or 3rd time, they will spend less time decoding the phonics but will then be able to focus on other reading skills instead such as the fluency of their reading.

2. Comprehension Skills

Re-reading books provides an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of a book's plot or character development - something not possible reading a book once. Exploring the text and illustrations helps children delve into the story's message and make new connections, preparing them for more complex narratives.

As a key reading strategy for comprehension, re reading books provides an opportunity to answer more complex and elaborative questions and offer judgements and opinions.

3. Confidence Building

Memorisation is an important reading strategy for comprehension to develop increased vocabulary, reading fluency and accuracy. Reading a book without pausing or waiting for an adult to reveal an unknown word is confidence-boosting. Often, when a child gets to this point, they will move onto new books with new challenges. Remember, greater confidence develops into a lifelong love of reading.

National Teaching Assistant Day



This Wednesday was national Teaching Assistant Day and we wanted to celebrate this day so that we could say a huge thank you not only to our fantastic team of teaching assistants, but also our support staff, admin staff, cleaning staff and site manager who all do an incredible job all year round. They all go over and above in their roles, caring for the children and ensuring the class teachers are well supported and helping with the smooth running of the school.

They have fantastic relationships with parents and support you with all aspects of the children's lives.



Remote Learning

We have been working hard on our remote learning policy and remote learning plans this week. The plan focuses on what the remote learning provision will be in the event of a child self-isolating due to the symptoms of the coronavirus and they are awaiting test results, a bubble being closed down as a result of positive test result or the school being closed due to a local or National lockdown. Both the plan and policy can be accessed on the school's website:

<https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/virtual-office/remote-learning-guidance>

School Lunches

Hopefully, you all received a letter yesterday informing you that as from Monday 21st September, we will be returning to hot cooked meals for the children. We have been thrilled with how well the children have adjusted to the new routines this week and are now confident that we can move to the next phase where children collect their meals and eat these in their classrooms. Children will be supported with collecting their meals by the class TA's. It will be great for the children to have a hot, nourishing dinner at lunchtime again.

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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

WE ARE LOOKING FOR GIRLS AGED 7 to 11

To join our expanding Girls section



**Email: wattonyouthfc@gmail.com
Visit: wattonyouthfootballclub.co.uk**

At After School Club this week we have enjoyed:

- Making new friends
- Playing multisports outside
- Building with Lego
- Speed Stack challenge
- Biscuit decorating

If you'd like to book your child in on a half termly or ad-hoc basis please complete a booking form or email clubs@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk

**The children at
Breakfast and After
School Club love
doing jigsaw puzzles!**



**Do you have any in
good condition with
20 – 100 pieces that
your child no longer
uses? We would be
grateful of any
donations!**

Dates for your Diary

October

- 5th - 9th - Walk to school week
- 8th - No Pens Day
- 13th - Parent consultations 4pm - 7pm
- 14th - Parent consultations 3.45 - 5.45
- 19th - 23rd - Black History Week
- 19th - Whole school Pupil Parliament Day
- 21st - Science Day - Science Boffins workshops
- 22nd - Individual school photographs
- 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

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

March

- 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