



Newsletter 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been another extremely positive and happy week for the children in school. On Monday, we had a special 'Science week' sharing assembly, where all of the classes had an opportunity to talk about what they did in class for science week and show some of their work. The highlight of today has been Red Nose Day and the children look fantastic with their crazy hair and crazy clothes. A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers for helping them get ready this morning. Take a look below at the Red Nose Day photo Gallery.

Brass Lessons

This week the school came alive to the sound of music as Year 5 had their first brass lesson. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the children weren't able to start in September '20 but we were so happy that lessons could eventually commence. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and even surprised themselves with what they were able to do by the end of their first lesson.



Attendance this week

The attendance at school this week has been fantastic. The whole school percentage is 98.5%. Congratulations to Attenborough, Wonders, Beckhams, Rosen, Da Vinci and Donaldson Class for 100% attendance.

House Points

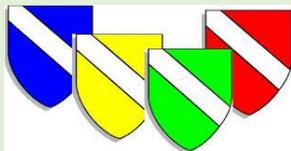
This weeks house points

Red House - 454

Blue House - 435

Green House - 476

Yellow House - 525



Easter Holiday Club

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Easter holiday club questionnaire recently. Having now had a chance to look through all of the responses, there appears to be enough interest to run the club between 29th March and 1st April. Apologies if you requested the second week of the holiday, but the numbers were so low that the club would have run at a financial loss. If you didn't request any sessions during the first week but would now like your child to attend, then there is plenty of space. We would appreciate all completed booking forms and payments being returned to the school by Thursday 25th March so that registers can be prepared before the 29th March. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please email

clubs@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk

Last Day of Term - 26th March

Normally on the last day of term, school would close at 2.15pm for all children. However, we have had to make some changes to this arrangement for the end of this term due to the staggered finishes. Children in Reception, Year 1, 2 and 4 will need to be collected between 2pm and 2.20pm and children in Pre school, Nursery, 3, 5, 6 will need to be collected between 2.20pm and 2.40pm. Thank you.

Red Nose Day

Today, the whole school went a little crazy as we joined in with raising money for Red Nose Day by wearing crazy clothes and having crazy hair!! As a school, I am delighted to announce that we raised £316, which is a fantastic donation to make to this charity. Take a look at our photo gallery of some of the children's crazy hair and clothes.



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Remote Learning

If your child is self isolating and waiting the results of a COVID 19 test or your child has had a positive COVID 19 test result and so therefore also self isolating, we have class work prepared and uploaded to the website so the impact on your children's learning is minimized.

Teachers have prepared activities which are in line with what learning is happening in class. Don't forget also that the children can do some daily reading and have access to any Purple Mash activities. KS2 children also have access to Times Table Rock Stars. The learning is accessible on the children's page of the website.

<https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/virtual-office/remote-learning-guidance/remote-learning-planning-spring-2021>

Outdoor Library

We are currently in the process of developing an outdoor library for the children to enjoy using in the summer term during their breaktimes. We have purchased the trolley to store the books in but are now looking for books to fill the library with. If you have any good quality reading books (fiction or non fiction) that you have cleared out during lockdown and you would be willing to donate to the school, then please leave the books in the black 'drop off' box near the admin office. Thank you



Headteacher Awards

This week a Headteachers award was given to Edie M, Verity, Amelia, Isabella and Darcy in Year 1 who all wrote stories at home and brought them into school to share and read. In Year 2, Felicity and Erin were awarded Headteachers awards for making great progress with their reading and Christian for working more independently and challenging himself in maths. In Year 4, Beau was given a Headteachers award for great improvement with his handwriting and presentation.

Considerate parking.

With staggered starts and finishes at present, there have been less issues with parking but still we see some parents not being considerate when driving to the school. The Children's Centre car park is huge and will easily accommodate everyone. Please don't park in Rectory Lane. This week we have seen parents park up on the kerbs and in front of the school gate. Please help the school to be a good neighbour - remember that it's our staff who have to deal with the complaints!

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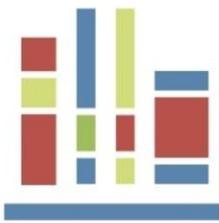
Great to Be Gold

Following the recent period of lockdown, the staff have been really impressed with the behaviour and learning attitudes of all of the children who have remembered our Great to Be Gold values and expectations. Well done to the following children who have excelled this week. We are incredibly proud of you all.

<u>Great to Be Gold</u>		
Pre Sch	Gianni - he has been a star this week and has started preschool incredibly well and has shown us how amazing he is at tidying up! Well done Gianni.	Murphy - she is also new to preschool and has been a star at getting used to our routine, group times and tidying up. Well done Murphy, we are very proud of you both.
Nur	Amelia - for her attention to detail in her still life daffodil painting. Amelia concentrated and focused for quite some time as she added the stem and the petals.	Jacob - for his quick thinking, matching dots to quantities when using the dice and the number line outside.
Rec	Frankie - for his amazing writing skills. We have seen such an improvement.	Bella - for always trying to be helpful in the class - she always seems to be in the right place at the right time to help out. It is appreciated and noticed.
Year 1	Chloe B-M - for always working to the best of her ability and playing an active role in class discussions.	Sam M - for showing a love for learning in all areas and having such a positive attitude. Jack R - for his mature and kind behaviour at lunchtime.
Year 2	Charlie - for his impeccable manners at all times.	Noah - for his enthusiasm and love of learning.
Year 3	Lenny - he constantly makes the right choices. He has come back to school with a brilliant attitude and tries his hardest across all his lessons. We are really proud of him.	Libby - she encompasses all our school values, always ready to learn, respectful to adults and children alike and is an outstanding role model. She has such a wonderful attitude to learning.
Year 4	Henry - for fabulous focus and hard work in class. Great attitude to all learning since returning to school.	Maddie - hard work in maths this week. Working so hard to becoming skilled and confident at column addition with regrouping.
Year 5W	Charlie B- coming back with a positive attitude in all aspects of school.	Lexie B - Showing confidence and a positive attitude in all aspects of school.
Year 5B	Alessio M - For improved presentation of his work, being a role model to others in the class and for listening well.	Ava H - For always making the right choices, for being a role model to others with her impeccable behaviour and for great listening skills.
Year 6	Sadie S - she consistently works to the best of her ability - quietly and methodically - and she has a wonderful creative imagination that enhances her writing in particular. She is an outstanding role model and I continue to be impressed with all that she achieves.	Charlie H - he thoroughly deserves to be awarded Great to be Gold this week for the level of focus and commitment he has put into all his work. He listens with a keenness to learn and he can be proud of his achievements. His behaviour is impeccable.

Outdoor Learning

RESEARCH INTO THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR LEARNING



A study of school children shows evidence that outdoor education improves student outcomes. After studying on an outdoor curriculum basis, students scored higher than students of traditional systems in 72% of assessments in everything from maths and science to attendance. (1)

Outdoor learning and activities promote the release of Dopamine and Serotonin which decrease stress and increase sensations of safety and well being. (2)



"Children have been found to more easily move away from confrontation with peers in an outdoor environment." (3)

"Students that were engaged in outdoor learning experiences became more aware of personal and social developments in their lives." (4)



A study in 2004 suggested that students could expect increased levels of motivation after taking a part in an outdoor education programme. (5)

"Various developmental benefits are associated with regular physical exercise (such as regular outdoor adventure experiences can provide)" (6)



Outdoor Learning

At the beginning of the autumn term, the staffing team were committed to increasing the opportunities that all classes had to learn across the curriculum outside of the classroom. Unfortunately, the most recent school closure impacted this, but we have been determined to increase outdoor learning for all classes since the re-opening of the school. So, why is outdoor learning so important and how is it beneficial for all children?

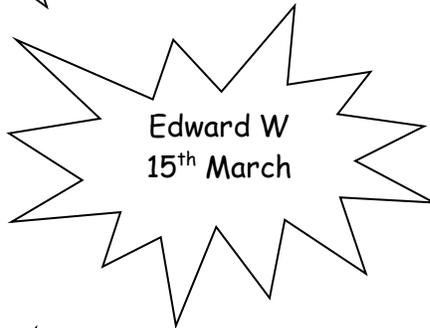
School Dinners Next Friday

In preparation for next Friday, the kitchen staff have been busy thinking about an Easter themed dinner treats.



Lockdown birthdays

Wishing all the children who have celebrated their birthday this week a very happy birthday.



R.S.E Parent Meeting

Miss Ramirez and I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who attended our virtual R.S.E (Relationships, sex and education) meeting yesterday evening to hear about the changes to the curriculum, which will be taking place after Easter in both P.S.H.E and some science lessons.

The Powerpoint will be available to look at on the school website from next week:

<https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/subjects/personal-social-and-health-education-psherrelationships-and-sex-education-rse>

Homework

We won't be sending home homework until after the Easter holiday to support the children's wellbeing after returning to school following lockdown. However, we would ask for all children to continue to read at least 5 times a week (for as much as they can manage) and have their reading recorded in their reading records which will be looked at by the class teachers and TA's.

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R.S.E Parent Questionnaires

Recently, we sent a questionnaire to all parents and carers whilst we were in the early stages of consultation ahead of the new R.S.E curriculum which we will be teaching in the summer term. Thank you to the 40 parents/carers who completed the questionnaire with their thoughts and views. The results show that overwhelmingly parents recognise the importance of P.S.H.E being taught in school and that it makes a real difference to young children's lives. Some parents/carers said that they would like more information about the topics being taught in the different year groups. We will be sending you half termly topic grids as well as website links to ensure that you are fully informed about what is being taught in class.

75% of the responses showed that parents/carers were pleased that their child will be learning different aspects about relationships and 80% appreciated the benefit of children being taught about relationships in response to safeguarding. 72% agreed that R.S.E should be inclusive and represent the diverse society that we live in today. Thank you to everyone who shared their views and opinions with us.

Extracurricular clubs

Unfortunately, the DFE guidance still doesn't permit all extracurricular clubs to commence due to the risks associated with bubbles mixing. However, we are in conversations with Stevenage Borough Football Club for them to run a sporting enrichment club every Tuesday after school starting after Easter. Every child in each class (Rec - Year 6) will be invited to attend on the one day that the club is running for that year group. This way, we are able to avoid the mixing of different bubbles. The clubs will be funded by the school using our sports premium funding. Please look out for a letter really soon with more details and a consent form for you to complete.

Our proposed dates at the moment are:

April 20th - Year 6

April 27th - Year 5 Wonders

4th May - Year 5 Beckhams

11th May - Year 4

18th May - Year 3

25th May - Year 2

8th June - Year 1

16th June - Reception

We hope that our complete offer of after school clubs will be available once again in the autumn term.

Fundraising

As you are aware, our fundraising during the last year has been seriously affected due to COVID and we are hopeful that we will be able to start fundraising again really soon. In the meantime, we are excited to announce that the Friends of Watton have arranged the Happy School Bag clothing collection, where the school is paid for your unwanted items. The date for your diary is 12th May when the bags will be collected so please hold on to your bags until nearer the time as we have nowhere in the school to currently store them. Many thanks.



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Dates for your Diary

March

22nd - No Pens Day

26th - Early Years Virtual Farm Visits

26th - Last day of spring term - please see collection times above

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 June - INSET DAY 4

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