



Newsletter 7th May 2021

Geography Fieldwork

This week the whole school has been involved in our Geography fieldwork week and the children have been engaging in lots of practical, outdoor learning opportunities whilst learning lots of new geographical skills.

Nursery - have been looking at various types of map including underground maps, treasure maps and road maps.

Reception - have been making maps in class as well as in Forest School.

Year 1 - have been doing map work linked to 'Where's my Teddy'. They hid a teddy on a map and used geographical links to find him.

Year 2 - made a map of school and gave directions to certain points and searching habitats using maps.

Year 3 - have been looking at the human and physical geography of school and drawing the different areas.

Year 4 - have been looking at settlements and mapping these whilst walking along the High Street as well as completing a traffic survey of the village.

Year 5's - learnt to test wind temperatures and speed in different areas of the school. Researched the accessibility of the building for people with disabilities.

Year 6 - learnt orienteering skills and made a map of the school grounds using symbols.

Parent Forum

On 28th April, we hosted our third parent forum meeting of this academic year. I spoke to the parent reps about the schools plans for exiting the current COVID restrictions in school, plans for sports day later on this year, school uniform donations and the communication methods that the school uses to keep in touch with parents.

A copy of the agenda, minutes and the powerpoint that I shared outlining some of the schools plans for lifting the current restrictions in school can all be found on the Parent Forum page of the school website. I will also be keeping you up to date via the weekly newsletter.

[Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School - Parent Forum](#)

I would like to also take this opportunity to clarify the schools methods of communication with parents and carers to ensure that no one misses out on any important messages.

Marvellous Me - this app is used by the class teachers and teaching assistants only and is predominantly used to inform you of what classes are learning, successes your child has had as well as being used for class messages and homework.

Texts - the admin team will send home texts to inform parents and carers of any bumped heads, red cards or notifications regarding school dinners debts.

Emails - are used for longer forms of communication, including weekly newsletters and other letters to be sent home.

You should be able to receive notifications for all of these apps on your devices as either banners or as a locked screen message and with or without sound. To set up your notifications, please go to your device 'settings' option. The admin team are happy to advice should you need support setting up your notifications.

House Points

This weeks house points

Red House - 444

Blue House - 482

Green House - 438

Yellow House - 434

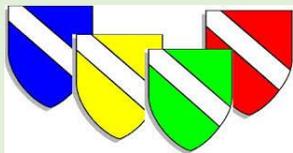
Total house points achieved so far:

Yellow House - 2991

Green House - 2932

Blue House - 2907

Red House - 2786



Attendance

Attendance for the week is 96% and overall for the Summer term is 97.5%.

Congratulations this week to the Wonders class for 100% attendance.

Royal Mail Competition

We hope that lots of children have been inspired to design a new stamp to depict who their COVID heroes are.

Please send all completed entries back to school by Monday May 17th so that we can send in all of the entries together.

There are lots of prizes to be won too with the winning stamps being awarded £1,000 of vouchers.

Fundraising

Next Wednesday (12th) AMD clothing will be collecting bags of unwanted clothing, bags and shoes that have been donated and then paying the school 70p for every kilogram that they collect. The last time that we had a collection we raised over £250 which was amazing and such an easy way to raise funds for the school.

On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th, we are inviting you to bring your bags of unwanted items and leave them in the school bike shed. The bike shed is always open at the beginning or end of the school day but if you bring your bags to school in the school day, then please leave them in the vicinity of the bike shed. Thank you all for your continued help and support - it is very much appreciated.

Head Teacher's Awards

This week, I have been busy meeting with children who are applying the school learning values to their work in class.

In Reception, Chloe was nominated as she is always very respectful and shows empathy towards others in her class.

Frankie was also nominated as he showed resilience when writing at Forest school.

In Year 2, Erin and Eve were nominated for showing excellence in solving word problems in maths.

In Year 3, Bertie showed excellence with his writing and Ollie showed excellence in his maths lesson.

In Year 5, Lexie and Lillie-Mae both showed excellence with their homework.

How to support your child with their reading

Using our PM Benchmarking reading assessments after lockdown, we have seen that even though many children are able to read their books independently, many are also struggling to make progress with their reading skills as they struggle with comprehending the books they are reading. The guide below is very useful for parents and carers to give you alternative suggestions to help you support your child on a day to day basis with their reading development apart from just decoding and reading the books.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Geography Field work photographs

Year 4



Bella in Reception made a 3D map of how she gets from home to school. The plastic bottle is the water tower that she always spots on her way home, so she knows that she's nearly home!



Year 5

Birthday celebrations

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

Elizabeth F
3rd May

Brendan
9th May

Imogen C
2nd May

Charlie C
2nd May

Isabella C
2nd May

Cait S
2nd May

Felicity E
7th May

Jack B
6th May

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.

Great to Be Gold	
Pre Sch	<p>Arthur A - he has been an amazing member of Preschool this week. He has been so kind to his friends sharing the toys and tidying up, as well as doing some fantastic phonics. Well done Arthur.</p> <p>Ruby H - she has also been amazing. She comes in so happy, helps to tidy and has been a kind friend. Ruby has accomplished a personal achievement over the past week. Well done Ruby we are so proud of you.</p>
Nur	<p>Verity - for using her words so well to explain how to work as a team with her friends. She helped to set up the Reading Room outside this week and reminded her friends not to put things 'in the road' (the path of the scooters).</p> <p>Freya B - for constantly trying her best in everything she does.</p>
Rec	<p>Beatriz - she has really wow'd us this week with her amazing attitude to learning. She is having a proper good go at everything - and best of all, she is trying to do it on her own and not keep asking for help. This is happening at home as well as school!</p> <p>Mayci - she was very keen to show me her learning and she discussed with me what would make it even better. She then rewrote her sentence, not once but 3 times, each time improving her writing skills. All with an enormous smile. Great love of learning and resilience!</p>
Year 1	<p>Liam V for paying attention to the adults and making the right choices.</p> <p>Bobby B for working to the best of his ability and taking great pride in his presentation.</p>
Year 2	<p>Mila and Monty for great team work in dance yesterday - Showing a love for learning</p> <p>Ronny- for being more focussed and trying his best in all areas of the curriculum</p>
Year 3	<p>Megan -she always has a positive attitude to her learning and is always respectful to everyone. Megan is our 'Little Miss Sunshine' of the class, she comes in everyday with a big smile on her face and will often make people's day by giving them a complement. Well done Megan.</p> <p>Annabelle - she always works to the best of her ability and is resilient in her learning. She always pays attention to all the adults in school and is very respectful to everyone. Keep up the great work Annabelle.</p> <p>Elliot - he is a very enthusiastic learning and is not afraid to put his hand up and share his knowledge. He often challenges himself in maths and is always polite and respectful. Fantastic effort Elliot.</p>
Year 4	<p>Lacey - for excellent focus and determination with regard to her work in maths and fractions this week.</p> <p>Jake - for his commitment to the role he is taking on in our dance. He has had some inspirational ideas for our routine.</p>
Year 5W	<p>Eva M - Great contributions in geography, understanding of the physical geography and accessibility in school and having empathy for other people. For showing a love of learning in these sessions.</p> <p>Max H - all round love of learning, resilience and reaching his potential in all areas of the curriculum, especially in maths</p>
Year 5B	<p>Sophie I - for being an outstanding role model in everything she does.</p> <p>Amelie O - for always listening to adults and being kind and respectful to peers.</p>

Year
6

Poppy N - she engages consistently well across all lessons and she continues to impress me with her positive attitude to learning. She is very supportive in group activities and collaborates on tasks with enthusiasm and energy. By constantly making the right choices, she is an outstanding role model.

Hollie - she has impressed us recently with her new level of independence in her work. In group activities, she is making valuable contributions to the learning, suggesting ideas and asking questions. There is a new blossoming of confidence that has been very special to watch unfolding. Be proud, Hollie.



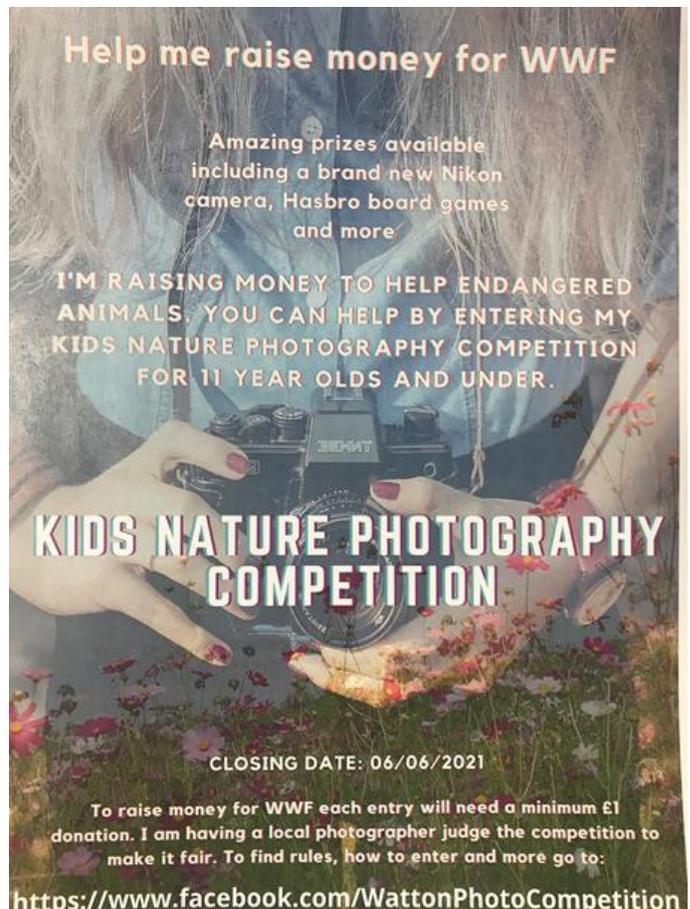
Royal Mail

HEROES STAMP DESIGN COMPETITION

Enter your school today to honour the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic.
Will one of your pupils see their hero on a stamp?

www.royalmail.com/stampcompetition
#HeroStamp

The poster features a rainbow arch at the top, a Royal Mail logo, and several small photographs of people, including a man in a suit and a woman in a mask, representing heroes of the coronavirus pandemic.



Help me raise money for WWF

Amazing prizes available including a brand new Nikon camera, Hasbro board games and more

I'M RAISING MONEY TO HELP ENDANGERED ANIMALS. YOU CAN HELP BY ENTERING MY KIDS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION FOR 11 YEAR OLDS AND UNDER.

KIDS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

CLOSING DATE: 06/06/2021

To raise money for WWF each entry will need a minimum £1 donation. I am having a local photographer judge the competition to make it fair. To find rules, how to enter and more go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/WattonPhotoCompetition>

The poster features a close-up of hands holding a camera, with a background of flowers and a butterfly.

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

Year 6 D.T project by Mr Bramley

Being an amateur photographer and volunteering in the school I was so keen to see the photography project we as a team had designed to be implemented in the spring of 2020 for the outgoing year 6. Then came Covid. We were hugely disappointed that we couldn't deliver for them. This photography project is designed to be of GCSE standard that year 6's can understand. We believe this to be a first in the UK. We think the results you can see here (taken by the children) prove the fact that they are capable of much more. By the end of the summer term, your child will be able to manually operate a high-end DSLR camera and deliver professional results. So if it's GCSE or DofE - it's a great start to their Key Stage 3.

Children taking the photos



And the developed photos look like this!!!



Forthcoming Events

Recently, the whole school took part in their class Pupil Parliament meeting where everyone in Years R - 6 were given the opportunity to make their contributions and have their say on several different topics. Since the meetings, we have looked at all of the responses and in our senior leadership meeting this week we discussed which suggestions made by the children could be realistically acted upon.

We asked the teachers to talk to their classes about Feel Good Friday afternoons. These Friday sessions were extremely popular amongst the children and staff upon our initial return to school in March, but unfortunately, due to time constraints of the curriculum, we were unable to continue with these afternoons after the Easter holiday on a weekly basis. However, the children had strong opinions about keeping Feel Good Friday's and so we have agreed that these afternoons will take place at the end of every half term. **Our next Feel Good Friday will be held on Friday 28th May** and the afternoons will have structured and planned activities which focus on supporting children's mental wellbeing.

In the Pupil Parliament meeting, the classes also discussed future fundraisers for the school. The children had some great ideas that we considered, including cake bakes, fun runs, non-uniform days, film nights and break the rules day. Again, these suggestions were all discussed in our senior leadership meeting and we agreed that another Break The Rules Day would be a fantastic fundraiser for the school following the success of this event in the autumn term. It was also the most COVID safe suggestion, given the current circumstances. However, unlike last time, we have decided that all classes will create their own Break The Rules with their classes so that the rules broken will be unique and individual to each year group. **This event is also being planned for Friday 28th May** and we will be sending out more details in the next couple of weeks.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the children for participating so enthusiastically in their class Pupil Parliament meetings and for all of their great ideas and suggestions.

Dates for your Diary

May

10th and 11th - please bring clothing bags to school ready and leave in the bike shed.

12th - Textiles AMD bag clothing collection

17th - Creative arts week

17th - Walk to School Week

18th - Individual guitar lessons to commence again on site face to face

21st - No Pens Day

28th - Feel Good Friday and Break the Rules Day

31st - 4th June - Half term

June

7th June - INSET DAY 4

July

2nd - Enterprise Day

6th - Sports Day

8th - Year 6 transfer day to secondary schools.

9th - Sports Day reserve

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