



Newsletter 14th May 2021

Big Question Fortnight

In assembly this week, I launched Big Question Fortnight which I linked to this month's school value of **High Aspirations**. I asked the children 'What is a good life?' as this is a question that has kept philosophers busy since the beginning of time. Whereas some children thought that to have a good life they would need to be rich in their future, other children said that they would rather be happy as this was a sign of a good life.

- If life was never hard, would that mean it was a good life?
- If you lived a life with little money but you helped people, would that be a good life?
- Is it more important to be rich or happy?

A Big Question makes you think; it makes you bring your previous experience and knowledge to the discussion. A Big Question may not have a unique, correct answer. A Big Question makes us look for evidence to support our ideas.

This term, the teachers have been busy writing Big Questions for all curriculum subjects and ensuring that questions are suitable for all year groups. Each fortnight, the teachers will choose 1 big question to discuss with their class in depth to allow the children to think at a deeper level so that they can explain their thoughts and ideas and learn from others opinions. In time, this will support the children as they develop a higher level of enquiry skills and ask more philosophical questions about the world around them. We are really excited to launch Big Question fortnight and look forward to sharing with you which questions are explored by which year groups.

Attendance

A child's good attendance at school has a direct link to both their academic and social achievements both now and in their future lives.

Children who do not attend regularly:

- Don't achieve well in exams or tests.
- Find it difficult to maintain friendships and positive relationships.
- Are more likely to get involved with crime
- Miss out on opportunities in further education and in the workplace

Here are a few tips to help us keep moving forward:

- Medical appointments, where possible, should be made at the end of the school day or in the holidays. We are aware that circumstances do not always allow for this, but there is an expectation that children should attend school before/after the appointment.
- Do not keep your child off school for minor illnesses e.g. cold related symptoms. If your child is deemed to be too poorly to remain in school you will be contacted to take your child home.
- Help your child to understand the benefits of regular school attendance.

Class Attendance this week

	This week's attendance %
Donaldson class (R)	97.3%
Darlings Class (1)	100%
Jemison Class (2)	94.3%
Da Vinci Class (3)	98.8%
Rosen class (4)	93.7%
Wonders Class (5)	100%
Beckhams Class (5)	96%
Attenborough Class (6)	100%

Congratulations to Darlings, Wonders and Attenborough for 100% attendance. Overall attendance for the whole school year is 97.6%.

Bedtime routines

Lack of sleep for a significant number of our pupils is having a serious impact on their ability to concentrate, focus and ultimately learn. Please support your child by instilling a healthy bedtime routine. The school strongly promotes the value and pleasure of reading with your child every night. Please consider restricting screen time from an hour before bedtime, including phones.



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, Lily H and Grace F for their incredible Jack and the Beanstalk stories.

They had amazing confidence, story language and expression and performance skills.

In Year 1, Liam wrote all about his zookeeper experience and talked about this role as an aspiration for his future career.

In Year 3, Lewis chose to do some additional maths instead of an activity of his own choice and really worked hard to achieve his potential.

In Year 4, Isabella and Blake showed their skills of empathy and excellence as they wrote a wonderful memory poem.

House Points

This weeks house points

Red House - 508

Blue House - 576

Green House - 533

Yellow House - 468

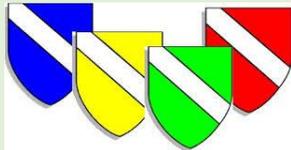
Total house points achieved so far:

Blue House - 3,483

Green House - 3,465

Yellow House - 3,459

Red House - 3,294



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.



Next week is Walk To School Week

This year's challenge will focus on the walking superpowers that benefit individuals, communities and the planet.

Each day pupils will be introduced to a brand new 'Walking Superpower' taking the form of a fun **comic-book inspired design**.

Walking has so many benefits from physical to mental wellbeing; aiding concentration and creativity and creating safer, less polluted and more welcoming streets. All that makes for a happy, healthy child set up for success in and out of the classroom.

Each child will be challenged to **travel sustainably (walk, scoot, cycle or Park and Stride) to school every day for one week** using the class interactive wallchart and stickers to log their journeys.

Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week. Each day you will record the number of active journeys made on the classroom wallchart and learn about a new walking superpower. **Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards will complement this activity**, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.

WE'RE TAKING PART IN
Walk to School Week, 17-21 May.

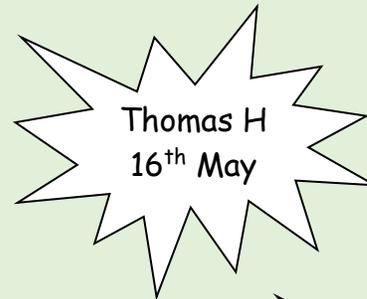
Top Tips to support parents mental health

Being a parent is wonderful. There's no doubt, parenthood brings joy and fulfilment into our lives, but it also brings its own set of challenges and stressors that we have to manage. Unlike any other job there is no rule book, no job description, we just have to grow and develop our own set of strategies to cope with what parenthood throws at us, the good and the not so good. One thing is certain though, if we take positive action to promote our children's mental health and wellbeing, this in turn will reduce our stressors and help maintain our wellbeing. So, if you haven't already watched our tips here's the [link to get some great advice](#).



Birthday celebrations

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



Watton's Got Talent

It is always so lovely to hear about the activities and clubs that the children attend outside of school and when we had whole school assemblies together in the hall (before COVID), we would always celebrate children's successes and achievements. Unfortunately, not many clubs outside of school are currently running, however we do look forward to hearing that these are up and running again soon.

In assembly today, we celebrated the achievements of Eve (Year 2) and William (Year 4) who have not only helped to write their own song but also perform it too. They have recorded their songs in a studio and have them uploaded to You Tube. To listen to their original performance please go the following link

<https://youtu.be/NjbBU2Pmieo>

I look forward to celebrating other children's talents and successes in future assemblies and newsletters.

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>

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>Isaac I - he has been a star this week. He has overcome a personal challenge this week, making us and himself so proud. Well done Isaac.</p> <p>Rafaela C - she is new to preschool but we are so pleased and proud of her and how she has settled in. Well done Rafaela.</p>
Nur	<p>David - for his ingenious car creation using the tyres and crates outside. He rolled four tyres across the garden and then added the crates to make his car. Great concentration David!</p> <p>Mila - for using her initiative at tidy up time. She collected up all the coats from outside and brought them inside from the rain. She even hung them up on each child's peg. Great job Mila!</p>
Rec	<p>Mayci T - for demonstrating a love of learning within everything we do. She is so keen to do what is asked of her and to consolidate her learning within our CIL time. She shows pride in the learning and is a role model to others.</p> <p>Millie B- has impressed us this week with her love of learning and really starting to take risks with her learning - she is having a go at writing independently, constantly.</p> <p>Connor P- he has been on fire this week. He writes a sentence, walks away and then suddenly reappears wanting to write more. He is writing at every opportunity! He is also being an outstanding role model in class, making the right choices and offering to help when he sees the need</p>
Year 1	Emilia, Edward and Edie for being outstanding role models and coaching other pupils.
Year 2	<p>Felicity - for being a good role model. She always makes the right choices and is usually the first one ready for learning</p> <p>Dexter - for trying his best to develop his listening skills in the classroom</p>
Year 3	<p>Neave - she has received a Great to be Gold this week for her impeccable behaviour outside the classroom, always paying attention to the adults and having a fantastic attitude to her learning. Keep up the great work Neave.</p> <p>Alfie M. - he has really changed recently. He has developed an amazing attitude to his learning and always listens to adults. Keep up the amazing work Alfie.</p>
Year 4	<p>Anya - everyday could be a great to be gold day for Anya. Excellent love of learning, focus and attitude.</p> <p>Blake - works hard to push himself to always create the very best work of an exemplary standard.</p>
Year 5W	<p>Charlie P - for being an outstanding role model and for being exceptionally well mannered.</p> <p>Charlie MH - for constantly making the right choices and for being exceptionally well mannered.</p>
Year 5B	<p>Corinne W- For excellent contributions in our first 'BIG question' discussion, really thought provoking a general love for learning in music.</p> <p>Libby H- always works to the best of her ability, asking for help and challenging herself. A good role model too</p>

Year
6

Henry C - he participates enthusiastically in discussions and contributes significantly to the learning in class. He poses questions to refine and expand his thinking, makes connections between ideas and responds thoughtfully to other opinions. Many times, I have been impressed with the depth of his concern for environmental and humanitarian issues.

Isla C - she feels strongly about equality, justice and ecological issues and she is concerned to make a difference. Her strength of purpose is admirable along with her desire to support others to make achievement possible. She consistently seeks to understand and while she holds strong convictions, she is willing to listen to other points of view.

Year 6 Photography Project

This week, the Year 6 children have continued to develop their creative photography skills and produced some amazing photographs. The children had very limited guidance and had sole ownership of the cameras. It is wonderful to see how much they are enjoying this project and watching their confidence and photography skills develop.



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

May

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