



## Newsletter 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Remote Learning Questionnaire

Dear Parents and Carers,

If you saw my newsletter last week, you would be aware that following on from the remote learning questionnaires that many of you completed, we had already made a few changes to the remote learning by last Friday. This included a wellbeing 'Fun Friday' afternoon to take place weekly, increased Zoom sessions for Reception children and some 1:1 and small group interventions starting to be rolled out across the school.

Over the weekend, I personally read the responses to every questionnaire so that I was fully aware of what parents and carers were saying. On Monday evening, I then hosted our first Parent Forum meeting where I had at least 1 representative from most year groups across the school. We focused our discussions again on remote learning so that I could ensure that as a school we are hearing your thoughts and ideas too.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for all of your positive comments and thanks to the staff for the amazing job that they are currently doing to support your children with their remote learning. There was a huge positive response about the live lessons that we are providing daily as well as lots of other positive comments about the pre recorded lessons, the weekly timetable, communication generally to support you, teachers providing work to meet the learning needs of all the children, providing additional support if required, resources provided including powerpoints and there being a good balance of online and offline work to do. We really appreciated reading all of these comments.

You also made some suggestions about what the school could do further to support you with the remote learning. I am sure that you will understand and appreciate that everyone's situation currently at home is different. We have some parents who are both working full time from home and juggling remote learning with one or more children, we have parents not working but with children in more than one year group and other parents who aren't working and have more time available to dedicate to the remote learning. Therefore, I am aware that whatever changes we make, they may not be enough to completely remove the stresses and concerns around remote learning.

However, as I have said previously in letters and newsletters, I know that no matter what your home and work situation currently is, that you will do your very best to support your child with their remote learning as best as you can. Please don't punish yourselves for not being able to spend 3 or 4 hours a day supporting each of your children. Please don't feel you have to give up your evenings and weekends to ensure their work is completed. We know that we have high expectations and we've set a lot of work each week. All we can do is that you do your best. You are surviving a pandemic and we think that you are doing a great job.

We know that the children are safe, loved and cared for and that is the most important thing at the moment.

We have however made a few changes to make the remote learning because of the remote learning parental feedback. We hope that this will make it more streamlined, accessible and organised for parents and carers. From next week:

- The planning (on the class website) will be organised into daily folders so that it should be quicker for you to find the planning and resources needed. Some teachers may choose to upload resources day by day into the daily folders and others may upload more than one day at a time. Resources for each day will be uploaded by 4pm the previous day as many teachers are in class teaching all day.
- Teachers will stay on the live zoom sessions at the end of the lesson to support those children who require further support or who wish to ask further questions.
- The teachers will ensure that the hyperlinks for the Zoom live lessons are the same for every live lesson.
- The timetables will all be exactly in line with all other year groups e.g. breaktime 10.30-10.45 and lunchtime 12pm - 1pm. We have also decided to timetable an afternoon break from 2.15 - 2.35pm to give all children some down time/opportunity for some physical exercise to support their wellbeing and mental health.
- If you are struggling due to lack of devices, then please contact us and we will try our best to help you. We have some school laptops prepared and ready to loan out.

### Staff Lateral Flow Testing Kits

This week we received, from the Government, our delivery of testing kits for school staff. In line with the requirements, we have been busy training all of the staff on how to use a lateral flow test. Staff have now started the process of testing themselves twice a week. These tests are to pick up asymptomatic cases as it has been widely documented that 1 in 3 people with the virus actually have no symptoms and so therefore are spreading the virus unknowingly. A positive lateral flow result for a teacher or support staff in class would mean a bubble in school is closed while that staff member goes for a PCR test to confirm the result. If the member of staff subsequently tests negative following a PCR test, we will then be able to reopen the bubble again. However, if the PCR test confirms a positive test result, then the bubble will remain closed for 10 days. We are aware that in some of the secondary schools which have been doing this for a few weeks this can cause disruption to bubbles in school. Please be aware, if we have to close a bubble you will be notified as quickly as we can. Staff have been asked to test themselves at home on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. If we need to close bubbles because of a positive test, then we will text you on either Wednesday or Sunday evening so that you have time to make arrangements for yourselves for the following day.

## Stars of the Week

We know how hard the children are working both in school and at home during the lockdown and we have been really pleased with the work that is being returned to teachers. Every week, the teachers will choose 2 children from every class who have just amazed them with their participation, engagement and fantastic work. Teachers will be sending out Star of the week certificates and badges via our Marvellous Me and Tapestry platforms.

	Stars of the week	
Pre School	Ezra M - has been a star home learner, sending in some lovely things for me to see on Tapestry, He has been practicing his numbers, looking at feelings and making a lion mask. Keep up the good work Ezra.	Milly D - has been a star in school this week she approaches everything with a can-do attitude, there isn't anything that she won't try. She has also been involved in some lovely learning as well. Great work Milly.
Nursery	Eric- for his dedication and commitment to his live lesson input and his home learning activities. He has taken part fully in everything.	Francis- for consistency and perseverance in everything she does. She constantly keeps on trying her very best at all times
Reception	Izzy G - for producing some wonderful phonics learning and for reading to her Granddad on Zoom!	Sam C - for his inventive, multi-sensory learning styles - particularly the pizza spinning!
Year 1	Martha E for tackling both maths and English challenges with great positivity and resilience.	Sam A for completing all of the home learning tasks with an outstanding effort.
Year 2	Monty K - for engaging well and asking questions about his learning in the live lessons.	Eve W - she always works to the best of her ability. Her presentation of work handed in has been stunning.
Year 3	Archie P - for his consistent effort in his English lessons in school	Esmae T - for her excellent contributions to live lessons across all subjects.
Year 4	Ronnie H - Ronnie has shown great resilience during our zoom lessons by answering challenging questions and giving ideas. He is returning some impressive maths worksheets.	Poppy S - Poppy has been an asset both in class and on our zoom meetings from home. She has shown great resilience when finding things challenging and her work on the Goblins was fantastic.
Year 5W	Lily A- contributing to live lessons answering all questions if asked.	James P - working hard and showing enthusiasm with all his learning in the bubble.
Year 5B	Charlie P - for engaging in zoom lessons and producing work that is to the best of his ability at home. He has also shown perseverance in his maths work this week	Gracie M - for actively participating in her lessons with the Year 5 bubble. She puts her hand up and shows confidence when offering ideas to the group.
Year 6	Amy R - for engaging with such a great level of interest and enthusiasm in all lessons; she has been completing every piece of work to an incredibly high standard and I am very proud of her achievements.	Tegan S - for the dedication she has shown in completing all her work to such a high standard. I know she has been incredibly focused and I have been impressed with her commitment to her learning.

### Children engagement

We are so proud of how many children are engaging with their remote learning during this lockdown. For the next few weeks we are going to celebrate the classes who have the highest % of children returning work to their class teacher to be marked (either by email, Purple Mash, Tapestry or leaving work in the drop off box). We know the children will be keen for their feedback and teachers have been asked to provide children with feedback on 1 literacy and 1 maths task per week. It will not be possible to give feedback on all the work that they send in to their teacher.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Wonders class
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Darlings class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Da Vinci class
- 4<sup>th</sup> place - Thompson class
- 5<sup>th</sup> place - Donaldson class

### Mental Health Assembly

Children's Mental Health Week runs next month from 1st-7th February, and this year it's even more essential than ever to make sure pupils are supported with the disruption, uncertainty and isolation that many of them have faced recently. On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 9am, Oak Academy will be hosting a live assembly all about supporting the children's mental health. Teachers in KS1 and KS2 will be joining this live session with their classes on Monday morning as their live lesson.

<https://www.thenational.academy/blog/join-our-assembly-for-childrens-mental-health-week-2021>

### February Half Term Holiday

Whereas we want to support and help our keyworker parents and carers in any way that we can, we have taken the difficult decision to not open during the half term holiday. During this lockdown, we have opened many more bubbles compared to the lockdown in the summer term and the teachers and support staff are all in school running the bubbles on many more days each week. They are also spending many of their evenings and weekends working to provide high quality remote learning and the half term holiday will be a much needed rest following an incredibly busy half term. Thank you for your understanding.

### Parent Forum

This Monday, I met virtually with the class parent reps for our first parent forum meeting. Due to the current situation, we focused most of our discussions on the children's current remote education and all the parent reps had a chance to share their personal views and thoughts as well as those of other parents in the class they represent. We had a productive and open discussion which led to some further changes being implemented. The next meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and the agenda will be sent out to reps the week before.

### Feel Good Friday

Excitement, happiness and joy is filling the air today as we enjoy our first 'Feel Good Friday'. We hope our children at home all enjoyed their first wellbeing afternoon today.

The wellbeing of all the children is of paramount importance to us as is the wellbeing of our whole community. Staff will plan/prepare a range of wellbeing activities for your child to do on Friday afternoons. We hope that this provides the parents and carers with a less stressful end to your week and also give you and your children some much needed rest for your wellbeing. For working parents, hopefully the afternoon will provide you with some time to catch up on what you are required to do.

### Zoom Etiquette

After 3 weeks, the children are getting more used to the zoom etiquette but please go through these reminders with them before next Monday:

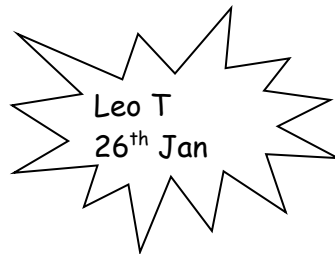
- 1) Know when and how to mute.
- 2) Find a quiet area of the house
- 3) Be on time
- 4) Know how to 'raise your hand'
- 5) Be respectable
- 6) Be presentable
- 7) Avoid using fun backgrounds
- 8) Avoid using the chat bar when the teacher is talking
- 9) No eating during the lesson
- 10) Come to the lesson with all the resources you need

### Support for children with SEND during lockdown

Hi, I am Niki Wilson, SEND link governor and also a parent of a ten-year-old boy with ASD and ADHD. Having read your responses to the remote questionnaire, I can see that some of you are finding things very stressful. I have been through this myself and have often felt at breaking point. I belong to a number of support groups and have found that just talking to someone else who is going through the same thing can really help. Please feel free to email at: [nwilson@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nwilson@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk).

### Lockdown birthdays

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



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

### **February**

9<sup>th</sup> - Internet safety day

10<sup>th</sup> - No Pens Day

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Half term

### **March**

2<sup>nd</sup> March - Parent Forum Meeting (2)

4<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day

8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> - Science week

12<sup>th</sup> - Comic relief/sports relief

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Week

16<sup>th</sup> - Parent consultations 4pm - 7pm

17<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultations 3.45 - 5.45pm

22<sup>nd</sup> - No Pens Day

26<sup>th</sup> - Last day of spring term

### **April**

12<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 3

13<sup>th</sup> - Children return to school

23<sup>rd</sup> - St. George's day

### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Geography fieldwork week

21<sup>st</sup> - No Pens Day

31<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June - Half term

### **June**

7<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 4

10<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day

17<sup>th</sup> - Reserve sports Day

30<sup>th</sup> - Book fair arrives for 1 week

### **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Enterprise Day

5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Week

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

12<sup>th</sup> - No Pens Day

14<sup>th</sup> - End of Year reports to parents/carers

21<sup>st</sup> - Last day of summer term

22<sup>nd</sup> - INSET Day