



Newsletter 16th February 2024

To our families and friends,

As we come to the end of the first half of the spring term, I wanted to reflect on all of the amazing events that have taken place. It certainly has been a very busy and exciting time in school.

January was off to a great start with a brand new School Vision which was written following several months of work and consulting with the whole school community. We are now working on designing the artwork for our school vision displays to be placed around the school.

Despite the inclement weather, the children all started off the year by enjoying a Caribbean-themed International Week. Each class focused on a different Caribbean island, learning about local foods, flags and all about their culture. The children had a performance from a real live steel band in our assembly. Children in Years 1 - 6 also had the opportunity to play the steel pans and create some simple tunes and rhythms.

Year 4 went to Wodson Park for a P.E. Developmental Day where they learned Bollywood dancing, indoor bowls and Boccia (a Paralympic sport similar to indoor bowls).

At the end of January, we organised for the children to have an amazing day of science when we arranged for a company called Fab Science to come into school. Those in Years 3-6 were able to take part in a hands-on "Potty Potions" science workshop, while those in Years 1-2 enjoyed a science assembly workshop.

Year 5 went on their class trip to the British Museum in Hitchin where they took part in reading, writing and arithmetic lessons in an authentic classroom setting - with a very strict teacher from the museum. They also enjoyed a drill/PE session in the yard.

Year 6 and some children in Year 5 went to Wodson Park for a Sportshall competition against other local schools. We were thrilled that our boys' team came first overall and our girls' team came third overall. All of the children returned to school with their medals and were extremely proud of their achievements.

To round off this half term, the children took part in this year's Safer Internet Day and all classes had an age-appropriate lesson with their teacher to help them to learn to enjoy navigating the online world safely.

The final workshop of this half term was for Year 2 who welcomed the Bubble Theatre Company for a Great Fire of London workshop on Tuesday this week for their fantastic finish to their topic. The children were able to sing songs, play games and act out the story of events from 1666. They played the parts of significant characters such as King Charles II, Sir Christopher Wren, Samuel Pepys and Thomas Farrier.

It was wonderful to see so many parents come into school this week to meet up with the class teachers and look through your children's books. I hope that you are feeling well informed about your child's progress and attainment at this point in the year.

Today we finished the half term with 'No pens day'. Children got to put down their pencils and pens and engage in lots of other learning styles and activities across the curriculum. This is always a very popular day with the children. This day is also a great opportunity to build in lots of speaking and listening activities such as

Coming up in the next half term

- * Skip to Be Fit Challenge
- * Year 2 and 4 class assemblies
- * World Book Day
- * Sponsored Bounce

Internet Safety

This is an informative FREE online event where we'll be discussing the crucial topic of protecting children from county lines exploitation. This event aims to raise awareness, share insights, and explore strategies to tackle this growing issue. Our expert will delve into the signs to look out for, the impact on young lives, and the collaborative efforts needed to safeguard vulnerable children. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, ask questions, and connect with others passionate about child protection.

A quick background on County Lines...

County lines refers to the practice of criminal gangs from urban areas exploiting vulnerable children and young people to transport and sell drugs in rural or coastal areas. This puts these children at risk of being drawn into a dangerous and criminal lifestyle.

Children involved in county lines may face violence and abuse from both gang members and rival groups, even when not part of any gangs themselves (outside of being exploited). This can have a severe impact on their physical and mental well-being, often leading to truancy and disengagement from education, as children are coerced into prioritising drug activities over their studies. This can have long-term consequences for their future prospects.

It is crucial to raise awareness about the risks associated with county lines and to provide support and intervention for children who may be vulnerable to exploitation...

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/county-lines-protecting-children-tickets-818395281317?aff=oddtcreator>

Class Assemblies After Half Term

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and families of Year 2 children to their class assembly in the first week back after half term (Thursday 29th February) and then welcoming Year 4 parents and families to the Year 4 assembly on 21st March.

Both of these assemblies will start at 9am and last for approximately 20 minutes.

The children will be showcasing what they have been learning in school this half term.

The assemblies will be taking place in the hall, so please enter the school through the wooden gates in the staff car park.

Children's Mental Health and wellbeing Team

What do our Wellbeing Team do?

The job of the wellbeing team is to support pupils on an individual and small group basis to help them address any barriers to learning. Their role is also to help pupils raise their own aspirations and support them in achieving their full potential.

Maybe your little one is just feeling uncharacteristically sad at the moment, or there has been a big change in your family circumstances and this is affecting him/her. For whatever reason you feel your child is not coping well in school [emotionally, socially or academically] please speak with your child's class teacher and the Wellbeing Team will do their best to either support you directly or point you in the right direction.

Skip To Be Fit Competition

We are looking forward to launching our Skip To Be Fit Competition in the next half term. When the children return to school after their half term holiday, they will be practicing their skipping skills as quick active breaks between lessons and as part of their P.E lessons. The ultimate challenge will be to see how many skips they can do in 1 minute. If your child has a skipping rope at home, then perhaps they could get some extra practice in during the half term holiday!!!

Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Louis G - Louis has been very engaged in his learning this week. His confidence has grown, and this has become very apparent when he has been sharing his thoughts and ideas with grown ups, and his peers during his play. Keep it up Louis, we are very proud of you!</p> <p>Soren - Has shown more confidence within the setting, and interacting with others. He has been more outgoing and is beginning to show us more of his personality. Well done Soren, we are very proud of you.</p>	<p>Victoria - Victoria has grown in confidence this week, branching off on her own to explore the environment, and has shown an interest in her peers play, beginning to join in too. Well done Victoria we are very proud of you!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Tallulah - for trying hard when playing a maths game, she joined in well and took turns brilliantly.</p>	<p>Eoin - for always trying hard to be a good role model, he make the right choices and sets a good example.</p> <p>Lilli - always tries hard and is a good role model to all of her peers. Well done Lilli.</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Tyler - for having a positive attitude towards his learning and working to the best of his ability.</p>	<p>Vittori - for showing good focus and listening during Phonics lessons and working to the best of her ability.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Eoin - for making the right choices and working hard on his listening skills this week.</p> <p>Eliza - For always being a good friend to others and inviting children to join in her games.</p>	<p>Jordan - for working hard on his phonics target and working to the best of his ability.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Peter - for being an outstanding role model.</p> <p>Blanche - for paying attention to all of the adults.</p>	<p>Shiva - for showing impeccable behaviour at all times.</p> <p>Aiden - for showing a love of learning in everything he does.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Bella - making the right choices and paying attention to the adults.</p>	<p>Henry - always shows kindness and courtesy to everyone.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Eliza - for working to the best of her ability and her love of learning.</p> <p>Sam A - for following the school rules and working to the best of his ability.</p>	<p>Erin - for always following the school rules and being well mannered.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Charlie - working to the best of my ability - determination in our fraction lessons.</p>	<p>Isabelle - outstanding role model to others - fabulous work in all lessons this term.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Alfie C - for a love of learning and persevering with his learning</p> <p>Annabelle - for making the right choices and always working to the best of her ability</p>	<p>Callum - for making the right choices this week.</p>

Headteacher's Awards



Each week, staff are constantly looking for children in the school who are showing awareness of one or more than one of our school learning values. These values will help children to become better learners as well as developing their relationships with others around them. Children are recognised for their achievements with being awarded Headteacher's Awards.

Reception:

Olivia - for choosing to write a sentence during child-initiated learning and doing a brilliant job at using her phonics to help her to spell.

Lila - for showing empathy and kindness to others.

Year 1:

Matilda for taking pride in her handwriting and making fantastic progress

George - for being more resilient and having a go at things he finds more challenging

Year 2:

Eric T- for showing creativity with his poetry.

Hadley N- for taking pride in his handwriting.

Year 3:

Eleanor - having pride in her presentation and showing resilience with her handwriting.

Alessia - having high aspirations with her writing.

Year 4:

Bobby - for good letter formation and neat presentation.

Martha - for having high aspirations in our PE lesson, especially when practising skills in Rapid Fire Cricket this week.

Year 5:

Christian - for being resilient. He demonstrated fabulous skills and determination in working to achieve the monkey bar task in PE.

Carmelita - for having high aspirations. She has completed many extra high standard projects at home and for aiming high in her swimming lessons.

Year 6:

Elliot and Cornelius - for their fabulous poems with good use of imagery. They demonstrated creativity and had high aspirations for themselves.

Bertie - for trying so hard with his handwriting and having pride in his achievements.

This Weeks attendance %

Dixon (R)	96.7%
Bay Class(1)	98.4%
Pendleton Class (2)	96.6%
Ezra Class (3)	100%
Shepherd Class (4)	98.5%
Grint Class (5)	94.1%
Straker Class (6)	93%

Whole School Attendance this week 96.78%
Whole School Attendance this term 97.49%
Well done to Ezra for 100% attendance.



Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Lillian F - 11th February
Gracie D - 12th February
Jolene E - 12th February
Maia I - 14th February

House Points

This week

First place - Green House - 472
Second place - Blue House - 438
Third place - Red House - 436
Fourth place - Yellow House - 435

House Point Winners Spring 1

This half term, the Red House were the house point winners. The house captain and vice house captain decided to opt for a non-uniform day for all the children in red house to celebrate their success. They even asked if they could wear a red item of clothing to show how proud everyone is of their team winning. In the afternoon, they were treated to some extra playtime and then had drinks and biscuits before the end of the school day. Well done red team, you have worked so hard for this achievement.

Autism Support

Following the Autism in Schools project, there is now a webinar on Wednesday 13th March 10am-12.30pm.

There will be presenters from Herts County Council, the NHS, Hertfordshire Local Offer, ISL and many charities joining us. It will be a valuable source of information for parents or carers.

Herts Parent Carer Involvement
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Find out about the 'Autism in Schools' (AIS) project

Click here to register

Hear what our guest speakers can offer you!

HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

Wednesday 13th March 2024 - 10.00am-12.30pm

Friends of Watton update

Happy Friday, Everyone ([Links will be underlined](#))

The FOW are inviting you to participate in their **Leap Year Vault** project. The idea is to write a letter to your future self, imagining what you think will happen to you or the world around you in 2028. For instance, you could **speculate** on who will be the Prime Minister or what will happen in our Village of Watton at Stone. Or, you could tell us something about yourself right now and what you want to do in the **future**. You could include a newspaper clipping, write about it, or even **draw a picture**. The world is your oyster. **Violet and Ned's Grandpa** has made the school the most amazing **Vault**, which has been displayed in the school hall.



To enter, please go onto Classlist [HERE](#). There is **£1 fee per entry**, and your family is also welcome to participate; we are also hoping **Mrs Etienne and the staff** might consider entering a piece. The Vault will be opened **on February 29th** and will be placed in the hall, it will be locked on 28th March (which is the last day of the spring term). In **2028**, the Vault will be reopened again, allowing you to see how accurate your predictions were or to reminisce on what you were doing in 2024. We will announce a date to open the Vault on social media so that Alumni students can be notified.

Tickets are still available for the **Leap Year Disco** on Thursday, **February 29th**. Please purchase your tickets on **Classlist**. This time, the DJ has promised to play the music at a more comfortable volume. You can buy your tickets by clicking on the following link: [HERE](#). We need 5 more volunteers to run this event successfully. Please take a look at our volunteering sheet [HERE](#) and let us know if you can help. 30 min volunteering slots available.

Wishing you a wonderful Half Term Break

[FOW](#)

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

valentine's Day Lunch Treats



Our amazing kitchen team made some gorgeous desserts this week to celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday. They also treated the children who have school dinners to mini pancakes on Shrove Tuesday too. Thank you very much. They were delicious!

THEOLLIEFOUNDATION.ORG

Do you like drawing?

Want to try something new this half term?

Join us for **Zentangle**
a FREE 90-minute mindful drawing session where participants can enjoy creating a unique and beautiful piece of art.

Fri / 23 / Feb
4.30pm to 6pm

No artistic ability needed!
You only need a scrap of paper and pencil and can join from your phone!

Online via Zoom FREE

To book visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/818208793437?aff=oddtotcreator>

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Dates for your diary

Diary dates in red – new dates added this week

February

19th - 23rd - Half Term

29th - FOW disco 3.20pm - 4.45pm

March

4th - Saltmine Theatre Company performance

7th - World Book Day

8th - FOW Mother's and Others stall

26th - Sponsored Bounce

27th - Parent Forum Meeting 6pm

28th - End of Term 2.15pm

11th - 15th - Assessment week

April

15th - INSET Day

16th - Children return

16th - 19th - Pupil Progress Meetings

May

7th - Reception class screening checks

13th - 16th - Key Stage 2 SATS

20th - 24th - Mental Health Week

27th - 31st - Half Term

June

3rd - Inset Day

4th - Children return

3rd - 14th - Year 4 Multiplication Table Check

10th - 14th - Fitness Week

11th - Sports Day 1

12th - 14th - Year 4 Hudnall Park

17th - 21st June - Year 6 PGL residential (Caythorpe)

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Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

25th - Reserved Sports Day
10th - 14th - Phonic Screening
28th - Watton's Got Talent Show

July

1st - 5th July - Assessment week
16th July - Year 5/6 Production 6pm
17th July - Reports out to Parents
18th July - Year 5/6 Production 2pm
23rd - Year 6 leavers assembly
23rd July - End of Term 2.15pm