



Newsletter 15th March 2024

To our families and friends,

Many of you would have noticed that following a storm or long period of rain, that parts of the school grounds become flooded which results in us having to ask parents to enter the school grounds via the staff car park instead of the main school. This is an ongoing problem that is caused by the large volume of rainwater running off the higher HCC land behind the school. The school drains have been cleared but the drainage just is not sufficient to cope with the excess water. The flow of water eventually stops at the school gate but this also floods the alleyway and some the neighbour's gardens. This situation is happening more and more frequently and as a result, I have been in contact with HCC on behalf of the school and the residents to ask them to help solve this issue. We have arranged for a concerned residents meeting to be held at school on 24th April at 6pm which we will hopefully have a productive conversation and agree a plan to resolve this issue.

This week, we have had two very exciting events taking place in school. On Wednesday, we welcomed iRock into school to lead a rock and pop assembly. This was a fabulous assembly where children listened to some familiar pop songs and four lucky children were chosen to create a band and play the chorus to 'We Will Rock You' by Queen. You will have received a flier and an email if your child is keen to join a band during the school day. Today, we have helped to raise money for Comic Relief. A huge thank you for your generous contributions today. We are thrilled that we can help this charity and send them £206!! Please see the photo gallery at the end of this newsletter.

In March 2022, the Schools White Paper announced that by September 2023, all schools would have to ensure that they were delivering a school week of 32.5 hours to all children. This deadline has now been extended to September 2024. As a school, we have decided to move to a weekly timetable of 32.5 hours from the first day of the summer term (16th April). This will only increase the school day by 5 minutes and the school finishing time will be 3.20pm and not 3.15pm.

Sponsored Bounce

Last week, we wrote to parents to let you know that on Tuesday 26th March, all the children in the school will have an opportunity to take part in our sponsored bounce fundraiser.

Throughout the day, teachers have an allocated time to take their class to the bouncy castle in the hall. In small groups (no more than 5 children at a time), children will have an opportunity to play on the bouncy castle as well as see how many bounces they are able to do in 1 minute.

In order to organise this safely and in the allocated time slots, we are hoping that some parents/grandparents will be able to volunteer some of their time to help come into school and help with counting the children's bounces.

The timetable for the day is as follows

9am - 9.30am - Year 3

9.30am - 10.30am - Pre School

10.30am - 11am - Nursery

11am - 11.45am - Reception

11.45-12.15pm - Year 4

1pm - 1.30pm - Year 2

1.30pm - 2pm - Year 1

2pm - 2.30pm - Year 5

2.30pm - 3pm - Year 6

Please contact the admin office if you are able to volunteer some of your time to help with one or more than one of the class bounce sessions. Many thanks in advance as these events just would not be possible without your help.

Governor Update

On Thursday afternoon the full Governing Body met for a termly meeting. We were provided with updates by Mrs Etienne on matters such as the progress on the priorities in the School Development Plan, safeguarding and how we are spending the sports premium funding we receive. Governors were able to question Mrs Etienne, and questions were asked on topics such as attendance, the assessment of spelling, progress in writing and staff wellbeing.

Today the Standards Committee met and were given an overview of the Teacher Assessment Framework for writing and an update on phonics assessments for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We also reviewed how the School is seeking to improve children's presentation skills and saw some great evidence in the children's books of improvements in handwriting.

PE Tops

The new P.E tops will be available to purchase from Kidz Connections in Hertford during the Easter holiday.

If you have not had a chance to look at these P.E tops for yourself yet, then please do pop into the admin reception area where we have one displayed for you to see.

These tops are optional for the children to wear in the summer term but will become a compulsory element of the P.E kit from September 2024. These are made from a dry fit material instead of cotton and will therefore dry extremely quickly once washed. You may find that one of these P.E tops will be sufficient, even if you do a mid-week wash.

The admin office do have a supply of our current t shirts which can be purchased for £3 and worn until the end of the year.

Friends of Watton Update

Hello from the **FOW Committee** (**ALL LINKS ARE UNDERLINED**)

Thank you to all the children who attended our **DISCO** event on Thursday, February 29th. The event raised a brilliant **£911.45**. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

We hope everyone had a wonderful **Mothers and Others Day**. On Friday, March 8th, the children and staff were busy shopping for that someone special in their lives and bought some lovely gifts. We want to express our **thanks** to all the volunteers who made this event possible. On Saturday, March 9th, a mini stall was set up at The Bull. It was great to see some of **The Alumni Kids** pop in, and we would like to give a big thank you to the working mothers who gave up their time to make this event possible. We want to give an extra special thank you to **Edie Mehmet**, who boosted our sales and put a big smile on everyone's face! These two events made **£877.00**

We are excited to announce that our annual Easter Egg event has been upgraded to an **Easter Fair** and will now encompass the entire village and the wider community. The fair will occur on **Good Friday, March 29th, from 12-4** at The **Nigel Poulton Community Hall**. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Woodhall Estate** for donating **£100** towards this event. Our event will feature outsourced stallholders, crafts, face painting, food, and more. Additionally, we are organizing an **Easter Egg Hunt** with a chocolate egg as a reward. This activity is priced at £5, and we strongly recommend booking in advance to avoid disappointment. You can book your spot by clicking on the following link: **CLICK HERE**. Finally, please note the Leap Year Vault will be locked at the end of the fair, which will be your last opportunity to enter, to enter **CLICK HERE**. This event will not be able to take place without volunteer help; slots of 30+ mins for helping are available; please **CLICK HERE** if you can volunteer.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend

FOW (Click here to email us)

Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Nora - Nora has been a happy, kind and helpful friend this week. If she has seen a friend struggling with something she has helped them without being asked to! What a kind friend you have been, we are very proud of you!</p> <p>Lily - Lily has been really helpful and kind, helping her friends reach their coats and sharing beautifully! What a lovely friend you are! We are very proud of you!</p>	<p>Freddie - Freddie has been trying really hard this week, showing his super listening ears and making all the right choices! Well done Freddie, we are very proud of you!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Eva - has been following instructions well this week in PE, she listened carefully and was able to do everything without help. She has also been working well with her peers.</p>	<p>Benji - has been trying hard this week joining in and trying his best. He has also been growing in confidence with talking to his peers and grown ups.</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Mia - for showing a love of learning in all areas and especially in Maths.</p> <p>Hattie - for showing a love of learning and being really engaged and focused during Phonics this week.</p>	<p>Zachary - for always working to the best of his ability and doing a brilliant job with his reading this week.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Jolene and Matilda - for always being so polite by greeting adults nicely and saying please and thank you.</p>	<p>Lillian and Eliza - for being respectful and paying attention to the adults.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Amelia - for working to the best of her ability.</p>	<p>Jess - for being an outstanding role model. Peter - for having a love of learning.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Logan - for showing a love for learning both in school and at home. Mayci - for working to the best of her ability whilst learning about fractions in maths.</p>	<p>Connor - for working to the best of his ability whilst writing an explanation text in English.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Dylan - for following the school rules. Penny - for always working to the best of her ability and being a great role model.</p>	<p>Sam B - following the school rules and paying attention to all adults.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Billy - love of learning in all areas - also has interesting points to share.</p>	<p>Rose - always following the rules and being a great class member.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Bertie - for paying attention in the Easter Journey lesson and showing a love of learning with his contributions and questions.</p>	<p>Caitlin - for being a good role model and sharing her love of learning with a child who has been absent. Theo - for making good 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:

India - for choosing to apply her phonics to her writing during child-initiated learning and writing a fantastic sentence.

Grace and Alfie - for being very creative with the paper plate book characters.

Year 1:

Isaac W - for taking pride in his handwriting and presentation.

Isaac H -for his creativity in a music lesson and junk modelling club.

Year 2:

Darcy D- for being creative in art

Aiden S- for having pride and showing curiosity with his learning.

Beatrice W- for taking pride in her handwriting.

Shiva - for having high aspirations in her reading.

Charlie - for showing empathy and kindness to a child in another class.

Year 3:

Erin - showing creativity by making a Stone Age house at home.

Bea - taking risks in maths.

Ffion - for having pride in her handwriting and working hard to implement taught letter joins.

Year 4:

Erin - for working cooperatively with her peers in our netball lesson.

Gracie - for applying the skills she has learnt in handwriting lessons to her independent learning.

Year 5:

Erin and Charlie - for high aspirations in this week's PE lesson.

Monty - for having pride in his handwriting. He has worked exceptionally hard towards achieving his pen licence.

Year 6:

Alfie C - for maintaining a good standard in his writing and working to the best of his ability in all subjects.

Annabelle - for maintaining a good cursive style of handwriting.

This Weeks attendance %

Dixon (R)	96.7%
Bay Class(1)	94.8%
Pendleton Class (2)	94.1%
Ezra Class (3)	97.1%
Shepherd Class (4)	99.3%
Grint Class (5)	98.6%
Straker Class (6)	98.7%

Whole School Attendance this week 96.95%

Whole School Attendance this term 97.01%



House Points

This week

First place - Yellow House - 547

Second place - Green House - 541

Third place - Red House - 498

Fourth place - Blue House - 472

This Half Term

First place - Yellow House - 1,724

Second place - Green House - 1,717

Third place - Red House - 1,643

Fourth place - Blue House - 1,599

Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Erin H - 11th March

Aiden S - 11th March

Beatrice W - 14th March

Eddie W - 15th March

Skips Safety Net

Keeping children safe online

A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssafety.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

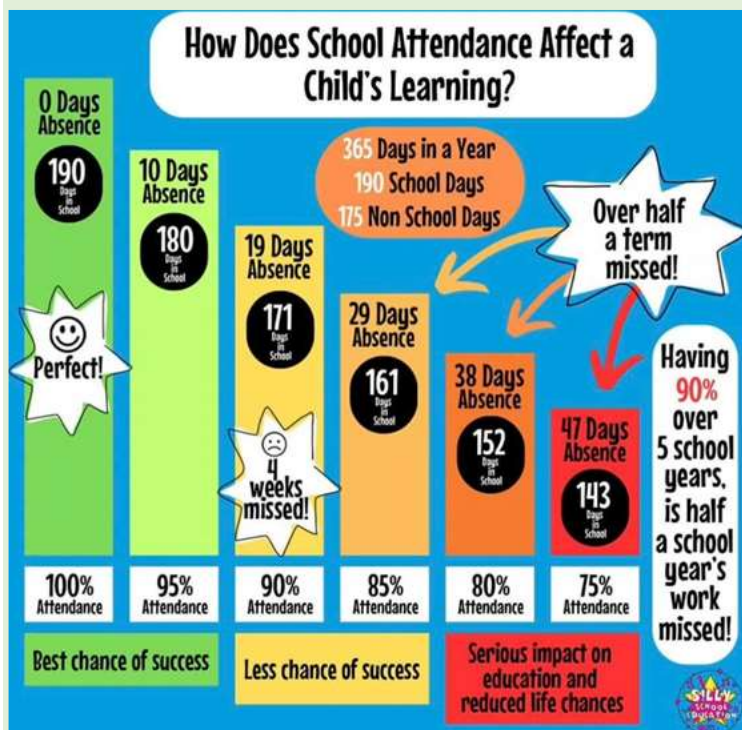
Developed in partnership with:



Tesco Fundraiser

We have recently applied for Tesco's Stronger Start Grant Award in order to further develop the outdoor areas in the early years. We were thrilled to find out this week that we have been successful in our application and during April, May and June, Tesco customers will be able to vote in store. We are hoping that our parents, families and community will be able to help us gain lots of votes during this time. The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive £1,500, the second placed project will receive £1,000 and the third placed project will be awarded £500. The following stores will all be taking part in the voting for this project: Stevenage Extra, Old Stevenage High Street, Stevenage Chells, Broadwater Stevenage, Woolmer Green and Hitchin. Please help us by spreading the word to your friends, families and work colleagues. Thank you.

Importance of Good Attendance in School



Parent Workshop

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop

Conflicts are regular occurrence within families. It's often a normal part of everyday life. However, conflict that is frequent, intense, and poorly resolved, has a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances. This 2-hour workshop explores different types of conflict between couples and families.

Thursday 14 March 9.30am – 11.30am
OR
Wednesday 20 March 7.00pm – 9.00pm

For more information, contact Louise on 0204 522 8700 or 8701 or email services@familylives.org.uk

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk
@FamilyLivesHertfordshire

Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 307702. Registered office: 10 The Broadway, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, AL9 9LQ

YEAR 6 EASTER BAKE SALE & PRE-LOVED TOY SALE



WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 3.15PM

Raising funds for our farewell party
Lots of yummy treats and nearly new toys available
Please bring change



Hertfordshire's
Holiday Activity Programme

HAPpy

**A world of possibilities,
right on their doorstep**

Does your child get benefits-related free school meals?

If so, then you can book them onto FREE HAPpy Camps during the Easter school holiday.

HAPpy Camps offer a wide range of different activities held in community venues. They're designed to fire up kids' minds and bodies. Plus a hot lunch is included too!

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your unique code from school and book from midday on 5th March using the QR code or at www.bit.ly/DP2E24HAPpyCamps



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

Comic Relief Photo Gallery

Here are a few class photos taken of the children dressed in 'Red to Toe' for Comic Relief.



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Stone, Hertford, SG14 3SG <http://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk>
Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

Red Nose Day Lunch Treats

A huge thank you to the kitchen staff who made some wonderful Red Nose Day treats for our children today to have after their school dinner.



Dates for your diary

Diary dates in red – new dates added this week

March

18th - 22nd - Assessment week

21st - Year 4 class assembly 9am - parents and families invited to attend

22nd - Pupil Parliament meeting

26th - Sponsored Bounce

27th - House Point Reward

27th - Parent Forum Meeting 6pm

27th - Year 6 cake bake sale after school on the playground

28th - Year 6 V.E Day party

28th - End of Term 2.15pm

April

15th - INSET Day

16th - Children return

16th - 19th - Pupil Progress Meetings

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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)
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

