



Newsletter 22nd March 2024

To our parents and friends,

This week has seen the start of spring time and we have enjoyed some warmer days which was welcomed by everyone. Please ensure however, that children still come to school with a coat to wear outside (either for outdoor lessons or playtime) as the weather can still be very changeable, even when the day starts off warm and sunny.

On Thursday, children in Year 4 showcased some of their learning from this half term in their class assembly. They informed us about their understanding of solids, gases and liquids, performed a water cycle rap and role played buying ice creams from an ice cream stall.... in French!!! They even tested the adult's recall of multiplications as the children in Year 4 will have to complete a multiplication test in June and recall their multiplication times tables at random and at speed. The parents managed this challenge very well indeed. Finishing their assembly slightly earlier than planned, they then talked about their food technology project this half term too. Well done Year 4.

Today, all the children in Years 1 - 6 took part in our termly Pupil Parliament meetings that were led by the year 6 children. On the agenda today, they discussed the changes that have taken place following the last meeting in November (mainly regarding after school club choices), discussed the forthcoming sponsored bounce event and discussed the behaviour policy to ensure that all the children know about our positive rewards as well as the consequences (should they be needed). As always, children in all year groups made some very valid and sensible contributions to these discussions and enjoyed the opportunity for everyone to have their voice heard. The next meeting will be in the summer term.

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

Next Tuesday (26th March), all the children in the school will have an opportunity to take part in our sponsored bounce fundraiser. We are very much hoping to buy new laptops for the children to use.

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. **We are still very much in need of volunteers to help with the following sessions:**

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

Please can your children come to school on Tuesday with their sponsorship forms (hopefully with the names of some who have sponsored them). After they have completed their bounce, we will write how many bounces they have completed on the sponsor form and return this to you at the end of the day. Many thanks.

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.

Year 6 Fundraiser

Please come along and support this event next Wednesday after school on the playground (or under the gazebo area if it is raining)



Breakfast and After School Clubs

We have added the Summer Booking forms to our website. These forms must be used for booking your child a place in either club, bookings via email are only acceptable in an emergency/ad hoc situation.

If you require a hard copy of either form, they are available from the Admin Office. We are experiencing a high demand for some sessions, so please ensure that you complete a form and return it as soon as possible.

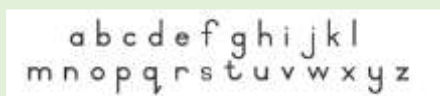
After school club are having their own Easter hunt on Wednesday 27th March. If you would like your child to attend, please send in your booking forms by Tuesday 26th March. Thank you.

Easter Holiday Club

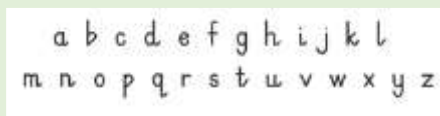
Unfortunately, there will not be a holiday club running at school during the Easter holiday. This is due to the low number of bookings on the last two previously offered holiday clubs. I will continue to liaise with Super Star Sports regarding opportunities for holiday clubs in the future.

Handwriting – One Of Our School Priorities This Year

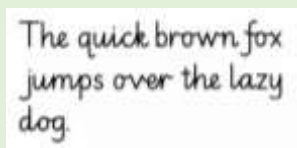
As a school, we have chosen to use the Nelson Handwriting scheme to teach handwriting lessons 2/3 times per week. In the Early years we teach pre-cursive printing of letters:



In Year 1, the children are taught to add lead out's to their letters before they start to join letters:



In Year 2, the children are taught correct letter joins using the correct horizontal and diagonal joins. An example of writing using the Nelson Handwriting font:



We continue to teach joined up handwriting in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 so that children develop their handwriting fluency, accuracy and flair. Some letters do not join to other letters. These letters are: b, g, j, p, q, x, y, z, s

Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Wren - Wren has shown a positive can do attitude this week, being very helpful and kind to others. Wren is a great role model for Preschool in all she does! We are very proud of you Wren!</p> <p>Charlie - This week Charlie has been a superstar. He has followed all of the Preschool routines beautifully, and has been joining in lots of games with his peers and really beginning to build some good friendships! We are very proud of you Charlie!</p>	<p>Tommy - Tommy is a great role model at Preschool. He has been a kind and helpful friend and has been helping others when they are upset by inviting them to play with him. We are very proud of you Tommy!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Molly - for being an incredibly kind friend. She has been looking after friends this week and offering to play with them if they have been lonely. Well done Molly.</p>	<p>Thomas - has been taking risks and trying new things this week. He tried all of the porridge that the 3 Bears left behind, even though he really wasn't sure about it! Well done Thomas, we are so proud of you.</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Lucia - for always making the right choices, showing a love of learning and being an outstanding role model.</p>	<p>Teddy - for showing a love of learning in all areas.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Gianni and Henry - for their love of learning. They have really enjoyed some creative writing this week.</p>	<p>Arthur - for being a good role model and listening carefully to instructions.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Riley - for working to the best of his ability and helping others.</p>	<p>Elliott - for always following the school rules. Beatrice - for showing a love of learning.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Izzy - showing a love for learning and having such a positive attitude.</p>	<p>Bettie - always making the right choices and following the rules in school.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Jack - for working to the best of his ability, especially during our assessments this week.</p>	<p>Sam B - Sam does what it asked of him, follows the school rules and works to the best of his ability.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Erin - working to the best of her ability during the maths assessment and for completing some extra homework, which has secured her understanding of a challenging topic.</p>	<p>Monty - demonstrating a love for learning and being respectful to others during lessons.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Darcie - for being a good role model and working to the best of her ability Elliot - for being well mannered and having a love of learning</p>	<p>Harley - for constantly making good choices and listening to adults</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:

Tyler for showing resilience with his writing and taking pride in his achievements.
Tanashe for being a kind and empathetic friend to others.

Year 1:

Harlen - for being reflective and thinking about his writing targets.
Freddie - for being a good team player in PE and working well as part of a group.
Jordan - for taking pride in his handwriting and thinking carefully about his letter formation.

Year 2:

Freya H- for taking pride in her letter formation.
Jasper G-O- for showing creativity in art.

Year 3:

Sam - having pride in his handwriting and has begun to start writing with a pen.
Lillie - working well with others and showing kindness and empathy.
Frankie - having high aspirations with his writing and reading.
Bella - being resilient and trying her best.

Year 4:

Eliza - for being kind to younger children in Breakfast Club.
Edie - for showing empathy to the younger children at Breakfast Club.
Liam - for showing kindness to one of his class friends in P.E and adapting his game so that his friend could join in.

Year 5:

Isabelle - for showing creativity during English. Isabelle completed an engaging and gripping piece of creative writing, which she put a lot of thought and effort in to.
Ronny - for excellent teamwork in a P.E lesson.
Monty - for being awarded his pen licence. Excellent effort!

Year 6:

Callum -for being more reflective and making things right.
Lenny - for improving his cursive style.
Esmae - for working well with others and leading her Pupil Parliament group so effectively today.

This Weeks attendance %

Dixon (R)	94.3 %
Bay Class(1)	100 %
Pendleton Class (2)	93.8 %
Ezra Class (3)	94.3 %
Shepherd Class (4)	98.1%
Grint Class (5)	95.9 %
Straker Class (6)	99.1 %

Whole School Attendance this week 96.44 %

Whole School Attendance this term 96.95 %

Well done to Bay for 100% attendance.



Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Violet HN - 17th March

Louis G - 18th March

Frankie RM - 18th March

Ellis K - 19th March

House Points

This week

First place - Yellow House - 484

Second place - Green House - 455

Third place - Blue House - 443

Fourth place - Red House - 434

This Half Term

First place - Yellow House - 2,208

Second place - Green House - 2,172

Third place - Red House - 2,047

Fourth place - Blue House - 2,042

House Point Winners this Half Term

Many congratulations to the yellow house who have accumulated the most house points this half term.

This afternoon, Mrs Etienne met with the House and Vice House captain (Annabelle and Alfie M) to discuss what they would like their house to have as their reward next Wednesday.

They have chosen to have a non school uniform day (wearing an item of yellow clothing if at all possible), an Easter egg hunt (where the older children will be paired up with the younger children) and a drink/snack at the end of the afternoon.

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.

PE Tops

The new P.E tops will be available to purchase from Kidz Connections in Hertford from 8th April or available to purchase from their website.

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.

Rock and Pop Band Lessons

Following an assembly last week, we are delighted that after the Easter holiday, we will be offering children an opportunity to develop their musical skills and enjoyment by being part of a rock/pop group. Children will have the opportunity to play either the drums, keyboard, electric guitar or take on the role of lead vocals.

To watch a short video of what will be happening in the sessions, then please click on this link

<https://www.irockschool.com/>

Stevenage Borough Football Club Book Competition

Congratulations to Eddie W in Year 4 who entered a story writing competition and was one of the winners. Here is Eddie's story:

Boro the bear meets Simon

Once upon a time there was a bear called Boro and he had a TIME MACHINE so what would he do?

He started off with going into the future...it didn't go well...The sun had ended. So he went back into the past for a day and...well...CRAZY things were going on there too!!!!!!

Boro then went back in time to the Ice Age and he met a mammoth called Simon. They became such good friends that Simon would take Boro out for a ride around his Icey Kingdom. He saw bears, wolves, Sabre Tooth Tigers and best of all Narwhals! Simon was very popular and had lots of friends for Boro to meet, Simon showed Boro to his luxurious igloo home.

At lunch time, Boro exclaimed 'I could really do with a Burger' and magically 2 appeared, one for Boro and one for Simon. Simon thought this was the most magical food he had ever tasted in his whole life, realising Boro must be able to make wishes he asked him to try more food from the future, next Boro wished for a hotdog, Simon said it was delicious! And requested more!

Next he wished for some fun so Boro wished for some video games for them to play and taught him how to play each game. Simon decided he needed to be more active again so Boro wished for a football and they each got a team together to play even though he had never played it before Simon's team won and Simon scored the winning goal! Boro wished for a sofa and a TV so they could relax after the big match and they watched some football and movies together. Next Boro decided to get Simon dressed up, he wished for some mammoth sized shirts (with an s on for Simon) and some blue trousers, Simon's favourite colour. Simon looked pretty cool.

As the day was coming to an end Boro told Simon he had to go home. Boro left everything for Simon to remember him by and Simon the Mammoth had had the best day of his life. As Simon waved Boro goodbye, Simon was very upset to say goodbye to his best friend. Boro went home and told all his friends about his special day with Simon the mammoth, especially Simon's awesome goal! Boro would like to go back again one day and maybe he will take you next time.... Eddie W, age 8

Friends of Watton Update

Happy Friday from the **FOW** committee.

We are excited to invite you to our **Easter Fair at the Nigel Poulton Memorial Hall** on **Good Friday, March 29th from 12-4pm**. There will be plenty of fun activities to enjoy, including face-painting, **Easter bonnet craft** stall, and **egg and spoon races**. We'll also have hot chocolate and other hot drinks on sale, and Hot Cross Buns. Fantastic **raffle prizes** to be won too. In addition, we have external vendors selling lovely gifts. Don't forget to pre-book for the Easter egg hunt to avoid disappointment. We can't wait to celebrate with you! [CLICK HERE](#) to book.

If you are able to Volunteer for a 20 mins - 60 mins slot please [CLICK HERE](#) , otherwise just come and participate and have fun.

FOW

St. Patrick's Day



The children enjoyed a different themed day lunch on Monday as it was St. Patrick's Day the previous day. The kitchen team are always so creative to not only decorate the serving area in the theme chosen but also to make a range of delicious treats for your children to enjoy after they have eaten their school lunch. Thank you to all the kitchen team staff.

School Support Careers

**FULLY FUNDED
Online Course**



**Available in
Levels 1, 2 & 3**

Are you looking for a job that fits in around your family? Gain the necessary qualifications to support you, fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency).

Levels 1, 2 & 3 for School Support Course with a Guaranteed Job Interview.

- **Our classes are based online - Run only in term time - During school hours to fit in with the school run -**

Course Times

- Total of 5 days per week (Mon-Fri) for 6 weeks
- There are 2 lessons per day (9.30am – 11am) & (1pm – 2pm)
- Must have internet access and a laptop or tablet.

- **No prior experience necessary -**

Eligibility Criteria

- Must Be Aged 19+
- Must Claim Benefits (Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit). If you live in Merseyside, you do not need to claim any benefits.
- You Can't be a student or an International Student
- You Must have lived in the UK for a Minimum of 3 Years (Except if you are from the Ukraine).

www.studysmartuk.online



Funded Mental Health Workshops, Advice and Support for Parents and Carers in Hertfordshire



The aim of this funded support is to help parents/carers develop a positive and more confident approach to supporting their child. Our friendly and experienced staff offer a chance to gain peer support; useful strategies and practical tools.

What we offer:

Free Webinars

- Anxiety and Building Resilience
- Self-harming Behaviours
- School Avoidance
- Bereavement and Loss including Divorce and Separation
- Disordered Eating
- Supporting a Child or Young Person who is Gender Questioning
- Managing Meltdowns

Parent Support line

- Tel: 07932 651319

Private Moderated Facebook Support Group

- NESSie Parent/Carer Support Group

1-1 Support and Advice Sessions

Peer Support Group

A confidential group, where parents will have an opportunity to share their experiences, support each other through challenges, and identify coping strategies.

To book, please visit nessieined.com or Scan the QR code



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~~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



**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



Dates for your diary

Diary dates in red – new dates added this week

March

- 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

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

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