



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very big welcome back to the new term and the new academic year at Watton. I do hope you all had a lovely summer break. It has been great to see so many smiling faces on the playground this week.

Welcome Assemblies:

Although I mentioned it in the last newsletter in July, I thought it would be worth reminding everyone about the information assemblies we are holding over the next couple of weeks (there have been a few minor tweaks to dates on these, so please do have a check). The children will be leading the assemblies and telling you all about:

- The class vision
- Goals for the year that they will be setting themselves
- Expectations for the year ahead and our key priorities
- Key days and dates, including trips
- Topics the children will be learning about
- Homework
- Reading
- Blogs
- Regular communication and feedback
- How you can support your child at home



The information assemblies will run in the school hall at the following times:

- 2.45 p.m. on Tuesday 11th September for **Year 4**
- 2.45 p.m. on Wednesday 12th September for **Year 5**
- 2.45 p.m. on Thursday 13th September for **Year 6**
- 2.45 p.m. on Monday 17th September for **Reception and Nursery (separate letter coming with detail on this assembly)**
- 2.45 p.m. on Tuesday 18th September for **Year 3 (both classes together)**
- 2.45 p.m. on Wednesday 19th September for **Year 1 and 2 (all 3 classes together)**

It would be good to have as many of you attend as possible as it is a great opportunity to hear about the year ahead and how you can support your child in their learning.

Harvest – We will be holding our annual Harvest Assembly at the church next Friday morning (14th September) at 9.15a.m. A separate letter will be sent out to provide you with more information on this. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



Celebration assemblies – We will be starting our Friday Celebration assemblies on 21st September at the usual time of 9.05a.m. While many of the themes we cover will be the same (citizens, celebrating achievements in and out of school, lunchtime awards etc), our children will be taking a more active role in leading the assemblies. Please do come along and join us!

End of day arrangements - A few parents have asked us this week so we thought it is important to clarify our procedures regarding the end of the day. We allow Year 6 pupils to walk home on their own if this is what their parents request. We do expect all other children to be picked up in the playground by their parent/carer at 3.15p.m. We do not permit children to be picked up by their older siblings unless these siblings are over 18. Should anyone be having difficulty with pick up or following our procedures, please do make an appointment with Mrs Gill to discuss further.

Admin information – at the information assemblies running next week we will be handing out data collection sheets for you to check and approve. Due to the new GDPR rules we are unable to send these home with your child for checking purposes. There will also be a variety of other forms that will require completing on the day so if you can come earlier it would be appreciated (from 2.30pm please).

Schoolgateway Communications -We are moving to more electronic communications and will start communicating via the Schoolgateway app from 1st October, we will no longer be using the current text service from that date. A letter with more details will be issued at the information assemblies. Please would all parents register with the Schoolgateway app (not just on the website) as this is how we will communicate in the future. If this is not possible for you to download the app please could you let the office know.

Dates for the Diary: We will be sending out a 'Dates for your Diary' next week, please look out for these as they will provide you with many of the key dates for the year.



Macmillan Coffee Morning: The Year 5 pupils are going to be organising a coffee morning and you will soon receive letters asking for cake contributions and to come along and join us.



Well Being Week: In November (12th – 16th), we will be running our annual Well Being Week (in line with national anti-bullying week) and we will be thinking about bullying – what is it and what we can do to stop it. We will also be focusing on healthy eating, exercise and being happy (mentally healthy). The national theme for this year is

'Choose Respect'. In the past we have had a range of activities such as smoothie and fruit tasting, the Tim Peake Challenge, Hertford Rugby Club running sessions and extra aerobic sessions on the playground! If you would like to get involved by helping with a club or exercise session, reading to the children or preparing healthy food, please let the office or Mrs Stevens, Mrs Duston or Miss Smith know!

Attendance: We are aiming to beat the national average in attendance this year, which currently sits at 96%. Last year, we got close to this but didn't quite make it. We mentioned last year that we have now introduced fining as part of our attendance policy. Every day at school counts and we must all work together to ensure attendance is as high as it can be!



Friends of Watton: Please see the events the Friends of Watton are planning on the diary dates (coming soon). Your support is needed and everything raised goes towards our children! Please do help where you can!

With best wishes,
Zoe Hussain
Headteacher.