



Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School



## Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Thank you to the parents, grandparents, carers, teachers and all the school staff who worked so hard this week to keep learning and meals going on, in ways they probably never thought was possible - on top of managing their personal lives which have also been deeply impacted by this.

### Online Safety

With the majority of children currently being educated from home in light of the recent school closures, it is most likely that they will also have more time to access the internet to support their learning as well as during the time that they are having breaks from their home learning activities. In light of this, I would like to continue to give you guidance and support you with ensuring that your child is safe whilst working online from home.

#### This week we put the spotlight on Instagram.

Children should be over 13 years of age to access Instagram. According to the latest NSPCC research, there has been a 200% rise in recorded instances in the use of Instagram to target and abuse children in an 18 month period.

It is important that if you do choose to allow your child to use Instagram that you enhance the privacy of their account. Go to account settings:

- 1) Set account to private.
- 2) Story control - either set allow message replies from 'followers you follow back' or turn off.
- 3) Don't allow sharing of your photos and videos from your story.
- 4) Comment Controls - select hide offensive comments.

Talk to your child about the 'Search & Explore Tab' and who your child is following. There are accounts set up on Instagram that can include graphic content and they may come across inappropriate content and language.

Ensure your child knows how to report posts and people as well as how to unfollow and block people, delete and turn off comments. More information can be found here:

<https://wellbeing.instagram.com/safety>. You are also able to report photos, videos, comments or profiles that are bullying or harassing via Instagram's help centre.

Make sure your child understands that there is a risk that content they upload can never be removed (other users can screenshot it for example) so they must only share content that they are comfortable with you seeing. Ensure that they know that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Next week we explore Fortnite and give you some guidance to ensure your children stay safe online.

Healthy

Excellence

Aspirations

Respectful  
and  
responsible

Truthfulness

### Parent Forum

I would like to thank the parents who attended the spring parent forum on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. It was a fantastic opportunity to work collaboratively with parents who represented children from Reception up to Year 6. We discussed communication with parents, parent/teacher consultations and homework. As a result of this meeting I have agreed to make several changes to practice in order to ensure that we are providing the very best that we can for our parents.

#### Emails

One of the issues raised was that emails are not sent to all parents and so therefore not all parents are being kept up to date with the information. Since the meeting, I have worked with the admin team and we are able to offer emails to all parents (not just one email address per family). Please email admin or come in and speak to a member of the team to have this change made for yourselves if required.

I look forward to working collaboratively with parents at my next parent forum.

Date to be arranged still.

### Bounce for Bytes

A week before we had to close the school due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, we held our sponsored Bounce for Bytes in aid of raising funds to improve the schools ICT provision.

Many thanks to everyone who since the bounce, has managed to collect in their sponsorship money and either pay via the Gateway or by bringing cash into school. Despite everything that is happening around us at the moment, I still desperately want to increase the number of laptops and would love to have them purchased ready for the children to use when they return to school. We understand that due to social distancing at present you won't be able to visit friends and families to collect money promised to the children but that maybe you will be able to organise collection of this money in other creative ways. Any sponsorship money can be posted in the box inside the Reception area. I still have prizes to award for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places (in each phase) for the children who manage to raise the most money individually. We will inform the lucky winners of their prizes and arrange for these to be collected.

### Friend's of Watton - Mother's Day Stall

I hope all the mothers enjoyed receiving their mother's day gifts last weekend. The children thoroughly enjoyed going shopping for your gifts at the school Mother's Day stall. The Friends of Watton raised an incredible £410 for future projects. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

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