



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

### No pens Day

This Tuesday, we had our half termly no pens day. The children engaged in exciting and varied activities across the curriculum where there were lots of opportunities to talk and encourage children's communication skills.

Of all the skills we develop at school, the ability to communicate effectively is the one that has the most profound and potentially positive impact on our lives. Communication is at the core of what we do: at home, in work, at school and socially. Good spoken language skills are strong predictors of later academic success. Children with poor language and literacy development at 5 are at substantial risk of low achievement at 7 and beyond. Take a look at our 'No Pen's Gallery' in this weeks newsletter.

**We're putting  
down our pens  
and picking up our  
language!**

### Christmas arrangements

This year, there will be some changes to the normal Christmas arrangements due to COVID-19. We really want to keep the fun and festivities as much as possible for the children but due to needing to maintain in bubbles this year, this will affect many of our normal arrangements.

**Class Christmas assemblies** Instead of performances that parents, carers and families normally come into school to watch, we are planning this year on each class in KS1 and 2 having a Christmas class assembly which will be recorded and made available for you to watch before the end of term. The children in Preschool will be singing some Christmas songs and children in Nursery and Reception will be taking part in a Nativity tableau. More details to follow.

**Pantomime trip** As we can't go to the theatre this year, we will be treating the whole school to an online pantomime instead. Children in the Early Years will be watching 'Search for Santa' and children in KS1 and KS2 will be watching 'Aladdin'. There will be no cost implication for parents and carers as we plan to fund both of these pantomimes with the money raised in the recent 'Break the Rules Day' fundraiser.

**Christmas cards** Each class will be having their own Christmas card collection boxes. Children can bring Christmas cards in for other children and staff **in their own class only** during one allocated week (7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December) and these cards will remain quarantined in the box until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Please don't bring cards into school after 11<sup>th</sup> December. During the last few days of term, cards will be sorted and handed out to the children. They won't be allowed to open them in school.

**Class parties** Class teachers will be organizing their own small class parties this year in their classrooms. Unfortunately, children won't be able to share communal party food. Teachers will be sending more details out towards the end of term.

### Pupil Parliament

In the week leading up to half term, we held our first pupil parliament meeting of this academic year. Organised in a different way so that we didn't burst the bubbles, all the children in the school had the opportunity to voice their views and opinions about the COVID changes to the school this term (lunchtime arrangements indoors and outdoors, social distancing and future fundraising ideas). All teachers took minutes of the meetings held and these have now been collated and discussed.

In light of the suggestions made by the children, we are now in the process of increasing the variety of outdoor equipment the children can play with in their bubbles and we have produced a rota so that all KS1 and KS2 children have a fair opportunity to use the boat/bus or trim trail too at playtimes and lunchtimes. The equipment will be in quarantine over the weekend (48 hours) before the new classes use the equipment the following week. Classes were also very forthcoming with their ideas and suggestions about future possible fundraising events and who we should be fundraising for. Several classes raised the issue about people being homeless and so we have decided that our Christmas jumper day (16<sup>th</sup> December) will be an opportunity to raise money to support homeless people locally over the Christmas period.,

### Application for Reception Year Group

Please be aware that the online application form for Reception Year group places for September 2021 is now open. If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 and they are due to attend Reception class in September 2021 you must complete this form to secure a place. If your child is currently in our Nursery, you must still complete an online application form to secure a place in Reception for September 2021. The online application form can be found at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021 and the National Offer Day is 16th April 2021.

### Parent Governor Appointment

I am pleased to be able to announce the appointment of Jo Joel as a Parent Governor.

Jo was nominated during the recent campaign and as the only candidate could be appointed without the need for a formal election. Her 4 year term will start in January.

Charles Clark (Chair of Governors)



### Nursery and Reception new equipment

This week, we have had a fantastic piece of outdoor equipment installed in the Nursery and Reception outdoor area. Not only are the children going to have hours of fun playing on the equipment with their friends, but they will unknowingly be building and strengthening their upper body muscles too which is key to their development in many areas of the curriculum.



### Headteachers Awards

Headteachers awards are now linked to our school values. This month our school value is 'Achieving your potential'. We are really proud of these children who have been working really hard in class to achieve their potential and have been chosen by their class teacher to receive this award.

Reception class - Sam C for his great questioning skills all of the time so that he learns more.

Year 1 - Beau for achieving her potential in maths lessons.

Year 3 - Oliver for working towards achieving his potential with his writing.

Year 4 - Anya and Shannon who always work super hard in all lessons and really challenge themselves with their learning.

Year 5 (Wonders) - Lillie Mae for her reliance in maths and achieving great results.

### House Points

This weeks house points

Red House - 655

Blue House - 590

Green House - 572

Yellow House - 587

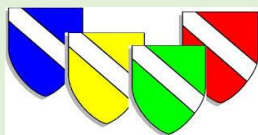
Total house points achieved this half term:

1<sup>st</sup> Blue House - 2214

2<sup>nd</sup> Yellow House - 2202

3<sup>rd</sup> Green House 2143

4<sup>th</sup> Red House 2112



### Attendance

Congratulations this week to Donaldsons, Darlings and Da Vinci class for all achieving brilliant attendance. Attendance for the whole term is 97.1% and 96.9% for this week. Well done everyone!

## Great to Be Gold

In our assembly today, we celebrated this week's Great to Be Gold awards. Well done to the following children who have excelled this week. We are incredibly proud of you all.

**Pre School:** Rory - he has been amazing this week at preschool. He has been developing friendships and has been a good friend. He has also been a star at coming in and getting straight on with his learning.

Harlen H - we have been practicing some special singing this week and Harlen has been giving it his all, singing nice and loud for everyone to hear.

Isaac I - he has been doing some amazing singing too. He has had a huge smile on his face as he joins in. Well done all of you, we are so proud of you.

**Nursery:** Hadley N and Darcy D for trying really hard in all of their learning and setting a great example to others around them. Well done!

**Reception:** Logan T - for his outstanding attitude to learning and for offering to tidy up the creative area when he hadn't made the mess!

Sam T - for being an outstanding role model - he congratulated every child in the class when they came to write on the board.

Sarah S - for her huge improvement in her reading skills and her delight in knowing that she has improved!

Erin B - for always showing a love of learning, her outstanding homework, her amazing attitude and for picking up all the straw wrappers left on the carpet without being asked (she knew it just needed doing!)

**Year 1:** Sam B - For his impeccable behaviour.

Joshua - For following the school rules and being a fantastic role model.

Jack B - For always making the right choices.

**Year 2:** Ronnie: Great role model in showing a love of learning in all areas. He has constantly made the right choices when finding things challenging.

Mila: She has shown great resilience in her learning and was an outstanding role model to others when finding math calculations challenging.

**Year 3:** Alfie C for working to the best of his ability.

Lenny for achieving his potential.

Darcie for her love of learning in all areas.

**Year 4:** Oscar and Blake - they are so supportive of each other, excellent partners encouraging each to work to best of ability and such a caring attitude to each other.

**Year 5 (Wonders):** Max K - for being a super sportsman in PE and for constantly asking questions to support his learning. He always wants to ask if what he is doing is right and what would be better, certainly not settling for his first answer!

Corinne W - trying her best to make sure everyone was part of the game at playtime. Every time she caught the ball, she passed it to a child who hadn't had a goal.

**Year 5 (Beckhams):** Thomas G- For constantly making the right choices

Charlie P- For being a good role model

**Year 6:** Luca works consistently hard in all lessons. He is an outstanding role model as a member of Year six, both for his behaviour and for his positive attitude to learning.

Elsa is always well-mannered and is an outstanding role model. She seeks to achieve her best and always has good contributions to make when she engages in discussions in class or with a partner.



**Happiness**

**Equality**

**Achieve  
Potential**

**Resilience**

**Teamwork**

**Healthy**

**Excellence**

**Aspirations**

**Respectful &  
Responsible**

**Truthfulness**

### Friends of Watton

#### **Class coin challenge**

Thank you to all the children, Mums and Dads and other finders of coins for all your very kind donations to the bottles for the class coin challenge. We will be counting up what's in all the bottles and find out the winners as soon as possible!

#### **Xmas Clothing Sale**

We've decided to broaden the Xmas jumper sale to include all Christmas clothing so please dig out any outgrown festive jumpers, tops, pyjamas, hats etc that you'd like to donate for our sale this year. Please drop them into the school office in a bag and they will be quarantined before they're sold.

### Parents and Carers requiring to self-isolate

If you are a parent or carer and have been asked to self-isolate as part of a bubble at work or because you have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus - you must follow the national self-isolation guidance and stay at home for 14

days: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/)

- This applies even if you have no symptoms and/or you have received a negative test result as it can take 14 days for transmission
- Self-isolation rules do not apply to the rest of your household, they can still attend work or school and complete day to day tasks in line with Government guidance
- If you develop symptoms while self-isolating, your entire household must begin self-isolating immediately
- If you would normally travel with your child(ren) to nursery, school or college, alternative arrangements should be made
- If you cannot make alternative travel arrangements for your child(ren), then they too must stay at home. Please contact your school or education setting directly for advice on remote learning in this situation

Please do not send child(ren) to school if they have any symptoms of coronavirus. If you're not sure, consult the online NHS symptom checker at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)

Only book a test if you or your child(ren) develop symptoms, book at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 if you do not have internet access.

Making playdough in  
Nursery



## No Pens Day Gallery



In PSHE, year 1 decorated jigsaw puzzle pieces to show that we are all different but we all fit together.



Year 3 used role play to learn how to use inverted commas. The children acted out our story for this week of 'Mini Rabbit Not Lost' and indicated with their fingers where they would use their inverted commas.



Year 5 were busy preparing some of their Christmas crafts in preparation for Enterprise Day in a couple of weeks time.



Year 6 practiced conversations in French whilst pretending they were in a café.



Year 2 were busy painting their Christmas crafts also for Enterprise Day.





In Year 4 we worked in groups performing a play which had been superbly written by Ronnie H.



In Reception, the children practiced their number recognition and ordering skills using the Number Blocks resources.

This year Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December



**HCL**  
*Excellence in Education Catering*

Ho! Ho! Ho!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
**Frosted flakes!**

😄

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
**Frostbite!**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU**

Sliced Turkey Breast with Chipolata Sausage  
Sage and Onion Stuffing with Gravy

OR

Vegetable Wellington (v)  
Sage and Onion Stuffing with Gravy  
Roast Potatoes with a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

**CHOICE OF CHRISTMAS DESSERT**  
Chocolate Crispy Pudding  
Christmas Shortbread





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



### Remote Learning

If your child is self isolating and waiting the results of a COVID 19 test or your child has had a positive COVID 19 test result and so therefore also self isolating, we have class work prepared and uploaded to the website so the impact on your children's learning is minimized.

Teachers have prepared a daily maths, English and topic activity which is in line with what learning is happening in class. Don't forget also that the children will have homework to complete, daily reading and access to any Purple Mash activities. KS2 children also have access to Times Table Rock Stars. The learning is accessible on the children's page of the website. <https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/children/remote-learning-autumn-2020>

### Dates for your Diary

#### November

30<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Dec - Assessment week

#### December

2nd Dec - last catch up club this term

11<sup>th</sup> - Enterprise Day

16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day.

17<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of autumn term

#### January

4<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 2

5<sup>th</sup> - Children return to school

18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - Creative Arts Week

#### February

3<sup>rd</sup> - No Pens Day

9<sup>th</sup> - Internet safety day

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Half term

#### March

4<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day

5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - Science week

12<sup>th</sup> - Comic relief/sports relief

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Week

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



16<sup>th</sup> - Parent consultations 4pm - 7pm  
17<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultations 3.45 - 5.45pm  
22<sup>nd</sup> - No Pens Day  
26<sup>th</sup> - Last day of spring term

### **April**

12<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 3  
13<sup>th</sup> - Children return to school  
23<sup>rd</sup> - St. George's day

### **May**

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Geography fieldwork week  
21<sup>st</sup> - No Pens Day  
31<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June - Half term

### **June**

7<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day 4  
10<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day  
17<sup>th</sup> - Reserve sports Day  
30<sup>th</sup> - Book fair arrives for 1 week

### **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Enterprise Day  
5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Week  
12<sup>th</sup> - No Pens Day  
14<sup>th</sup> - End of Year reports to parents/carers  
21<sup>st</sup> - Last day of summer term  
22<sup>nd</sup> - INSET Day