



Newsletter 12th March 2021



On Monday, we were thrilled and relieved to eventually welcome back all of the children to school. Classrooms were filled with happy and excited children who were just pleased to be reunited with their friends and teachers in person after all this time. Our approach this week has been centred around the children's wellbeing and this has been clearly visible from the atmosphere around the school. All the teachers have been delivering many lessons outdoors (when it hasn't been raining) where the children have been learning actively, they have had outdoor PE lessons and lots of movement breaks. We have had Science week too, so the children have been engaged daily in lots of fun science lessons.

We were also delighted to see that nearly every child in the school has returned this week. We would like to thank you for trusting the school and the staff to look after your children and that you too value the importance of not only their academic development but also their social and emotional wellbeing. We know how much these have all been affected during the last year. As we look now to the future, we hope that this will be the last school closure and that the children can continue to embrace uninterrupted and high quality education.

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 activities which are in line with what learning is happening in class. Don't forget also that the children can do some daily reading and have 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/virtual-office/remote-learning-guidance/remote-learning-planning-spring-2021>

Lockdown rules for England from 8 March



Stay home - only leave for work, essential shopping, exercise or medical appointments



Exercise allowed outdoors once a day, in your local area. You can exercise with your household, support bubble, or one other person



All schools open, with outdoor after-school sports and activities allowed.



Two people can meet outdoors to socialise eg to sit down for a coffee, drink or picnic



Care home residents are allowed one regular visitor, with whom they can hold hands



No household mixing indoors or outdoors unless in your support or childcare bubble



Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted

This week you were sent home a letter from Jim McManus the director for Public Health and I would like to re-emphasise some of his key messages for parents to follow:

- 1) Don't arrange playdates, sleepovers or parties - even if your children are now in a school bubble, bubbles only exist in school alongside stringent infection control measures. Outside of school, the latest Government guidance still applies to parents and children.
- 2) If you have older children, please explain they cannot hang out with their friends just yet - we know kids will find it hard to understand why they can't spend time with their friends from their school bubble outside of school. Please explain if we all follow the guidance now, we will hopefully be able to spend time together soon

Science Week

This week, the children returned to a fun filled and exciting science week across the school. I spoke to some children about what they had been learning about. Here are their responses:

Sam T and Louis (Reception) - "We powered cars with balloons. We blew the balloon up and then we let go of the balloon. The air came out of it and pushed the car forwards. The bigger the balloon was blown up, the further the car went. We also learnt that we breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. We planted flowers in tyres in the garden too."

Amelia (Year 1) - "We did an experiment with water called 'Dancing Raisins'. We put still water in one cup and fizzy water in another cup. Then we put the raisins in the cups. With the still water, the raisin sunk to the bottom of the cup but with the fizzy water, the raisin did sink to the bottom but then the bubbles pushed it to the top and then it sank again. It kept doing this. We have had lots of fun experiments this week"

Isabelle (Year 2) - "Science week has been great. On Monday, we made a life cycle wheel of a sunflower and on Tuesday, we went on a spring walk and sketched signs of spring. On Wednesday, we planted some beans in mini greenhouses."

Elliot C (Year 3) - "Science week has been fun. We did some biscuit dunking to find out how many dunks it took before the biscuit broke. I did my own experiment at home too with hot and cold water. The rich tea biscuit was the best dunking biscuit."

Zosia (Year 4) - "We used a resource called 'Explorify'. It zooms in on an object. We had to predict what it could be and look for clues in the image. It was quite tricky as we thought that one of the images was a chocolate flake but it was a piece of wood. We used our science skills to look for the features. It got us all talking to our partners and made us think a lot."

Memorial Tree Planting



The parish council decided that they wanted to plant a new oak tree for future generations to enjoy and wanted the future generation to help plant it. The existing oaks are probably three or four hundred years old. They thought that planting it now, could be a way of remembering the current pandemic in many years to come, and why not ask the children to help, on their last day of their home-schooling. Due to social distancing, they could only invite 6 children, Willow S, Poppy N, Tegan S, Jamie H, Decter H and Harry O'B all helped plant the tree. The tree has been planted by the tennis courts in the playground, next to the community hall.



We are collecting items of school uniform to re gift back to the families at the school. If you have any unwanted uniform donations, then please leave them in the 'drop off' box located outside the main school office. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far.

School jumpers or cardigans

School shoes

P.E Kits

Polo shirts and blouses

Grey trousers/shorts

Grey skirt/grey pinafore dress/green and white gingham dress

White socks/Grey socks/Grey or green tights

Black shoes

Many thanks for your support

Scientists of the Week

<i>Scientists of the week</i>		
Pre Sch	George A - he showed an interest in exploring the seashells, asking great questions like, "how are they made?" and "what's inside?" Excellent investigating George.	Eliza L - she has been investigating the playdough, she has been making it into lots of different shapes and talking about how it feels. Well done Eliza.
Nur	Charlie - for thinking of some great liquids to dunk our biscuits into.	Beatrice - for noticing the different shapes of the biscuits and her knowledge of biscuit names.
Rec	Louis - for knowing about carbon dioxide and oxygen and for taking our conversations on a great journey	Sarah - for listening to others and adding in her knowledge especially about the heart and lungs.
Year 1	Sam B - for his great predictions, focus and engagement throughout the whole week.	Imogen C - for her excitement, enthusiasm and participation during each experiment.
Year 2	Rose and Ronnie. For their brilliant team work. They have participated well in every science lesson and asked and answered questions in a scientific way.	
Year 3	Robson - for working scientifically	Megan - for showing great enthusiasm for the topics covered this week.
Year 4	Zosia - for a superb devotion to duty in the biscuit experiment when despite a very tired arm, she carried on to complete 390 dunks!	Oscar W - for his data investigation work and observation skills in our magnified object challenges.
Year 5W	Flynn S - for his inquisitive mind, always asking questions and searching for answers.	Jessica J - for great scientific enquiry. She has enjoyed all aspects of science.
Year 5B	Gracie M - for asking questions and helping develop a line of enquiry.	Dylan E - for finding ways to explain his results by making careful observations.
Year 6	Jamie H - he has engaged fully in discussions this week in our science lessons and has shown a good level of understanding. He has offered ideas, followed the thread of an argument and re-evaluated his thinking as he considered new viewpoints. I have been very pleased with his interest in every session.	Isla C - she has contributed well to science discussions and has made thoughtful predictions and observations based on her previous knowledge. She has adapted her ideas in response to other opinions and I could see her understanding deepening as a result of her engagement. Well done Isla.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is next Friday (19th) and we would like the whole school to get involved and have some fun whilst raising some money which we can donate to this fantastic charity.

Our theme for Red Nose Day is 'Crazy hair and clothes' in exchange for a suggested donation of £1. Please make your donations via The Gateway from next Monday (15th March). There will be special Red Nose Day treats for children who also opt for the school dinner next Friday too.



Catch up Clubs

In the autumn term, teachers in Years 1 - 6 were running catch up clubs on a Monday and Wednesday after school to provide some children with additional support with both their maths and writing skills. We are going to run these clubs again after Easter and the first catch up club will be on Wednesday 14th April. The class teachers will contact you before the end of this term to talk to you about the support they would like to offer your child. You will then be sent a consent form to complete. If your child attended last term, then we won't require you to complete another consent form.

R.S.E/P.S.H.E virtual meeting

Last week you would have received a letter from Miss Ramirez and myself which explained that very soon there will be a new R.S.E/P.S.H.E curriculum which the school is required to be teaching by September 2021. Thank you to those of you who have completed the Google questionnaire so far. There is still time for you to complete this simple questionnaire if you haven't had a chance to do so already. We are currently in a period of consultation with both parents and staff so it is very important to hear your views, should you have any.

Next Thursday (18th), we will be hosting a virtual Zoom meeting where you will be able to view the resources and materials which we will be using in lessons and for you to ask questions.

Zoom login:

Meeting ID: 969 3916 3725

Passcode: OBP3uD

Last Day of Term - 26th March

Normally on the last day of term, school would close at 2.15pm for all children. However, we have had to make some changes to this arrangement for the end of this term due to the staggered finishes. Children in Reception, Year 1, 2 and 4 will need to be collected between 2pm and 2.20pm and children in Pre school, Nursery, 3, 5, 6 will need to be collected between 2.20pm and 2.40pm. Thank you.

The Masked Reader



To coincide with World Book Day, the staff had lots of fun recording themselves reading their books whilst wearing masks or disguises. We had so many entries but would like to send congratulations to the following entries who worked out the most correct answers in their year group.

Reception - Rafe B and Eleanor S

Year 4 - Callum E and Shannon P

Year 1 - Edie M and Penny J

Year 5 (Wonders) - Eva R and Jessica J

Year 2 - Finley S and Ben R

Year 5 (Beckhams) - Dexter H and Zach W

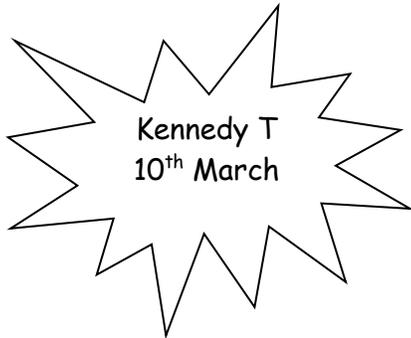
Year 3 - Elliot C and Libby P

Year 6 - Willow S and George M

	Who is behind the mask/disguise?			Who is behind the mask/disguise?
Masked Reader 1	M.Clark		Masked Reader 12	S.Plunkett
Masked Reader 2	C.Goodman		Masked Reader 13	N.Etienne
Masked Reader 3	E.Clarke		Masked Reader 14	S.Gill
Masked Reader 4	P.Bunce		Masked Reader 15	R.Higgins
Masked Reader 5	N.Roberts		Masked Reader 16	A.Hawkins
Masked Reader 6	A.Duston		Masked Reader 17	V.Hurley
Masked Reader 7	C.Shortland		Masked Reader 18	J.Butler
Masked Reader 8	J.Allman		Masked Reader 19	K.Ring
Masked Reader 9	J.Bell		Masked Reader 20	C.Dell
Masked Reader 10	K.Lee		Masked Reader 21	N.Gugerly
Masked Reader 11	P.Oakley		Masked Reader 22	A.Ramirez

Lockdown birthdays

Wishing all the children who have celebrated their birthday this week a very happy birthday.



As you are aware, our fundraising during the last year has been seriously affected due to COVID and we are hopeful that we will be able to start fundraising again really soon. In the meantime, we are excited to announce that the Friends of Watton have arranged the Happy School Bag clothing collection, where the school is paid for your unwanted items. The date for your diary is 12th May when the bags will be collected so please hold on to your bags until nearer the time. Many thanks.

Homework

We won't be sending home homework until after the Easter holiday to support the children's wellbeing after returning to school following lockdown. However, we would ask for all children to continue to read at least 5 times a week (for as much as they can manage) and have their reading recorded in their reading records which will be looked at by the class teachers and TA's.

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

Dates for your Diary

March

- 18th - Zoom parent consultation meeting for new P.S.H.E/R.S.E curriculum
- 19th - Red Nose Day
- 22nd - No Pens Day
- 26th - Early Years Virtual Farm Visits
- 26th - Last day of spring term - please see collection times above

April

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

May

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

June

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

July

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