



Newsletter 3rd September 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

As another year begins, may I take this opportunity to welcome you all back to school. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and made some wonderful new memories with your families, despite the serious lack of sunshine! Thank you for your thoughtful and generous gifts at the end of last term - they all were much appreciated.

Our term has started well and we'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and staff. I have been so proud of how well the children have returned to school and they all settled so quickly into their new classes and learning the routines. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child has come back to school looking very smart in the correct uniform.

A reminder that the school gates won't be unlocked until 8.40am so please do not arrive on site before this time as we want to avoid crowds gathering in the small area by the gates. Once the gates are opened, you will be able to socially distance yourselves better in the larger playground areas.

COVID updates

Since the most recent guidance on 16th August, children are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Children who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend the setting as normal.

If children develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, they must self-isolate immediately. Please arrange for them to have a COVID-19 PCR test and only send them back to school if their test result is negative.

We will be continuing with many of our systems that were put in place over the past year - including enhanced cleaning, a one-way systems on the playground at the beginning and end of the day, as well as ensuring the children's hands are kept sparkly clean. We very much appreciate your continued support with these systems which will continue to keep our school community safe.

Please see the attached Flow chart to support you with any suspected or confirmed cases in your household.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum consists of parent representatives who meet once every half term with the Headteacher to discuss school-related issues. Regular, open and constructive communication and consultation with parents is important to the continuing success of the school. The Parent Forum provides a mechanism for the school to discuss proposed initiatives and an opportunity for parents to express their observations, concerns and ideas. If you would like to nominate yourself as the parent rep for this academic year, then please email admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk to express your interest. Equally, I would be very happy for last years parent reps to nominate themselves should they wish to continue with this role.

Summer Work

A huge thank you to all of the school staff who have worked so hard during the summer holiday to ensure that the school was looking great for the beginning of term. Thank you to the teachers who have ensured that the classrooms were looking welcoming, bright and cheerful, to the site staff who have ensured that the school is clean, safe and tidy both inside and outside and to all the other staff who have supported and helped in so many ways.

At the very end of the summer term, we appointed Mr David Roper as the site manager and he has had a very busy summer holiday familiarising himself with the school and doing many jobs both inside and outside the building. We welcome Mr Roper to the staffing team and hope that he will be very happy with us here.

Class Information

At the beginning of the new school year, we would normally have welcome meetings for parents to attend. This is an opportunity to meet the teacher and to have all of your early questions and queries answered such as:

*When does the homework get sent home and when does it need to be returned to school?

*When do they have PE?

*What does a typical day look like?

*What is the class timetable for the week?

However, instead of a meeting in school (due to COVID restrictions) next week, each teacher will be sending home all of this information for you to read at your leisure.

Summer Reading Challenge

During the summer holidays, the local libraries were hosting a virtual summer reading challenge for the children to take part in. This year's theme was 'Wild World Heroes' and the challenge was to read 6 books over the summer holiday. For every 2 books the children read, they were rewarded with a set of stickers and when they completed the challenge, they would have received a bookmark, certificate and medal.

We would love to know about all of the children who took part in the reading challenge and who hopefully completed it too. Please send in their bookmarks, certificates and medals so that we can congratulate the children in our phase assemblies next week.

All of the children who took part will then be entered into a draw to win an Amazon voucher.

School Facebook and Instagram pages

For those parents and carers who are new to our school, I would like to inform you that the school has it's own Facebook and Instagram pages. These pages are regularly updated with events, reminders, photos, videos, special announcements, community events and national information. Please sign up to our Facebook page at Watton at Stone Primary School and our Instagram page at Watton_School.



Learning Behaviours

As a school we have values which are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens. These are:

- Happiness
- Empathy
- Achieve Potential
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Healthy
- Excellence
- Aspirations
- Respectful and responsible
- Truthfulness

These values form the foundation of all pupil relationships and guide the children in the decisions they make, both inside and outside the classroom. It is the responsibility of all the adults within the school community to ensure that these values are promoted and adhered to on an everyday basis. We look for frequent opportunities to celebrate and reward those who strive to be the best they can be. As these are the learning behaviours that we will be aspiring for all children to secure, we will now be referring to these school values as learning behaviours to give them further clarity for the children.

After School Clubs

After school clubs will commence the week beginning 13th September. To increase the range of after school clubs that we can offer, we will now be working closely with more external providers to improve the provision that we offer. There will be more details during next week how to sign up for the different clubs available. We have also increased the number of clubs available for the younger aged children.

Club	Led By	Year groups	Day/Time	How to book
Drama club KS1	Boo Drama	1 and 2	Monday	Direct via provider
Drama Club KS2	Boo Drama	3, 4, 5 and 6	Tuesday	Direct via provider
SBFC- Stevenage Boro Football Club	SBFC	All Year groups	Tuesday	Direct via provider
Kid Fit EYFS/KS1	Kid fit	Nursery, Reception, 1 and 2	Wednesday	Direct via provider
Kid Fit KS2	Kid Fit	3, 4, 5 and 6	Friday	Direct via provider
Football	Mr Ring	5 and 6	Monday	Through the school
Netball	Miss Oakley	5 and 6	Thursday	Through the school
Choir	Mrs Roberts	3, 4, 5 and 6	Wednesday	Through the school
Art club	Mrs Goodman	5 and 6	Monday	Through the school
Illustrators club	Mrs Higgins	3 and 4	Wednesday	Through the school
Craft club	Mrs Clarke	2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	Wednesday	Through the school

Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Pencil Cases

Last year, due to COVID, we asked all children to come to school with their own equipment to use. Even though this is no longer an expectation under the DFE guidance, we know that many children enjoyed bring their own pencil cases last year and would still like to bring their own pencil cases to school.

Pencil cases should be clearly named and no longer than 30cm long (to accommodate a 30cm ruler) Suggested equipment to bring would be:

*Colouring pencils (no felt tips), Rubber (not rubbers to go on the end of pencils as these often smudge writing), Sharpener, Pritt stick, Scissors (small child's size), Ruler (no longer than 30cm). The school will be providing writing pencils and pens and children will be given these on the first day of term to go into their pencil cases. More specialised stationery (e.g. protractors) will also be provided by the school. Many thanks for your support.

Dates for your diary

September

1st - INSET Day 1

2nd - Children return

16th - National TA week

October

1st - Harvest church visit

4th - Creative arts week

5th - No Pens Day

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

19th - Individual School Photos
19th - Parent meetings 4pm - 7pm
20th - Parent meetings 3.45 - 5.45pm
22nd - Feel Good Friday (pm)
25th - 29th - Half Term week

November

11th - Remembrance Day
15th - 19th - Anti Bullying Week/Feel Good Week
26th - No Pens Day
29th - 3rd Dec - Assessment week

December

6th - 10th - Christmas performances to parents
15th - Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day/Visit from FC
17th - Feel Good Friday
17th - End of term 2.15pm
20th - INSET day 2
21st - Occasional Day

January

5th - INSET day 3
6th - Children return
24th - 29th - International Week

February

2nd - No Pens Day
8th - Internet Safety Day
11th - Feel Good Friday
14th - 18th - Half Term week

March

3rd - World Book Day
7th - Science and Technology Week
8th - Parent meetings 4 - 7pm
9th - Parent meetings 3.35 - 5.45pm
17th - No Pens Day

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

18th - Comic Relief Day
21st - 25th - Assessment week

April

1st - End of Term 2.15pm
1st - Feel Good Friday
19th - INSET Day 4
20th - Children Return
23rd - St George's Day

May

9th - Citizenship week
16th - No Pens Day
27th - Feel Good Friday
30th - 3rd June - Half Term

June

6th - INSET Day 5
13th - Health and Fitness week
14th - Sports Day 1
17th - Sports Day 2 (Reserve)
29th - No Pens Day

July

4th - 8th - Assessment week
18th - Reports to parents
22nd - Feel Good Friday
22nd - End of Term 2.15pm