



Newsletter 20th May 2022

To all our families and friends,

This week has been an incredibly busy week in school. Following on from the KS2 SAT's last week, the children in Year 2 have started their SAT's tests and will continue these next week too. The younger children are much less aware of these tests taking place and the guidance from the DFE is not quite as strict as the KS2 tests. However, the children in Year 2 have been amazing and many of them have actually enjoyed completing their reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation tests this week.

The whole school has been encouraged to walk to school this week whilst learning about the benefits it brings to individuals, communities and the planet. Children who live outside of the village were asked to park and stride and park approximately 10 minutes away from school and walk the last part of the journey to school. Thank you to everyone who took park this week. We hope that some of you will continue to walk to school from now on and enjoy the benefits of the additional exercise and fresh air.



On Monday, the whole school took part in no pens day. We have these days regularly throughout the year and on different days of the week. The children thoroughly love these occasions and hugely benefit from greater hands on learning and an increased focus on developing the use of talk and language across the curriculum.



The theme of this year's mental health awareness week was emotional support. We encouraged the children to think about the people in their lives who they could turn to if and when they needed some help. They all attended an assembly at the beginning of the week and throughout the week made their own 'Support Balloons' which are going to be going on display very soon in the main hall. Mental health concerns are on the increase in primary school aged children. In 2017, 9.4% of children were reported to have concerns with their mental health and in 2020, this had increased to 14.4%. Since then, we have had two periods of lockdown as well as following COVID restrictions and it is highly likely that the most up to date figures are higher than 14.4%. It is incredibly important that we work hard to raise awareness of this and provide opportunities to talk about these concerns with the children and offer strategies that they could use to help.



Reading Record Comments

Across the school, there is a varied approach from parents when completing children's reading records after children have read at home. In order to give your class teacher the best understanding of your child's reading progress and to support you further with reading strategies, it would be most beneficial if you could give a few written details after each time your child has read. Your comments will help your child's teacher to understand which skills your child is stronger at and which would benefit from further practice. Here are some suggestions for comments that you could use when completing their reading records as we understand that some parents may just not be sure of what to write or how much to write.

- John read the words on the flash cards and the book accurately.
- John read the flash cards loudly and clearly. He wanted to repeat them over and over again!
- It was such a pleasure to listen to Jane read. She was able to identify and read the words independently.
- He spotted a full stop!
- Read the book enthusiastically, clearly and with understanding.
- Fluent and confident, showing enthusiasm and enjoyment.
- Confused "b" and "d" sounds at the beginning of the word "dig" but self-corrected when read within the context of the sentence. Wonderful! "
- Recognised the exclamation mark!
- Tends to mistake "was" with "saw."
- Loved the pictures and we enjoyed discussing them together.
- Anne is now recognising words far more easily.
- She found the word "after" very tricky.
- He is very aware of punctuation including speech marks!
- Wow! First story read to the end with no help whatsoever.
- Found this book quite easy.
- This series is proving to be the most challenging so far. Mary is learning new words every day and is thoroughly enjoying the adventure theme.
- She is beginning to discuss the book.
- John, I am thrilled with your reading. You are a super reader!
- Read effortlessly!
- Mary was totally absorbed in her reading.
- We recorded Mary reading on tape and played it back. She loved listening to herself read.
- Read at a steady pace.
- Grandma was over the moon when she heard Jane read!
- I am delighted that his reading confidence has increased leaps and bounds!
- Tim noticed that the front cover had pictures in colour, unlike the inside of the book.
- Predicting what will happen next proved challenging and we started the thinking process for him.
- Noor, you read the book at a lovely pace and effortlessly. You are now a better reader than me!
- She is making wonderful progress with her reading and amazes me with how she is tackling harder

- Noor was pleased that the ending was happy!
- Anne enjoyed the story and was keen to tell me about her own experience of starting school.
- John was upset when Grace could not find her Mum but was relieved when they were reunited at the end.
- Really impressed! You should feel very proud. It was an absolute pleasure listening to you read.
- Lovely reading and only a little help needed today! "Read beautifully with lots of expression and clearly distinguished narrative from dialogue. Brilliant!"
- Needed a little encouragement this evening to remain focused.
- Wonderful! Made extremely good attempts at 'sounding out' unfamiliar words.
- Asked many relevant questions about the story and characters - great!
- Anne really enjoyed this book set by the sea. It reminded her of the Lighthouse Keeper books which we have read at home.
- Rahim particularly enjoyed reading this book and looking at the illustrations. He has read more books by the same author at home.
- Very little help needed today. Remembered many of the letter sounds and read lots of words independently.



Pentathlon Challenge Woodson Park

On Wednesday, eight of Year 5 class represented the school at the Pentathlon Challenge in Woodson Park. The children went around the sports hall to complete seven different team challenges, which ranged from curling, target throwing, basketball skills etc. Ethan said, 'My favourite was the Curling, it wasn't easy, but it was fun.' Maddie excitedly exclaimed, 'it was phenomenal, there were lots of fun activities.' All the children completed the challenges with enthusiasm and the team was brilliant with their encouragement for each other. At the end of the morning all the children were awarded a medal to mark their achievements. Well done Team Watton!



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

This Weeks attendance %

Donaldson class (R)	95.9%
Kerr Class(1)	97.4%
Murphy class (2)	98.6%
Lewis Class (3)	98.2%
Dahl Class (4)	98.3%
MacKenzie Class (5)	95.4%
Blackman Class (6)	97.3%
Horowitz Class (6)	94.7%

Whole school attendance this week 97 %
Whole School attendance this term 94.6%

Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Leonardo D - 18th May
Tyler O'N - 19th May
Lillie Mae W - 20th May

Parent Forum Meeting



On Monday evening, I met with the class reps for our parent forum meeting. We reviewed the new homework policy that we have implemented since Easter and listened to a very interesting presentation about SEND provision so that the class reps have a better understanding of the school processes and procedures.

A copy of the agenda, minutes and SEND presentation can be viewed on the school website:
[Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School - Parent Forum \(wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk\)](http://wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk)

The homework policy was changed in light of parent feedback, where many parents felt that too much homework was being set weekly which was causing a rise in both children's and parents anxiety and stress levels. Children are now set a math's task to complete fortnightly, which we would expect them to all complete and hand in to their class teacher and on alternate weeks, they will be set optional homework tasks which can be completed that week, over a couple of weeks or even during the school holidays. Regular reading and spelling practice aren't optional and we really appreciate parents support to ensure that both of these skills are prioritised homework tasks at home as they have a greater impact on the children's ability to access the whole curriculum.

Our new homework policy can be viewed from the school website also:
<https://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk/home/policies>

Great to Be Gold

Pre Sch	<p>Freddie D - for showing us his amazing knowledge of shapes and numbers.</p> <p>Jack P for his enthusiasm in everything we do and for instigating our Pirate picnic!</p>	<p>Benjamin W for being a star and has been very engaged this week.</p>
Nur	<p>George P - for showing a keen interest in our 'people who help us' theme and working really hard to complete one of the activities with lots of independence. Well done George, keep it up!</p>	<p>Harlen H - for gaining confidence with using scissors independently and listening to advice given. Harlen then used this skill to complete an activity. Great work Harlen!</p>
Rec	<p>Mila Mc - for growing in confidence with everything. We have been impressed at how she is applying herself to her learning.</p>	<p>Jacob S - for always trying his hardest and getting the job done. He always works to the best of his ability.</p>
Year 1	<p>Beatriz DS - For paying attention to all adults and being well mannered.</p>	<p>Henry O - For working to the best of his ability and working hard on his handwriting.</p>
Year 2	<p>Eliza H - always working to the best of her ability and trying her best.</p> <p>Sam A - following the school rules and showing mature behaviour.</p>	<p>Joshua G - for having a love for learning and always striving to achieve.</p>
Year 3	<p>Misha B- for being a good role model to the class.</p> <p>Finley M - for showing his love for learning in all subjects.</p>	<p>Felicity E- always working to the best of her ability.</p>
Year 4	<p>Darcie C - she is always well mannered in school and is polite to both adults and children. She constantly makes the right choices. Well done Darcie.</p> <p>Caitlin S - she is a good role model to her friends. She always makes the right choices and pays attention to all the adults. Well done Caitlin.</p>	<p>Theo - This week, Theo has impressed us with his love of learning, particularly in DT and science. He engaged in these sessions with enthusiasm and was keen to achieve. He made a frame structure for his pavilion with thought and care. Well done Theo.</p>
Year 5	<p>Ethan S- for showing a love of learning and being creative.</p>	<p>Oscar W- for being an outstanding role model and demonstrating impeccable manners.</p>
Year 6B	<p>Enzo K - for being polite and well mannered, listening to adults, especially in his writing this week. We loved reading it in class.</p>	<p>Summer R - for a great attitude in English, reaching her potential and writing an effective piece of narrative, with great atmosphere!</p>
Year 6H	<p>Alessio M - for always making the right choices and being well mannered.</p>	<p>Megan C - for working to the best of her ability in her fabulous Alma narrative. i can't wait to read the end!</p>

Headteacher's Awards

Reception

Riley E - for his growing independence with his writing and his resilience when shown how to improve what he has written

Year 1

Lillie C for working well with others and helping to coach them in lessons.

Year 2

Edie - for showing empathy and kindness towards others.

Arien - for showing curiosity and making brilliant predictions.

Year 3

Rose H - for demonstrating great empathy and kindness

Year 4

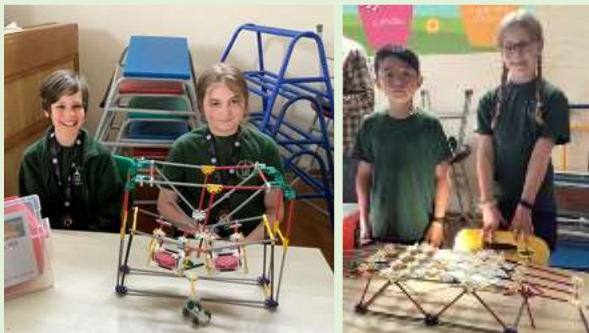
Megan M and Elliot C who have both been creative this week when designing and building their pavilions in D.T. They have also shown great resilience when the task has been particularly challenging.
Cornelius D - for having high aspirations in a maths lesson about fractions.

Year 5

Jack T and Daisy T who have worked well with each other this week.

Years 5/6 KNEX challenge

On Wednesday, Years 5 and 6 took part in our annual KNEX challenge. The winners of the KNEX challenge were: Charlie R, Isabella S, William W, Sophie B, Ethan S



Interhouse Netball and Football Matches

On Friday last week, KS2 were involved in an inter-house Netball and Football competition. Each of the house captains picked the teams for their colour and played against each other. Red and Blue went through to the final in the Netball, with Blues winning over the Reds. In the Football Green and Red went through to the final, with Red's winning. Well done to all those that took part.

Year 6 science lesson

In science, year 6 have been learning about evolution and adaptation. We have been learning about Charles Darwin and his study of finches in the Galapagos Islands. We carried out an investigation to find out which beak is best for which type of food source. We had great fun pretending to be feasting birds.



Year 5 Marvellous Middle

On Monday, Year 5 were invited to Macbeth's banquet. They acted out the scene where Macbeth saw the ghost of Banquo and will use their role play experience to support their retelling of Shakespeare's classic.



Pre school Pirate Day



Yesterday, children who attended pre-school came in for a Pirate themed day. Throughout the whole week, all of the children have had an opportunity to enjoy a variety of pirate activities in pre-school. They have made telescopes, been digging for treasure in the sand, followed treasure maps and unlocked diamonds! Yesterday, the children and the staff looked amazing dressed up in their pirate themed costumes and they enjoyed an outdoor picnic at snack time. They even made poor teddy walk the plank!

Year 3 Playscripts

This week in Year 3, we have been looking at play scripts in guided reading. This has been a new type of text for us so on Monday, we read the text and discussed how it was different to a story. We then looked at stage directions, why they are there and how we can tell which character is speaking and what they are doing whilst they talk. We have then spent the rest of the week acting out the script, working on our expression to convey the meaning of the words. This has been a fun topic as we have been able to be really creative, have our lessons outside and have fun with a story that we knew well (The Hare and The Tortoise).

House Points

This week's house points

Red House - 413

Yellow House - 394

Green House - 428

Blue House - 434

House point totals to date

1st Place - blue house - 1732

2nd Place - red house - 1697

3rd Place - yellow house - 1620

4th Place - green house - 1494

Beane Valley Children's Centre Update

This weekend at Selections Family Centre, Hertford - FREE Queen Bees and Platinum Trees Family Fun Days!

We hope you will drop in and see us to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and the Queen's Green Canopy campaign with us.

These events have a Going Green theme including a tree planting ceremony, nature arts and crafts and a book swap; plus physical fitness games, a visit from the fire brigade, an area for babies and much more!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Year 2 Science

In Year 2 we have been learning about the conditions plants need to grow. We designed and conducted a controlled experiment to test what would happen to seeds without sunlight, water or soil. We also grew seeds in a pot with the 'perfect conditions'

Plant pot 1 - no water

Plant pot 2 - 'perfect conditions'

Plant pot 3 - no sunlight

Plant pot 4 - no soil.



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Watton at Stone
Primary and Nursery School
Family Picnic to celebrate
the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

When: Thursday 26th May

Where: On the school field

Pre School, Nursery and Reception
classes

All children and parents are invited to attend from 11.45am until 12.45pm. If your child is booked in to stay for lunch on a Thursday, then parents do not have to attend. However, if your child isn't booked in for lunch on a Thursday, then a parent must attend and be responsible for your child.

Please enter the school grounds and exit via the Nursery green gate. Further details for pre school children will be sent home soon.

Year 1 and 2

Children will be coming out onto the field at 12pm and can remain with parents until 1pm. Once they have finished eating, children will be able to play on the field/playground. If a parent isn't able to attend, then the children will eat with their class teacher on the field and then play with their friends.

Please enter the school grounds and exit via the main gate near the school office.

Years 3, 4 5 and 6

Children will be coming out onto the field at 12.30pm and can remain with their parents until 1.30pm. Once they have finished eating, children will be able to play on the field/playground. If a parent isn't able to attend, then the children will eat with their class teacher on the field and then play with their friends.

Please enter the school grounds and exit via the main gate near the school office.

What to bring: Please bring your rug, chairs and picnic food. Children who normally have a school dinner, will be provided with a school packed lunch on this day. There will be no hot school dinners. Please do not pack any food items containing nuts. We are a nut free school and do have children in school with serious allergies to nuts.

If you can't attend this event, but would like your child to eat with another family, then please let the class teacher know in advance.

Unfortunately, if it rains on this day, then we will have to cancel this event as we are unable to accommodate all parents and children safely inside the building. In the event of a cancellation, then we will send you a message on the morning of 26th May.

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Friends of Watton Update

We are busy planning this term's events starting with the Father's Day stall on Friday 17th June, the children love choosing their own presents for their dads so if you're able to help please let us know on Friends-of-watton@googlegroups.com (thank you to those who've already volunteered).

Our playout is booked in for Friday 24th June - the children stay after school to play with FOW's toys and sports equipment and can buy goodies from our sweet and toy stall.

Don't forget that Doughnut Day is back on Friday 1st July. You can now order your specially-priced Krispy Kreme doughnuts via Classlist - the last event was a fantastic success and we completely sold out so make sure you pre-order your doughnuts in advance at

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/87543171>

(this link is open to all - you don't need to be a parent to purchase)

Please like us on Facebook to get all the latest news on events -

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfWattonAtStoneSchool>

Dates for your diary

Diary dates in red - new dates added this week

May

16th - 25th - KS1 SAT's

23rd - Queens Elizabeth 11 Platinum Jubilee week

25th - House point reward

26th - Queens Platinum Jubilee Family picnic

26th - Last day of half term

27th - 3rd June - Half Term (including an extra day for the Queen's Jubilee)

June

6th - INSET Day 5

7th - Children return

Week beginning 6th June - Year 1 Phonics screening check

Throughout June - Year 4 multiplication check

13th - Health and Fitness week

13th - Choir performance at the Drill Hall, Ware

14th - Sports Day 1

15th - Whole school pupil parliament meeting

17th - Sports Day 2 (Reserve)

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17th - Father's Day stall (FOW)

22nd and 23rd June - Year 4 trip to Hudnell Park

23rd - Full Governing Body meeting

24th June - After school Payout (fundraiser organised by FOW)

28th - Parent Forum meeting 6pm

28th - New to Nursery parents meeting (September 2022 starters) 6pm

29th - No Pens Day

July

1st - Doughnut day (FOW fundraiser)

4th - 8th - Assessment week

14th - Year 6 transition day to secondary schools

18th - Reports to parents

22nd - Feel Good Friday

22nd - End of Term 2.15pm