



## Newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

To our families and friends,

On Tuesday, Year 5 went on a class trip to the British History Museum in Hitchin, where poor Monty 'received the cane.' They took part in reading, writing and arithmetic lessons in an authentic classroom setting- with a very strict teacher from the museum. They also enjoyed a drill / PE session in the yard. The children really enjoyed their day. Then, on Wednesday, we had a science day where we welcomed a company called Fab Science into school to lead hour long workshops with children in Years 3 - 6 as well as a science assembly for children in Years 1 and 2. The theme for the day was 'Potty Potions'. Photos from the day are available to view in the Science Gallery on p3. This day was funded by the Friends Of Watton so a huge thank you to everyone who supports their fundraising events. The children have certainly been very fortunate to have been involved in 2 great themed days within two weeks!

Since the end of the autumn term, we have involved the whole school community in helping to formulate ideas for our new school vision and school slogan. We have consulted with parents, children, Governors, parent forum reps and school staff. A much smaller team were then tasked with collating everyone's ideas and opinions and trying to write a succinct vision that would be easily recalled by everyone, unique to our school, aligned with our school values and shows what we are passionate about.

I am delighted to share the vision and school slogan with you after several months of work and consulting with the whole school community.

### School Vision

Our school community will:

**INSPIRE** a love of learning so children reach their full potential.

**ENCOURAGE** understanding and acceptance of themselves and others.

**NURTURE** emotional wellbeing and build resilience.

### School Slogan

Our school community **inspires**, **encourages** and **nurtures** so that children thrive.

### Excitement in Year 6

This week, it was the turn of Year 6 to get excited about a package arriving in school. Mrs Straker (wife of Mark Straker) had written a very personal and lovely letter to the class on behalf of her husband. Year 6 class are named after Mark Straker who has sadly passed away but was an award winning film maker and founder of a charity which supported young adults in seeking qualifications and employment.

The children were equally thrilled with the Easter eggs that Mrs Straker had brought for them all!



### Parent/Teacher Meetings

This term, parent/teacher meetings will be taking place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 4pm - 7.30pm and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 3.30pm - 5.30pm. This is an opportunity to talk to the class teachers and have a look through your child's books. Both meeting days will be face to face and not virtual. The online booking system will go live today at 6pm and close on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. Mini reports will be sent home on the 9<sup>th</sup> for you to read prior to your meeting with your child's teacher.

We are delighted that Denise and Catherine (our school cooks) will be available in the hall on both evenings to offer families samples of the different school dinners available to children at lunchtime.

## P.E Kit

Back in November, following a parent forum meeting, I wrote to parents to inform you that from the summer term, we would be phasing in our new P.E tops. These new tops are made from a dry fast material and won't fade over time like the current P.E tops the children wear.

We have now received our sample P.E top from Kids Connection in Hertford (see photos to the right). Please pop into the main school entrance to see the P.E and feel the improved quality of the fabric.

These tops will be available from the Kids Connection shop in Hertford from the Easter holiday at a cost of £11 each and the old P.E will no longer be available to be purchased from there. However, there are still some brand new 'old' style P.E tops that we will be selling from the school office at a much reduced cost of £3 up until the end of the summer term.

From September however, we would like all children to be wearing the new tops for P.E lessons and sporting events off school site. We are especially pleased with our school name on the reverse so that our children are easier to locate when attending off site sporting events.

## Front of P.E Top



## Back of P.E Top



## Friends of Watton update

Hello from **FOW** (All links to websites will be underlined; click to access)

Our **LEAP YEAR DISCO** will be taking place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. Tickets are now on sale. £5 per child, including a bag of crisps and unlimited drinks. 2<sup>nd</sup> siblings: £5, 3<sup>rd</sup>+: £2.50. Please remember that adult supervision is necessary for nursery and preschool children. Our DJ has assured us that the music will be played at a **comfortable volume**. Tickets can be purchased on [CLASSLIST](#) so far no volunteers have come forward; for this event to go ahead, we need **8 volunteers**; please click on the link to add your name to the volunteer sheet, 30-minute to 90 mins timing slots available. [VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Please **register** any new children at the school on the [CLASSLIST](#) app and ensure that the information about your current child/children's details is also up to date. This is the only way to buy **tickets** for any **school events**, whether they are for children or adults. It will greatly help the committee and/or staff to locate and check off your child's name for school events. Could you please update these details before the upcoming school **DISCO**? Please join our WhatsApp **announcement group**; there are no conversation threads, just announcements of our events. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to join.

If you're planning to book any **holidays** this year, please consider using **Easyfundraising**. By joining Easyfundraising, you can remain **anonymous** while potentially earning money for our school. If just 10 people booked their holidays through the website, **£1800** "could" be earned. This money could be used for many wonderful things to **enrich** your children's education. [JOIN HERE](#). So far, we have 36 supporters in total. Thank you.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

## Potty Potions Photo Gallery

Here are a few photos taken during the Potty Potions science workshop this Wednesday. The children had the opportunity to experience different equipment and scientific skills to enrich their cultural capital and excite them all.



## Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p><b>Miles</b> - Miles always making the right choices at preschool. He is always fully immersed in the learning, incorporating his imagination into his play! Well done Miles!</p> <p><b>Beatrix</b> - Beatrix is a happy, positive member of the Preschool class and is always eager to learn, showing a fabulous can do attitude. Great job Beatrix!</p>	<p><b>Emilia</b> - Emilia has settled well into the Preschool , and follows the routines well. She will happily investigate all the activities set out, finding what she likes best to play! Well done Emilia!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p><b>Rafe</b> - for trying hard to make the right choices. He has been thinking carefully about the right thing to do.</p>	<p><b>Leo</b> - for trying hard with his learning and for being a good role model.</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p><b>Tyler</b> - for working to the best of his ability, especially in Phonics.</p> <p>Lucia for being an outstanding role model and always showing she is listening on the carpet.</p>	<p><b>India</b> - for working to the best of her ability, especially with using her Phonics to spell and choosing to write during CIL.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p><b>Penelope</b> - for constantly making the right choices, she is a fantastic role model for others.</p> <p><b>Milly</b> - for always working to the best of her ability in whatever she does.</p>	<p><b>Jordan</b> - for always following the school rules, another fantastic role model.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p><b>Jethro</b> - for working to the best of his ability.</p>	<p><b>Beatrice</b> - for showing a love of learning in English.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p><b>Louis</b> - always being polite and well mannered to the adults and his peers.</p> <p><b>Rafe</b> - working to best ability and having a positive attitude towards his learning.</p>	<p><b>Eleanor</b> - being an outstanding role model by always making the right choices.</p> <p><b>Danny</b> - showing a love for learning by enjoying reading regularly at home.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p><b>Beau</b> - for paying attention to all adults and working to the best of her ability.</p>	<p><b>Martha</b> - for her love of learning and always being willing to contribute her ideas in class discussions.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p><b>Ronny</b> - for his love of learning. He asked thoughtful questions on our Victorian schools trip.</p>	<p><b>Mila</b> - outstanding role model - over coming her fears and moving to the deep end in swimming.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p><b>Robson</b> - showing a love of learning in science</p>	<p><b>Ewen</b> - Working to the best of his ability in English</p>

## Headteacher's Awards



Each week, staff are constantly looking for children in the school who are showing awareness of one or more than one of our school learning values. These values will help children to become better learners as well as developing their relationships with others around them. Children are recognised for their achievements with being awarded Headteacher's Awards.

### Reception:

Lola - for showing kindness and empathy to others.

Violet - for independently writing a sentence with a capital letter, finger spaces and amazing use of her phonics.

### Year 1:

Amelia H - taking pride in her handwriting.

Eliza - for working well in a team during PE.

### Year 2:

Amelia - for always showing respect to all staff and pupils.

Iris - for taking pride in her handwriting and presentation.

### Year 3:

Connor & Henry - for showing resilience and pride and becoming free readers this week.

Bea - having pride in her presentation and handwriting.

### Year 4:

Edward for showing kindness in our P.E lesson and listening to others.

Isabella for taking pride in her presentation and correct letter formation.

### Year 5:

Noah - for having high aspirations in javelin throwing.

Charlie - great focus and pride in his handwriting.

### Year 6:

Cornelius - for having high aspirations. He produced a well presented informative piece of work on biomes.

Megan - for improvement in her cursive handwriting and working especially on the size of her letter 'i'.

## This Weeks attendance %

Dixon (R)	98%
Bay Class(1)	98.8%
Pendleton Class (2)	98.6%
Ezra Class (3)	98.1%
Shepherd Class (4)	100%
Grint Class (5)	97.7%
Straker Class (6)	98.3%

Whole School Attendance this week 98.53%  
Whole School Attendance this term 97.94%  
Well done to Shepherd Class for 100% attendance.



## Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Nathan A - 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Hadley O'N - 28<sup>th</sup> January

## Items required in the Nursery Classroom

We would like to replenish our home corner in Nursery and are after a few select things. Do you have any hats, shoes or scarves you no longer want/need?

We are looking for wedding hats or similar, big brimmed hats, cowboy hats (anything other than bobble hats), slip on shoes, and scarves.

If you do have any items that you are willing to donate to the school, then please can you bring them to the school admin office.

Many thanks  
The Nursery Team

## House Points

### This week

Joint First place - Yellow House - 411

Joint First place - Green House - 411

Second place - Red House - 389

Third place - Blue House - 380

### This Term

First place - Red House - 1,905

Second place - Green House - 1,900

Third Place - Blue House - 1,887

Fourth place - Yellow House - 1,880

## Reading Sheds

You may have noticed that we now have 2 new sheds positioned on the decking by Year 2. We are transforming these sheds into outdoor libraries and there is a separate shed for Rec/KS1 and KS2. Lots of books have been categorized and organized so that children can select their preferred genre but we hope that there are books of interest for all children. We have some more work to do to get these completely ready but hopefully we can have these in use as the better weather starts in spring. We are also hoping to add some bean bags and seating in this area so that children have a designated space to read their books in.





## HELPING HERTS HOMELESS

Registered Charity Number 1071610

c/o HW Associates, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, SG5 1DJ  
Tel : 01462 600425  
info@helpinghertshomeless.org.uk

"Providing targeted support to improve the lives of homeless people"

Mrs N Etienne  
Watton-at Stone school  
Rectory lane  
Watton at Stone  
HERTFORD  
Herts  
SG14 3SG

24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Mrs Etienne

A Happy New Year to you and many thanks for the donation made by your school. We really appreciate it when the local community supports the homeless in this way.

Apart from offering accommodation for local homeless individuals at our hostel in Hitchin [the North Herts Sanctuary], the charity acts as a hub supporting like-minded charities and organisations who are directly involved in alleviating homelessness. We provide funds for specific projects and initiatives that otherwise wouldn't go ahead - normally totalling up to £20,000 per year.

This has enabled the HHH to help many of the homeless across Herts, to enjoy a better time this Christmas. Please see the enclosed Newsletter which gives an idea of the work carried out by our charity.

On behalf of everybody at Helping Herts Homeless, thank you for remembering us. Please pass on our appreciation to all the staff and pupils at your school.

Sincerely



Peter Warren  
Trustee  
Helping Herts Homeless  
01462-600425

### Thank You

This week we received this lovely letter from Helping Herts Homeless to thank us for our donation of £242 which was collected after each of the children's Christmas Productions. A huge thank you to everyone who made a donation to this great cause and it was lovely to see how much they appreciated the community supporting them so that they can continue to do the great work that they do.

### Dates for your diary

Diary dates in red - new dates added this week

#### February

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 SAT's Mocks

6<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet 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

7<sup>th</sup> - Reception class screening checks  
12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> - Pre school stay and share week  
13<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 4pm - 7.30pm  
15<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm  
16<sup>th</sup> - No Pens Day  
19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Half Term

### March

4<sup>th</sup> - Saltmine Theatre Company performance  
7<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day  
8<sup>th</sup> - FOW Mother's Day stall  
26<sup>th</sup> - Sponsored Bounce  
28<sup>th</sup> - End of Term 2.15pm  
11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - Assessment week

### April

15<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day  
16<sup>th</sup> - Children return  
16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Pupil Progress Meetings

### May

7<sup>th</sup> - Reception class screening checks  
13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> - Key Stage 2 SATS  
20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> - Mental Health Week  
27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> - Half Term

### June

3<sup>rd</sup> - Inset Day  
4<sup>th</sup> - Children return  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 Multiplication Table Check  
10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - Fitness Week  
11<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day 1  
12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 Hudnall Park  
17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> June - Year 6 PGL residential (Caythorpe)  
25<sup>th</sup> - Reserved Sports Day  
10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - Phonic Screening

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

28th - Watton's Got Talent Show

## July

1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> July - Assessment week

16th July - Year 5/6 Production 6pm

17th July - Reports out to Parents

18th July - Year 5/6 Production 2pm

23<sup>rd</sup> - Year 6 leavers assembly

23<sup>rd</sup> July - End of Term 2.15pm