



Newsletter 26th April 2024

To our parents and friends,

It's been another busy week in school with lots of events, visitors and trips taking place.

On Monday, Year 4 went on a trip to the Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple in Watford as part of their R.E curriculum. This is a fantastic day out and the children always thoroughly enjoy the different culture experiences, activities and of the course, the food (which is provided by the temple). The children were exemplary role models on this trip and behaved extremely well whilst representing the school. Well done Year 4.

On Tuesday, Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to take part in a Goconstruct KNEX challenge which was run by a STEM ambassador. Each year, they change the challenge for the children and this years challenge was to construct a bulldozer out of KNEX construction kit.

Further articles/photos about the year 4 trip and the Years 5/6 KNEX day are on p2 of this newsletter.

We were extremely proud of our Year 2 class as we were chosen by the NFER (National Foundation for Educational Research) to be part of a National Reading pilot. The children were asked to test out some new Reading tests before they are used on a national basis. The children thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and provided some very helpful feedback to the researcher who said that some changes would be needed to the tests as a result of their feedback.

Following on from last weeks pupil progress meetings, the teachers will be sending home intervention letters where children have been identified as benefitting from some additional support. These letters are to help keep parents informed and we encourage you to talk to your child's class teacher if you are unsure about the additional help they are receiving and would like suggestions about how you can further support your child at home.

Finally, to let you know of an extremely exciting partnership which we are currently establishing with Sam and Alison Pearman (parents of Jess and Jack) at Watkins Farm in the village. This term, Years 2 and 3 will be going to the farm to learn part of their science and geography curriculum. Year 2 are hoping to go and learn more about plant life cycles and their habitats and Year 3 are hoping to develop their geographical skills by using, drawing and interpreting maps and looking for human and physical geographical features. In the next academic year, we will be developing this partnership even further and planning for all year groups from Reception to Year 6 to have an annual visit to the farm with learning based on their curriculum topics. This is an extremely exciting venture which will further develop outdoor learning opportunities for the children and for parents it is completely free!!!

Sponsored Bounce

A huge thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsorship money so far. If you haven't yet sent your child's sponsorship money into school, then we would really appreciate you doing this by the end of next week. This can be paid to the school online use Gateway or as cash. All of the money will be used towards extending our current laptop range and replacing older models. We are hoping to be able to buy 5-6 new laptops (they cost approx £400 each). So far we have enough to buy 4 laptops which is fantastic but a few more laptops would be incredible. Thank you so much for your support.

Tesco Stronger Start Grant

Please vote in Tesco's stores (using the blue counters provided) for our schools outdoor project in the early years. The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive £1,500, the second placed project will receive £1,000 and the third placed project will be awarded £500. The following stores will all be taking part in the voting for this project: Stevenage Extra, Old Stevenage High Street, Stevenage Chells, Broadwater Stevenage, Woolmer Green and Hitchin. Please help us by spreading the word to your friends, families and work colleagues. Thank you.

Year 4 Trip To Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple

Year 4 visited the Bhaktivedanta Hindu Temple to learn about Hindus' lifestyle and beliefs on Monday. The children dressed up and learnt about different gods and goddesses within the Hindu religion. We learnt that Hindu's believe that every living thing has a soul, including animals, plants and humans.

The children also had the opportunity of enjoying a cart ride pulled by two oxen and they were taken to where the cattle are kept. Cattle are really important to Hindu's and they are treated as part of the family. The cattle the children saw had been born at the temple and would spend their lives there. The children also learnt about the holy tree which is placed on the shrine at prayer time and as it grows the wood is used to make prayer beads.

The children then had the opportunity of dressing up in sari's and turbans before going to the shrine where they watched the lunchtime prayers.

After a busy morning, the children enjoyed a delicious meal with seconds being offered (and thirds and fourths.)

Many thanks to Mrs Joel, one of our school governors who accompanied us on the trip.



Years 5 and 6 KNEX Challenge



On Tuesday, Years 5 and 6 worked with a partner to construct bulldozers out of KNEX construction kit. After initially planning their ideas on paper, they then set about to complete this challenge in the allocated time. Congratulations to Rose H and Isabelle B (Year 5) and Cornelius and Elliott (Year 6) who were the winners.

Friends of Watton Update

At the start of the Easter break, on Good Friday, the FOW team and a fantastic group of volunteers ran the Easter Fair at the Nigel Poulton Hall. The day started off very gloomy with wind and rain, but by the afternoon the sun was shining. Once the event was underway the hall was filled with families searching for their Easter quiz questions and reading Easter jokes.

We had stall holders selling gifts, sweets, cakes, hand-made crafts and we even had an Alumni pupil raising money for a school trip. Happy families eating fish and chips at the meadow whilst the kids played made it an eventful and fun gathering.

It was an extremely well attended event and we've been asked when we will do another! At the event we also displayed our Watton Vault where adults and children completed their predictions or placed items inside the vault ready for the next leap year. In total we raised over £700! Thank you to all who volunteered and to everyone for attending and making it such an enjoyable day.

Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Jacob - Jacob has grown in confidence within the setting. He has been engaging in lots of conversation with preschool adults and his peers. A fabulous week Jacob! We are very proud of you!</p> <p>Victoria - Victoria has been a super kind friend this week. She has also been extremely helpful to the adults, even going out of her way to help, even when she hasn't been asked. We are very proud of you! Well done!</p>	<p>Charlie - Charlie has been a very kind friend this week. He has helped the other children settle when they have been upset, getting them toys to play with to help comfort them. He has also been a very smiley happy member of the class this week and always has impeccable manners! We are very proud of you Charlie. Well done!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Benji B - for being a great friend, he has been so kind and considerate this week and for always being a fantastic role model.</p> <p>Freddie D - has made a great start in Nursery, he has shown independence and kindness and has been making new friends.</p>	<p>Lyra S - for showing kindness to her friends and cheering them on. She has also shown a positive attitude towards learning.</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Jack - for always being a great role model to others and always working to the best of his ability.</p>	<p>Alfie -for working to the best of his ability and showing a love of learning in all areas this week.</p> <p>Lottie - for always being well mannered.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Arthur and Milly for being good role models. Harlen for his love of learning in all areas.</p>	
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Jasper GO- for working to the best of his ability in maths.</p>	<p>Shiva M- for being an outstanding role model at all times.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Bella - showing a love for learning in history, both at home and at school and recalling interesting facts about The Iron Age.</p> <p>Ethan - working to the best of his ability whilst writing a non-fiction report.</p>	<p>Izzy - for inviting lonely children to play and join in with her games.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Leo - for always working to the best of his ability. Leo tries hard in all lessons.</p> <p>Lexie - for being an outstanding role model. Lexie shows our Great to be Gold values in everything she does.</p>	<p>Liam - for showing impeccable behaviour on our school trip to the Hindu Temple.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Lexie - For being an outstanding role model. Lexie always follows the school rules and shows a love for learning in all lessons.</p>	<p>Isabelle - For having a great attitude towards learning. Isabelle has been very focused and has produced some imaginative creative writing this week.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Annabelle - for meeting all the GTBG criteria</p> <p>Tawana - for her love of learning and working to the best of her ability</p>	<p>Neave - for meeting all the GTBG criteria</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 being creative during child-initiated learning and taking great care over her drawings.

Emma - for being independent, showing resilience and having pride in her writing.

William - for being a kind and empathetic friend.

Tiara and Romily - for their independent writing during C.I.L time.

Year 1:

Amelia A - for having high aspirations in PE. Sophia for having the confidence to work more independently in maths.

Isaac WP - for having pride in his handwriting.

Year 2:

Mila M- for taking pride in her presentation and making progress with her handwriting.

Riley E- for having high aspirations in PE. He tried hard to improve the distance of his jumps on each attempt.

Year 3:

Rafe - showing curiosity in maths and demonstrating deeper thinking.

Alessia - for showing kindness and empathy to others.

Millie - for having pride in her handwriting and presentation.

Year 4:

Verity - for trying really hard to use the skills learnt in handwriting to improve her letter formation.

Beau - for her efforts in her first school swimming lesson. She had high aspirations and was proud of her achievements.

Year 5:

Mila - for having high aspirations and resilience in P.E (sprinting). You changed your technique to improve your speed.

Dexter - for taking time to ensure his handwriting is neat and for achieving his pen licence.

Maia - For demonstrating excellent teamwork this week during our K'Nex challenge, where you helped your partner to achieve the task.

Ollie - For demonstrating excellent teamwork this week during our K'Nex challenge. You worked to the best of your ability and created an excellent model with your partner.

Year 6:

Ewen and Alfie C - for representing the school as positive sports ambassadors and their excellent attitude. They were both noticed by all the adults on the course.

Alex - for a consistent cursive style of writing and having pride in his presentation.

This Weeks attendance %

Dixon (R)	97.6%
Bay Class(1)	99.3%
Pendleton Class (2)	97.9%
Ezra Class (3)	98.4%
Shepherd Class (4)	99.4%
Grint Class (5)	97.7%
Straker Class (6)	100%

Whole School Attendance this week/term 98.81%
Well done to Straker Class for 100% attendance.



Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



20th April - Harlen H

21st April - Lyra S

25th April - Izzy G

25th April - Owen T

26th April - Jethro B

House Points

This week

First place - Red House - 356

Second place - Yellow House - 331

Third place - Green House - 330

Fourth place - Blue House - 329

This Half Term

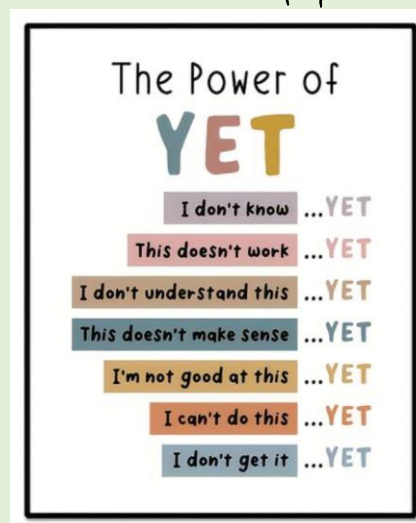
First place - Blue House - 1,207

Second place - Yellow House - 1,130

Third place - Red House - 1,109

Fourth place - Green House - 1,081

The Power of Yet



In school, children will often say to the adults that they can't do something. Our response to them is that they can't do it 'yet'.

The "power of yet" is about having a growth mindset. It is rooted in how you approach failure to say that you can't do something "yet" instead. This word means that some things are worth waiting for, and those things take work and it's merely a starting point to adopt a strong work ethic and stronger dedication to achieving your goals. Try using the power of 'yet' in your conversations at home especially when they are learning a new skill or challenge.

Diary dates in red – new dates added this week

May

1st – Class photos (Braiswick photographer)
7th – Reception class screening checks
10th – Year 1 class trip to Mountfitchet Castle
13th – 16th – Key Stage 2 SATS
20th – 24th – Mental Health Week
21st – Year 6 Lancaster Model
22nd – Year 4 and 6 trip to Woodhall Estate
23rd – Year 1 class assembly to parents 9am
24th – Skip to be fit challenge and No Pens Day
27th – 31st – Half Term

June

3rd – Inset Day
4th – Children return
3rd – 14th – Year 4 Multiplication Table Check
10th – 14th – Year 1 Phonics screening assessments
11th – Sports Day 1
12th – 14th – Year 4 Hudnall Park
17th – 21st – Year 6 PGL residential (Caythorpe)
25th – Reserved Sports Day
25th – New to Nursery (September 2024) meeting 6pm
10th – 14th – Phonic Screening
27th – New to Reception (Sept 2024) meeting 6pm
28th – Watton's Got Talent Show

July

1st – 5th – Assessment week
11th – Secondary transition day to secondary schools
11th – Rec – year 6 move up to new classes and meet their new class teachers (Sept 24)

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

11th - New to Nursery and Reception - Stay and Play with parents 9.45 - 11.15

8th - 12th - Sports week (Paris Olympics)

16th - Year 5/6 Production 6pm

16th - Early Years picnic (for all current pre school, nursery and Reception families as well as new families due to join in September 2024)

17th - Reports out to Parents

17th - IRock performance to school and parents 2.30pm

18th - Year 5/6 Production 2pm

23rd - Year 6 leavers assembly

23rd July - End of Term 2.15pm

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