



No. 15
January
2015

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School

Newsletter

Please share this newsletter with your child

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and I wish you all a belated happy new year. It has been good to catch up with all the children again and many of them have enjoyed telling me all about their holidays.

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Anna Taylor as our new Foundation Stage Leader and also some new teaching assistants Mrs Pauline Bunce, Mrs Fiona Richardson, Mrs Janine Pinder and Mrs Andrea Chesterman-Smith to our team.

Lottery Funding

We have some good news; we have been successful in a bid for Lottery Funding that we applied for last year. We will now be able to complete our 'Trim Trail' and a lovely wooden outdoor shelter that will support our forest school work.

Plea for Resources

Mrs Taylor, our new Early Years Leader has made a request for any unwanted toys and games. We are hoping that this may be a time of year when some parents/carers are sorting out unwanted toys and games that could be passed on to our Foundation Stage children.

Parking Enforcement Around Schools

We have been informed by our local council that on 2nd February 2015 they will be launching a mobile parking enforcement service dedicated to the enforcement of yellow 'zig-zag' restrictions outside schools. The launch of this initiative is in part a response to reports and complaints from members of the public concerning dangerous and inconsiderate parking outside schools. The new mobile service will be dedicated primarily to schools in smaller towns and villages. A Penalty Charge Notice will be issued where a parking contravention occurs.

With this in mind please be aware that there is parking available in the grounds of Beane Valley Children's Centre for parents and visitors.

Watton School to lead group of Children's Centres

Herts County Council are grouping Children's Centres and went out to tender for a single body to lead each group. They received scores of bids from the public sector, private sector and charity sectors. Building on the work put in to making Beane Valley so successful, Watton School decided to bid to lead the group composed of our three local Children's Centres: Beane Valley, Selections and Churchfields. Against some very strong competition, Watton School won the tender and will be taking on the contract from 1 April 2015.

All three Children's Centres will continue to run as clearly defined entities and we plan to maintain and develop our services for families with young children in the area. We aim to further develop our relationships with our partners in childcare, health, education and employment to support parents in giving their children the very best start in life.

Teacher training

We now have the pleasure of being part of a Teaching Alliance which supports graduates in their training to become teachers. As a result of this, we are lucky to have a number of student teachers working with us this term and your children will probably come home and talk about some new teachers who are supporting them in the classroom and some of the fun and exciting group work and lessons they will be experiencing. We are already seeing the benefits of having student teachers working with us at Watton and the children often thrive on the extra support this enables them to have in the classroom.

Good News for Ex-pupil

It is always good to hear about the ongoing success of pupils who have been at our school. This week we heard that Jermain Straker has recently been selected to be part of the English Karate Squad. Congratulations and best wishes to Jermain and his family.

Zoë Hussain
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

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| 13 th February 2015 | INSET DAY – school closed to pupils |
| 16 th – 20 th February 2015 | Half Term |
| 17 th March 2015 | Parents consultation evening |
| 18 th March 2015 | Parents consultation evening |
| 2 nd April 2015 | Easter church service End of term school finishes at 12 noon |
| 20 th April 2015 | INSET DAY – school closed to pupils |
| 4 th May 2015 | May Day – school closed |
| 6 th May 2015 | Class & team school photos |
| 11 th – 15 th May 2015 | SATs week |
| 25 th – 29 th May 2015 | Half Term |
| 8 th – 12 th June 2015 | Year 6 residential trip to Caythorpe Court |
| 22 nd June 2015 | KS2 production matinee and evening performance |
| 23 rd June 2015 | KS2 production evening performance |
| 24 th – 26 th June 2015 | Year 4 to Hudnall Park residential trip |
| 1 st – 3 rd July 2015 | Year 2 to Cuffley Camp |
| 3 rd July 2015 | Foundation Stage reports to parents |
| 7 th July 2015 | Foundation Stage sports morning |
| 8 th July 2015 | Sports day |
| 9 th July 2015 | Secondary transfer day Meet your new teacher day |
| 10 th July 2015 | Assessment reports to parents |
| 15 th July 2015 | Open afternoon / parents evening appointments |
| 21 st July 2015 | Year 6 leavers service 9.15 End of year – 12 noon finish |

Academic Year 2014/2015

Spring Term 2015

Monday 5th January to Thursday 2nd April
Spring Half Term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

Summer Term 2015

Tuesday 20th April to Wednesday July 22nd
Summer Half Term: Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th May

INSET Days

Monday 5th January 2015
Friday 13th February 2015
Monday 20th April 2015
Wednesday 22nd July 2015

Occasional Day

Monday 8th December 2014