



No. 21
December
2015

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School
Newsletter

Please share this newsletter with your child

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of term is nearly upon us and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying the nativity performances, the pantomime at Hertford theatre and our Christmas dinner. The children have all been very busy this term and we are very proud of how hard they have been working and the enthusiasm they have shown for their learning. Thank you for all your ongoing support at home with spellings, handwriting, times tables and the variety of homework that has been undertaken.

Carol Concert

On Tuesday 1st December, the choir took part in the Hertford and Ware Carol Service at All Saints Church, Hertford. The children performed a number of carols as part of a large choir. They sounded amazing! The year 6 children shared the reading and were well prepared and clear. Mrs Roberts was extremely proud of all 33 children that represented the school. It kicked off the festivities beautifully. We also thank Mrs Roberts for all her hard work and enthusiasm in dedicating her time to such a wonderful choir.

Community:

On Thursday 10th December, the older children in the choir went to the Methodist church to sing carols for those that attended the luncheon club Christmas dinner. A huge thank you to Mrs Dunne for supporting us with her organ playing!

Christmas Nativity Performances:

Our Christmas Nativity performances are always very special events and I'm sure you'll agree that this year was no exception. The children were so excited about performing for you and their enthusiasm and enjoyment was matched by the quality of performance they gave – fabulous! Well done to our talented children for giving their best and a big thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to enable the children to perform so well.

Parent questionnaire:

We recently sent out a questionnaire to find out how we can best provide you with further information to support your children in their learning. Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete this – we had a large response and we are currently using the responses to plan our parent sessions for the spring and summer term. In January, we will send you information about all the sessions we will be running.

Staff Changes:

Miss Charlotte Moncrieff, one of our Key Stage 1 teachers, will be leaving us at the end of term. Although she has only been with us for a short time, we would like to thank Miss Moncrieff for all she has done for the children, including running a film and geography club. We will miss her and wish her all the best in the future. Mrs Gill, our Deputy Headteacher, will be taking on the role of class teacher for the Hedgehogs' class and she is very much looking forward to this!

After two successful years at the school, Kayleigh Gilbert, our Out of Hours Club Leader, will be sadly leaving our school at the end of this term for a promotion. Kayleigh has been a valued member of the school staff. We wish her all the best in her new role and thank her for the commitment she has given to the school during her time with us. Miranda Woodhead will be stepping up and taking over from Kayleigh. Miranda has worked for the school for a number of years and is an extremely experienced member of staff.

Friends of Watton

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Friends of Watton for their great deal of hard work and their vital role in ensuring that the school continues to be able to buy fantastic resources that benefit all the children.

Forest School

Mrs Goodman was delighted with the enthusiasm of the year 4 children when they attended the Panshanger Forest School earlier this term and is looking forward to taking Years 5 and 6 in the spring term. Since June, Mrs Goodman has been attending 'Down the Woods' with 6 other people for a variety of different settings and backgrounds, to train to be a Level 3 Forest School Leader. Over the initial six days she explored the ethos of Forest School, the benefits, the activities, safe use of tools, different styles of learning, risk assessments, woodland knowledge and of course, fire lighting.
(Please see overleaf for more information)

On the final two days, in late November, Mrs Goodman was assessed on her practical skills – knowing and teaching three different knots, cooking on a fire lit safely by herself, making a shelter, running activities for the other participants and demonstrating the safe use of tools –we are proud to say she passed.

All that remains now is to complete the course work before Mrs Goodman can be called a fully qualified Level 3 Forest School Leader.

Resources

The school is looking for any unwanted religious artefacts that could be donated to the school to be used as resources for Religious Education. Please let Mrs Gogol know if you have any.

School closes for the Christmas holiday at 12.00 noon on Friday 18th December and the Spring Term begins on Tuesday 5th January 2016. From all of us at Watton at Stone, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Zoë Hussain

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 15 th December	Pantomime Trip for the whole School – Hertford Theatre
Wednesday 16 th December	School Christmas Dinner
Friday 18 th December	End of Term Church Service / School Finishes at 12 noon
Monday 4 th January 2016	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 th January	Term begins
Friday 12 th February	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February	HALF TERM
Wednesday 23 rd March	Parents Consultation Evening
Thursday 24 th March	Parents Consultation Evening
Friday 25 th March	Bank Holiday
Monday 28 th March	Bank Holiday
Friday 1 st April	Easter Church Service / End of Term School Finishes at 12 noon
Monday 18 th April	Terms begins
Monday 2 nd May	May Day Bank Holiday – School closed
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th May	SATS Week
Tuesday 17 th May	Class & Team Photo's
Monday 30 th May – Friday 3 rd June	HALF TERM
Tuesday 21 st June	Foundation Sports Morning
Wednesday 22 nd June	KS1 & KS2 Sports Day
Monday 4 th July – Friday 8 th July	Year 6 Residential Trip to Caythorpe Court
Wednesday 6 th – Friday 8 th July	Year 2 to Cuffley Camp
Wednesday 13 th – Friday 15 th July	Year 4 Residential Trip to Hudnall Park
Thursday 14 th July	Secondary Transfer Day
To be confirmed	Meet your new teacher day
Friday 15 th July	Assessment Reports to go out
Monday 18 th July	Open afternoon for parents
Wednesday 20 th July	KS2 Production matinee & evening performances
Thursday 21 st July	KS2 Production evening performance
Friday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers Service 9.15 / End of year – 12 noon finish

Academic Year 2015/2016

<p>Autumn Term 2015 Autumn Half Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October Second Half Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December Christmas Holidays :Monday 21st Dec to Friday 1st January 2016</p> <p>Spring Term 2016 First Half Monday 4th January to Friday 12th February Spring Half Term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February Second Half Monday 22nd February to Friday 1st April</p> <p>Summer Term 2016 First Half Monday 18th April to Friday 27th May Summer Half Term: Tuesday 31st May to Friday 3rd June Second Half Monday 6th June to Monday 25th July</p>	<p>Inset Days Wednesday 2nd September 2015 Monday 19th October 2015 Monday 4th January 2016 Friday 12th February 2016 Monday 25th July 2016</p> <p>Occasional Days Monday 7th December 2015</p>
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