



Please share this newsletter with your child

No. 23
March
2016

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School
Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust that you all received your children's mid-year reports on Friday and I hope that you found them informative. I enjoyed reading all of them and it is a pleasure to see the progress the children are making throughout the school. Please do return the reply slips at the end of the reports as it is always good to have your feedback.



Parents Consultation Evenings:

You should have now been allocated a time slot/s for your Parent Consultation/s this week. Please feel free to arrive earlier than your time slot to have a look at your children's books and also spend some time in the hall.

There will be a variety of information available in the hall and we will also be looking for more feedback. As well as having tea and coffee available, there will also be various information tables in the hall which may be of interest to you.

Parent Questionnaire:

We will be sending our annual parent questionnaire out before the end of term. The information we can get from your feedback is invaluable in helping us keep doing the things we are doing well and also in helping us to think about ways in which we can improve even further. Please do take the time to fill these in.

Parent session update from our HMI visit:

On Wednesday 9th March at 6p.m. we held a parent information session to let you know about the progress we have been making over the last term. We had a small number of parents attend the session and I believe those who attended found it useful. We will have the presentation on display in the hall and it is also available on our website in the virtual office pencil under letters/info.

Enriching our curriculum:



One of our next steps at Watton is to enrich our curriculum even further by having a range of exciting activities going on that are linked to the children's learning. Our Forest School is now well underway and thanks to contributions raised by the F.O.W, over the Easter holiday Mr Starkey will be very busy preparing our new 'Growing Area' (where the children will be growing a range of flowers and vegetables). He will also be preparing an area for some school pets to be homed (including chickens, rabbits and tortoises). These additions will support the children in their science, PSHE and citizenship learning and I am sure they will lead to some wonderful inspired writing too! Over the coming months you will hear more about our enriched curriculum, such as us having a Science Week in June and the children creating artwork to be presented in a gallery in July!

Growth Mindset:

Another of the areas we are focussing on is 'Growth Mindset'. This is based on the work of individuals such as Carol Dweck, who argues that intelligence can be developed and is not indeed 'fixed'. The idea of having a Growth Mindset involves challenges being embraced and mistakes being a positive learning point. Part of this also involves effort and resilience being encouraged.

This already fits with our marking and feedback policy, where children know that:

- Green indicates what you are doing well (and should keep doing)
- 'Pink means Think' (it is not just 'wrong', it just means we need to think more about it to improve what we are doing)

We will be encouraging the children to think in a positive way about their learning (and any mistakes) and praising the effort they put in and the resilience they show in sticking at things when they find them hard.

The table below indicates how we are going to be encouraging the children to think about their learning...

Instead of:	Try thinking:
I give up	I'll try a different way/strategy
I can't do this	What am I missing?
I can't make this any better	To make this even better, I can...
It's good enough	Is this the best I can do?
This is too hard	This might take me some time. First I will...

World Book Day

On Friday 4th March was Watton's World Book Day. Everyone had a fantastic time dressing up as their favourite book characters; the children's outfits were amazing.

Music Festival

A number of our children will take part in the Hertford and Ware Primary Schools' Music presentation tomorrow night to celebrate Shakespeare's 400th anniversary. We have a fabulous choir and three of our children will be soloists and one has been chosen to be a narrator. Good luck to all of them.

F.O.W Easter Raffle

Tickets are on sale before and after school at 20p each.

Parent Governors

There will be a Parent Governors election soon, we have a vacancy for two governors and....



We Need You!

More information will come out later this week.

Zoë Hussain
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 23 rd March	Parents Consultation Evening 5pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 24 th March	Parents Consultation Evening 3.30pm to 5.30pm
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
Tuesday 19 th July	KS2 Production evening performance
Wednesday 20 th July	KS2 Production matinee & evening performances
Thursday 21 st July	Yr 6 Visit to Harry Potter Studios
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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