

# *Watton at Stone*

## *Nursery and Primary School Newsletter*

December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of a busy and productive Autumn Term, the children have much to look back and be pleased with! We have had a variety of activities, including: Well Being Week, performances in school and in the community, Forest School, children writing for the Parish News and our very own 'Watton Weekly' and football matches with Heath Mount to name but a few! This term has been 15 weeks long and we are so proud of the children for all the hard work and effort they have put in, even as they are getting more tired (and excited with the prospect of Christmas) as the term comes to an end! We are sure the children will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries and on behalf of all of the staff, we wish you all a very merry Christmas!

### **Christmas Nativity Performances**

Our Christmas Nativity performances, both by the Early Years and Key Stage one, are always special events and occasions we look forward to. This year, the children were all little stars! The children were so excited about performing for parents, grandparents and family members and we trust from the many positive comments you gave us that you thoroughly enjoyed the performances! A big well done to our talented children for giving their best and we must say thank you again to staff who worked so hard to enable the children to perform so successfully.

### **Carol Concert**

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, the choir took part in the Hertford and Ware Carol Service in Hertford. The children performed a number of carols as part of a large choir and they sounded fabulous! Each school performed an individual item and reading as well. The year 6 children shared the reading and were well prepared and clear. Mrs Roberts was extremely proud of all the children that represented the school.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the older children in the choir went to the Methodist church to sing carols for those that attended the Watton Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner. A huge thank you to Mrs Hanlon for supporting us with this too!

We also thank Mrs Roberts for all her hard work and enthusiasm in dedicating her time to music in the school!

### **Staff Changes**

We said goodbye to Mrs Tracey Hampson, who worked in our preschool, at the start of this month. We wish her well in the future. As our preschool continues to grow,

we will be welcoming two new members of staff to our preschool in January. Mrs Michela Hookham and Mrs Katie Simpson will be joining the team and we very much look forward to them starting with us!

We are currently looking for a new Deputy Leader at our 'Breakfast and After School Club'. The advert will go live on the 'Teach in Herts' website from the start of January so if you are interested, or you know someone who might be, please encourage them to have a look!

### **Forest School**

Mrs Goodman has been really impressed with the enthusiasm and effort of the year 4 children when they attended the Panshanger Forest School this term. All future forest School activities will take place in our very own forest school area and this will therefore take away the costs of going to Panshanger.

### **Governor's Day**

Our governors have very busy supporting and challenging us throughout this term and we thank them for the valuable contribution they make to the school. While they regularly attend meetings during the term, and are often around during parent/teacher consultation events, we have also been having termly Governor Days. These days have specific focus areas (linked to our priorities) and enable governors to see all that we do at school. We recently had a Governors' Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. During the day the governors focussed on Geography, History, Science and PE. The day involved learning walks where they visited the classes, looking at pupils' books and talking to some of the children about their work. The governors found the day really useful and they could see the progress the children are making in all these areas.

### **Friends Of Watton:**

Our new Friends of Watton team held their first event last Friday and it was a huge success! The Santa's Grotto was very popular and the stalls were really busy too! Thank you to the Friends for all of their hard work and we look forward to future events.

### **Coffee Mornings**

We have held three 'coffee and information mornings' this term and we focussed on Behaviour, phonics and Maths strategies. They grew in popularity and we will be running again in the spring term from mid-January. We will send a letter in the first week back letting you know the themes that will be covered so please come along on Wednesday mornings at 9.00a.m.if you can!

We wish you a lovely Christmas and a great start to the New Year! We will see you all on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017!**