



## March newsletter – 2017

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a short and very busy term at Watton with a wide range of activities, visits and visitors! Among the various visitors, the children thoroughly enjoyed the author visit on Watton Book Day (thank you to the Friends of Watton for funding this).

### Performances:



impressed us with their wonderful voices.

Many of the children have had the opportunity to be part of various performances this term and they have made us very proud! A number of key stage 2 pupils took part in a dance festival in Hertford with Miss Kenny – their performance was outstanding! Last week, our choir performed at the Hertford and Ware Drill Hall Festival and their singing was superb. Two of our pupils (Daisy Keenan and Daniel Richardson) were also selected to narrate at the festival and one pupil (Lily-Mae Isaacs) was selected to sing a solo. All three pupils

This year, for the first time, our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils put on a show for us – an evening of music, dance and poetry. While previously the Year 3 and 4 children take part in the summer performance with Year 5 and 6, we decided this year that they should have their own separate performance. This enabled our Year 3 and 4 pupils to share some of the great work they have been doing and they impressed us with their poetry, singing, dance, and gymnastics. The children thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we had some lovely feedback from parents and grandparents.

### Standards and pupil achievement at Watton:

We continue to work very hard as a teaching staff to have the highest expectations for all our children and continue to invite feedback about how we can enhance our practice even further. As leaders, we have a rigorous and frequent monitoring and evaluation schedule - this continues to include lesson 'drop ins', learning walks, lesson observations, pupil progress meetings and regular pupil voice. In our recent Joint Annual Review with our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, we were recognised as being strong across all areas (including the quality of teaching and learning, leadership and management, personal development, behaviour and welfare and the Early Years Foundation Stage) which we were very pleased about.

Our enriched curriculum work goes from strength to strength and this is evident in the school environment, the quality of the work in books and feedback from the children.

### Parent Partnership and Parent Consultation Evenings:

Parents and carers should have all received your children's reports just over a week ago – thank you to all those who have provided feedback on these. The reports provide you with information such as: whether your children are on track to be age related at the end of the year, information about the progress your child has been making and also what your child needs to do next – targets that the parents and carers can support with at home.

This week, we will have our Parent Consultation Evenings. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss the reports and discuss how they can support at home. During the evenings, there will be a number of information tables in the hall that may be of interest to you -tables will include information on policies we are reviewing and there will also be information on sport, clubs and SEND support. We will be encouraging your feedback on a range of topics. Our school governors will also be with us to talk to you should you wish to.

Governors have also recently sent out their annual parent questionnaire. I would urge all parents to take the time to complete this as we really value your feedback. It is really important for us to know what you think is going well and what you feel we could do even better. Thank you for your time on this.

### **Homework:**

This term, many of the children have produced some excellent whole school homework which is displayed around the school – topics have included ‘What makes a great Historian?’ and ‘Playground Designs’. Please take a look at these during the consultation evenings.

### **Sport and clubs:**

We have a large range of clubs running this term and all clubs are very popular. They include: badminton, football, netball, science and nature, music, choir, chess, construction, dance, archery and Pilates!

We have participated in a number of sports events recently, both competitive and non-competitive. These include:



- Year 5/6 sportshall athletics
- Year 3/4 sportshall Festivals
- Year 3/4 rugby with Heath Mount School
- Year 5/6 netball matches and tournament
- Year 5/6 football matches and tournament
- Year 3/4 rapid fire cricket

Children throughout the school have also been participating in the ‘Daily Mile’ aiming to better their performance each time. In the long term this should improve fitness, focus and well-being.

### **Friends of Watton:**

The Friends of Watton have had a number of successful events this term, including a disco, pamper evening, quiz night and Mothers’ Day stall. All of these events have been really well organised and well attended. We thank the Friends of Watton for all their hard work!

### **Children Centres:**

Our Children Centres continue to provide outstanding provision (they kept this judgement at the recent visit from the Hertfordshire Improvement partners) and we also continue to manage the School Family Workers for Hertford, Ware and villages.

Unfortunately for us, Lif Bishop is retiring from her post as Children Centre Group Manager at the end of this term – we thank her for all she has done to help the families in Watton and the local area throughout the years - she will be missed! Mrs Jenny Turner will be taking on the Group Manger role from April and we also have a new Deputy Manager, Mrs Donna Marsden.

### **Community Work and Pupil Action:**

We have been very impressed with the way our pupils have been undertaking a range of work to help the community. Some of our children have been raising money for cubs through a variety of activities such as baking, selling raffle tickets and litter picks. Some Year 3 boys, led by William Brownlow and Nelson Cox have had a cake sale to raise money for the local playground equipment which was sadly damaged.

Also, one of our Year 6 pupils recently took action when she kept finding that people were parking in the disabled bays in the Children Centre car park when they shouldn’t be. Lily-Mae created a poster to raise awareness and is really pleased that her mum can now park in the disabled bay that she needs to use. “I am very happy that my poster worked, only one person without a badge has parked there since.” – Lily-Mae.

### **Attendance:**

We have had some very nasty bugs and viruses over the last term and the adults have been suffering from them too! Any missed days do make a difference for the children, but unfortunately our children do get unwell from time to time and we cannot do anything about this. We know that the very large majority of our parents view school attendance as extremely important, as do we, and we are very grateful for this.

We do still need to improve our attendance – it currently sits at just 95% and as we explained earlier this year, the expectation set from the government is now much higher than previously. We must avoid holidays during term time as this does have an adverse impact on children’s learning at school. Mrs Gill and I will be asking for meetings with parents who chose to take a holiday during term time. We will continue to work hard to aim for the best attendance possible – our target is 97%!

**Eggs for Sale:**

Some of you may already know that we have a couple of chickens and rabbits in our nursery area which the children visit every day. As a result of the hens laying daily we have eggs for sale at the school office at 20p each.



**Zoe Hussain – Headteacher**

**Diary Dates 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday	3.30 – 5.30pm	Parents Consultation Evening
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday	5.00 – 7.30pm	Parents Consultation Evening
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Friday	9.15am	End of Term Church Service
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Friday	12.00pm	Spring terms ends
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April			EASTER HOLIDAY
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday		Summer Term starts
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday		Hindu Temple Visit – Year 4
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Monday		SCHOOL CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
W/C 8 <sup>th</sup> May			Assessment Week
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Tuesday		Class and Team Photographs
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June			HALF TERM
14 <sup>th</sup> June			Book Fair Arrives
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Tuesday	9.15am	Foundation Sports Morning
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Wednesday	Whole day	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday		KNEX challenge – Yr 5 and Yr 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Mon - Fri		Caythorpe Court Residential Trip – Yr 6
5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Wed - Fri		Cuffley Camp Residential – Year 2
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday	6.30pm	Yr 5 and Yr 6 End of Year Production
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Wednesday	2pm and 6.30pm	Yr 5 and Yr 6 End of Year Production
12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Wed - Fri		Hudnall Park Residential Trip – Year 4
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday	Whole Day	Secondary Schools transfer day – Yr 6
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Friday		Assessment updates to parents
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday	2.00pm	Open Afternoon for parents
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Friday	9.15am	End of Term Church Service
		Early finish (tbc)	Summer term ends