



November newsletter – 2017

Dear parents and carers,

It was good to see so many of you at the Parent Consultation Evenings just before half term – please do make an appointment with your child’s class teacher if you did not manage to make it. From these meetings, we hope that you see how well your child is doing and also what they need to keep working on – please do provide us with feedback on how the children are doing on the 3 targets we shared with you.

New Homework approach:

We have received a lot of positive feedback about our new approach to homework and we thank you for this. Many of you have told us your children are now feeling inspired and enjoying the tasks they can choose. As a result of the feedback, we have decided to adopt this approach moving forward and will now update our policy and procedures.



Reading stamina:

We talked to many of you at the information sessions about the growing importance of reading stamina for our children – enabling them to read at a good pace and for sustained periods of time. We recognise that we all have busy lives and with the growing use of tablets and phones, time is always a pressure, but please can you continue to encourage your children to read each night or as many nights as possible.

Well Being Week:



Next week (13th November- 17th November), is national Anti-Bullying Week. During this week we run our Watton Well Being Week. We focus on eating healthy choices, keeping physically healthy and being mentally healthy – being happy. We also look at ‘What is bullying?’ and how we can stop it happening. We will be having a range of visitors joining us and we will be taking part in a range of fun and exciting activities! Please encourage your children to tell you all about it.

On the Friday, we will be having a ‘Cosy Day’ where we will be focussing on mindfulness. On this day children can wear pyjamas or clothes that are comfortable!

Healthy School Status:

This year we are aiming to achieve ‘Healthy School Status’. We have already been focussing on sport and mindfulness/growth mindset so this year we will also be having a real focus on the importance of healthy eating and making healthy choices. We will be working with the children to think about what makes a healthy meal. Our message will be about the



importance of having balanced meals and also that no food is ‘bad’, rather that we need to think about how much of each type of foods we should be having on a daily basis. We would really value your support on this.

We have also recently seen a drop in children choosing

school dinners, even with the fact that they are free to all KS1 children. Herts Catering do provide nutritionally balanced meals and there is much variety for the children to choose from. As the weather turns colder, you may prefer hot dinners for your children – please ask in the office for more information and look out for taster sessions at school events.

Christmas Dinner Day with Christmas jumpers!

Although we are still in November, the countdown to Christmas is drawing closer and our dinner ladies are already getting very excited about this (you may have seen their preparation in the dining hall). To add to our Christmas Dinner Day, this year the 6th December, the dinner ladies thought it would be a lovely idea if children are able to wear a Christmas/seasonal jumper on that day as well as Christmas hats, hair accessories etc. if they choose to.



Sporting Achievements:

Mrs and Miss Stevens, as you are aware, make a great double act and have significantly improved the clubs and sporting opportunities we have for our children. They succeeded in getting the Gold Award for the School Games Mark and we have also recently been selected to be a lead school for Health and Well Being.

We would also like to say a big thank you to any parents who nominated us to win a prize through the **Premier League** Primary Stars TV and radio campaign, which took place last summer. We were successful in winning a complete new football kit which was proudly worn by our school team last week.

Lead School for Student Teachers:

After successfully training a number of student teachers in our work with the Gateway Teaching Alliance, we have recently taken on the role of Lead School for trainees for this year and future years. We are really pleased to have been asked to do this and we believe it puts us in a very strong position to train and recruit great teachers for our schools and other local schools. If you know of anyone who wants to train to teach as a School Direct trainee, encourage them to look for Watton on the UCAS site.

Attendance:

We are closely tracking our attendance, and Mrs Wood in the office has been very pleased to see some improvement last half term. Our new Attendance Policy will soon be available for all parents to see and this will include fining for poor attendance. Please do take the time to read the policy carefully and ask if you have any questions.

Friends of Watton:

The Friends of Watton Committee do appreciate that we ask a lot of you in these hectic weeks before Christmas. As in previous years we hope that you will continue to support us and make this a special time for the children.

Dates for your diary:

17th November – Bring 2 sweets to school - one is a donation to the school bazaar and one to be eaten at the end of the school day.

24th November – Bring a jar to school - filled with sweets/toys/treats. Please feel free to decorate it.

1st December – Bring a cake to school to donate to the Christmas bazaar. Please note times have changed to 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Please see pages below for details of a great night out and the school lottery.

Zoe Hussain – Headteacher



Friends of Watton School

Present for one night only an evening
of comedy & disco with Ross Henson



Come along and join us on

DISCO

Saturday 18th November 19:30 -
23:30



Watton at Stone School.



Tickets are £10.00

Please note this is an Adult only event



Licensed bar will also be available.

Tickets available from school office or contact Helen via the friends-of-watton@googlegroups.com.

Or message Helen via the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfWattonAtStoneSchool/>

Tickets go on sale from 30/10/17 until 16/11/17

 **Watton-At-Stone**
Primary and Nursery School

powered by  **your school lottery**



WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY!

Buy Your Tickets Today To Help Our School

- **Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School has launched a lottery!**
- **All of our profit goes to OUR school!**
- **A GUARANTEED prize to someone on our supporter list every week!**
- **A further chance of winning £25,000 in a separate draw EVERY WEEK**
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Watton at Stone



Dedicated to Raising Money Through the Community FOR the Community!