



January 2018

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the Spring term.

It has been lovely to see all the children again and they have enjoyed sharing all the activities and fun they had over Christmas and the New year.

We have talked about New Year's resolutions in assembly and class and they may well be telling you all about this!

Allergies: Please can I kindly remind everyone that we are a nut free school and we have a number of children with allergies in the school. Before the holidays, we noticed that some children were starting to eat chocolate snacks at the end of the day while still in the school grounds. Please can you wait until children are off the school site before they eat these.

Healthy School Status: This year we are working toward Healthy Schools' Status and Mrs Stevens and Miss Stevens are busy planning lots of activities. We will be talking to children about healthy packed lunches and why it is important to make healthy choices. Please can you support us by looking carefully at the contents of your child's lunchboxes – we were noticing sweets and an increasing amount of chocolates and unhealthy snacks appearing. Our message at school is that while a varied diet is important, it should be on the whole made up of healthy choices with a small amount of sweet snacks.



School Gateway: Many thanks to all those parents who have signed up to our new payment and communication system. We would like to encourage all of you to try and download the app. as shortly we will also be using this to send all our written communication to yourselves. We would also like to thank you for your patience with this as we are experiencing a few teething problems but looking forward we hope that you will enjoy the ease with which payments/communications are now processed.



Dog fouling: A number of parents have spoken to me about the amount of dog mess on the pathways near school. We encourage parents to report this to East Herts District Council. Also we are planning that the children make posters which we can put up around the village. Hopefully this will make those responsible think more carefully about cleaning up after their dogs.

Homework policy: We have received lots of positive feedback about our new approach to homework and we will therefore be making this our approach more permanently. Of course, should you require further work or guidance to support your child at home, please do not hesitate to ask the class teacher.



New website: We are currently working on updating our website. This will go live soon.

Blogs: Please ensure you are signed up to your child's class blog. If you are having any problems receiving them please let the teacher know. Our blogs are a good way of communicating information to you on a weekly basis and we like to share what your children have been learning and what they will be learning next.

Fining: Don't forget that we have introduced a new policy for attendance (which does include fining) this term. We will be making available the new policy to parents/carers next week.

Important News: Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery is a lead school for initial teacher training and one of a growing number of schools that is leading the way for more school-led teacher training. This is really important to us because it means we can choose the very best talent and develop them into teachers. Being able to choose who we train as teachers helps us in delivering the best outcomes for the pupils.

We have vacancies now to start training on our PGCE training School Direct programme from September 2018 and we would be very interested to hear from you if you are thinking of becoming a teacher, or know someone who is. We're looking for people who have (or will have) a degree, have a passion for teaching and want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential.

To find out about our programme and the work we do in our school please visit our website <http://gatewayteachingschoolalliance.org.uk/>

We'd love for you to come in and have a chat with us about the exciting teacher training opportunities available. If you would like to visit our school, please contact Ann Bell on 01920 830233 or email our School Direct Coordinator Sara Green Sara3L@hotmail.co.uk to arrange a time for a Skype or telephone call. We can also provide you with support and guidance on how to apply on the UCAS website and offer you school experience if you just want a taster of what teaching could be like.

For any further information on what becoming a teacher might involve more generally, you can also visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching>.

Watton at Stone Primary & Nursery School

Diary Dates 2018

Date	Day	Time	Event/Activity
8 th January	Monday	8.50am	START OF SPRING TERM
26 th January	Friday	10.00am	Nursery Open Morning (for September 2018 starters)
1 st February	Thursday	1.30pm	Nursery Open Afternoon (for September 2018 starters)
12 th – 16 th February			HALF TERM BREAK
14 th March	Wednesday	4.00 – 8.00pm	Parents Consultation Evening
15 th March	Thursday	3.30 – 5.30pm	Parents Consultation Evening
28 th March	Wednesday	2.00pm and 6.00pm	Years 3 and 4 school production
29 th March	Thursday	2.15pm	END OF SPRING TERM
3rd – 13 th April			Easter Holiday
16 th April	Monday	8.50am	START OF SUMMER TERM
7th May	Monday		SCHOOL CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
W/C 14 th May			Assessment Week
9 th May	Wednesday		Class and Team Photographs
25 th May	Friday		KNEX challenge – Yr 5 and Yr 6
28 th May – 1st June			HALF TERM BREAK
4 th June – 8 th June			Caythorpe Court Residential Trip – Yr 6
18 th June	Monday	9.15am	Foundation Stage Sports Morning
20th June	Wednesday	Whole day	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day
11th July -13 th July			Yr 4 Hudnall Park Residential Trip
12 th July	Thursday	Whole Day	Secondary Schools transfer day – Yr 6
13 th July	Friday		Assessment updates to parents
16 th July	Monday	2.00pm	Open Afternoon for parents
17 th July	Tuesday	6.30pm	Yr 5 and Yr 6 End of Year Production
18 th July	Wednesday	2pm and 6.30pm	Yr 5 and Yr 6 End of Year Production
20th July	Friday	9.15am	End of Term Church Service
		2.15pm	SUMMER TERM ENDS