



Newsletter 13th March 2026

Dear Parents and families,

It has been a truly enriching week for our children, filled with a fantastic range of activities. From the excitement and enthusiasm during Thursday's sponsored bounce, to the thoughtful discussions held by our children in the Pupil Parliament meetings this morning.

The atmosphere in the hall was particularly lovely today as the children visited the Mother's Day stall, choosing special gifts with such care and excitement. A huge thank you must go to the volunteers from the Friends of the School (FOW) and our wider community who gave up their time to help with both the Mother's Day stall and the sponsored bounce. We are truly fortunate to have such a supportive community that pulls together to ensure these events run so smoothly; your contribution makes a significant difference to the children's experience of school. You can find more details of these highlights further down this week's newsletter.

Looking ahead to next week, we have another busy and enriching week to look forward to. On Wednesday afternoon, the whole school and families of our IRockers will be entertained, when our budding musicians will be taking to the stage. This will be followed on Thursday morning by the Year 5 class assembly, where the children are eager to share their recent learning with Year 5 parents and families. The excitement continues on Thursday afternoon with the FOW disco, and we will round off the week on Friday afternoon with a special visit from the Saltmine Theatre Company, who will be performing their production of 'The Rhyming Bible' and then leading a follow up workshop with children in Years 5 and 6.

The Watton At Stone Tree



We are absolutely delighted to share with you our new 'School Family Tree' display, which now provides a vibrant and welcoming focal point for everyone entering the building.

This beautiful tree celebrates every single individual within our school. From our youngest children in Pre School to our eldest in Year 6, every child has their own leaf or flower featuring their name. To help you navigate the display, the cohorts have been clustered together, making it much easier to 'zoom in' and find your child's name among their peers.

A project of this scale was a significant undertaking, and it would not have been possible without the dedication of several key people. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the parent volunteers and our admin team for all their hard work and creativity in bringing this vision to life. It is truly lovely to have such a bright, inclusive welcome for any visitor to our school.

Our New Approach to Attendance: Every Moment Matters

As we move through the school year, we are changing how we share attendance information with you. You may have heard that national guidelines and school report cards now place an even greater focus on attendance. At Watton, we know that good attendance isn't just about a percentage—it is about belonging, friendship, and opportunity for every child.

When a child is in school, they are building the confidence they need for the future. When they are absent, they don't just miss a lesson; they miss the shared jokes, the playground games, enrichment activities and opportunities and the "lightbulb moments" that make school special.

Each week, we will share how our classes are performing against our school target of 97%.

Whole School Attendance this week: **96.98%**

This term's whole school attendance: **96.74%**

	Attendance This Week	Achievement
Wilson Class (Reception)	98.6%	💎 Setting the Standard
Riley Class (Year 1)	98.2%	💎 Setting the Standard
Blake Class (Year 2)	97.2%	🎯 On Track
Morris Class (Year 3)	94.4%	↓ Sliding down
Seurat Class (Year 4)	98.8%	🏆 Attendance Champions
Crosby Class (Year 5)	97.6%	🎯 On Track
Moore Class (Year 6)	94.3%	↓ Sliding down

Celebrating Consistency & Resilience

While we love to celebrate 100% Attendance, we also want to recognise improvement.

We know that life can be complicated and health hurdles happen. That is why, from this week, we are also celebrating our "Attendance Heroes." These are the classes who have shown great resilience, improved their punctuality, or made a massive effort to get into school even when things felt a little bit tricky.

A huge well done to Riley Class for being our "Most Improved" this week!

We Are Here to Help

We understand that every family's circumstances are different. If you are finding the morning routine difficult, if your child is feeling anxious about coming in, or if there are barriers at home making attendance a struggle, please do not face it alone.

We would much rather have a conversation and find a way to support you than see a child miss out on their education. Please feel free to talk to your child's class teacher/teaching assistant or speak to myself or one of the admin members of staff about your concerns.



la ora na everyone! 🙌

This week we're saying thank you for donations!

Our latest clothing collection was a massive success, raising



£102.55



A massive  to all those who donated!

We also had an incredibly generous donation from a quiz event run outside of FOW by three parents - Jamie, Mehmet & Sarah. They raised a

truly impressive



£1,000 (*just under*)



A reminder that the Spring Disco is on next week!

When: **19th March**

Price: **£5** - includes unlimited squash and a packet of crisps

Cut off to buy tickets: **17th March**

Full info on Classlist 

Can you help? If you can spare an hour, please let us know via the class whatsapp groups!



Mental Health Support Team

I am delighted to share some wonderful news regarding the additional support we have secured for our school community.

Starting after the Easter break, we will be welcoming a new professional to our team from the NHS Mental Health Support Team (MHST). They will be based at the school for half a day each week to provide targeted assistance for children experiencing low-level mental health concerns, as identified by our staff.

While some of this work is targeted, this partnership is designed to benefit everyone. The MHST will provide a comprehensive layer of support across the school, including:

- Training for staff to further enhance our internal expertise.
- Workshops for parents to support wellbeing at home.
- Group workshops for children focusing on resilience and emotional health.
- Individual 1:1 support for specific needs.

We are currently awaiting final details regarding the specific practitioner allocated to our school and will update you as soon as they are in post.

Please be assured that if we feel your child would benefit from 1:1 support—which typically consists of six to eight dedicated sessions—we will always contact you first. We believe in working in partnership with parents, and a full discussion will take place before any referral is made.

We have secured this resource because we know that happy children are children who learn and thrive. When a child is unhappy or anxious, it is incredibly difficult for them to engage with their education. By focusing on promoting positive mental health, we ensure that every child has the best possible foundation to succeed in all aspects of school life.

We look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming weeks.

Sponsored Bounce

Yesterday, the school was full of energy and excitement for our annual sponsored bounce. This is always a highlight of the school year, and it was wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic and, in some cases, impressively competitive! There was a brilliant atmosphere as they challenged themselves to see how many bounces they could complete in just one minute. We are incredibly proud of the effort every child put in, and the sheer joy on their faces made it a fantastic event for everyone involved.

Over the next few weeks, we would be very grateful if you could help the children collect their promised sponsorship money. Payments can be made easily via the Arbor app, or alternatively, cash can be sent into school in a clearly named envelope. Every penny raised will go directly towards our IT devices project, helping us to provide the children with the very best technology to support their learning. To recognise their hard work and community spirit, we will be awarding special certificates to the children after the Easter holiday.

Enrichment Clubs – Last Week of Term

During the last week of term (week beginning 23rd March), there will be no after school enrichment clubs run by members of school staff. Some of the enrichment clubs run by external clubs will still be running during the last week of term (they should have communicated with you the date of the last session they will be running). The after school club (which is run by Miss Knott) and runs from 3.20pm - 5.45pm will still be operational. All bookings for this club must be made by parents using the Arbor App and payments made at the time of making your booking.

House Points

This week

First place - Blue House - 572

Second place - Red House - 413

Third place - Green House - 360

Fourth place - Yellow House - 359

This term

First place - Blue House - 1,924

Second place - Red House - 1,734

Third place - Green House - 1,691

Fourth place - Yellow House - 1,681



Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Martha E - 9th March

Leo M - 10th March

Kennedy T - 10th March

Etty W - 10th March

Aiden S - 11th March

Science Week

This week, our whole school celebrated Science Week together, sparking our imaginations with the theme: "Curiosity... what is your question?" We launched the week with a brilliant assembly led by Mr Ring, linking back to our recent focus on curiosity as a core learning value. The children were challenged to think like scientists—not just looking for answers, but asking "why?"

We challenged the children to move beyond just finding answers and instead embrace the power of a great scientific question.

We finished the week by asking children about their curious science questions as part of our Science week discussions.

The Peg Challenge: To test teamwork, four children each held a peg attached to a single pen. They had to communicate perfectly to draw a specific image. It was a fantastic (and tricky!) lesson in how scientists must work collaboratively to succeed.

The Flight Test: We also investigated aerodynamics by predicting which would travel furthest: a paper helicopter, a paper plane, or a scrunched-up piece of paper. The hall was buzzing with hypotheses as we observed how different shapes interact with the air.

A huge thank you to Mr Ring for such a hands-on start to the week. It has been wonderful to see the children's "big questions" flourishing in every classroom!



Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Amelia - Has been such a kind friend this week, and has been helping all of her friends and the adults. She has been playing beautifully with her peers, sharing her toys and joining in with all the activities. We are very proud of you Amelia!</p> <p>Oliver - Has had a fantastic week. Has been eager and ready to learn, getting involved in all of our activities, playing beautifully with his peers and really enjoyed our sponsored bounce! We are very proud of you!</p>	<p>Florence - For her love of learning, and always being a kind friend. Florence comes in every session super happy and eager to explore and learn! We are very proud of you!</p> <p>Jimmy - Embraced our sponsored bounce this week and loved bouncing! He was super energetic, bouncing in all different ways! We are super proud of you Jimmy!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Jacey - for showing a love of learning in her independent play and being creative with the models that she makes. Excellent Jacey!</p> <p>Eesa - for working to the best of his ability during our maths activity and showing pride in his achievements. Fantastic Eesa!</p>	<p>Leia - for being really helpful at tidy up time and trying hard to listen the adults. Great work Leia, keep it up!</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Ned and Kasey - for being outstanding role models during carpet and learning times.</p>	
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Freddie and Frankie - for making the right behaviour choices in class.</p>	<p>Ellis - for a love of learning. He produced some lovely homework this week.</p> <p>Molly - for being a good friend and inviting lonely children to play.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Aurelia - for working to the best in her ability to learn her greetings in French.</p> <p>George - for always making good choices and paying attention to the adults.</p>	<p>Violet - for showing a love of learning across the curriculum.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Lillian - for always showing all the great to be gold values.</p> <p>Gianni - for always showing all the great to be gold values consistently.</p>	<p>Jordan - for working to the best of his ability and showing his love for learning in all subjects.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Freya B - for being an outstanding role model and always listening to the adults around her.</p>	<p>Aiden - for working to the best of his ability to improve his handwriting.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Lily H - for working to the best of her ability.</p> <p>Ffion - for being a great role model.</p>	<p>Danny - for working to the best of his ability, especially in maths.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Poppy - contributes well in class and shows curiosity, whilst working to the best of her ability across subjects, particularly enjoying exploring ideas in RE, English, PSHE and science.</p> <p>Sam A - he thoughtfully explores his own ideas in science and history, showing strong understanding and love of learning in these subjects.</p>	<p>Edie - consistently demonstrates a high level of curiosity and a love of learning in Year 6, asking thoughtful questions and showing a strong interest in exploring ideas in science and across other subjects.</p>

Pupil Parliament Meetings

This morning, the children from Reception to Year 6 came together for our termly pupil parliament meetings. These sessions are a vital part of our school culture, led by our Year 6 children and overseen by members of staff. It is always inspiring to hear the children's voices and see them taking such an active role in shaping their school experience.

The agenda today was particularly thought-provoking, focusing first on the concept of 'Sticky Knowledge'. The children engaged in fascinating discussions about how they remember what they have learnt—not just from last week, but from last term and even last year. They worked in groups to identify what makes a lesson truly memorable, listing their favourite learning moments and reflecting on the specific subjects and activities that helped that knowledge 'stick'.

With the weather beginning to improve, the parliament also turned its attention to the use of the school field. The children shared a wealth of creative ideas for games and activities they would like to see once the ground is dry enough for us to head outside. Most importantly, they discussed how to ensure our outdoor space remains inclusive, brainstorming ways to make sure there is plenty of room for football without it taking over the entire field, ensuring every child has the space to play safely.

Finally, the children provided valuable feedback on our reward systems. There was a lively debate regarding our new attendance reward (the three minutes earned per day) and the prestige of earning pen licences. We also checked in on the 'Good to be Green' charts to ensure the children across all year groups fully understand their purpose and feel motivated by them. I look forward to reviewing the minutes from these meetings and seeing how we can put the children's brilliant suggestions into practice.



FREE online talk by
Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page

Headteacher's Awards



Each week, staff are constantly looking for children in the school who are showing awareness of one or more than one of our school learning values. These values will help children to become better learners as well as developing their relationships with others around them. Children are recognised for their achievements with being awarded Headteacher's Awards.

Reception:

Fajar - for being our 'star writer' this week by showing lots of resilience with her letter formation and spelling and always trying her hardest.

Miles - for showing curiosity by asking lots of relevant questions when conducting different science experiments and investigations this week.

Amalia - for being a kind friend and helping a friend with their phonics.

Year 1:

Grace - for always being respectful.

Eoin G - for showing curiosity in his science lessons.

Lilli - for her creativity in her homework.

Annie - is our 'star writer' for thinking carefully about her sentence structures.

Year 2:

Frankie - for showing curiosity during science week. He spent his playtimes investigating as well as being a brilliant scientist in our science lesson.

Mia - for being our 'star writer'. She has been focusing on her handwriting in school as well as writing a story at home inspired by our class book.

Year 3:

Kennedy- for having empathy and kindness to others especially the adults.

Ameila H- is our 'star writer' for her beautiful writing in English lessons.

Sophia- for showing kindness inviting children from friendship bench to play.

Year 4:

Daisy - is our PE star for working well with others in hockey

Verity and Beatrice - for managing the glue experiment in science week

Riley - is our 'star writer' for writing an alternate starter and remembering to punctuate speech correctly.

Year 5:

Rosie - is our 'star writer' this week for her creative writing using figurative language in English.

Alessia - for her great team work in P.E. this week

Year 6:

Seren - for being an independent learner, she is definitely the queen of the sticky knowledge journal, using it at every possible moment.

Sam M - for being reflective in his learning, using the metacognition wheel to express what he has learnt in a lesson and what his own next steps should be.

Orlagh - our 'star writer' this week - she wrote a wonderful, accurate diary as if she was in the shoes of a Land Army Girl in WW2

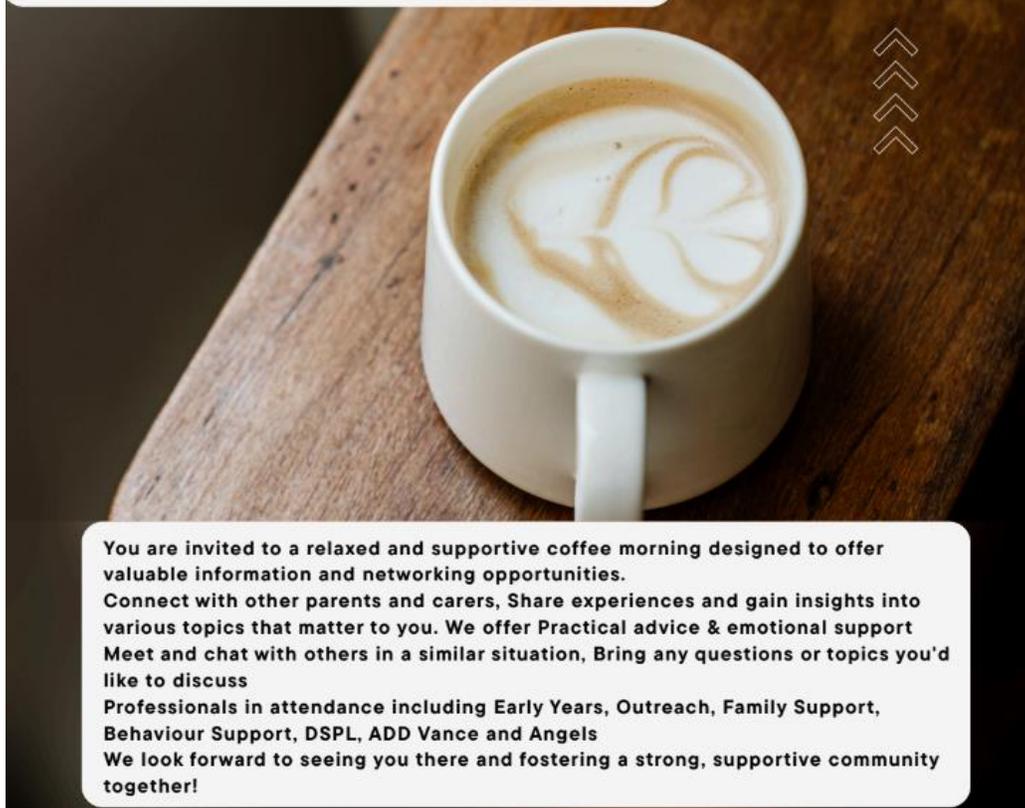
**DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning, 18th March,
St Catherines School, Ware, SG12 0AW**

DSPL3

Delivering Special
Provision Locally



10.00 - 11.30



You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities. Connect with other parents and carers, Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you. We offer Practical advice & emotional support Meet and chat with others in a similar situation, Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss
Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL, ADD Vance and Angels
We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!

Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School, Rectory Lane, Watton at Stone, Hertford, SG14 3SG <http://www.wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk>
Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill



Dates For Your Diary

Diary dates in red - new dates added this week

Spring Term

- Tuesday 17th March - FGB meeting
- Tuesday 17th March - Parent Forum meeting 6pm
- Wednesday 18th March - IROCK performances for children (1.30pm) and parents (2.30pm)
- Thursday 19th March - Year 5 class assembly 9am
- Thursday 19th March - FOW disco

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 Headteacher: Mrs N.Etienne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Gill

- Friday 20th March - Saltmine Theatre Company performing 'Rhyming Bible' production followed by workshops for Years 5 and 6.
- Monday 23rd March - termly attendance award assembly
- Monday 23rd March - Pre Loved Uniform Giveaway 3.20pm
- Tuesday 24th March - Pre Loved Uniform Giveaway 8.45am
- Tuesday 24th March - House Point reward treat
- Tuesday 24th - 25th March - No Pens Day/Forest School visits
- Thursday 26th March - Year 6 VE Day Fantastic Finish
- Friday 27th March - end of term progress awards
- Friday 27th March - Enterprise Day 1.40pm
- Friday 27th March - End of Term 2.15pm

Summer Term

- Monday 13th April - Inset Day
- Tuesday 14th April - Back to School
- Tuesday 14th- 17th April- Pupil progress meetings
- Thursday 23rd April - Year 1 class assembly 9am
- Wednesday 29th - Class Photos
- Monday 11th - 14th May - Key Stage 2 SATS
- Tuesday 19th - 20th May No Pens Day/ Forest School
- Monday 25th May - 29th May - Half Term
- Monday 1st June - Inset Day
- Tuesday 2nd - 5th June - Year 4 multiplication check for Year 4
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th June - Year 1 phonics screening checks
- Tuesday 9th June - Sports Day 1
- Tuesday 16th June - Sports Day 2 Reserved (in case sports day 1 is cancelled due to the weather)
- Thursday 18th June - Year 6 Crucial Crew 1pm start (Morgan's Primary School)
- Friday 19th June - Watton's Got Talent
- Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th June - Hudnall Park
- Friday 26th June - Pupil Parliament Meeting
- Monday 29th June - 3rd July - Year 6 PGL
- Monday 29th June - 3rd July - Assessment Week
- Monday 13th July - Year 6 Dress Rehearsal
- Tuesday 14th - 15th July - Year 6 play

- Friday 17th July - End of Year Reports
- Thursday 23rd July - End of Term



Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online
www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
go to PARENTS - Live Talks page



All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership

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