



Newsletter 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and families,

This week, I want to share something simple but incredibly powerful that we've been using in classrooms and assemblies to help our children become more resilient and confident learners. It's all about the word 'YET.'

When a child says, "I can't do this," they are putting a permanent stop on their learning. It sounds like they are giving up.

When they learn to add the single word 'YET' to the end of that sentence—"I can't do this... YET"—it completely changes the message:

- It means, "I can't do it right now, but I know I can learn."
- It reminds them that struggling is temporary and that effort and practice will get them there.
- It shifts the focus from feeling "stuck" to seeing a path forward.

We call this approach fostering a "Growth Mindset," which is just a fancy way of saying we believe everyone can learn and improve!

We have been actively making 'Yet' our school's magic word.

Class Discussions: Teachers are prompting children to use the word 'yet' when they find something in class difficult or challenging.

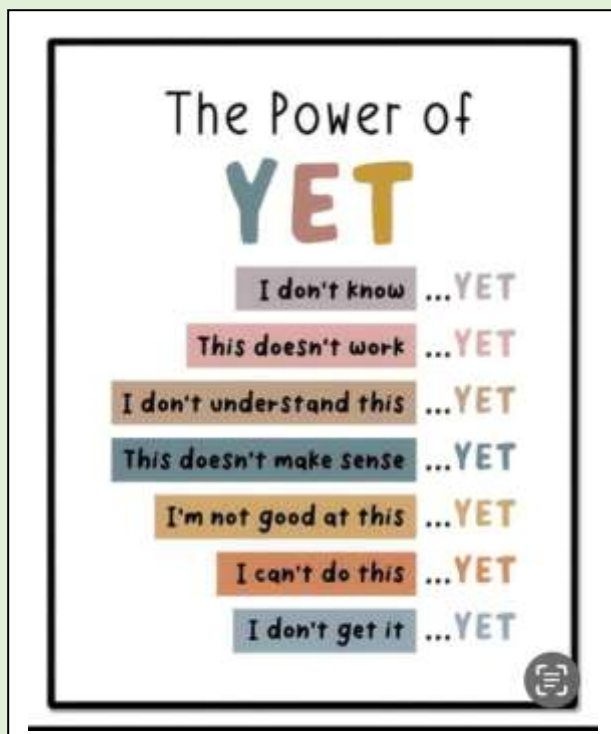
Active Reminders: You'll hear teachers saying things like, "That problem looks tricky, but you haven't solved it yet!" This is a daily, consistent encouragement to persevere.

We would love for you to join us in making 'Yet' a household word! This is the best way to help your child truly build resilience—that wonderful ability to bounce back when things get hard.

When your child is struggling with anything—a difficult maths problem, learning to skip, or tidying their room—try this simple phrase:

"It sounds like you haven't figured out how to do that... YET. What's the first step you can try?"

This encourages them to see that their current struggle is just a moment in time, and that they have the power to keep trying and eventually succeed.



Safer Inside Drill

As part of our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all our children and staff, I wanted to inform you about an important upcoming exercise.

We will be conducting our very first Safer Inside Drill on Monday December 1st. This drill is designed to practice and reinforce the procedures we must follow if there is an incident or hazard outside the school building that requires everyone to remain securely inside.

Please be assured that we will be preparing the children for this drill in a calm, age-appropriate manner during the week leading up to it.

We believe that regular practice of all safety procedures helps to ensure that everyone knows what to do in a real emergency, contributing to the overall well-being of our school community.

We have produced for you 'Frequently Asked Questions' which we hope is helpful. See p 9 of this newsletter.

After school club timetable week commencing 24/11/25

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15.30-16.30	 Outside play or games	 Free play outdoors	 Outside play or games	 Free play outdoors	 Outside play or games
16.35- 17.00	snack 	snack 	snack 	snack 	snack 
17.00-17.45	Arts & crafts  Lego Challenge	Child's choice 	 Dodgeball & hall games	Arts & crafts  Role play	Child's choice 

We are delighted to share the schedule for our After-School Club next week. This club is a fantastic opportunity for children to develop new skills, build friendships, and enjoy high-quality activities in a familiar and safe environment. All bookings and full payments must be completed on Arbor *before* your child attends the session. Children are collected directly from their class by Miss Knott or Miss Charles at the end of the school day. We offer flexible collection. Children can be collected at any time up until 5:45 PM.

Allergy Aware School

This week, I am pleased to share an important update regarding our ongoing commitment to children safety and well-being. All school staff members are currently undertaking comprehensive Allergy and Anaphylaxis Awareness Training. This training covers recognition of symptoms, emergency protocols, and the correct use of auto-injectors (such as EpiPens).

As part of this training, we have reviewed best practice in school safety and as a result, we are making a small, but significant, change in how we describe our environment. Moving forwards, we will be referring to ourselves as an 'Allergy Aware' school.

We have decided to move away from the term 'Allergy Free' for the following critical reasons:

1. It is impossible to guarantee a completely 'allergy free' environment in any school setting. While we maintain strict policies (like prohibiting specific allergens in lunchboxes and classroom activities), we cannot eliminate the possibility of airborne particles, accidental cross-contamination, or trace allergens being inadvertently brought onto the premises.
2. The term 'Allergy Aware' better reflects our commitment. It signifies that every member of staff is trained, vigilant, and ready to act, and it also emphasises that we all must remain aware and responsible for preventing allergic reactions.
3. Using 'Allergy Aware' helps prevent families and staff from developing a false sense of security that might lead to relaxed vigilance around allergies, which is vital for student safety.

Parent Forum Meeting

We will be hosting the Autumn Term Parent Forum Meeting next Tuesday at 6pm.

This meeting is a vital opportunity for parents to raise whole-school matters and issues for discussion with myself or Mrs Gill (Deputy Head Teacher). Your feedback and involvement are incredibly important to us in continually improving the school experience for all our children.

We have yet to finalise the agenda for Tuesday's meeting. Therefore, if there is anything specific you would like to raise or discuss on a whole-school level, please ensure you forward it to your class representative as soon as possible.

- Email Contacts: You can find the email contacts for all class representatives on the 'Parent Forum' page of the school website.
- WhatsApp: I am also aware that many class representatives communicate using the class WhatsApp groups, which is also an acceptable way to submit your points.

I will be collating and finalising the agenda on Monday, so please ensure all suggested discussion points are submitted to your representative as soon as possible. Many thanks for your continued support.



Santa Dash



The annual Santa Dash will be taking place on Wednesday 3rd December. We are inviting all children to bring in simple Santa accessories, such as a Santa hat or a false beard, to wear during the event. As a class, the children will complete the Daily Mile in their festive gear. We held this event last year, and the children had a wonderful time being active while enjoying the fun of dressing up. Please do not worry if your child does not have any Santa accessories; they will still take part in the dash with their classmates. We look forward to another cheerful and energetic day!

Sports Event at Wodson Park



On Wednesday, nine children from Years 1 and 2 went to Wodson Park to do a variety of sporting events. These events included archery, dance, speed stacking, curling and ball skills. Tyler and Violet both said that they enjoyed the archery the most. Olivia and Lola enjoyed the dancing workshop where they retold the story of Jack and The Beanstalk through dance moves. Kayden, George and Freddie enjoyed curling most and Frankie enjoyed developing his ball skills. They all had lots of fun and would love to go again another time.

Watton At Stone Nursery Admissions 2026-2027

Early Years Quality
standard award 2022-2023



Flexible 30 hours available

Led by a qualified teacher



Nurturing staff and environment

Was your child born between
1st September 2022 & 31st August 2023?

Please join us for a Nursery offer information meeting on:

Thursday 13th November at 6:00pm

Or

Monday 17th November at 2:45pm

Or

Tuesday 20th January at 6:00pm

Please contact the school office on 01920 830233 to book your place.

JOIN THE FUN

There are spaces in bands at your school



iRock

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spaces in iRock bands are available to join now - secure their spot and join the fun!

What is iRock? At iRock, children experience the thrill of being in a band! Led by our passionate and professional Band Coaches, our weekly in-school band sessions are open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6.

Music for all. iRock aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every child feels they belong. Each week, children develop their musical skills, confidence, and teamwork as they work towards exam-free music qualifications, celebrating progress without the pressure of formal exams.

Feel like a rockstar! The excitement culminates every term in a live concert where children perform as a band for their families and peers. These performances are more than just a showcase; they're an opportunity for children to build self-esteem, enhance their confidence, and experience the joy of accomplishment.

iRock isn't just about music. It's about helping children thrive cognitively, socially, and academically through the power of music.

Key information:

- Hassle-free, rolling **monthly subscription** of £44.49 (no payment taken in July)
- **First lesson money-back guarantee** (and you can cancel at anytime)
- **No experience needed** and all instruments are provided
- Parents/guardians can access our **online portal** for updates, pictures and videos

Head to [our website](#) to check availability and start your child's iRock journey!

Joshua Franklin
Founder
iRock School of Music

Choose from...



GUITAR



VOCALS



KEYS



DRUMS

CLICK HERE

ENROL NOW

Enrol Online

www.irockschool.com/enrol

We're here to help!

Call Us: 0330 174 2655

Email Us: info@irockschool.com

House Points

This week

First place - Green House - 410
 Second place - Yellow House - 384
 Third place - Blue House - 304
 Fourth place - Red House - 292

This term

First place - Green House - 1,687
 Second place - Yellow House - 1,659
 Third place - Blue House - 1,518
 Fourth place - Red House - 1,450



This weeks attendance %

Wilson Class (Reception)	97.5%
Riley Class (Year 1)	98.6%
Blake Class (Year 2)	99.7%
Morris Class (Year 3)	99.6%
Seurat Class (Year 4)	97.5%
Crosby Class (Year 5)	99.2%
Moore Class (Year 6)	95%

Whole School Attendance this week 98.15%
 Whole School Attendance this term 97.93%



**Meet father christmas
church farm Ardeley**

Selected dates in December

Festive Farm Entry includes
 Christmas Activity Pack. • Festive Woodland
 Walk the farm & see the farm animals

Meet Father Christmas
 Father Christmas in his outside grotto
 (includes a quality toy)
 Meet the Elves
 Write a letter to Father Christmas
 Write a wish for the Wish Tree
 Bag up reindeer food & carrot to take home to Rudolph

Additional Activities
 Santa Paws – bring your beloved pooches to meet
 Father Christmas include treat & toy
 Harvest your Own Christmas Tree
 Festive Tractor & Trailer Ride
 Feed the farm animals

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

*This is an outdoor event so plenty of
fresh air. Wrap up warm & wear wellies!*

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
 A Free Range Experience

Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Danny R - 15th November
 Ada A - 16th November
 River H - 16th November
 Edie M - 19th November
 Henry A - 21st November

Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Jimmy - Jimmy has loved exploring our rainbow activities this week, doing some fantastic exploring, particularly building with the coloured bricks and joining our parachute games. We are very proud of you!</p> <p>Ada - Ada has overcome a personal challenge this week - and has been fantastic with it! We are super proud of you Ada!</p>	<p>Hallie - Hallie wowed us with her storytelling recall this week! She shared the story 'Zog' with Miss Bunyan and was able to retell the whole story independently! Amazing, we are very proud of you!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Jackson - for working to the best of his ability when counting in our group times this week. Excellent Jackson!</p>	<p>Paislyn - for trying hard with our singing this week and joining in with the actions. Great work Paislyn, keep it up!</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Brayden - for being an outstanding role model and always trying his hardest to show all of the Great to be Gold behaviours.</p>	<p>Faye - for always working to the best of her ability and showing a love of learning.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Orla - for always following the rules in school.</p>	<p>Lilli - constantly makes the right choices.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Violet - for always working to the best of her ability to produce amazing homework as well as working hard in the classroom.</p> <p>Aila - for being an outstanding role model at all times.</p>	<p>Bem - for working to the best of his ability in our maths lessons to add and subtract accurately.</p> <p>Mia - for working to the best of her ability and setting a fantastic example with her singing.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Jordan - for showing a love of learning.</p>	<p>Freddie - for being a good role model to others.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Francis - always working to the best of her ability - fab reading progress.</p>	<p>Freya H - working to best of ability - determination with times tables.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Rosie - for being an amazing role model, always polite, with a love of learning and demonstrating all our Great to be gold values.</p> <p>Isabella - for her manners and always listening to all adults</p>	<p>Louis - for working to the best of his ability.</p> <p>Ffion - for being a great role model in class, listening to all adults, her love of learning and demonstrating all our Great to be gold values.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Orlagh - for constantly meeting all our criteria for great to be gold. She works exceptionally hard and is extremely polite, a real pleasure to have in class.</p> <p>Sam M - Sam has been showing a love of learning in all subjects, particularly in English where we are writing about Space and the planets.</p>	<p>Poppy - for really applying her <i>mathematical</i> knowledge and showing a love of learning.</p>

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:

Soren - for being our 'star writer' this week and showing independence with spelling CVC words.
Haisley - for taking risks with her learning.

Year 1:

Benji - for showing resilience with his learning.
Eva - for working well with others and having pride in her learning.
Ellis - is our 'star writer' for being independent with his English writing.

Year 2:

William- for showing empathy and kindness when his friend was hurt and upset.
Noah- for joining in, working with others and becoming the newest member of our Year 2 team.
Jack - for creating fantastic noun phrases and taking pride in his writing.

Year 3:

Lillian - for showing a great attitude for learning.
Joe - is our 'star writer' for producing an amazing fable in English.
Matilda - for showing kindness and empathy to others

Year 4:

Charlie - kindness, empathy and team work in P.E lessons
Darcy - for being respectful.
Charlie - is our 'star writer' this week for his imaginative start to his flying machine introduction.

Year 5:

Alessia - for her kindness and empathy in the classroom.
Frankie - for his excellent teamwork in P.E.
Erin - is our 'star writer' this week for planning her narrative.

Year 6:

Erin - was awarded PE Sports star of the week by her peers, they quote many attributes such as: working with others, kindness and empathy and resilience.
Lexie - is our 'star writer' this week as she is applying herself and working to the best of her ability.

Safer Inside – Frequently Asked Questions

Q - Why do we have a 'Safer Inside' procedure?

The procedure is a sensible and proportionate response to rare, high-risk external or internal incidents that could pose a threat to safety on or near the school grounds. The goal is to rapidly seal off the school to ensure all pupils, staff, and visitors are safe inside.

Q - What kind of events trigger a lockdown?

A lockdown is reserved for serious security risks. Examples include:

- A nearby chemical spillage or fire
- Dangerous dog on site or serious weather conditions.
- Attempted access by unauthorised persons intending to cause harm/damage.

Q - How will parents be notified?

You will be notified as soon as possible by email.

Q - What will the initial message say?

It will confirm the school is in lockdown and that phones must not be used, the office will be unmanned, and nobody is allowed in or out.

Q - What is the most important thing I must NOT do?

Do not panic. We will do everything possible to keep your children safe. Please do not call the school when you receive the email message. This is crucial as calls may tie up lines needed for staff to contact emergency services or each other. Do not come to school whilst we are in lockdown.

Q - Can I collect my child during a lockdown?

No. For the safety of everyone, pupils will not be released to parents during a lockdown. We want you to be as safe as the children are and attempting to enter the premises could put you at risk.

Q - What if the lockdown extends past the end of the school day?

We will notify you with updated information regarding the time and place for pick-up. This will be an arranged, safe location advised by office staff or emergency services.

Q - Will the school explain what happened afterwards?

Yes. A letter will be sent home following a lockdown to inform parents of the context and encourage you to reinforce the importance of following procedures with your children.

Q - How often do you practice the procedure?

'Safer Inside' drills will take place once a term. The Headteacher/Site Manager monitors these practices from the school perimeter to ensure staff and children cannot be seen or heard.

Q - Who manages the lockdown?

The Headteacher (or Deputy Headteacher) is the designated Lockdown Manager, responsible for initiating, managing, and concluding the procedure.

Kon'nichiwa everyone! 🙌
This week we're thanking all of you!



**THANK
YOU**

To the five parents who have signed up to help us fundraise for the climbing frame project. We're thrilled to have you on board and looking forward to sharing ideas!

To everyone who has donated or volunteered to help out at the Christmas Bazaar
- It's going to be a good one!

To everyone who donated a bag of clothes for the collection - We raised
£102.50 - double what we got last time!

To everyone who has donated a chocolate bar today for the Chocolate Tombola.



And a couple of reminders for the festive season



Still ticking off that Christmas shopping list?

When grabbing those last-minute presents (or even a few treats for yourself!), remember to use easyfundraising.

Hundreds of retailers will donate a small percentage of your spend - at absolutely no extra cost to you! Happy shopping! 🛍️

Christmas Jars



If you have any more festive jars to drop off before the Christmas Bazaar - please drop them into the office before 4th December.
Thank you!

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



Merry Christmas!

December Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 30 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm

Dates For Your Diary

Diary dates in red - new dates added this week

Autumn Term

- **Week beginning Monday 24th November - Assessment Week**
- **Tuesday 25th November - Parent Forum Meeting 6pm**
- Friday 28th November - Whole School Pupil Parliament Meetings
- Friday 28th November - School Nurses in to see Year 6 children
National Child Measurement Programme
- **Monday 1st December - Safer Inside drill**
- **Wednesday 3rd December - Santa Dash Daily Mile**
- Thursday 4th December - Friends of Watton Christmas Bazaar 3.30pm
- 5.30pm
- Friday 5th December - Occasional Day (school closed)

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- Monday 8th December - Xmas performance dress rehearsals (children and staff only)
- Monday 8th December - K.S2 Christmas performance 6pm
- Tuesday 9th December - Early Years Christmas performance 10am
- Tuesday 9th December - K.S2 Christmas performance 2.40pm
- Wednesday 10th December - K.S1 Christmas performance 2.30pm
- **Wednesday 10th December - K.S2 Christmas performance 6pm**
- Thursday 11th December - Early Years Christmas performance 10am
- Thursday 11th December - K.S1 Christmas Performance 6pm
- Monday 15th December - Pantomime - **Beauty and the Beast**
- Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Lunch/**Christmas jumper day**
- **Wednesday 17th December from 1.30pm - I Rock performances to parents**
- Thursday 18th December - End of Term, School closes at 2.15pm
- Friday 19th December - Inset Day

Spring Term

- Monday 5th - January - Inset Day
- Tuesday 6th - 9th January - Pupil Progress Meetings
- Wednesday 21st January - Creative Arts Day
- Monday 2nd - 6th February - Mock SATs
- Tuesday 10th February - Internet Safety Day
- Tuesday 10th - 11th February - Parents Evenings
- Monday 16th - 20th February - Half Term
- Friday 27th February - FOW clothing collection
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Thursday 12th March - Sponsored Bounce
- Friday 13th March - Pupil Parliament Meeting
- Monday 16th - 20th March - Assessment Week
- Friday 20th March - Comic Relief Day
- Tuesday 24th - 25th March - No Pens Day/Forest School visits
- Friday 27th March - Enterprise Day
- Friday 27th March - End of Term

Summer Term

- Monday 13th April - Inset Day

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

- Tuesday 14th April - Back to School
- Tuesday 14th - 17th April- Pupil progress meetings
- 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)
- 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