



Newsletter 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and families,

We were delighted to welcome a coach from Junior Sharks into school this week to lead some fantastic rugby workshops for our KS1 and KS2 children.

The sessions provided the children with a wonderful opportunity to learn new handling skills and engage in high-energy teamwork games. It was a pleasure to see the children collaborating so effectively and cheering each other on. We hope the experience has inspired some of the children to continue their rugby journey by joining a club outside of school!

The Arbor booking system opened on Wednesday for the upcoming parent-teacher meetings which are taking place on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th February. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, review the targets set in the autumn term, and look through your child's books to see the full, wonderful range of their curriculum learning. If you have not yet had the opportunity to book a meeting with your child's teacher, then there is still plenty of time to do so.

During these evenings, you are also invited to wander around the hall to see a showcase of the wonderful creative learning completed by each class during our Creative Arts day last week. If your child's specific work is not on display in the hall, you will have the opportunity to see it when you look through their books before/after your meeting. Furthermore, our catering partners, HCL, will again be hosting a food sampling session in the hall. This is a fantastic chance for you to taste the delicious, high-quality food that is prepared in-house every day and experience the nutritious meals our pupils enjoy.

Finally, we were proud to host a local science meeting today for teachers led by the Ogden Trust. Our school was chosen for this event because we are fortunate enough to have a dedicated science teaching room, a space where our children truly enjoy the opportunity to feel like real scientists during their practical lessons. Today was another wonderful opportunity to develop our links with other schools and outside agencies. The session focused on the topics of sound and light, allowing our teachers in Years 3, 4, and 6 to learn new teaching ideas and bring exciting new resources back into their classrooms to benefit the children.

Coming Up Next week

Looking ahead to next week, our Year 6 children will be sitting their Mock SATs. While the word "test" can sometimes bring a flutter of nerves, we view this week as a vital stepping stone in the children's journey.

Mock exams are not about "passing" or "failing"; they are a diagnostic tool to help the children and teachers. We want to ensure that when the actual SATs arrive in May, the children feel comfortable, familiar, and confident with the process. It allows them to practise their exam technique in a safe space where the primary goal is progress rather than perfection.

These assessments provide a unique opportunity for our Year 6 cohort to demonstrate our school learning values. Through **Resilience**, children learn to overcome difficult questions and manage their time, building a "bounce-back" mentality that serves them well in all areas of life. We want them to feel a deep sense of **Pride** in their work, recognising how far they have come since the start of Key Stage 2.

The week also encourages the children in **Being Independent**, as they rely on their own skills and strategies to take ownership of their learning. Finally, by maintaining **High Aspirations**, we encourage our children to reach for their full potential, using these mocks to identify their own targets and see the clear path towards their future goals.

The best support parents can provide is a calm environment and plenty of encouragement. A good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast are the best "revision tools" for next week! We are incredibly proud of the hard work Year 6 has put in so far. They are more than just a test score, but we want them to have every chance to shine and feel prepared.

Community Links

We are delighted to share that Year 3 have embarked on a fantastic new community project. Over three sessions—last week, today, and again next Friday—our children have been "buddying up" with older children from Heathmount School.

The primary focus of these sessions is to help the children develop a love of reading. While it is a brilliant way for our children to practice their fluency and expression, it has also been wonderful to build and strengthen the community links. Seeing children of different ages support one another is a testament to the kind, inclusive culture we strive for.

The impact of these sessions was captured perfectly in an email I received from the teacher at Heathmount following our first meeting. She wrote:

"I also just wanted to say thank you for setting up the session so considerately. I thought it worked beautifully! It was a real highlight of my day watching our pupils interacting with yours and overhearing some of their lovely conversations. Really great! One of them told me on the way out, 'My partner just wrote down palaeontologist with no help from me. I couldn't believe it!' They were all really buzzing from the experience! Thank you for giving them the opportunity to develop their communication, collaboration and social skills in this way. It was such a valuable experience for them to take a small leadership role within an unfamiliar setting and to work with younger pupils not already known to them. The next group is very much looking forward to their turn next week!"

Internet Safety Day

As we approach Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th February, I wanted to take a moment to share how we approach digital citizenship here at school.

While this themed day provides a fantastic spotlight for discussion, I want to reassure you that online safety isn't just a "one-off" lesson for us. We weave digital responsibility into our curriculum all year round, teaching the children that the same kindness, respect, and caution they show in the playground must also apply to the digital world.

However, we know that the greatest challenges often happen behind a screen at home. To support you, I've compiled ten top tips to help you navigate your child's digital journey safely.

10 Quick Tips for Online Safety

1. Establish a daily "screen time" quota to ensure a healthy balance with offline play.
2. Keep all devices out of the children's bedrooms overnight to protect sleep and privacy.
3. Activate filters on your home Wi-Fi and individual devices to block inappropriate content.
4. Encourage children to use their devices in shared family room rather than behind closed doors.
5. Stick to age-appropriate apps and games; ratings are there to protect your child's well-being.
6. Talk daily about what they are doing online so they feel safe coming to you with concerns.
7. Regularly check that your child only interacts online with people they know in real life.
8. Set a positive example by putting your own phone away during mealtimes and family activities.
9. Teach children that anything shared online can be permanent and should always be kind.
10. Make sure your child knows how to block and report users if they feel uncomfortable.

**Safer
Internet
Day 2026** | **Tuesday
10 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

House Points

This week

First place - Yellow House - 518
Second place - Green House - 439
Third place - Blue House - 428
Fourth place - Red House - 408

This term

First place - Green House - 2,046
Second place - Yellow House - 2,016
Third place - Blue House - 1,919
Fourth place - Red House - 1,848



This Weeks attendance %

Wilson Class (Reception)	90%
Riley Class (Year 1)	98.3%
Blake Class (Year 2)	96.9%
Morris Class (Year 3)	96.3%
Seurat Class (Year 4)	94.2%
Crosby Class (Year 5)	99.2%
Moore Class (Year 6)	88.6%

Whole School Attendance this week 94.74%
/term 96%



small steps 

EXTREMISM THRIVES ON MISUNDERSTANDING

A BRIEFING ABOUT THE 'DARK SIDE OF THE INTERNET'

Virtual Sessions

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PRACTITIONERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

VIRTUAL SESSIONS

	TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 4pm to 5.30pm	WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 7pm to 8pm	THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 10am to 11.30am
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Choose only one date to attend.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT...

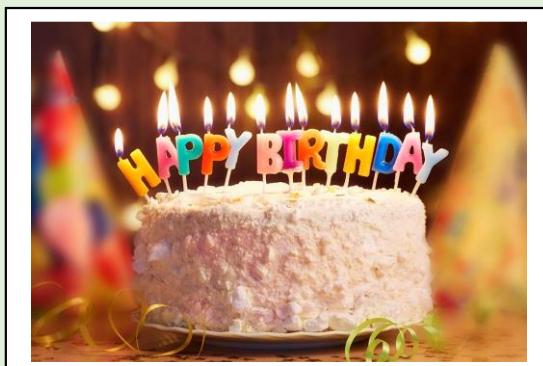
What is your child watching online? What are the dangers and warning signs?
Who are they interacting with? Are they spending too much time online?

Join our session for parents, carers and practitioners to learn how can we support our young people to stay safe online.

Small Steps is a specialist company aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of Extreme Right-Wing (ERW) extremism via quality training delivered by people with lived experience of radicalisation.
For more information visit: smallstepshub.com

Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Hudson S - 25th January
Hettie S - 25th January
Leo T - 26th January
Camille SC - 27th January
Nathan A - 28th January
Hadley N - 28th January

Great to Be Gold	
<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Grace - Grace has settled beautifully into Preschool. She follows the routines well, and is always helpful at tidy up times, and helping to look after others if they are upset. We are very proud of you Grace.</p> <p>Raffy - Raffy follows the Preschool routines beautifully, he always helps at tidy up time and sits beautifully on the carpet joining in with story times and singing. Great job Raffy keep it up!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Hallie - for being an all round superstar, Hallie is very helpful and a fantastic role model to everyone. Great work Hallie!</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Louis - for showing a love of learning and working to the best of his ability, especially with his writing during CIL.</p> <p>Jasper - for working to the best of his ability in maths and phonics this week.</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Grace - For always making the right choice.</p> <p>Owen - For always showing a love of learning.</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Aila - for showing a love of learning during our rugby session.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Sophia & Matilda - for inviting children from the friendship bench to play with them.</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Beatrice - for working to the best of her ability in all areas and showing resilience and perseverance especially in maths.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Mayci - for her love of learning. Mayci has been doing extra Reading Plus at home to improve her skills.</p>
<u>Year 6</u>	<p>Erin - she consistently meets the Great to be Gold criteria each day, she is always helpful and kind and willing to help others, whilst achieving a high stand of work herself.</p>
<p>Jasper - Jasper has done really well this week at Preschool. Although initially upset he settles quickly and then happily gets stuck into his learning, and exploring the environment independently. We are very proud of you.</p> <p>Grace - for showing all of our great to be gold behaviours when she is at Nursery and demonstrating a real love of learning with our yoga this week. Excellent Grace!</p> <p>Cameron - for settling well into Nursery this week and exploring the environment. Fantastic Cameron!</p> <p>Amalia - for always being an outstanding role model and showing all of the Great to Gold behaviours.</p> <p>Benji - for always paying attention to the adults in class.</p> <p>Oscar - for always being well-mannered to all of his friends and teachers.</p> <p>Eliza - for being an outstanding role model around the whole school.</p> <p>Peter - for working to the best of his ability in maths and coaching his peers with clarity and encouragement.</p> <p>Thomas - for working to the best of his ability. Sam - for being well mannered and his love of learning.</p> <p>Chloe - she always works to the best of her ability and pays attention to the adults in all lessons. She always follows the rules and is ready to learn.</p>	



Cześć everyone! 🙌

This week is about the upcoming Spring Disco!

Spring Into the Groove! Thursday 26th February 🌸



The Friends of Watton are thrilled to announce the return of our school disco! Join us for an afternoon of music and moves in the school hall from 15:20 – 16:45.

- Tickets: **£5 per child** (includes crisps & unlimited squash). 2nd sibling £5 | 3rd+ siblings £2.50.
- Booking: Secure your spot via Classlist by **midnight, Tuesday 24th February**. Please include your child's full name and dietary requirements.
- The Extras: Our legendary Tuck Shop will be open for sweets and pocket-money toys!
- Logistics: Teachers will escort children to the hall; collection is at 16:45 from usual classrooms. **(Nursery/Preschool must be supervised by an adult)**.



Help Needed! 🙋♀️ We can't do it without you. If you can help with the tuck shop or the dance floor, please check out the sign up sheet when you book. Alternatively you can volunteer through your class WhatsApp or email us directly at FriendsofwattonFOW@gmail.com.



A Few Photos From This Weeks Rugby Workshops



Playing rugby was a brand-new experience for almost everyone involved, as very few of our children had ever tried rugby before!

Rather than worrying about the technicalities of the professional game, the session focused on high-energy teamwork games. The children practiced communicating clearly and practicing their passing skills in teams. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they realised that rugby is just as much about working together as it is about running with the ball.

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:

Nate - for being our 'star writer' this week by completing our writing challenges during child-initiated learning and showing lots of pride in his achievements.

Nora and Haisley - for showing kindness and empathy towards the preschool and nursery children.

Charlie for showing lots of resilience and pride with his writing.

Year 1:

Lynette - For taking a risk by trying a new sport and joining in enthusiastically in the rugby PE lesson.

Eva - For taking a risk by trying a new sport and joining in enthusiastically in the rugby PE lesson.

Eoin - is our star writer this week for composing super sentences in English.

Year 2:

Lottie - for writing a fantastic story based on the traditional tale: Rapunzel.

Grace - for working with others and making great passes during our rugby session.

Year 3:

Kayden- Is our 'star writer' for being resilient with his handwriting trying hard on his formation.

Freddie- for being reflective, checking if he needs to make any edits with his work.

Year 4:

Freya H - is our 'star writer' for using expanded noun phrase and remembering her punctuation.

Darcy - for her independence in all areas and working hard with others at different times.

Jess and Eric - for working well together during a gymnastics lesson using good communication to create partner balances.

Year 5:

Danny - for having high aspirations in our rugby taster session

Rafe - is our 'star writer' for his creative writing in English this week.

Year 6:

Seren - is our 'Star Writer' this week, she has worked exceptionally hard on her editing skills, to produce improved writing in each lesson. Mrs Gill is proud of her hard work.

Penny - has shown great pride in her role as digital leader, making sure that the computer trolleys are organised and noting any problems she finds. She does this willingly in her own time and does an exceptional job.



Guest Conductor: Michal Oren

Tickets Adults £12 Children £8

Available from www.beamhertford.co.uk
BEAM, The Wash, Hertford SG14 1PS

www.hertfordsymphonyorchestra.org.uk Registered Charity No. 270513

BEAM
Stage Screen Social

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

Who's in Charge?

A free 8 week course for Parents/Carers

Living with a Strong Willed Child

WIC

- What is Who's in Charge?

Who's in Charge? is a 9-week child to parent violence (CPV) programme aimed at parents whose children are being abusive or violent toward them or who appear out of parental control. The course is delivered online and is for parents and carers of children 4 years and over.

- Aims

Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas

- Reducing the blame, guilt and shame that parents may feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child's behaviour
- Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
- Help parents feel more in control and less stressed

What is covered in the course.

- Pre-arranged one-to-one session to complete pre-group questionnaire.
- Session 1 Introductions and genograms
- Session 2 Cause and influences of abusive behaviour
- Session 3 What is abuse?
- Session 4 What can I control in my child's life?
- Session 5 Consequences
- Session 6 Anger and breaking the myths of anger
- Session 7 Assertiveness
- Session 8 Self-care, future goal setting and evaluation
- Session 9 One/two month follow up on goal achievement, evaluation and further goals

"My boundaries in the home are clearer and there are less physical interactions"

"The course is a safe place where no one judges."

"Go for it and give it your all but you have to want to make the change"

I don't even know how to put into words how much the course has helped my life change for the better. It's tough to change the way we parent and the way we live our life but this course has changed my whole life and my perspective on things and how I cope daily with the challenges it brings

If you are interested in this free 8 week course, then please contact our SENDco, Mrs Gill

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

- Monday 2nd - 6th February - Year 6 Mock SATs
- Friday 7th February - Heathmount KS3 pupils reading with Year 3 children
- Tuesday 10th February - Internet Safety Day
- Tuesday 10th February - Parents Evening 4pm - 7.30pm
- Wednesday 11th February - Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- Monday 16th - 20th February - Half Term
- **Thursday 26th February - FOW disco**
- Friday 27th February - FOW clothing collection
- Tuesday 3rd March - Glow In The Dark Dodgeball Workshops
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Thursday 12th March - Sponsored Bounce
- Friday 13th March - Pupil Parliament Meeting
- **Tuesday 17th March - Parent Forum meeting 6pm**
- Monday 16th - 20th March - Assessment Week
- Wednesday 18th March - IROCK performances for children (1.30pm) and parents (2.30pm)
- Friday 20th March - Comic Relief Day
- **Tuesday 24th March - House Point reward treat**
- 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
- 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