



Newsletter 20th June 2025

Dear Parents and families,

What another incredibly busy and enriching week we've had here at Watton. It's always a pleasure to see our pupils engaged in such a wide variety of learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

We hope all the dads and special male figures in our children's lives enjoyed their Father's Day gifts last Sunday! It was wonderful to see the excitement on the children's faces as they carefully chose and paid for their presents.

A huge thank you goes out to our incredible FOW and all the parent volunteers who came into school last Friday to help run the Father's Day stalls. Their time and effort made it a truly special experience for the children, giving them the valuable chance to choose and pay for their own gifts, just as they do for Mother's Day. Their support is truly invaluable!

Here's a snapshot of some of the exciting events that have taken place across the school this week:

Year 6's PGL Adventure: Our Year 6 pupils embarked on their much-anticipated PGL trip this Monday! From the fantastic photos we've seen, it looks like they've had an absolutely brilliant time challenging themselves with new activities, building teamwork skills, and making lasting memories. We're so proud of their enthusiasm and resilience throughout the week. A huge thank you to Mrs Roberts, Mrs Shortland and Miss Roberts who accompanied them and made this invaluable experience possible.

Year 5's Outdoor Science at Watkins Farm: Building on their recent experience of making spaghetti bolognese in school, Year 5 were able to see first hand where two of their key ingredients, wheat and beef, truly originate. They learned about the complete lifecycle of wheat, from seed to the flour that eventually becomes pasta, and understood the dedicated care involved in raising cattle for beef. It was a truly insightful experience, allowing them to appreciate the effort and resources that go into producing the food we enjoy.

One of the most memorable parts of the morning, I'm told, was the chance to try on special glasses designed to simulate how cows see the world! This unique activity provided a fantastic moment of empathy and a deeper understanding of animal perception, sparking lots of curiosity and discussion.

Year 3's Rainforest Workshop with Hertfordshire Zoo: Year 3 had an exciting visit from Hertfordshire Zoo on Monday to learn more about their geography topic: Rainforests. The children all got to hold and identify 3D printed skulls of various animals that live in the rainforest and learnt interesting facts about each animal. The children then learnt more about the 4 layers of rainforest and matched each animal to its habitat.

'No Pens Day' & Forest School Fun: This Tuesday and Wednesday saw the return of our popular 'No Pens Day' for the whole school, where children were encouraged to learn through creative and practical activities without relying on traditional writing. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to develop different skills and express themselves in alternative ways. Alongside this, our termly Forest School visits continued for all year groups on Tuesday or Wednesday, allowing children to connect with nature, build confidence, and develop problem-solving skills in our wonderful outdoor environment.

Coming Up Next Week - Watton's Got Talent

Is back again this year due to popular demand!!!

This event is open to all children in KS2 to take part in. They will audition in their class next week and all of the children in each class will vote for their favourite act. The top three acts in each class will go through to the final of our talent show, which will be held in the hall on Friday 27th June. The final will be watched by all of the children in the school so that everyone can enjoy this event.

If your child is in Years 3 - 6, then they can take part in the auditions. Their talents can be diverse just as long as they can be performed on stage. Can your child dance, tell jokes, act, perform a skill, do magic tricks, sing? Please can you help them to practice for their audition at home and bring into school any props that they may need for their audition.

Forest School Visits This Week



Internet Safety - Apps

Apps for Primary Age Children

For primary school-aged children, the internet can be a fantastic resource for learning and entertainment, provided it's used with appropriate supervision and on age-suitable platforms. Here are some examples of apps that can be beneficial:

- **Educational Apps:** Many apps are designed to support learning in subjects like maths and literacy. Examples include Duolingo ABC, Khan Academy Kids, Teach Your Monster to Read, DoodleMaths, and Times Tables Rock Stars. These often use gamification to make learning engaging and fun.
- **Creative and Interactive Apps:** Apps that encourage creativity and problem-solving are excellent. Think ScratchJr for coding, or apps that allow children to create stories, art, or music.
- **Curated Content Platforms:** For video content, YouTube Kids and BBC iPlayer Kids offer age-appropriate and filtered content, significantly reducing the risk of exposure to unsuitable material found on the main YouTube platform. Similarly, Spotify Kids provides a curated music experience.
- **Family-Friendly Messaging Apps:** If you're considering a messaging app, look for those designed specifically for children, like Kinzoo Messenger or Zigazoo. These often have stricter privacy settings and parental controls, limiting interaction to known contacts.

Apps to Avoid for Primary Age Children

Many popular apps, particularly social media and general messaging platforms, are not suitable for primary school children, even if your child insists "everyone else is using it." This is because these platforms are designed for older users and pose significant risks:

- **Social Media Platforms** (e.g., TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter/X, Discord, WhatsApp): The vast majority of these platforms have a minimum age requirement of 13 years old or higher (WhatsApp is 16). This isn't just an arbitrary number; it's due to:
 - **Exposure to Inappropriate Content:** These platforms are unregulated and can expose children to adult content, hate speech, bullying, violence, and harmful trends.
 - **Online Predators:** The open nature of these platforms makes it easier for children to be contacted by strangers, posing a significant risk of grooming and exploitation.
 - **Privacy Concerns:** Children may unknowingly share personal information that could put them at risk. Their data can also be collected and used in ways they don't understand.
 - **Cyberbullying:** Social media can be a breeding ground for cyberbullying, which can have a severe impact on a child's mental health and well-being.
 - **Addiction and Mental Health:** Algorithms are designed to maximise engagement, which can be highly addictive for developing brains and contribute to anxiety, body image issues, and low self-esteem.
- **Anonymous Chatting Apps** (e.g., Yik Yak, Whisper, Kik): These apps allow users to communicate anonymously, making it incredibly difficult to monitor interactions and increasing the risk of exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying, and contact from predators.
- **Live Streaming Apps** (e.g. Bigo Live): These platforms often have no age verification and can expose children to inappropriate live content, and users may be prompted to share personal information like their age and location.
- **Games with Open Chat Features:** While many games are perfectly safe, those with unmoderated public chat functions (like some popular multiplayer games) can expose children to inappropriate language and interactions with strangers.

Great to Be Gold

<u>Pre Sch</u>	<p>Florence - Florence comes in really happy, and gets stuck in straight away to her learning. She is growing in confidence conversing with adults and peers explaining what she is doing. Great job Florence.</p> <p>Emilia - Emilia has been fully submerged in her learning this week. She has been using her imagination when exploring all of the resources, especially when 'making lemonade'. Great job Emilia.</p>	<p>Rocco - Rocco has a fantastic imagination, which shines through during his play. He continually invites his peers to play and always involves all his friends. Great job Rocco!</p>
<u>Nur</u>	<p>Toby - for showing a love of learning at forest school this week and working really hard to create a picture using natural resources. Excellent Toby!</p> <p>Ida - for always showing our great to be gold to behaviours and setting a fantastic example to others at school Great work Ida!</p>	<p>Nate - for showing all of our great to be gold behaviours this week, Nate has been making up some really lovely games in his independent play. Fantastic Nate!</p>
<u>Rec</u>	<p>Hettie - for showing a love of learning and always working to the best of her ability, especially with her Busy Fingers writing this week. Well done Hettie!</p> <p>Freddie - for being well mannered and remembering to say please and thank you. Fantastic Freddie!</p>	<p>Molly - for showing a love of learning in maths this week by applying her learning during child-initiated learning and for wowing us with her writing! Great work Molly!</p>
<u>Year 1</u>	<p>Grace - for showing her love for learning and completing all her tasks. Great job Grace!</p> <p>Indie - for being an outstanding role model and having outstanding manners. Amazing Indie!</p>	<p>Hattie - for inviting lonely children to play with her at breaktimes and lunchtimes. Well done Hattie!</p> <p>Violet - for working to the best of her ability in all subjects. Fantastic Violet!</p>
<u>Year 2</u>	<p>Amelia A - is always well mannered. Always offering to help the adults in the classroom and on the playground. Well done Amelia!</p> <p>Eliza - is always well mannered. Always offering to help the adults in the classroom and on the playground. Great job Eliza!</p>	<p>Gianni - is an outstanding role model to his class by always demonstrating good behaviour during lessons. Fantastic Gianni!</p> <p>Isaac WP - is an outstanding role model by always following the rules in school. Great work Isaac!</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<p>Iris - has been awarded Great to be Gold this week for being an outstanding role model during our Pupil Parliament meeting. Iris was very confident and came forward with lots of suggestions of ways to improve our school. Amazing Iris!</p>	<p>Freya B has been awarded Great to be Gold this week for having a love of learning, this was especially apparent in her reading progress. Great job Freya!</p>
<u>Year 4</u>	<p>Henry - for being a fantastic role model. During Forest School, he listened to instructions on how to make his clay hedgehog and took his craftsmanship further by adapting it to make it even better. Well done Henry.</p>	<p>Logan - for showing impeccable behaviour when exploring the woods during our Forest School session. He is a great role model. Well done Logan.</p>
<u>Year 5</u>	<p>Seren - for being well mannered and always paying attention to adults. Amazing Seren!</p> <p>Edie - for working to the best of her ability. Great job Edie!</p>	<p>Sam B - working to the best of his ability. Well done Sam!</p>
<u>Year 6</u>		

This Weeks attendance %

Wilson Class (Reception)	98.9%
Riley Class (Year 1)	99.3%
Blake Class (Year 2)	99.6%
Morris Class (Year 3)	100%
Seurat Class (Year 4)	96.3%
Crosby Class (Year 5)	97.4%
Moore Class (Year 6)	99.1%

Whole School Attendance this week 98.67%

Whole School Attendance this term 97.58%

Well done to Morris Class for 100% attendance.



Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday



Finley S - 15th June

Orla D - 17th June

Iris R - 19th June

Bem T - 20th June

Sunny Weather

As we continue to experience warm weather this week, with similar conditions expected into next week, I want to remind everyone about our sun safety guidelines. To ensure your children are comfortable and protected, please make sure they come to school with sun cream already applied. It's also essential that all children have a sun hat with them every day. Hydration is key in warm weather, so please send your child to school with a full water bottle. Children will have access to water fountains to top up their bottles throughout the day as needed. While children will still be going outside for playtime and lunchtime, we have plenty of shady areas available in the playground for them to use. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children safe and happy in the sun.

Year 3 Class Assembly

We're excited to announce that our Year 3 class will be holding their assembly next Thursday, June 26th! All families are warmly invited to join us. The assembly will start promptly at 9:00 AM and will last for approximately 20 minutes. It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the hard work and progress your children have made this year. We look forward to seeing as many parents and families as possible.

Enrichment Clubs in the Autumn Term

We wanted to let you know about an upcoming change to our after-school enrichment club offer for the autumn term, designed to ensure as many children as possible can benefit from these fantastic opportunities.

When our enrichment clubs initially go live for booking, parents will be able to choose **one club per week** for their child. We understand that many of our clubs are incredibly popular, and by limiting initial bookings to one club per child, we can ensure that more children have the chance to participate and experience the diverse range of activities we offer.

We believe this approach will create a more inclusive environment for all our pupils. Should there still be available places after the initial booking period, we will then open up the opportunity for parents to book an additional club for their child. We'll communicate clearly when this second booking phase will open, giving everyone a fair chance to secure extra sessions if they wish.

We're confident that these adjustments will allow more children to engage in enriching experiences outside of the regular school day. We'll be sharing the full list of autumn term clubs towards the end of this term.

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: **Grace** for showing resilience with her writing and **Dylan** and **Hudson** for being creative and applying their learning in their child-initiated learning.

Year 1: **Aurelia** for showing kindness and empathy to her friends. **Romilly** for having resilience in her handwriting.

Year 2: **Harlen** - for showing resilience and taking a risk in the maths lessons this week when learning about time. **Sienna** - for working well with others in this week's PE lesson.

Year 3: **Mila** has been chosen as one of this week's PE stars for showing kindness and empathy during our PE lesson. Mila demonstrated good sportsmanship when she encouraged all her friends, not just the children in her team.

Jess has been nominated for a Head Teachers Award for her creativity. Year 3 have been creating rainforest collages in their art classes and Jess decided to do her very own collage at home.

Jacob has been nominated for a Head Teachers Award for his independence and resilience during our guided reading lessons this week. He has demonstrated a good understanding of our topic, Hillforts.

Year 4: **Frankie** - for being resilient and working hard on his writing this week.

Isabelle - for listening carefully in all lessons and having high aspirations.

Henry - for being our PE sports star. Henry worked well with others and showed a great level of respect in PE this week.

Year 5: **Erin** for her resilience in maths and **Sam M** for high aspirations in PE

SURVEY

The school leadership team and Governors are committed to making our school the best it can be for every child, and your feedback is invaluable in helping us achieve this.

We would be incredibly grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our annual parent survey. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on various aspects of school life.

The survey is short and straightforward, and your responses will be instrumental in shaping our plans for the next academic year. Please complete the survey by Thursday, 18th July.

You can access the survey here: <https://forms.gle/89FCTqBDuSCSx8b48>

Thank you in advance for your time and continued support. Your partnership is essential to our school's success

GOVERNOR UPDATE

Last week at the Full Governing Body meeting, Shelia Stenson was elected as a new Governor. Shelia lives in Watton and currently has grandchildren who attend the school and two other grandchildren who are past pupils of the school.

Given Shelia's knowledge and experience she will join the Resources Committee, and following a period of induction she will also take on other roles within the governing body.

We are really grateful to Shelia for volunteering to undertake this role and we look forward to working with her.

FOW NEWSLETTER

HAPPY FRIDAY. Our *Summer Playout* will take place on Thursday, July 3rd. Open to Pre-school through to Y6. This is one of our most popular fundraisers, as the kids get to enjoy the *playground with their friends* and other year groups, usually in beautiful sunshine. We will have a *tuck shop, a toy stall, and an ice lolly stall*. Tickets can be purchased on Classlist and include a packet of crisps and unlimited squash. You can buy your tickets [CLICK HERE](#)

Please note that an adult must accompany Preschool and Nursery children. We are also in need of **volunteers to run this fundraiser**. We have a range of small tasks that could **significantly benefit our committee**, and your help would be invaluable! Your support in any capacity would make a meaningful difference. If you can help out, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you!

[FOW](#)

GUITAR LESSONS

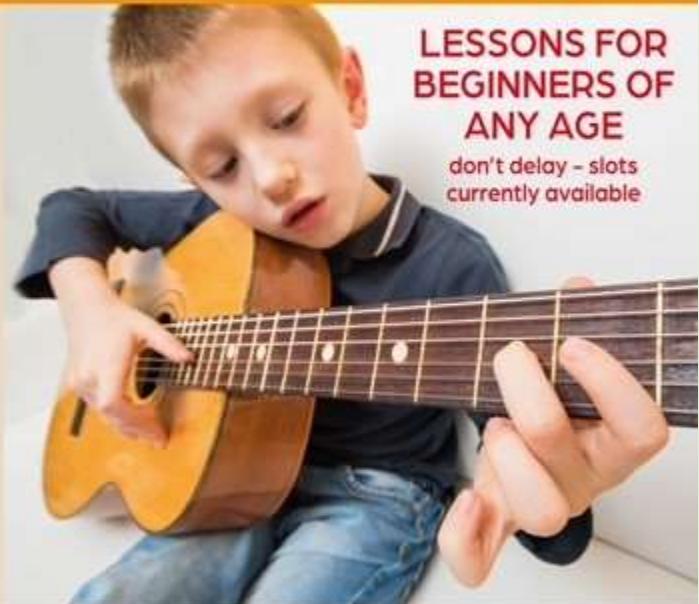
For several years Peter Crossley our guitar and violin teacher has helped students at Watton Primary develop their skills and work towards realising their musical ambitions and dreams. A singer songwriter and regular performer at many of Hertfordshire's music festivals folk / acoustic clubs, he has released albums and had his music played on Radio 2 and many local radio stations. Peter teaches a broad range of musical styles including classical, pop, folk and blues. He also encourages his students to develop their own songwriting skills either working towards graded exams or purely for fun. Peter is here to help your child express themselves positively through music.

- » We have guitars at school that can be borrowed and music will be provided to help get students started. Peter also provides a FREE NO OBLIGATION TASTER LESSON just to make sure students are happy to proceed.
- » To find out more please visit his website www.petercrossley.co.uk and scroll to the bottom of first page to the guitar and violin lessons section for references and further information.
- » Contact him directly on 07876 786389 or email him at petercrossley@mac.com alternatively leave a message for him at the school office.
- » The cost for a 1 to 1 30 minute lesson at school are currently charged at £15.00. Shorter lessons are also available.

ATTENTION HERTFORDSHIRE PARENTS

Five reasons learning music benefits children

- ★ **Music can change lives**, it is a mood lifter.
Learning music young is such a positive benefit your whole life long.
- ★ **Improves brainpower**. Scientifically proven.
Music stimulates the brain. That's enough reason right there!
- ★ **Builds confidence**. I have seen kid's self belief boosted and watched them blossom. Ask me for references.
- ★ **Teaches discipline**. Practice and patience are **so** important and are great habits to learn to pursue your life's goals.
- ★ **Inspires creativity**. Your kids will tap into their inner creative spirits, what an edge that gives them, and what joy to discover.



PETER CROSSLEY BA(Hons) CRB Regd School teacher Professional musician and performer
Guitar / Violin / Songwriting lessons online. FIRST LESSON FREE - TRY IT OUT!

07876 786389 • www.petercrossley.co.uk • petercrossley@mac.com



SWIMMING LESSONS



Watton-at-Stone



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- ✓ Small Class Sizes
- ✓ Private Swimming Lessons
- ✓ Tuesdays – Sundays
- ✓ Swim England Stages 1 – 7
- ✓ Easy Monthly Payments
- ✓ Club Development Programme
- ✓ Warm Pools

HEATH MOUNT CLASS SCHEDULE

📍 Watton-at-Stone

Tuesdays	5 PM – 6:30 PM
Wed & Thursdays	5 PM – 7 PM
Fridays	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Saturdays	11:30 AM – 2 PM
Sundays	12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

ST EDMUNDS CLASS SCHEDULE

📍 Ware

Saturdays	9 AM – 11 AM
Sundays	9 AM – 11:30 AM

**A WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT, WITH AN
EXCEPTIONAL TEAM
THAT CARE AND INSPIRE
PROGRESS.**



**SCAN
ME!**



Email Us

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Call Us

020 8016 4222

Dates For Your Diary

Diary dates in red -new dates added this week

Summer Term

- Week beginning 23rd June - Watton's Got Talent auditions
- Monday 23rd June - New to Nursery class (September 2025) parent meeting 6pm
- Tuesday 24th June - District Sports
- Thursday 26th June - Year 3 class assembly 9am
- Thursday 26th June - New to Reception class (September 2025) parent meeting 6pm
- Friday 27th June - Watton's Got Talent
- Monday 30th June - 4th July - Little Wandle Assessments
- **Thursday 3rd July - Year 2 class trip to Lea Valley Park**
- Thursday 3rd July at 9am - Year 6 class assembly
- Thursday 3rd July - FOW Playout
- Tuesday 8th July - Year 1 class assembly
- Wednesday 9th July - Reception class trip to Epping Forest
- Thursday 10th July - Moving up to new classes (morning only)
- Monday 7th - 11th July - Assessment Week
- Tuesday 15th July - Moving up to new classes (morning only)
- Tuesday 15th July - Year 6 play 6pm
- Wednesday 16th July - End of year reports sent home
- **Wednesday 16th July - IROCK performance 2.30pm**
- Wednesday 16th July - Year 6 play 6pm
- Monday 21st July 3.20pm - school uniform give away
- Tuesday 22nd July 8.45am - school uniform give away
- Wednesday 23rd July - Year 6 leavers service
- Wednesday 23rd July - End of Term 2.15pm