



# Newsletter 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and families,

This Wednesday, we had our whole school Creative Arts Day. The inspiration for the day was a single, captivating image of an imaginary creature known as a Griffle (see the image below). Using this as a springboard, the teachers designed a bespoke curriculum for the day that spanned the entire creative spectrum (art, creative writing, drama, dance, music, design and food technology).

It was wonderful to see the Griffle come to life in so many different ways: Here is selected highlight from the day in each class. Take a look at the photos too on p4.

**Pre school:** Sponge painting a huge Griffle as he had lost his colours!

**Nursery:** Arriving in school to find a huge Griffle egg and making Griffle cakes. Yum!

**Reception:** Using a photo as a prompt, the children used their phonics to describe the Griffle.

**Year 1:** Using water colours to paint huge individual Griffle eye!

**Year 2:** Using collage to carefully layer different shades of green and orange paper to create a textured, multi-colored Griffle!

**Year 3:** Unlock clues to the Griffle's cookie recipe and once successful, they were able to make their own Griffle cookies!

**Year 4:** Learnt and performed a blues song called 'The Griffle Blues'.

**Year 5:** Creative writing and created an art piece on the back ground setting of the picture.

**Year 6:** Wrote an encounter between the Griffle and a character from The Spiderwick Chronicle.

On Thursday morning, we held a whole school sharing assembly. Groups of children from every year group showcased their hard work.

We want to ensure that you too have a chance to see some of the children's creative work. During the Parents' Evenings next month, each teacher will be setting up a table Top Display in the hall.

This will be a unique opportunity for you to see the "progression of skill" across the school. By seeing how the Early Years classes interpreted the Griffle compared to the other year groups, you will get a clear window into how we nurture and develop creativity as our children grow.

I truly hope your children have come home this week full of stories about their adventures with the Griffle.



## Coming Up Next week

We are delighted to inform you that next Wednesday, we will be hosting professional Rugby Taster Sessions for all children across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 during the morning (Years 1 - 6)

For many of our children, this may be their very first introduction to the sport. We are committed to ensuring these sessions are safe, inclusive, and, above all, engaging. The focus will be on:

- Building Confidence: Developing fundamental movement skills through fun, age-appropriate games.
- Teamwork and Respect: Learning the core values of the sport, such as discipline and mutual support.
- Inclusive Play: Every child will be encouraged to participate at their own pace in a supportive, non-contact environment.

Please make sure your child comes to school in their full PE kit on Wednesday.

We are thrilled to be broadening our sporting horizons and can't wait to see the children's energy and enthusiasm on Wednesday!

## Railway 200 Inspiration Train

This February, Hertford will be welcoming the Railway 200 Inspiration Train — a special exhibition train that parents and children can visit free of charge. The train will be at Hertford East Station from 7-9 February 2026.

### What's inside Inspiration?

Created in partnership with the National Railway Museum, the exhibition includes:

- \* Railway Firsts - Discover groundbreaking innovations that shaped Britain's railways
- \* Wonderlab on Wheels - Hands-on science and engineering activities exploring how railways work
- \* Your Railway Future - Learn about lesser-known careers in rail and be inspired to help shape the next 200 years

The train offers something for everyone — history, science, creativity, and careers — and is suitable for all ages.

The train has previously only visited larger cities, so we are delighted it is coming to Hertford. Entry is free, but visitors must book a time slot.

Booking link

Hertford East Station - Railway 200

[About Railway 200 - Railway 200](#)

## Parent/Teacher Meetings

This term's parent/teacher meetings will be taking place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. This will be an opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher, review the targets that they were set in the autumn term and look at the full range of their curriculum learning in their books.

We are also delighted to invite you to come and take a look at some of the wonderful creative learning each class completed during our Creative Arts week which took place this Wednesday.

A letter about the parents evenings will be sent home on Monday and the online booking system will go live on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.

## Creating Healthy Digital Habits

While technology is a brilliant tool for learning and creativity, finding the "sweet spot" at home can be challenging. Striking a healthy balance is less about a strict minute-by-minute countdown and more about the quality of the engagement.

### **Tips for a Healthy Digital Diet**

- **The "Golden Hour":** We strongly recommend a screen-free hour before bedtime. Blue light can significantly disrupt the sleep patterns children need for a productive day of learning.
- **Device-Free Zones:** Consider making mealtimes "tech-free." These are vital windows for conversation and developing social cues.
- **Age-Appropriate Content:** Regularly check that the games and apps your child uses align with their age group. Peer pressure can often lead children toward content designed for much older audiences.
- 

We aren't suggesting a total 'digital detox,' but rather encouraging a healthy balance where children and parents control their devices, instead of their devices controlling them. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children stay balanced, rested, and ready to learn.

## House Points

### This week

First place - Green House - 508

Second place - Red House - 485

Third place - Blue House - 474

Fourth place - Yellow House - 455

### This term

First place - Green House - 1,607

Second place - Yellow House - 1,498

Third place - Blue House - 1,496

Fourth place - Red House - 1,440



## This Weeks attendance %

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Wilson Class<br>(Reception) | 97.5% |
| Riley Class (Year 1)        | 94.8% |
| Blake Class (Year 2)        | 97.6% |
| Morris Class (Year 3)       | 98.1% |
| Seurat Class (Year 4)       | 92.9% |
| Crosby Class (Year 5)       | 97.6% |
| Moore Class (Year 6)        | 95.7% |

Whole School Attendance this week 96.37%  
/term 96.47%



# HERTFORD TOWN FC

FREE SESSION



DEVELOPMENT LAUNCH DAY

YEAR 1 CHILDREN (BOYS AND GIRLS)

THE SESSION WILL INCLUDE

- Professional coaching
- Fun skill development activities
- Positive environment
- Small sided match play

FRIDAY 30TH JAN 2026 6-7 PM

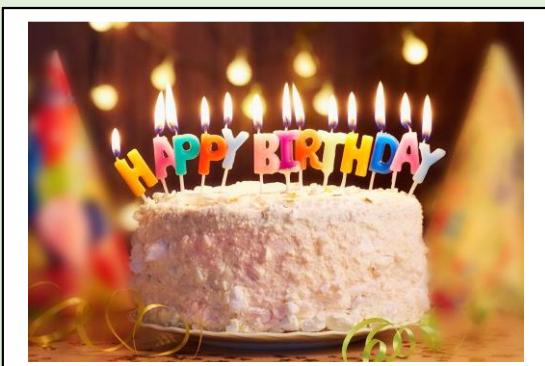
HERTFORD TOWN FC  
HERTINGFORDBURY PARK,  
WEST ST, HERTFORD SG13 8EZ

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPORTS NINJAS



## Birthdays this week

We wish these children a very happy birthday

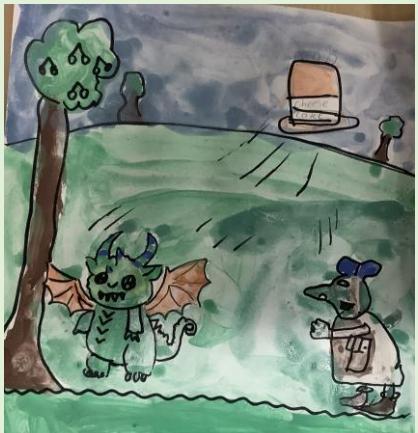


Bettie G - 21<sup>st</sup> January  
Dylan C - 22<sup>nd</sup> January

| Great to Be Gold |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| <u>Pre Sch</u>   | <p><b>Luca</b> - Luca has had a great week at Preschool. He is beginning to be more confident within the setting, and has begun to independently explore. We are super proud of you Luca!</p> <p><b>Jake</b> - Jake has settled beautifully this week, and will independently choose where he wants to play, and has become more confident in conversing with all the adults. Great job Jake, we are proud of you!</p> | <p><b>Herbie</b> - Herbie has had a great week at Preschool. He is beginning to explore the setting more, and join in with his peers at group times and story times. We are very proud of you Herbie, keep it up!</p> |
| <u>Nur</u>       | <p><b>Camille</b> - for showing a real love of learning this week and being fully immersed in our Griffle activities. Fantastic Camille!</p> <p><b>Jackson</b> - for not giving up and showing lots of resilience when using scissors with independence. Excellent Jackson!</p>  | <p><b>River</b> - for showing a love of learning and taking great care when making a winter picture. Fantastic River!</p>   |
| <u>Rec</u>       | <p><b>Haisley and Lily</b> - for showing a love of learning and choosing to continue and extend their learning during CIL, especially their writing.</p>   |   |
| <u>Year 1</u>    | <b>Ellis</b> - for working to the best of his ability.   | <b>Orla</b> - for constantly making the right choices.  |
| <u>Year 2</u>    | <b>Romilly</b> - for being an outstanding role model and constantly making the right choices.  | <b>Teddy</b> - for paying attention to the adults and making the right choices, especially on the carpet.   |
| <u>Year 3</u>    | <p><b>Gianni</b> - for always showing all the great to be gold values.</p> <p><b>Lily</b> - for showing her love for learning in her writing.</p>  | <b>Isaac W-P</b> - for showing his love for learning in all subjects.   |
| <u>Year 4</u>    | <b>Francis</b> - for her love of learning, especially in recorders when learning 'The Griffle Blues'.  | <b>Eric</b> - for his love of learning in his creative writing this week. His writing brought The Griffle to life!  |
| <u>Year 5</u>    | <b>Logan</b> - for his impeccable behaviour outside of the classroom.  | <p><b>Bettie</b> - for her love of learning.</p> <p><b>Rose</b> - for being a great role model.</p>   |
| <u>Year 6</u>    | <p><b>Beau</b> - Beau meets all our Great to be Gold standards every day. She quietly gets on with her work and listens to the adults at all times - a pleasure to teach.</p> <p><b>Orlagh</b> - she has been impressing all the teachers in all the subjects - she always works to the best of her ability and shows a natural love of learning. She is a wonderful role model to have in class.</p>                  | <p><b>Leo</b> - Leo constantly makes the right choices and listens very carefully to the adults - he has produced some wonderful creative writing this week and his illustration is fantastic too. Well done Leo.</p> |

## Creative Arts Day Photo Gallery

Here are some photos from the Griffle Creative Arts day to showcase some of the activities the children did. These include baking, painting, playing a musical instrument, collaging and creative writing.



## 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:**

Louis - for being our 'star writer' this week by applying his phonics to his independent writing during CIL and being very proud of what he had written.

Nate - for having high aspirations with his writing and being proud of his achievements.

Ned - for being creative with his description of The Griffle.

### **Year 1:**

Antoine - for working well with others in our PE lesson.

Lyra - for working well with others in our PE lesson.

Molly - is our 'star writer' this week for her enthusiasm and trying her best.

### **Year 2:**

Tyler - is our 'star writer' for taking pride in his fantastic adjectives during our creative writing lesson.

Kaylee - for showing creativity in art to create different textures to use in a group collage.

### **Year 3:**

Joe- is our 'star writer' for showing excellence and creativity in his work.

Darci- for being reflective in her writing, checking her sentences for edits.

### **Year 4:**

Freya B - for taking risks and having high aspirations in our cricket lesson this week.

Amelia - for showing kindness and empathy when helping to sort out a friendship issue.

Nathan - he is our 'star writer' for his description of the Griffle's diet.

### **Year 5:**

Lily - for having kindness and empathy when supporting one of her peers.

Ffion - for her creativity on Creative arts day.

AB - Team work in P.E.

Louis - is our 'star writer' for his creative writing about the Griffle.

### **Year 6:**

Arien - has earnt our 'Star Writer' award this week. He is really thinking about the success criteria for each of the different pieces of writing and will proof read his work and edit.

Daya - she has had a great week, but stood out in PE for being respectful and showing kindness, she cheered everyone on in her team and then would cheer on others as she observed.



**Guest Conductor: Michal Oren**

**Tickets Adults £12 Children £8**

Available from [www.beamhertford.co.uk](http://www.beamhertford.co.uk)  
BEAM, The Wash, Hertford SG14 1PS

[www.hertfordsymphonyorchestra.org.uk](http://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



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Virtual Sessions

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PRACTITIONERS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

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Choose only one date to attend

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**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 we can 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](http://smallstepshub.com)



**fab science**

**HOLIDAY CAMPS**

Join us for 5 hours of Fab Science fun in the holidays! Camps run 10am to 3pm and are open to all children aged 5-11 years.

For more information visit the Fab Science website.

**£38 per child**

**Sibling discount available**

Monday 16th February Cambridge (Queen Edith)

Tuesday 17th February Saffron Walden (RAB)

Wednesday 18th February Bishop's Stortford (Thorn Grove)

Thursday 19th February Hertford (St Andrew)

Friday 20th February St Albans (Garden Fields)

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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



Jambo everyone!   
This week we're saying thank you



Our 2025 Year in Review is officially here! Here is a look at the amazing milestones you helped us reach over the last twelve months.

**42**

new supporters joined

These new supporters have raised a combined £57.99 so far!

**44**

supporters have raised a donation

These supporters have been responsible for all £740.43 raised last year!

**£740.43**

was raised in total

Friends of Watton at Stone School's supporters raised this much through 608 purchases throughout the year.

We also received a brilliant **£106.85** from Watton Woolies, who did the amazing knitted cover for the water pump.

#### Coming up next month...

Our next clothing collection is just around the corner! Whether you're hiding that 'unique' jumper from Aunt Bertha or simply refreshing your wardrobe for the new year, we'll gladly take your unwanted items. Remember one bin bag of clothes makes us on average between £4.90 - £7!

**The collection will start 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, and end morning of 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

#### Dates For Your Diary

#### Diary dates in red - new dates added this week

##### Spring Term

- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Rugby taster session workshops Years 1 - 6
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 6pm - Year 6 parents SAT's meeting
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Heathmount KS3 pupils reading with Year 3 children
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February - Year 6 Mock SATs
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Heathmount KS3 pupils reading with Year 3 children
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Internet Safety Day

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

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Parents Evening 4pm - 7.30pm
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - FOW clothing collection
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Glow In The Dark Dodgeball Workshops**
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Sponsored Bounce
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Pupil Parliament Meeting
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March - Assessment Week
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - IROCK performances for children (1.30pm) and parents (2.30pm)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief Day
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> March - No Pens Day/Forest School visits
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Enterprise Day
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - End of Term

### **Summer Term**

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

- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 play
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July - End of Year Reports
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - End of Term