



Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School & Watton Junior School

Newsletter Friday 13th September 2024

This term our British Value is Democracy



Monday 23rd September—Author visit to Watton Westfield and Watton Junior School this week & Reception Parents' Phonics Session at Watton Westfield 2.30pm

Friday 27th September—Macmillan Cancer Bake Sale after school on layby on West Rd

Tuesday 1st October—Paralympian Athlete visit to Watton Junior School

Thursday 3rd October—Parent Café for Wren Class at 1.30pm

Monday 7th October—Thrive Parent Information Session at Watton Westfield 2.30pm

Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th October—Parent Interviews

Thursday 17th October—Parent Café for Barn Owls Class 1.30pm

Monday 21st October—Online Safety Information Session for Parents at Watton Westfield 2.30pm

Thursday 24th October—Parent Café for Robins Class 1.30pm / last day of school before half term break

Monday 4th November—School reopens for Autumn term 2 / Immunisation Team visiting both schools for Flu Vaccines

Monday 11th November—School Photos at Watton Westfield

Tuesday 12th November—School Photos at Watton Junior

Friday 15th November—BBC Children In Need Non-Uniform day

Welcome to the start of the 2024-25 academic year! We are so pleased to meet all our new families and see those returning after the summer break. We are looking forward to a fantastic year where we all enjoy learning together and being the best we can be! As schools we are always looking to improve and develop. This year our focus is on improving children's attainment in Phonics, Reading, Writing and Maths through carefully chosen schemes, quality teaching and effective monitoring to prepare them for the next stage of their learning. We are also working to identify children with special educational needs (SEN) and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs early to improve their progress and attainment, and to improve the attendance of persistently absent children by supporting families.



Our year group curriculum topics for this half term are:

Nursery: What Makes Us Special?



Reception: All About Me! / Friendship / Woodland Creatures

The Hive EYFS & KS1 Enhanced SEN provision: All About Me / Building Friendships

Year 1: Exploring Toys / Old & New



Year 2: Different Settings Around the World / What do Animals Need?

Year 3: The Norfolk Broads

Year 4: The Norfolk Broads



Years 5 & 6: Space and the Space Race!

Hawking KS2 Enhanced SEN provision: The Whale

Learning & Cognition SRB: The Arctic & Antarctic



Social, Emotional & Mental Health SRB: Space & The Solar System

SMILE: We aspire to unlock the full potential of every pupil in a Safe, Meaningful, Inclusive Learning Environment

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get free school meals. This is called universal infant free school meals. This is different to benefit-related free school meals and you do not have to apply, but if you receive one of the benefits listed below, you should still register below. This is because it can help raise extra funds for your child's school (called Pupil Premium). This Government funding can help with extra support for your child's learning in school.



Are you entitled?

Children in Years 3, 4, 5, & 6 do not automatically qualify for free school meals, but you may be eligible for benefits related free school meals if you receive one of the benefits listed below. This will also make your child eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

- Universal Credit - with an annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190

Please go to <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/38166> to apply for benefits related free school meals and/or Pupil Premium funding.

Nursery children staying for lunch may pay for a meal at £2.35 per day.

Please be reminded that all children from Reception to Year 6 should come to school in uniform every day, unless it is a PE day and they have been asked to come in wearing their kit in their house colour instead.

Branded uniform with the school logo is available from Birds of Dereham, but we are also happy for children to wear non-branded uniform as long as it is in the correct colours. **Children should not be coming to school in non-uniform (apart from nursery) and must not wear hooded sweatshirts.** These are a health and safety risk as can get pulled or caught.

PE kit should be plain black joggers or shorts and a house colour t-shirt.

Pre-loved uniform is available from both schools. Please ask at the office if you would like to see what is available.



The Importance of Reading for Children

In a world overflowing with screens and distractions, cultivating a passion for reading in our children has never been more vital! Reading not only helps our little ones improve their vocabulary and comprehension skills, but it also fuels their imagination, sparks creativity, and fosters empathy by introducing them to diverse perspectives.

Here are just a few reasons why encouraging and ensuring our young ones read daily is essential:

Cognitive Development: Reading stimulates the brain, enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Academic Success: Early readers often have a head start in all subjects, paving the way for future achievements.

Emotional Growth: Books teach children to understand and express their feelings, building emotional intelligence.

Quality Family Time: Reading together creates precious moments, strengthens bonds, and cultivates a love for literature.



Please be reminded that parents and carers are responsible for their children on site before and after school. For children from Nursery up to Year 4, please wait with them until the gates/door open. We only allow children in Year 5 and Year 6 to walk to and from school alone with parental permission.

While your children are waiting, please ensure they are behaving safely and considerately to others. Please do not allow them to climb or swing from the gates, fences and trees as this may cause injury and/or damage to property. Thank you



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Happy Days Creative School Photography

We are now pleased to be using Happy Days Creative school photography at both Watton Westfield and Watton Junior School.

The photographer will come in November, February and July and take a variety of individual portraits and class photos. Sibling portraits can be taken of children in the same school only but when you buy photos you can mix a package of both children in the infant and junior schools.

We will be sending out consent forms nearer the time.

There are a variety of photo packages available to choose from and parents can choose to make stand alone purchases or set up a monthly subscription to spread the cost and access significant discounts, however **the deadline for subscriptions is this Sunday, 15th September** so be quick if you want to take advantage of this!

How do you sign up? If this is something that you would be interested in joining, please register here: www.happydays.photos NO LATER THAN 15th September 2024. When registering please use your school code of: WISIP25 If you have children at Watton Infant School (WISIP25) and Watton Junior school (WJSIP25), you will need to complete 2 separate sign-ups.



You will no longer need to call or email the office to report your child's absence. Instead, please get the free Studybugs app (the icon is a green shield with a cross in it), or register on the Studybugs website (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>), and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

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Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)



On our staff training days in September all staff completed their annual safeguarding training refresher and practiced how we would respond in emergency situations.

Watton Westfield and Watton Junior Schools are committed to creating a happy and safe environment for our children to learn in. Our priority is to work with parents and carers, but there may be times when we have to involve other people. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure the safety of our pupils. All staff are employed under safer recruitment guidelines and are trained in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

All children should be able to go to school and feel safe so that they can achieve their very best. Unfortunately, there may be occasions when a concern has been raised. If you need to report something that worries you, please speak to one of our designated safeguarding leads who can be contacted through the offices.

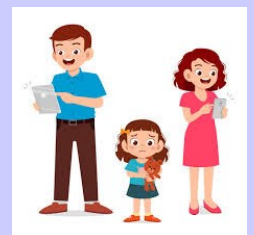


Please be reminded that only children in Year 5 and Year 6 may bring a mobile phone to school if they have permission to walk home alone. They must hand their phone to their teacher for safekeeping during the day.

We ask adults to please put your phones away when dropping off and collecting your children and give your child your full attention to help them share their feelings and daily news with you.

Photographs taken on school site must never be shared online.

Thank you.



Attendance:

It's lovely to see the children return after the summer break. Please remember that your child can attend school with minor ailments and the school offices are happy to administer prescribed medications and some over the counter medicines. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school office and ask for Mrs S Warnes.

Volunteer Reading Partners:

We are always keen to welcome volunteer reading partners to help work with our children. If you can give an hour or two a week on a regular basis please come and speak to the school offices. We would pay for your DBS check and provide phonics training to help you.