



Watton Junior Newsletter October 2025

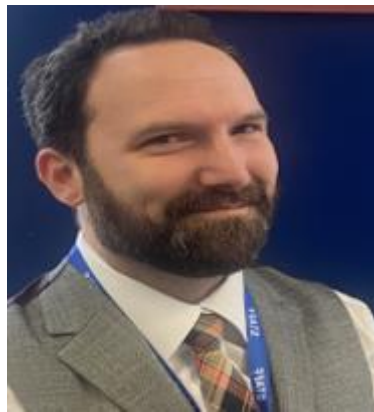
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Email us at: office@wattonjunior.org

Telephone us: 01953881387

Visit our website: <https://wattonwestfieldandjunior.org.uk>

Message from our SLT



1 - I would like to thank you all for such a warm welcome to the schools this term. It has been a busy but enjoyable and exciting first 8 weeks for me, and I have enjoyed learning lots about the children, trying my best to remember as many names as possible, and working with staff to further the great work already underway in our two schools.

As part of our focus on the future of our schools, I would be grateful if you could spare 2 minutes over the half term break to complete this brief online questionnaire - <https://forms.office.com/e/BOV7BPzRM0> - to share your thoughts on our new school values (particularly for those of you who were unable to engage with this in person during parents' evenings).

Many thanks for your engagement and for the continued support of your schools.

Mr Ambrose.

School Events



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu  **immunisation**
Helping to protect children, every winter

© Crown copyright 2014. Product code: 11/2014/14. NHS Health Security Agency gateway number: 2204104. If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit healthsecurity.nhs.gov.uk/flu/child-flu or call 0300 333 1333.

We have our flu team in on the 3rd November 2025 to administer flu vaccines. Emails have been sent to you to sign your child up. Please use the link to give consent or to decline.



3 - Individual / Sibling Portrait's - 13th November 2025 -

Children will have their individual photos taken. They will also have sibling photos taken if they have siblings in school.



4 - Children in Need 2025 - 14th November -

We are delighted to invite the children to dress up in spots and/or stripes to help raise money for this charity. Suggested donation of £1. Please keep an eye out on Dojo for details on how to donate through our JustGiving page.

Community Events







Year 3 news:

This term Year 3s have been practicing Harvest Songs. Everyone has worked hard and is singing beautifully ready for the Harvest Assembly. We have also learnt about some musical artists and composers including - Taylor Swift, Take That, Beethoven and ABBA.





Year 4 news:

This term Year 4 went to River Nar and the Priory in Castle Acre. They enjoyed learning new facts about the river and conducted some experiments .





Year 5 news:

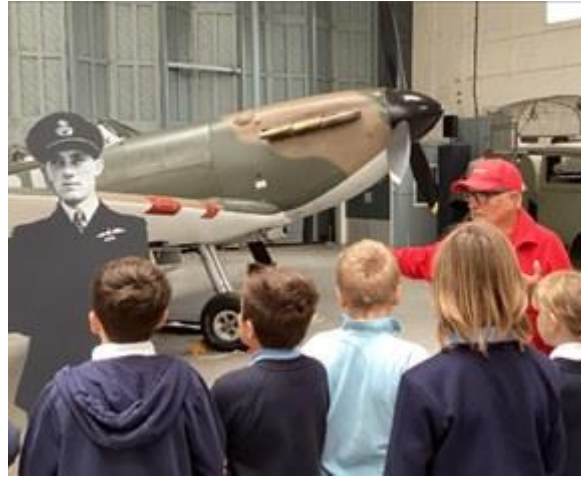
This term Year 5 had a long but exciting day at the National Space Centre in Leicester. They found out new and exciting facts regarding space and astronauts.





Year 6 news:

This term Year 6 had an amazing day at Duxford Imperial War Museum learning about different planes and their purpose.





Message From the School

As the weather begins to turn colder, we kindly ask that you ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the season. It is important that children wear warm clothing, including layers that can be adjusted throughout the day.

Please make sure your child brings a coat to school each day, as outdoor play and activities will continue whenever possible. Hats, gloves and scarfs are also encouraged to help keep them comfortable during colder temperatures.



School Council updates

As part of our commitment to pupil voice and inclusive leadership, the newly elected School Council has begun the academic year with a meaningful and engaging initiative.

Their first task was to design and carry out a whole-school survey, inviting pupils to share the words they feel best represent our new school core values. This activity not only encouraged thoughtful reflection among students but also ensured that the values we adopt are shaped by the community they are meant to inspire.

The responses gathered will now inform the development of our refreshed core values framework, helping to foster a school culture that is both pupil-centred and aspirational.

We are proud of the School Council's proactive approach and look forward to seeing the positive impact of their work throughout the year.

Residential Trip to Eaton Vale



Open to Y5/6

The residential will take place from Monday 22nd June to Wednesday 24th June 2026.

The expected cost for the trip is £220. To make this more manageable, we are pleased to offer two payment options.

Pay in full: a single payment of £220.

Payment Plan: You can pay in four instalments according the the following schedule:

Deposit of: £35

Tuesday 30th September : £45

Friday 31st October: £45

Friday 28th November: £45

Friday 27th February: £50

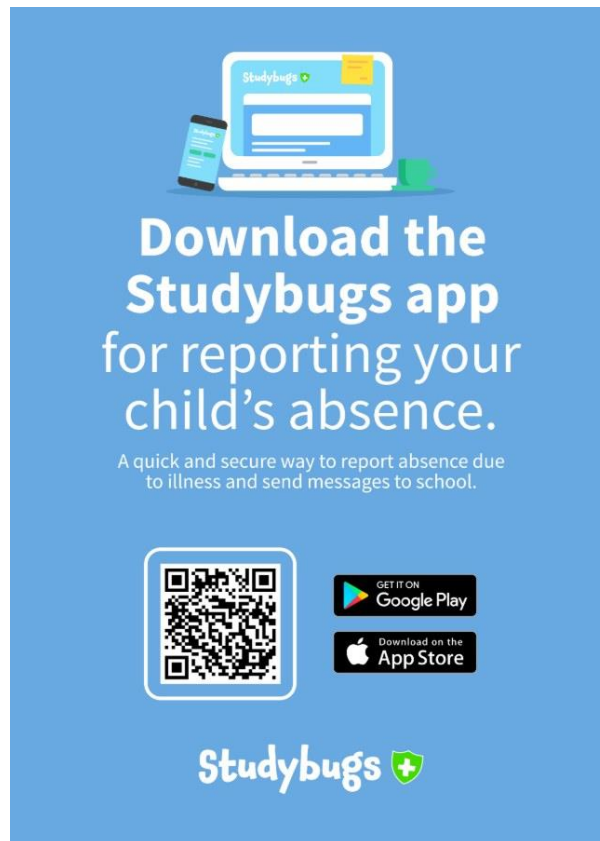
Please contact Miss Mather in the office if you wish to make an additional payment at any point.

If you have any concerns about meeting the payment plan, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, Miss Mather or Mr Ambrose. All enquiries will be handled with discretion.

Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS





5 - Studybugs is an app you can download to report your child's absence. This is a very quick and easy way to report.

Norfolk County Council: Penalty Notices regarding school absence - Guidance for parents

Date: 03.09.2025

Regular school attendance and parent's legal responsibilities

At Watton Junior School our aim is to collaborate with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential. This guidance is to remind all parents about the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government is clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment. The important legal information The Government have introduced a single national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England. This threshold is 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The period of 10 school weeks can span different terms or school years. In line with national guidance, the Local Authority (LA) retains the discretion to issue a penalty notice before the threshold is met. This might apply for example, where parents have taken several term time holidays below the national threshold. The LA also retains the discretion to consider going straight to prosecution where appropriate. A maximum of 2 penalty notices per parent, per child can be issued within a rolling 3-year period. This period will start from the issue of the

1st penalty notice. The national framework also sets out the escalation process which applies to such penalty notices. If the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within 3 years, another tool should be used. In Norfolk, where a pupil's attendance has met the national threshold for a third time within 3 years and the parent/s have already been issued with 2 penalty notices within that period, consideration will be given to prosecution under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, which can result in a criminal conviction and fine of up to £2,500. A parent includes any person who is not a natural parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or who has care of the child, as set out in section 576 of the Education Act 1996. Penalty notices will usually be issued to the parent/s with day-to-day responsibility for the child's attendance or the parent/s who have allowed the absence (regardless of which parent has applied for a leave of absence). The first penalty notice issued to a parent for a child will be charged at £160 to be paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice, the second penalty notice to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the first offence, is charged at a flat rate of £160 and is payable within 28 days. There is no reduced sum available in this instance. Part payments or payment plans are not acceptable, and fines must be paid in full within 21 or 28 days, at the rate specified within the penalty notice. There is no right of appeal against a penalty notice.

Requests for Leave of Absence.

Working together to improve school attendance advises all schools that they should only grant a leave of absence during term time in exceptional circumstances, considering each request on a case-by-case basis. If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the headteacher to determine the length of time the pupil can be away from school. Although we recognise the value and benefits of family holidays, it is unlikely a leave of absence will be granted for a family holiday as the Government 'does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.'

Requests for leave must be made in advance, otherwise schools will be unable to consider your individual circumstances and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Headteachers are not obligated to reconsider authorising leave if an application was not made in advance. Support with ensuring regular school attendance **If you require any support with ensuring your child's attendance, please contact Mrs S. Warnes on 01953 881387.**

Helpful resources...



**For free
confidential
advice:**



Phone number
0300 561 0555



Email:
referrals@nidasnorfolk.co.uk

