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NEWSLETTER NO. 01

Date: 6th September, 2005

Ref: News 01 Sept05

Dear Parents,

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 8th September
Monday 12th September
Monday 3-5th October
Tuesday 18th October
Tuesday 18th October
Thursday 20th October
Friday 11th November

Tuesday 29th November
Friday 2nd December, 2005
Wednesday 7th December
Thursday 8th December
Friday 16th December
Thursday 5th January, 2006

School Term Dates:

Half Term Week
Closure day
Break up for Christmas
Start of Spring Term
Half Term Week
Closure day
Break up for Easter
Start of Summer Term
May Day Bank Holiday
Half Term Week
Closure day
Break up

Hotshots Basketball 'Taster Sessions'
Rugby 'Taster Sessions' with Dunstablians Rugby Club
Key Stage 2 visits to Baptist Church
School Individual Photographs to be taken
6-8pm Parent Consultation Evening
4-6pm Parent Consultation Evening
Quantum Theatre Visit to School Key Stage 1 'Lights & sounds of Tinsel Town'
Key Stage 2 'Quirks in the Works'
Art Day in school
Oak Class Christmas Concert
Key Stage 1 Christmas concert – time to be advised
Key Stage 1 Christmas concert – time to be advised
Whole school Carol Service – Salvation Army Citadel – time to be advised
Whole school visit to "Snow White" Pantomime at Milton Keynes

Week commencing 24th October, 2005
Monday 31st October, 2005
Tuesday 20th December, 2005
Wednesday 4th January 2006
Week commencing 13th Feb 2006
To be advised
Friday 31st March, 2006
Wednesday 19th April, 2006
Monday 1st May 2006
Week commencing 29th May 2006
(polling day) date to be confirmed (possibly 4th May 2006)
Friday 21st July 2006



We would like to welcome the children and their parents who have joined us this term, both in the 4+ and throughout the school. We hope you will soon make some good friends and enjoy your time at Watling.

NEW ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

Please return any outstanding Yellow admission forms for 2006 to the school office. It is essential they are returned by 9th September, 2005 LATEST, as these forms then have to be sent to County Hall for processing.

Book Bags

A new supply of book bags has been received in the Office. These are still very good value at £3. Please ensure your child's name is on their book bag (and everything else they wear/bring to school).

At the beginning of each academic year we like to mention one or two of our normal rules and procedures:

Arrival at school –

Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8.45 a.m. and 8.55 a.m. when a member of staff will be on duty. The normal procedure during these times is for the child to make their way onto the playground where they are supervised by school staff. It is quite in order for you to leave the premises to avoid unnecessary congestion by the playground doors and steps.

Late arrival at school –

If your child arrives at school after 9.a.m. and the rear playground doors are closed, please report to the Office, so that we can ensure your child has his/her registration mark. We also need to note in our 'Late Book' the reason for late arrival. The Education Welfare Officer checks the 'Late book' on a regular basis, and will contact you if they have a concern about the number of 'lates' your child has.

Collection of Children at the end of the day -

Year 1 – Year 4 children, please collect your child from the rear school playground at 3.30 p.m. and make sure your child has informed their class teacher that they are leaving school premises. If you know you may be slightly late (appointments etc.) please telephone the office, so that we can inform the class teacher. If your child is NOT collected by 3.45 they will automatically be booked into our Forest Club and a charge will be made by them. If your child is being collected by someone who is not on your 'contact list' please inform the office, and the teacher will be notified that you have authorised your child's collection by someone else.

4+ Unit – children should be collected from the 4+ playground area at the front of the school.

Absences –

If your child is absent from school due to illness, or emergency Doctor's appointment, please telephone the school as soon as you can, so that we can mark the register correctly. If your child is away for more than a day, please send in a letter confirming their absence on the first day of your child's return to school.

Could we please enlist your total support in reaching a very challenging attendance target of 95.3% set for us by our Education Welfare Officer for the forthcoming year. Our performance in this area will be monitored by OFSTED in any future school inspection. It is imperative that we all work together to achieve this target by ensuring that all children attend school to enable them to access their full educational entitlement. We have been complemented on our 'good practice' and aim to build on this success.

I look forward to a close working relationship in tackling this attendance target, and to your ongoing support.

Sickness and Diarrhoea –

We have been advised by the Health Protection Unit that children should be kept away from school for at least 48 hours AFTER the symptoms have stopped.

Health & Safety –

For health and safety reasons we would ask that all long hair be tied back off the face in a pony tail, bunches, or plaits. This can help prevent the spread of Headlice in school.

Shoes – please ensure that your child attends school with appropriate footwear (not trainers).

Jewellery – Jewellery is not appropriate at school for various reasons, however if your child wishes to wear a watch, make sure it is a cheap one!

Earrings – We appreciate that a number of children have pierced ears, and would recommend that you ensure they have a special pair of small studs for school use only (not expensive ones!). If earrings come out during the school day, staff are not allowed to put them back, so please make sure your child is able to put their own earrings in. Thank you.

Headlice –

Should you ever notice that your child has Headlice, please notify the school, so that we can alert others to be extra vigilant in the eradication of this PEST! Please do not feel embarrassed, as it is a problem in all Lower Schools.

We do NOT name and shame.

Lost property –

Names please on all items of clothing – this makes it easier to return items of lost property to its rightful owner. Any unnamed lost property will be recycled.

School Car Park –

The School Car park is very congested with very limited space, and we would ask all parents NOT to use this area when bringing their children to school. This area is for School Staff only.

Sending money into school –

Please ensure that you send money into school in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and class.

Dinner Money should be in a separate envelope as this is collected by the Catering Company who provide the school meals.

Dinner Money procedures:

Dinner money should be sent in at the beginning of each week, to ensure that your child is reserved a meal. Should you get into arrears, the Catering Company will be unable to provide a meal for your child until the debt is cleared.

Book Club –

The school runs a Book Club to encourage children to save a small amount on a regular basis to be spent at the "School Book Shop" at the end of each term. (nothing to do with PSA Book Fair). If you wish your child to join the book club, send the money in on a Monday morning, in multiples of 10p in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class, clearly marked "Book Club". This should be handed to the Class Teacher and NOT brought into the school office, this enables the teacher to record the amount saved each week.

PE Kit –

It is normal procedure for your child's PE kit to be brought into school each Monday morning, and to remain in school until Friday afternoon. If your child's PE kit is not in school, they will still take part in the lesson in their underwear. There are occasions when we have extra activities during the school week, when PE kit may be required e.g. in school Football coaching by Luton & Dunstable Community Football Association.

School Uniform –

Just a reminder that the winter uniform for girls includes the option for them to wear school-style grey trousers. Other styles/colours are not considered to be 'school uniform'

'HOME-START'

Home-Start, the family support charity, are looking for caring local parents and grandparents to join their organization. Home-Start volunteers spare just a couple of hours a week to offer support and friendship to families with young children who are going through a difficult time. In today's society where families are often spread around the country there isn't the same support network that there was years ago. We recognize that neighbours count and that everyone needs a friend.

What do Home-Start volunteers get back? They have the fun and joy being with young children can bring, and the knowledge that they are making a real difference to someone else's life. There are opportunities for further training and it is a great way to make new friends.

We are starting a Preparation Course for new volunteers in September. It will run for one day a week for eight weeks during school hours. (There may also be an opportunity for an evening preparation course if enough people are interest.) We have just a few places left on the daytime course and would love to hear from anyone who would like to know more. Our training is free and all expenses are paid.

Please telephone Linda or Alison on 01525 374656 (please leave a message if we are out of the office and we will get back to you within 24 hours) or e-mail : home-startb@tiscali.co.uk

Thank you.

FUND RAISING FOR SCHOOL:

I am delighted to announce a scheme that will raise money for our school. We have been approached by "The Hungry Horse Pub-Restaurant" in Dunstable. On production of their 'Customer Reward Card', The Hungry Horse will donate 10% of the cost of your meal to Watling Lower School.

This is a very generous offer, which we hope parents and families will enjoy supporting!

I am sorry this first Newsletter of the Academic Year is so long, but we hope this will avoid any confusion for any of our new pupils and parents, and keep our existing pupils and parents up to date if there have been any minor changes in procedures.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Black
Headteacher

If you require this newsletter in alternative formats or larger print, please contact the office.