

Watlington Newsletter September 1 2025



Monday 8th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed for the action-packed year ahead. I also wanted to take this opportunity, on behalf of the team, to say thank you for your gifts and kind words at the end of last term. Although not expected, they are very much appreciated.

We've already had a fantastic start to the year, with all pupils looking smart in their full school uniform, and two days full of energy and enthusiasm from the children. Remember

to visit the class pages to find out what your child/ren have been learning, and for more useful information on what is happening in school. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Presentations and votes for our new School Council and Sports Captains are underway. I look forward to presenting our new recruits to you soon.

A very warm welcome to all our families, especially those who are new to our community. I look forward to getting to know you and working together over the coming months. A special welcome to our new Foundation Stage families and to our two new teaching assistants: Mrs Katy Bromley and Mrs Martine Williams. I am sure you will join me in a warm Watlington welcome to them all.

Wishing you all a happy term.

Warm regards,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher

Chair of Governors update

A very warm welcome to Mat Van de Pette, who is our new Chair of Governors.

Please click [here](#) for more information about our governing body.

Jigsaw



We use 'Jigsaw' as a way of supporting the children's Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. We aim to equip our pupils with the knowledge and skills to successfully and safely manage their lives now and in the future. Lessons happen across the school every week and are delivered in an age-appropriate manner.

This term in Jigsaw our whole school focus is on:

Term 1: New beginnings

If you would like more information on what we will be covering in lessons, we can provide you with access to the Jigsaw Parent Portal, which allows parents and carers to view the standard lesson plans for their child's year group. Due to copyright reasons, we are unable to send out a blanket login code to parents, but we are able to set up individual parents with access, should they wish to view the materials. If you would like to have access to this, please email the school office (admin.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk) and we can arrange this for you.

Housekeeping Reminders



Drop off and collection. Learning starts, including reading and maths interventions, at 8.45am, - please help your child to be on time! Reception to Year 6: School starts at 8.45am (gate opens at 8.40am) and ends at 3.15pm. Nursery: Nursery starts at 9am (gate opens at 8.40am) and ends at 3pm. **Arriving late for drop off and collection is unsettling for your child.**

School uniform. Your child should be wearing full school uniform every day, this includes footwear. If you need support with buying items, let us know and we can help. If your child is not wearing correct uniform they will be provided with spares.

We continue to have a huge amount of second hand uniform and we are encouraging families to recycle and reuse, so please get in touch if there are any items you need.

PE kit. Children are required to wearing their PE kits on PE days. This should be a NAMED, plain PE kit. If there is a chance that it may rain or your child will get muddy, please provide further kit or school uniform for them to change in to. If your child is not wearing correct PE kit, they will be provided with spares. If wearing shoes with laces, please ensure your child can do the laces independently. Earrings will need to be taken out of covered for PE lessons.

For more information on uniform, please click [here](#).

Devices. Please be reminded that children should not be wearing watches that have games, access to the Internet or the ability to make calls or send messages. If absolutely necessary, children in Year 6 can bring in phones which will be stored away from use during the school day.

Thank you for your support.

MCAS



We still have a number of families who are not signed up for MCAS. Please ensure that you take action in respect of this as a priority. If you have signed up and downloaded the App onto your phone, please ensure you have enabled push notifications for the MCAS App so that you receive notifications regarding school communications.

If you require a new link please let Suzie in the office know using office.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk

Thank you

Code of Conduct

Watlington is a happy school community, with high standards for all. When enrolling your child at Watlington, you agree to adhere to the code of conduct.

Please find attached the parent and carer code of conduct.

Magnetic Safety (Child Accident Prevention Trust)

The Child Accident Prevention Trust warns that more than 300 children a year are rushed to A&E after swallowing magnets and one in ten needs life-saving surgery.

When strong magnets stick together inside the body, they can cause life-threatening injuries. Even toddlers have needed hours of emergency surgery, and some children are left with lasting internal damage.

Magnets don't just come in toys – they're also found in jewellery kits, fridge magnets, puzzles, dartboards, fidget toys and desk gadgets. Worryingly, some magnets sold online are 17 times stronger than the UK safety limit.

A reminder to:

- Buy only from trusted brands and retailers.
- Be cautious with cheap copies and online marketplaces.
- Keep magnets and products containing them out of children's reach.

Attendance



We have a statutory responsibility to monitor and action attendance.

Excellent attendance habits start now! Our target is 97%.

Dates - this section is regularly updated.



- Monday 8th September: Clubs start this week. For after school clubs, if needed, please provide your child with one piece of fruit and a water bottle only.
- Tuesday 9th September: Swimming starts for Year 6
- Wednesday 17th September: IMPS, Year 6 (DATE change TBC)
- Thursday 18th September: Icknield Community College open evening:
- Friday 26th September: Day of Languages
- Friday 26th September, 2.30pm: Family assembly (Years 1 to 6)
- Wednesday 1st October, 4.00pm: Early Years Curriculum Evening, online session
- Monday 6th October: Flu immunisations (details to follow)
- Monday 20th October, Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd: Bikeability: Year 5
- Tuesday 21st October: Swimming starts for Year 5
- Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd October: Parents' evenings
- Thursday 23rd October: Term ends at 3.15pm, 3pm (for nursery)
- **Friday 24th October: INSET (staff only)**
- **Monday 27th - Friday 31st October: Half term**
- **Monday 4th November: INSET (teachers only)**
- Tuesday 5th November: Term 2 starts

- Friday 7th November, 2.30pm: Family assembly (Years 1 to 6)
- Sunday 9th November, Watlington High Street: Remembrance Parade
- Monday 10th November: Anti-bullying week
- Tuesday 11th November: Individual school photos
- Tuesday 11th November: Early Years open evening (prospective new parents)
- Friday 14th November, 2.30: Golden Eagles (Year 6) class assembly
- Tuesday 18th November, 9.30am: New parents tour (prospective new parents)
- Thursday 20th November, 3.15pm: Reading cafe (all year groups welcome)
- Tuesday 18th-20th: Bikeability: Year 6
- Wednesday 26th November: Theatre visit (Years 1 to 6) - more information to follow
- Friday 5th December, 2.30pm: Foxes class assembly
- Tuesday 9th December: Swimming starts for Year 4
- Friday 12th December, 9.30am: Foundation Stage Nativity
- Wednesday 17th December: Christmas service
- Thursday 18th December: Christmas lunch, and jumper day (over school uniform)
- **Friday 19th December; Term ends at 1.15pm**