

# Watlington Newsletter November 1 2025



Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoyed the break, and are ready for the term of glitter and tinsel! We've had an energetic first week back with happy, motivated children all wearing full school uniform - thank you.

Thank you for your attendance at parents' evenings. I hope you found the meetings informative and enjoyed the opportunity to find out more about what your children are learning about. Please remember to look at the [class pages](#), including the class galleries for photos, which are updated weekly.

Please check the calendar for dates this term, including my favourite event of the year, the Christmas concert, and the Foundation Nativity.

As always, please get in touch if you need us.

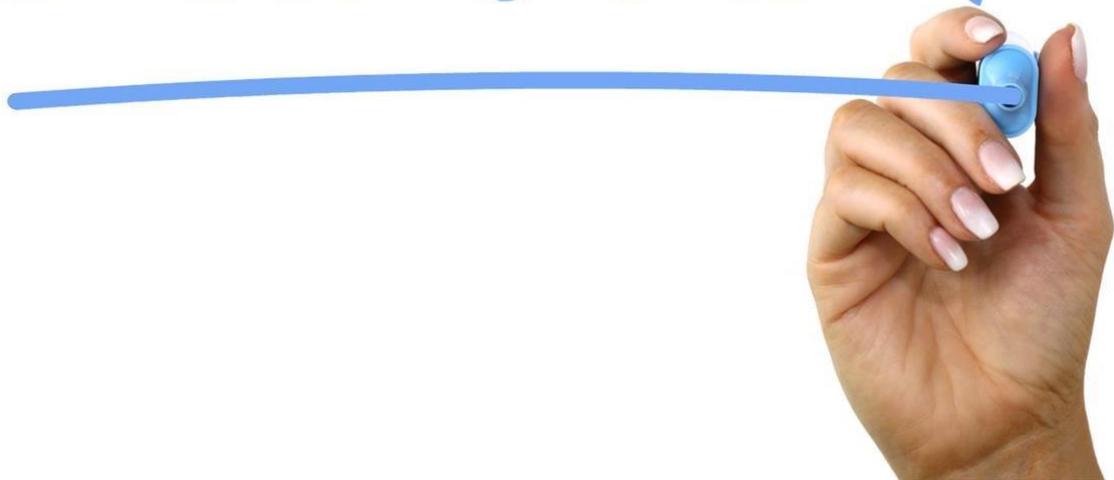
Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher

School Survey 2025

# SURVEY



If you were not able to complete our whole school survey at parents' evening, there is still time! We are keen to hear your views, so please do take a few minutes to share them by clicking [here](#). The survey will close on Monday 10th November.

## Primary school places for September 2026



# APPLY NOW

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you need to apply for a primary school place now. You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2026. Apply online at – it's quick, easy and secure.

For help and information:

WEB: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

EMAIL: [admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

TEL: 01865 519 800 Option 2

## Anti Bullying Week - Monday 10th November 2025



To launch anti bullying week we would love the children to wear odd or colourful socks on **Monday**. We look forward to seeing lots of fun feet on that day!

## Rights Respecting School



### **We are becoming a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School**

Continuing to build on our strong ethos and culture, we want to be a school where children have a deep understanding of their rights, to improve well-being and to develop their talents and abilities to reach their full potential. As part of this plan we are working towards recognition as a Rights Respecting School, an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF UK.

UNICEF UK works with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award supports schools to put in place a set of standards based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. These values stem from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

At Watlington pupils will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. You can find out more about the Award here: [unicef.uk/About\\_RRSA](https://www.unicef.uk/About_RRSA)

We really hope that you will support our school on our Rights Respecting journey. We will continue to share information about our RRS journey this term.

Thank you!



The Reception class would like to say a huge thank you to Liz Bower for making wonderful book marks for the Reception children. The book marks will be handed out later this term.

## Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

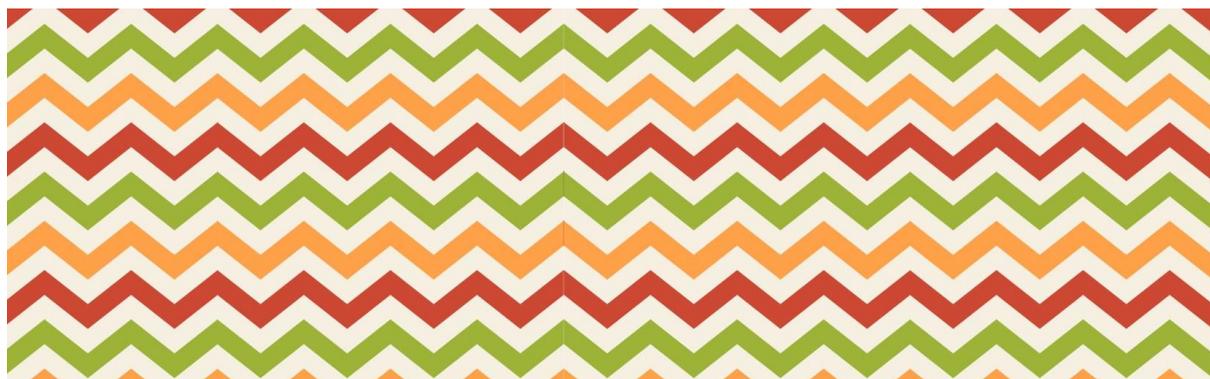
Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

We have ensured that a member of our staff, Mr Gale (Designated Safeguarding Lead), has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the children in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. This means there is a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and through Operation Encompass we will be able to provide the best possible support to our children.

## PTA Update



Welcome back to Term 2!

Nights are a little darker, the air is a bit colder and I caught myself singing along to a Christmas song in a shop... it's barely November!!!! Watch out, those songs will sneak up on you!

Meanwhile back on Planet PTA all our events this month are open for business so get your tickets at

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/>

Monday 17th November – Bauble Painting - Paper chains are so last season. Get with the cool kids and design yourself a ceramic bauble for the Christmas tree this year under the watchful eye of our very own Alex Browne. You design it, Alex cooks it and then leave it hanging for the world to admire. A truly unique experience to share with your kids. Limited tickets on this one so get in quick

Friday 21st November – Pub Quiz Night - not a what3words location (although if it is, then a free drink on quiz night to whomever tells me first) but a night of question-able fun at Ye Olde School Hall Pub with plenty of drinks and food. Quizmaster Mat VDP is hard at work conjuring questions that'll awaken those brain cells you thought you'd lost in your 20s!

Thursday 27th November – D-I-S-C-O! There's no point spending hours watching Strictly and not putting it into practice so here's the chance your kids have been waiting for. 10's all round!!

Follow us on the socials!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## Library Update

### Newsletter

Firstly, a huge Thank you for the generous donations made via our Amazon gift page, and for all of the wonderful pre-loved books we continue to receive.

Don't forget the Reading Café will be held in the school hall on November 20th, 3.15pm. The library will be open to parents and their children, please come and take a look, chat to us and feel free to borrow a book or even an audiobook.

We will also be running a pre-loved book sale, keeping prices low as we want to share our love of books and the importance of reading with children.

If you're feeling charitable and wanted to donate a book to the school library, please take a look at our Amazon wish list (see link below)

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3OV8WH7TKOHZZ/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3OV8WH7TKOHZZ/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1)

For anyone who would prefer to shop local we have also have an online account with Thame Bookshop. Here is the link for your donation page on The Book House website

<https://shop.thebookhousethame.co.uk/collections/watlington-school-library-donations>

**Join us at our digital parent forum.** To talk about the use of smartphones and technology in our children's lives.



*A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our first meeting where we shared the challenges we face as parents and carers of children using technology.*

**Join us for our next meeting on Wednesday 19th November**

**🕒 18.00 – 19.00**

**If you are unable to attend face to face then you can join us online! Email the office and we will share a link with you.**

This session is a supportive, open space to explore the role of smartphones and technology in our children's lives — from social media and gaming to boundaries, screen time, and mental health.

Come and share your experiences, learn from others, and help shape a healthier digital future for our children.

**Please let the office know if you are attending.**

We would love your thoughts on the use of Smartphones by our children. Please [click](#) here to share your views.

## Attendance



**Well done to everyone for their term 1 attendance! Currently at 98% which is above our target of 97%!**

Please ensure you arrive on time in the mornings and after school. It is unsettling for your children if they are late!



## Golds



Bats: Monty and William

Hedgehogs: Joshua

Foxes:

Owls: Charlotte and Hugo

Golden Eagles: Cecilia and Dexter

Bats: Monty

Badgers: Harry, Lucy, Max and Amelia

Red Kites: Ana, Imogen, Cainan and Jess

Dates - this section is regularly updated.



- Sunday 9th November, Watlington High Street: Remembrance Parade
- Monday 10th November: Anti-bullying week
- Tuesday 11th November: Individual school photos
- Tuesday 11th November 5pm-6pm: Early Years open evening (prospective new parents)
- Friday 14th November, 2.30: Golden Eagles (Year 6) class assembly (Year 6 parents only)
- Monday 17th November: Bauble workshop (PTA) pre booking required
- Tuesday 18th November, 9.30am: New parents tour (prospective new parents)
- Tuesday 18th-20th: Bikeability: Year 6
- Wednesday 19th November, 18.00-19.00: Digital parent forum (face to face or online)
- Thursday 20th November, 3.15pm: Reading cafe (all year groups welcome). The library will be open during this session, so you can help your help your child choose a book.
- Wednesday 26th November: Theatre visit, The Oxford Playhouse (Years 1 to 6)
- Thursday 27th November: School discos
- Friday 5th December, 2.30pm: Foxes (Year 3) class assembly (Year 3 parents only)
- Friday 12th December, 9.15am: Foundation Stage Nativity
- Tuesday 16th December: final year 5 swimming session
- Wednesday 17th December, starts at 5.30pm, children to arrive at 5.15pm: Christmas service, St Leonard's Church
- Thursday 18th December: Christmas lunch, and jumper day (over school uniform)
- **Friday 19th December; Term ends at 1.15pm**
- **Tuesday 6th January 2026; Term 3 begins**
- **Tuesday 6th January 2026: Year 4 s**

Click [here](#) for future term dates.