

# Watlington Newsletter October 1 2025



Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy two weeks with lots happening across the school, including poetry workshops, PC Sue visits, yoga sessions with our young carers and local MP, visit from Firefighter Brodie and Day of Languages. We also made it to the front page of the Henley Standard, as part of the Henley Standard First Class edition!

Languages day was an exciting opportunity for classes to work in mixed year groups for the morning. We chose the languages based on those spoken in our community, including Makaton for sign language. We are so proud to have a range of languages spoken across the school! Well done to those children who spoke so beautifully in different languages in our

assembly. Thank you to those who were able to join us for the assembly. If you are interested in helping with next year's languages day, please get in touch.

Our Early Years team hosted their annual curriculum evening, providing up to date information on our learning approach. The team explained how to support children at home to keep them motivated and excited to learn. Thank you to Mrs Priddle and Mrs Tanner for organising, and to so many parents for attending.

Parents' evenings are coming up, so please look out for a new booking system via MCAS. These meetings focus on how your child/ren have settled into their new classes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher



## School Council Update



We are writing to you to tell you about everything we have done so far as School Council. As a group we came up with the idea of school council buddies. This means that we play with the other children to make them happy in their break times. We encourage everyone's ideas to make the school improve.

Written by Ella, Mary and Sophie

## Sports Captain Update



At Watlington, we have four house colours: blue, green, red and blue. For each colour we have two sports captains from Years 5 and 6.

We made videos explaining why we would like to be a sports captain and then the rest of the class voted. Last week in assembly, we were given our Sports Captain badges.

We help the younger classes with their PE lessons, by setting up the equipment, supporting the children with the activities and giving house points to children putting in lots of effort. This term, we are helping Year 1 with dance, Year 2 with gymnastics and Year 4 with rugby.

Belle, Eliza and Mikey.

## Harvest Day



On Friday 9th October we are celebrating Harvest as a whole school. Please encourage your children to bring non-perishable items into school that morning. During the day, we will package them up ready for collection at the end of the day. We would like families to take a bag for someone in need - this could be an elderly relative, neighbour or friend.

There will also be a gardening club sale at the end of the day.

Thank you for your support.

## PTA Update



A big thank you to all those who joined us for our 'Welcome Bake' event last Friday. Great to see so many of you and for us, as your PTA , to kick off our events for this school year.

Dates for your diary for this term:

Thursday 16th October – Movie Night for years 1-6. The children are deciding which movie to watch as I write and as its nearly Halloween it'll be a spooky one! Reps will share more details shortly.

Monday 17th November – Ceramic Bauble Painting Workshop with Alex Browne. A popular event to bring out your inner artist as well as make a one of a kind Christmas present.

Friday 21st November – Quiz Night! Mat VDP is back with his winning combination of beer, nibbles and maybe a question or 2.

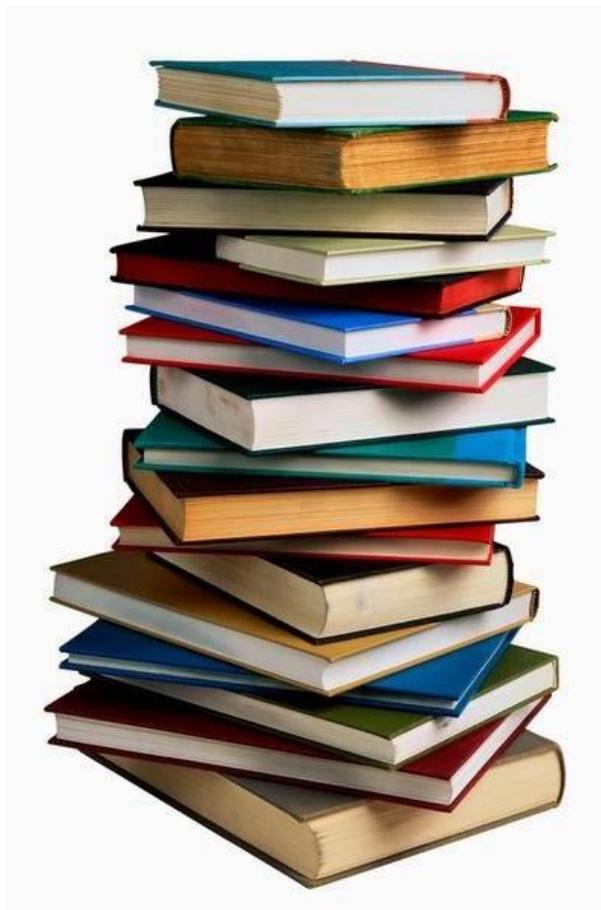
Thursday 27th November – D-I-S-C-O! Time for the kids to ditch the uniforms, put on their dancing shoes and bust some moves.

More details on all of these to come so keep an eye out on your WhatsApp groups and follow us on the socials!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## Library Update



It's great to be back and see so many children using the school libraries. We have been super busy this week!

Thanks to the Beacon Festival grant received last term, we have been able to buy loads of exciting new fiction and non-fiction books for both KS1 & KS2. Our librarians have been busy behind the scenes, working towards keeping our shelves both up-to-date and inspiring.

Also, a gentle reminder that we rely entirely on donations and fundraising. If you're doing a book clear out soon, please bear us in mind!

All donations can be dropped off at the school office. Or if you're feeling generous, we have an Amazon 'Library Wish List' .

See the 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)

Thank you :)

The Library team

Are You Concerned About Smartphones and Childhood? Join the Conversation.



*In just over 15 years, smartphones have transformed childhood – and not always for the better. Mounting evidence shows these devices may be doing more harm than good, yet families have been left to figure it out on their own.*

*There's no roadmap. No NHS guidance. No government policy. Just parents and carers, doing their best in the face of powerful tech companies and endless digital distractions.*

Taken from Smart Safe [Website](#).

**That's why we're inviting you to join us for our working group:**

 **Wednesday 7th October**

 **17:30 – 18:30**

 **Smart Safe Working Group: Smartphone-Free Childhood**

This session is a supportive, open space to explore the role of smartphones 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.

**Let's start the conversation — together. If you are interested in attending, please sign up via the office.**

## Attendance



**Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently above our target of 97%. Let's keep this up!**

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



## Golds



Bats: Cora

Hedgehogs: Arnie and Elsie

Foxes: Esther, Wills, Darcy and Edward

Owls: Leo, Eliza, Sacha and Bella

Golden Eagles:

Bats: Monty

Badgers: Mia and Rose

Red Kites: e

Dates - this section is regularly updated.



- Monday 6th October: Flu immunisations
- Monday 20th October, Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd: Bikeability: 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
- Tuesday 5th November: Swimming starts for Year 5
- 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**

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

## Parentline Support



Did you know you can contact the school nurse team by text anytime, if you have any concerns about your child's health. This includes during the school holidays, and you will receive a response the next working day. The following website also offers advice on bedwetting, immunisations and healthy eating.

[Primary - School & college health nurses](#)

### **Parents of children aged 5-11**

ParentLine 5-11 is designed for parents of children aged 5-11 and live in Oxfordshire.

- Text number: 07312 263 227
- Online: [Start a 5-11 chat](#)