

Watlington Newsletter October 1



BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE BE RESILIENT

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy two weeks with lots happening across the school! More than expected when I started drafting this newsletter!

We had the OFSTED phone call on Monday, and were consequently inspected on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. I am so proud of the children who were commented on as being 'intellectually curious', 'exceptionally well behaved' and demonstrated our values throughout.

Thank you, parents and carers for being overwhelmingly positive about our school, on the gate to the inspectors, and in the survey. Your kind words are very much appreciated. The governing board have been extremely supportive, as well as Mr Thomas who remained with us throughout. The kind gestures of cards and treats for the staffroom have also been well received! Thank you so much.

A final thank you for the team, who have worked tirelessly throughout (as always) to support each other. The staff survey was reported as being hugely positive, with no negative comments - a true testament to the special team at Watlington.

At this point, we are not able to share the outcomes, as we have to wait for the final report to be published. I could not be more proud of our community, and look forward to sharing the report with you once published.

Thank you to those who were able to join us for the senior leadership presentation and the welcome to Foundation Stage parent briefing. We hope you found these events an opportunity to find out more about what happens behind the gates and our approach to learning in Early Years. If you were unable to attend, you can find the PowerPoints on our website, under parent presentations, [here](#).

Languages day was an exciting opportunity for classes to work in mixed year groups for the morning. Each group learnt different languages, and facts about the linked country. We chose the languages based on those spoken in our community. 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 family assembly. We will be practising expectations for family assemblies over the coming weeks!

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

The Snowman



Message from Robert Legg, Assistant Headteacher at Icknield CC

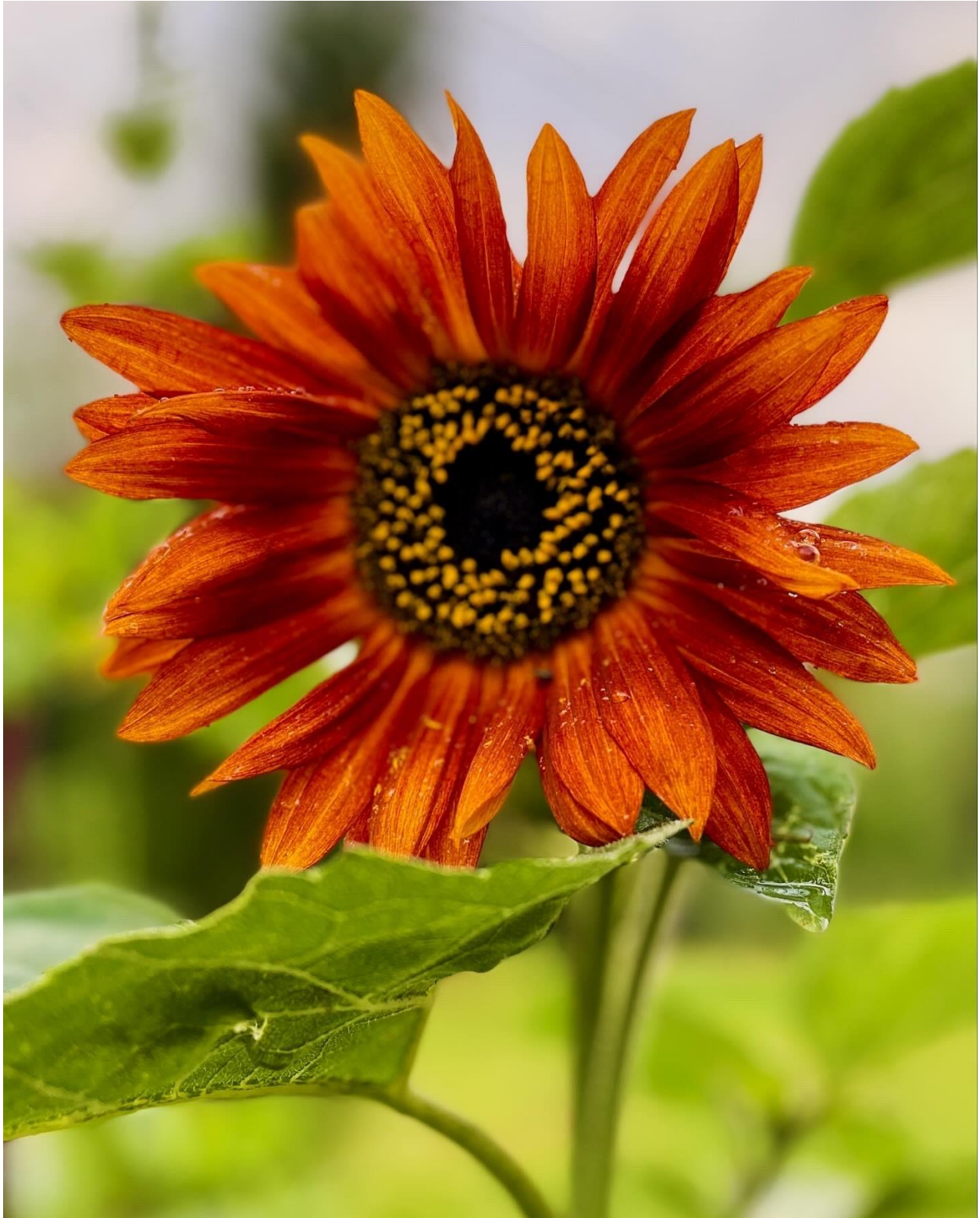
As part of the Acer Trust's festive celebrations this year, we're planning a special musical project focused on Howard Blake's music for *The Snowman*. We're bringing together a group of students, staff, parents, carers and friends of the Acer Trust schools to perform this wonderful music live, while the critically

acclaimed film is projected. There will be a spectacular performance at Watlington Primary School, provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 11 December during the afternoon, and the piece will also be performed at the other schools of the Acer Trust's South Hub – Icknield, Chalgrove and Stadhampton – throughout the week beginning Monday 9 December.

If you can read music and play flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, descant recorder, treble recorder, tenor recorder, alto saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, percussion, violin, viola, cello, double bass, acoustic guitar, or bass guitar, we would love you to join us. I'm really keen to have Watlington parents and staff involved in the orchestra! Please email me

(robert.legg@icknield.oxon.sch.uk) for more information. There will be an opportunity for Watlington students to sing 'Walking in the Air' as part of the project – but if your child plays to around a Grade 4 standard and is interested in joining the instrumental ensemble, please do contact me.

Sunflower winners



1st Prize: Albie and Maia Carter - their sunflower was over 3 metres!

2nd Prize: Henry and Clara Van de Pette

3rd Prize: Elsie and Jenny Tyrell

Bonus prize for the only family that grew the surprise red sunflower.







Cross County

A huge well done to those who took part in the cross county race in Henley last weekend. Arvo and Bo came a very respectful 5th place! If you do have any photos of external cross country events that you would like to share, please email them to the office.



Attendance



Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.3%

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

Our target is 97%.



Golds



Hedgehogs: Cora, Alma, Jaxson, Rudi, Elora, Freddie

Foxes: Wren

Owls: Joshua, Alex, Darcy, Theo

Golden Eagles: Rex

Swim School

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Better Swim School



AGES 4-16 YEARS



BETTER

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Dates - this section is regularly updated.



- Monday 7th October: Flu immunisations
- Monday 7th October: Year 5 and 6 football tournament (selected pupils)
- Thursday 10th October, 2.30pm, Whole school, including Foundation Stage: Open afternoon
- Monday 21st October: Bikeability - Year 5
- Monday 21st October, 3.45pm-4: Choir showcase (choir parents)
- Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October (DAY CHANGE): parents' evening - more details to follow
- **Friday 25th October: Term ends at 3.15pm, 3pm (for nursery)**
- **Monday 28th - Friday 1st November: Half term**
- **Monday 28th November - Thursday 31st November: WR Sports camp**
- **Monday 4th November: INSET (teachers only)**
- **Tuesday 5th November: Term 2 starts**
- Friday 8th November, 2.30pm, Years 1-6: Family assembly
- Tuesday 12th November 5-6pm, Foundation Stage Open Evening
- Thursday 14th November: Individual school photographs
- Friday 15th November, 2.30pm, Years 1-6: Family assembly
- Thursday 21st November, 3.15pm: reading café in the hall - all year groups welcome
- Thursday 28th November: Big Christmas Sing, Oxford (choir only)
- Friday 6th December, 2.30pm, Years 1-6: Family assembly
- Saturday 7th December: Watlington Christmas market (choir)



Assemblies and open afternoons 2024-2025

Class	Class assembly date - Friday 2:30pm
Golden Eagles	Friday 15 th November 2024
Red Kites	Friday 7 th February 2025
Badgers	Friday 6 th December 2024
Owls	Friday 2 nd May 2025
Bats	Friday 6 th June 2025
Foxes	Friday 20 th June 2025
Hedgehogs	Friday 21 st March 2025

Open Afternoons linked to theme weeks
Thursday 10 th October
Wednesday 26 th March
Friday 23 rd May 2.30pm

Celebration Assemblies - Friday 2:30pm
Term 1 - Friday 27 th September
Term 2 - Friday 8 th November
Term 3 - Friday 24 th January
Term 4 - Friday 7 th March
Term 5 Friday 25 th April
Term 6 Monday 21 st July
Term 6 Tuesday 22 nd July

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