

Watlington Newsletter December 2 2025



Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy, festive, and fun fortnight!

Christmas lunch was fantastic, with tables fully dressed, super food, Father Christmas, jokes and Christmas karaoke! Thank you to our kitchen elves, Sarah, Jo and the Aspens team for a festive feast.

The Foundation Stage Nativity is always such a special event for everyone involved. A huge congratulations to the Early Years team, in particular, director extraordinaire, Mrs Tanner for bringing the best out in our youngest children. The star dance, and roaming kings were particular highlights.

The carol service is my favourite event of the year. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful church in Watlington, and the Christmas Tree festival makes it even more special. Thank you to Susie Ingram for playing the piano so beautifully for our singers.

Finally, a wholehearted thank you to the staff, for their ongoing commitment to our children. Your hard work, enthusiasm and festive cheer is always appreciated.

Have a very merry Christmas. As always, we know that the winter break can be great fun, it can also be a time of intense pressure for families. If you need us, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

School Council Update



After decorating the school Christmas tree at the church, the children were tasked with another important job. They presented to Nick Acaster, one of our school governors, on the work they are doing around Rights Respecting Schools. This started off by talking him

through their display board which includes a map of the work and highlights where our community comes from, including all around the world. They have events planned for later this year and have voted to support two charities including a local charity, Thames Valley Air Ambulance and a global charity, Child International. They will share more information on their work next term.



Choir Update



Our school choir have had a busy and exciting two weeks, singing at the WI Christmas Party, the Sanctuary Care Home and our carol concert. The children have been enthusiastic, kind and a credit to the school, demonstrating our values when out in the community. They're

now rehearsing hard for the Young Voices concert in January, and will be performing at a new event later this year. Watch this space!



Santa Flypast

Thank you to our wonderful school community for your incredible generosity in donating Christmas presents for the children at the John Radcliffe Hospital in advance of our RAF Benson "Santa flypast" earlier this month. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have helped bring joy and comfort to young patients and their families during what can be a challenging time of year. Your support truly reflects the caring spirit of our community and will make a real difference this Christmas.

Attendance

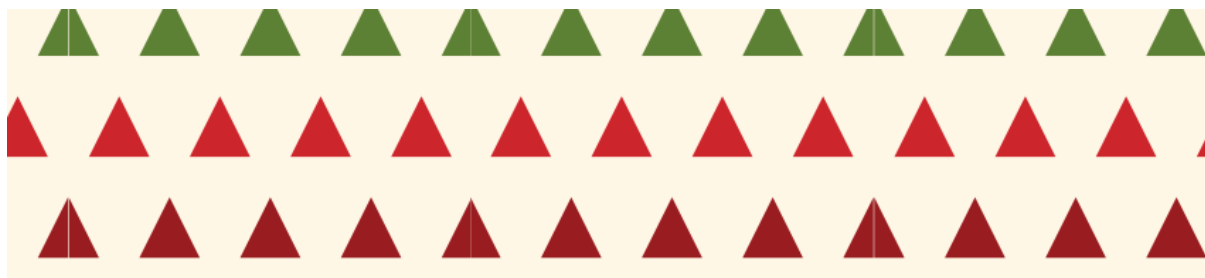


Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.9%. Foxes class are still in the lead, with Golden Eagles a close second.

Please note we are not able to authorise term time holidays.



PTA update



And that's another term done and dusted.

Thank you all for your support this term from Baubles to Discos and Quizzes to Cards. We hope your children and yourselves have enjoyed them.

From all your PTA have a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year!

See you next term!

Follow us on the socials!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Thank yous

We have recently received emails thanking staff. This is very much appreciated and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

I wanted to drop you and the school a note to say thank you for all of the lovely end of term activities you are organising for the children. My child absolutely loved Dick Whittington and has been doing lots of impressions of King Rat at home. He really enjoys performing and dressing up and music so it's brilliant he was able to do this with his classmates.

Also a note to say thank you very much for your support with the lunches earlier in the year. It made a massive difference when he was able to have different veg (he's brought home a love of green beans from school now!) and also helpful to hear from you about the puddings. We've been really pleased with the menu this term, e.g. having a daily option of pasta is great.

I just wanted to say thank you - my child is so motivated and engaged and enthusiastic about school and absolutely loves having you as his teacher. He's always been happy to read but is now so eager to write in his reading journal each morning and loves seeing what comments

and questions you will ask him, He was so proud of his improved spelling and dictation last week too and going to gold.

Thank you too for choir which he is also loving. I had a full run through after choir on Monday of the moves for the Power in Me, and Young Voices is a regular on Alexa at the moment!.

I though it was brilliant that the Year 6s got to do the IMPS sessions and bikeability, and the visit from the fabulous radio DJ. So many wonderful extra things organised for the pupils that add so much value to them as individuals and as a class and a school.

More thank yous

A huge thank you to our volunteers who make our community so special.

Thank you to Kerraleigh for running two AMAZING Hartbeeps sessions with our early years children this week. The immersive experience was wonderful for our children who loved the snow machine, music, lights and fun!

One big thank you!

As our Library Lead, Sunny, prepares to step down from her volunteering duties, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks for everything she has given to our school. She has consistently gone above and beyond, ensuring the library is welcoming and inspiring through fun and engaging displays, the motivation to find new and engaging books, and her genuine care in helping every child find the right book. Her passion for reading and commitment to our children will be greatly missed. We thank her sincerely and wish her every success in the next chapter. Thank you Sunny!

And one more!

A huge thank you to Ryan Newman, who works at Tesco Extra, Abingdon who has once again kindly donated to our Christmas events, including food for the School Council and Young Carers Christmas gatherings and for the Night Explorers event in January.

Library Update



Firstly, It was wonderful to see so many children and parents at the Reading Cafe. I hope your children enjoyed the Year 10 Icknield pupils reading stories as much as they did!

A big Thank you as well to all the parents who have recently donated pre-loved books. Your contributions make such a difference.

With less than 2 weeks left of term, please can you help us by checking children's school bags, book shelves etc for any Watlington School Library books. We still have quite a few outstanding and overdue and it would be good to get as many back as possible.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and see you next year.

Happy Reading!

The Library Team x

Community Spirit



A huge congratulations to Lily and Ella who decided to do another fundraiser this weekend. This time the money was for raised for a local charity, Red Kite Family Centre. They made Christmas sweetie stocking fillers and sold various pre loved toys. The girls set up a table/stall at the Watlington Christmas Market. They raised £70!

Nit (head lice) News



There are a number of cases of head lice (nits) in school. We kindly ask parents and carers to check their child's hair regularly and treat promptly if any lice are found, to help prevent further spread. Children with long hair should have it tied back each day, as this can reduce the risk of transmission.

Thank you for your continued support.

Golds



Hedgehogs: All of the Hedgehogs for their amazing Nativity performance!

Foxes: Clara, Toby

Robins: Leo

Badgers:

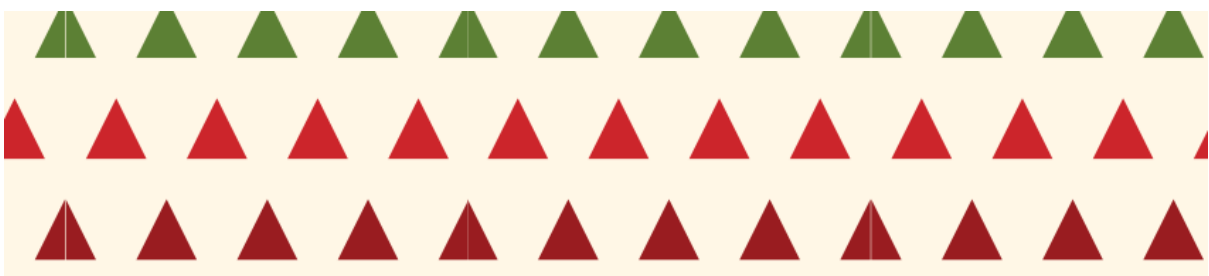
Golden Eagles:

Owls: George G-C, Cianan

Bats: Monty

Red Kites: Ana, Mani, Shivani,

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- Monday 5th January 2026: INSET (teachers only)
- **Tuesday 6th January 2026; Term 3 begins**
- Tuesday 6th January 2026: Year 4 swimming
- Thursday 15th January: Young Voices, Birmingham (choir only)
- Wednesday 21st January: Sports hall athletics (selected pupils)
- Wednesday 21st January, 2.30: Whole school assembly (years 1 - 6) + after school event (whole school)
- Wednesday 4th February: Badgers and Young Carers trip to Oxford
- Friday 6th February, 2.30pm: Red Kites assembly (year 5 parents)
- Monday 9th February: KS1 gymnastics showcase at RAF Benson (selected pupils)
- Wednesday 11th February: Parents' evening (booking arrangements sent out closer to the date)
- Thursday 12th February: Parents' evening (booking arrangements sent out closer to the date)
- Tuesday 13th February, 4.30-5.30pm: Foundation Stage Night Explorers event
- Monday 9th - 13th February: Children's mental health week
- Friday 13th February: Break up for half term (Reception to Year 6 at 3.15pm, Robin at 3pm)

HALF TERM

- Monday 23rd February: School starts
- Monday 23rd February: Papaya workshops for pupils and parents (more details to follow)

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

Reminder about class assembly dates

- Friday 6th February: Red Kites (year 5)
- Friday 20th March: Hedgehogs (Reception)
- Friday 1st May: Owls (Year 2)
- Friday 5th June: Badgers (Year 4)
- Friday 19th June: Bats (Year 1)

Changes to open afternoon dates

Thursday 26th March - after school until 3.45pm

Friday 22nd May, 2.40pm

We are recruiting

We are currently seeking a **Receptionist / Administrative Assistant** to join our team at Watlington Primary School. This is a key role within the school, providing a warm welcome to families and visitors while offering essential administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the school. For more information, please click the [link](#).