

Watlington Newsletter January 2026



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! I hope you had a well deserved rest over the holidays and are refreshed ready for 2026! A very warm welcome to our new families joining us across the school.

On behalf of myself and the whole team, thank you for the kind and generous Christmas gifts, although not expected, they are very much appreciated.

Some general reminders:

Ensure that your child has suitable clothing for the weather. A school fleece is not a replacement for a coat! This includes hats, gloves and wellies when needed. As always, do

ensure that all items are clearly labelled. Also, do make the most of our PTA second hand sales and extensive amount of good quality second hand uniform.

- Check your class newsletter and class page to find out when your child's PE days are. Your child should wear PE kit on that day. If it is raining or muddy, please provide additional clothing to change into after the lesson (PE kit or school uniform). Please see image below from the uniform policy. Also click [here](#) for more information.

- Your child should be wearing full school uniform, including shoes not trainers.

- Continue to support your child/ren with home learning.

- Please arrive on time in the mornings, and after school - including clubs. We are monitoring lates closely and repeated lates will result in your child attending after school club, which may be charged. A letter with further information is also attached.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher

Uniform Red sweatshirt * White or red polo shirt * Grey or black skirt/pinafore/trousers/shorts (red and white summer dress optional in warmer months) Grey, black or white socks Grey or black tights Smart shoes, all black, with no clear logos Optional school fleece *	
PE KIT Red T-shirt * Navy or black shorts Navy or black tracksuit bottoms (optional) Plain long sleeved warm top (optional), including logoed option * Outdoor trainers <i>Please make sure all items of clothing are named.</i> <i>Items do not need to be logoed</i>	OTHER Red reading bag * Hats – summer and winter Long hair tied back with appropriate hairbands Foundation Stage Children (Nursery & Reception) – waterproofs Wellies for the autumn and winter terms

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: **Dreams and Goals**

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.

The Sound of Watlington - Save the date!



On Thursday 12th March, we will be hosting a music concert showcasing musical talent across the school. If your child is keen to take part, they will need to audition on Tues 10th / Weds 11th February. This could include singing, playing an instrument or a musical group.

Preferably, the children performing will be from Year 3 to Year 6. The choir will also be performing at this event.

If your child needs a backing track for the audition, please send the link in advance to the admin email address.

I am also looking for talent to inspire our young musicians. If you would like to perform as an adult, please get in touch with Mrs Sterjo directly.

There will be a sign up sheet outside my office for audition times.

Cross Country Event



Shiplake College are hosting their fifth Schools' Cross-Country competition on **Saturday 7 February** .

Boys and girls in Years 1 to 6 are invited to the Shiplake College Schools' Cross-Country Competition on Saturday 7 February 2026. No pre-registration required (please arrive 15 minutes before race time). The first race (Year 1 boys) is at 9.00am, with the final race (Year 6 girls) at 10.15am. A full break down of race times and distances is at www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry. Hot drinks and refreshments available to purchase from 8.30am. See you there!

Attendance

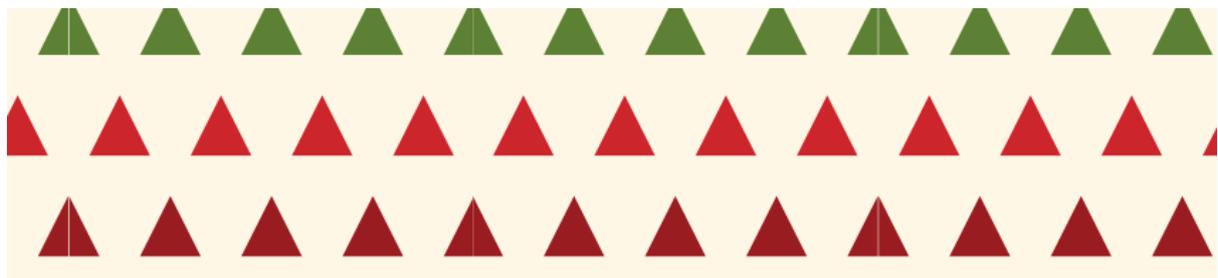


Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.5%. Foxes class are still in the lead, with Golden Eagles still a close second.

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



PTA update



Happy New Year from your PTA!

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Years.

Spare a thought if you will for January. Of all the months of the year, it really gets a raw deal. It comes after the most fun month of December and before February which is not only shorter but also expecting the first signs of warmer weather!

And then on top of that some of you will stop drinking for the month or start new exercise plans so January really doesn't get a chance.

So please spare a thought for January, this January.

Meanwhile, your PTA may seem quiet but we are quietly 'ninja style' planning for some more awesome events for the rest of term and beyond.

Watch this space and follow us on the socials for updates!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Golds



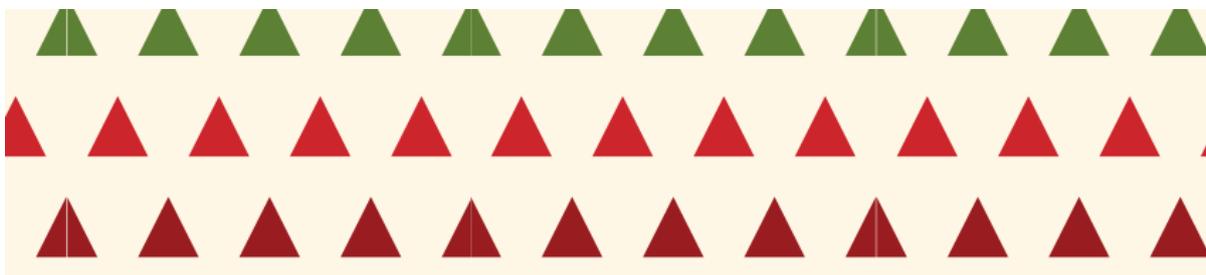
Foxes: Joshua and Albie C

Badgers: Alice and Wren

Golden Eagles: James and Madeleine

Owls: Hadley and Sasha

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- Tuesday 13th January Foundation Stage Night Explorers 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- Thursday 15th January: Young Voices, Birmingham (choir only)
- Thursday 15th January: Weights and measures (Reception and Year 6 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 - further details to follow)
- 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)
- Monday 9th - 13th February: Children's mental health week
- Friday 13th February: Break up for half term (Reception to Year 6 at 3.15pm, Robins at 3pm)

HALF TERM

- Monday 23rd February: School starts
- Monday 23rd February: Papaya workshops for pupils and parents (more details to follow)
- Thursday 12th March, 5.30pm: The Sound of Watlington music concert

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