

# Watlington Newsletter January 2 2026



Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been an action packed start to 2026!

The Foundation Stage Night Explorers event was another fantastic way to celebrate winter, with children arriving in the dark and having the opportunity to hunt for nocturnal animals and hold one of our visiting owls! Thank you to Mrs Tanner for organising, and to the staff and PTA for supporting.

We took the choir to our first Young Voices concert last week. This was a wonderful opportunity for the choir to sing as part of a massed choir, with 6000 thousand performers

at the BP Pulse LIVE, Birmingham. The children have been working so hard rehearsing, and should be so proud of themselves. The day was so joyful, and every child did an amazing job representing our school. The choir will be performing at more events later this year, so you will be able to hear them in action!

The Oracy event was a huge success. This was our opportunity to share our focus on Oracy at Watlington, and why our children having a voice is so important. Thank you to so many parents for attending. If you were not able to attend the event, please look out for further information on Oracy at Watlington, coming soon. Thank you to Miss Sharman for organising.

Finally, when using the car park, please do not block the gates or staff cars, as we need access every morning for taxis and delivery drivers. **Children should walk on the main path, and not through the car park, particularly if on their own.** Do consider parking in the local area and walking to school, lift sharing, walking, or cycling, even when the weather is bad. Remember, there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!

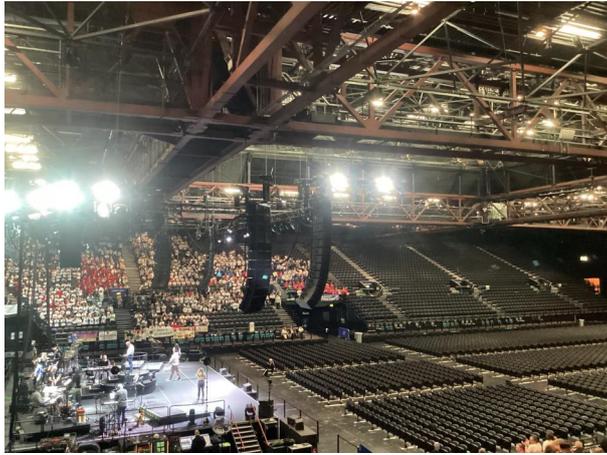
Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher





## The Sound of Watlington - sign up!



**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 Tuesday 10th or Wednesday 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.

## Sports Update



Running club is up and running again. This starts at 8am on a Friday morning. Please bring clothes to change into after the club.

Athletics club have put their preparation into action at the Sports hall athletics competition, at Icknield Community College. Here is a report of the event written by Cherry and William:

*On Wednesday we went to an athletics tournament and we did loads of events there, such as over and under, javelin, speed bounce and triple jump. There were 4 other schools in the tournament, so it was very loud! We are really proud of our team, because we came in 1st place! This means we will go to Wheatley Park School in March for the finals!!*

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](http://www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry). Hot drinks and refreshments available to purchase from 8.30am. See you there!*



Our parent group is gathering momentum as we discuss the impact of Smartphones on our children. This is a supportive group where we discuss challenges and next steps. If you are interested in finding out more about Smartphone Free Childhood, click [here](#).

A representative, Nicola MacDonald, will be leading an online workshop on 23rd February, from 6-7.30pm, to discuss this area further. See details below.

## Rights Respecting Schools



As we begin our Rights Respecting Schools journey, we will be focusing on a right each term. Our School Council have chosen article 14, the right to have freedom of thought and religion. This was launched through an assembly, and will be explored through PSHCE and RS lessons this term. Next week we have Rabbi Zvi visiting Year 1 to Year 6 to deliver workshops about Judaism - ask your child about this next Thursday evening!

We have also found out this week that we have been awarded the Bronze Award for Rights Respecting Schools - well done to those involved!

## Attendance

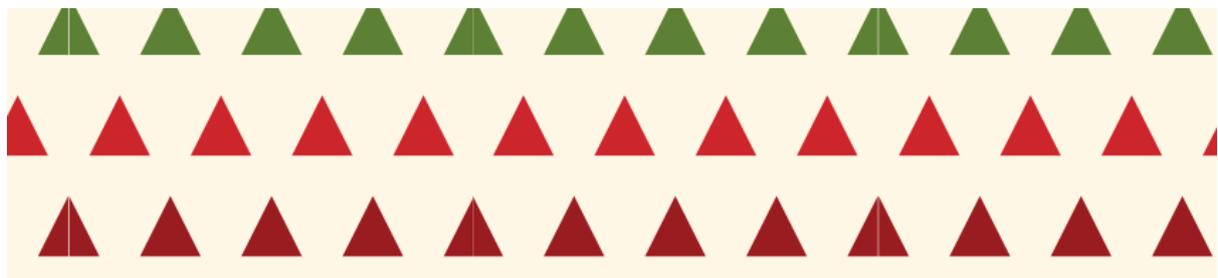


**Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.5%. Foxes class are still in the lead, with Golden Eagles still a close second, and Bats**

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



## PTA update



Happy last half of January,

Your PTA are meeting shortly to discuss our plans for this term and beyond so stay tuned on that front and look out for an invite to come join us for the meeting.

I'd like to take a moment to say a huge thanks to a couple of committee members who have recently stepped down from the PTA.

Alex Browne has been our Christmas ninja with her bauble making classes, helping with and then running the Christmas grotto, organising the Christmas cards, designing tea towels as well as helping at other events in the year. She has been a creative force within the PTA for many years and we are so grateful for the work she has done for us.

Amy Williams was our chair for over 2 years and in the wake of covid, built up the PTA to what it is today. Post chair she was still heavily involved in events like the Summer Fete and the Advent Window Trail as well as many, many others. Whatever her role, she has always been fully committed to the PTA and what it stands for, and I think all of us have benefitted from that. On behalf of all of us, thank you Amy.

I would like to add that their reasons for leaving were because they were having way too much fun on the PTA committee and felt that they should pay more attention to their day jobs.

Would you like to have way too much fun with the PTA committee?

We are always on the lookout for new parents to join and create wonderful memories for the kids so please get in contact. It doesn't have to take a lot of your time and is a great way to meet other parents.

[Watlingtonptaaxon@gmail.com](mailto:Watlingtonptaaxon@gmail.com) or catch me at drop off or pick up.

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

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## Golds



Foxes: Lexi

Hedgehogs: Emily, Daphne, Arnie and Torvi

Red Kites: Shivani, Jess, Nanami, Cherry, Katie and Harry

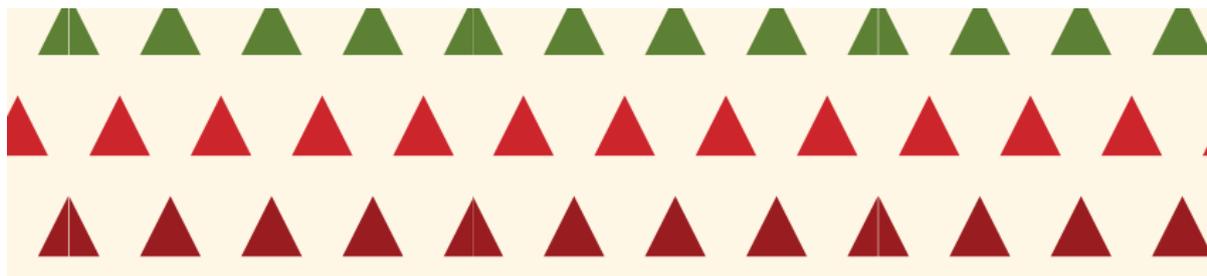
Badgers: Amelia and Otis

Owls: George C and Eliza

Bats: Elora, Monty, Maggie, Steve, Rudy and Bella

Golden Eagles: Oliver

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- 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)
- Thursday 12th February: Aspens Lunar New Year themed school lunch
- 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 26th February, 4.30pm: Year 1 phonics online session for parents (more details to follow)
- Thursday 26th February, 4.30pm: Year 6 SATs online session for parents (more details to follow)
- Thursday 5th March: World Book Day + family assembly (2.30pm) (Year 1 to Year 6)
- Thursday 5th March: Aspens World Book Day themed school lunch
- Thursday 12th March, 5.30pm: The Sound of Watlington music concert
- Wednesday 18th March: Year 6 residential

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