

Watlington Newsletter February 1 2026



Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge congratulations to the Red Kites class on their assembly this afternoon. It was a great celebration of what the class have been learning so far this year. I am not sure they can convince the rest of the school to go back to the Victorian era though!

The Year 4 Badgers class visited the Oxford Museum and Christchurch Meadows on Wednesday. They had a super time and enjoyed learning more about Oxford, linked to their topic. Some highlights included,

'It was fascinating to see what people used to wear', Isabelle

'I enjoyed dressing up as a farmer', Oliver

'I liked learning about the archaeology. It really cool and we got to dig to find artefacts including a welly and a pie dish!', Joel

The young carers also went on trip to the Oxford Story Museum on Wednesday. They became fully immersed in the magical world of books including the Whispering Woods, Narnia and Pooh Corner. If you haven't visited the Story Museum yet, here is the [link](#).

We look forward to seeing you at parents' evening next week. Please ensure you have booked your 10 minute slot via MCAS.

Let's have a great final week of term.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher

Parent Workshops: Thursday 26th February



Year 1 phonics session, 4.30pm (online via Zoom)

Join Mrs Eltham online for a workshop focusing on reading and phonics. You will learn more about our approach through our phonics scheme, Essential Letters and Sounds, building on

from early phonics in Foundation Stage. Mrs Eltham will also provide top tips on how to support your child at home to make good progress in reading.

To join the meeting on Zoom, [click here](#).

Year 6 SATs information and PGL residential information event 4.30pm (face to face), in the year 6 classroom

Join Miss Nandhra, in the year 6 classroom, to find out more about the Year 6 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). You will find out how to support your child at home, how we are preparing your children, and how the tests are approached at school. We will also share a short presentation about the Year 6 residential to PGL Liddington, giving you the chance to ask any questions you may have.

The Sound of Watlington - auditions next week!



Lots of children have signed up for auditions next week for The Sound of Watlington - a music concert showcasing musical talent across the school - which happens on Thursday 12th March, at 5.30pm in the hall. If your child is still 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.

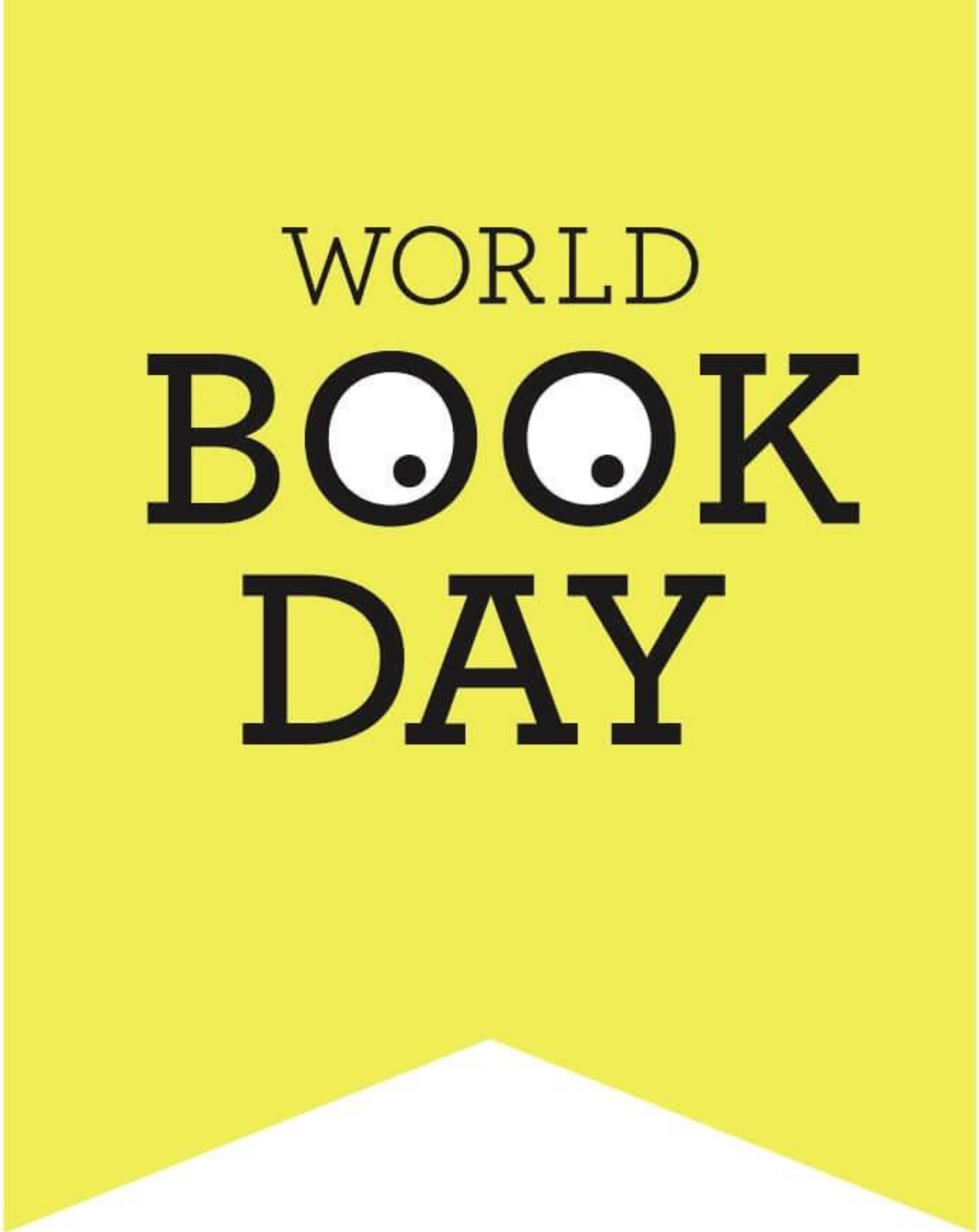
Sports Update



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!

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

A yellow banner with a white pointed bottom edge. The text "WORLD BOOK DAY" is centered on the banner. "WORLD" is in a simple, black, sans-serif font. "BOOK" is in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, with the two 'O's stylized as eyes with black pupils. "DAY" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, similar to "BOOK" but smaller.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

It's that time again, when we get to celebrate our love of books and reading! Our theme this year is Little People, Big Dreams.

We have lots of fun activities planned, ending in a whole school celebration assembly at 2.30pm (Reception to Year 6)

We would like children to come dressed up as a book character or wear their pyjamas (with something warm underneath).

Our library volunteers are also running a competition - see details below.

We will have the Scholastic book fair running that week, which raises money for more books in school.

We are looking for people to come and read a story on that day, preferably in their work uniform or hobby attire. Are you a nurse, farmer, doctor, vet, dentist, fire fighter, scientist, judge, retail worker or chef who is happy to read us a story? Please let us know if so.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Sterjo and Miss Sharman

Smartphone Free Childhood



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.

Attendance

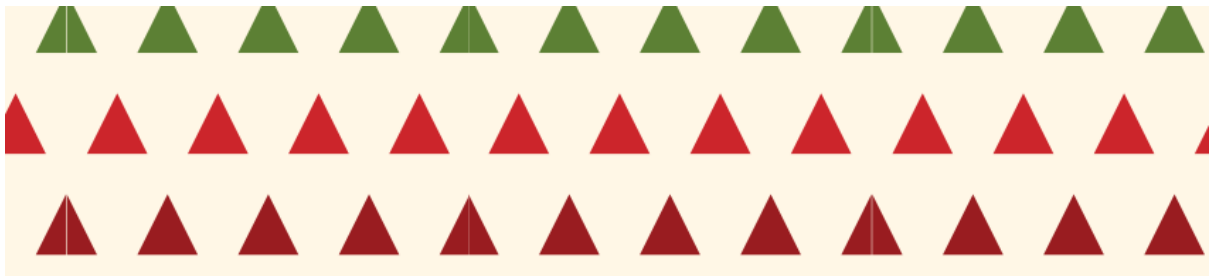


Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.5%.

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



PTA update



Curious to see how the PTA works?

Want to chip in with an idea or even help to run an event so at the end pop a cigar in your mouth and say

'I love it when a plan comes together' - no prize for guessing the ref!

First PTA meeting of the year is happening this Wednesday 11th February at a screen near you from 8pm.

Get exclusive access to the dreams.... the dramathe excitementthat is your PTA.

Live. Real. Raw. No edits and no catch up except for the minutes if you want them.

Links will be shared through the reps.

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

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Library Lowdown, World Book Day Buzz and T-Shirt Competition!

First, a huge and heartfelt **thank you to Sunny**, who has recently stepped back from leading the Library Team. The hard work and sheer love she poured into the role over recent years have shaped our library into the fantastic resource we're so lucky to have today. Our library is looking better than ever, and lending out more books than ever before.

It's been wonderful to see so many children making the most of our 2 school libraries.

- **EYFS and KS1** pupils borrow books with their teachers.
- **KS2** children may sign out **up to two books at a time** for **two weeks**.
- We do have a number of books that have gone wandering, please check if you have any at home/in school bags. Popular titles that often go missing include **Dogman**, **Wings of Fire**, and the **Lottie Brooks** series.

Our **Author Spotlight** this term shines on **M.G. Leonard**, whose brilliant books appeal to a wide range of readers. Her stories span murder mysteries, train adventures, bird-watching escapades, beetle-filled quests and more.

WORLD BOOK DAY....

.....is coming up on **Thursday 5th March**, along with our **Scholastic Book Fayre** running that week.

It's also **Competition Time!** Children can **design a T-shirt front** featuring their favourite book character or scene from a book, and have the chance to win that T-shirt! See attached poster for details

Thank you for your continued support and donations. If you'd like to join our team please let Reception know.

From the Library Team: Liz, Helen, Vanessa, Natalie and Claire



Golds



Foxes:

Robins: Oli, Marcus and Leo

Hedgehogs: Daisie

Red Kites:

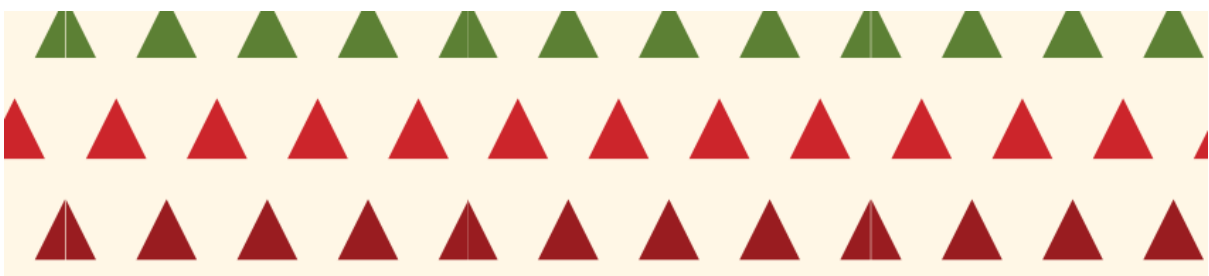
Badgers: Aiden, Lucy

Owls: Roman, Jenny, Bella and Luke

Bats: Bella

Golden Eagles:

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- Tuesday 10th February: KS1 gymnastics showcase at RAF Benson (selected pupils)
- Wednesday 11th February: Parents' evening
- Thursday 12th February: Parents' evening
- 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 FACE TO FACE session for parents (more details to follow)**
- Thursday 5th March: World Book Day + family assembly (2.30pm) **(Reception 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 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