

# Watlington Newsletter February 2 2026



Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a great start to term 4, with children looking smart, full of energy and ready to learn! A warm Watlington welcome to the new families joining our school community this term. We look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks.

There have been a number of opportunities to find out about your children's learning recently, including parents' evenings, phonics, SATs and residential information sessions. I hope you found the meetings informative, and thank you to the team for organising.

In addition, we continue to offer a range of enriching experiences to our curriculum including STEM workshops this week, led by James Fraser, and Papaya workshops on the connection between smartphones, screens and wellbeing, led by Sally Hall.

Last term, we said goodbye to Mr Chadd (year 5 class teacher) who has left Watlington Primary School for personal reasons. I would like to thank Mr Chadd for the many contributions he made to our school during his time here, teaching Year 5 for the last two years, as well as sharing his passion for the performing arts through his drama club and school choir. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours and will miss having him as part of our team.

For the remaining academic year, Mrs Glover (formally, Miss Harman) and Mrs Doran will be teaching year 5. They are familiar members of staff who know the children well and will continue to work closely together to ensure continuity and stability in the classroom.

As always, do check the [class pages](#) which are updated weekly to find out more about what your child is doing!

Let's have a great term.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher

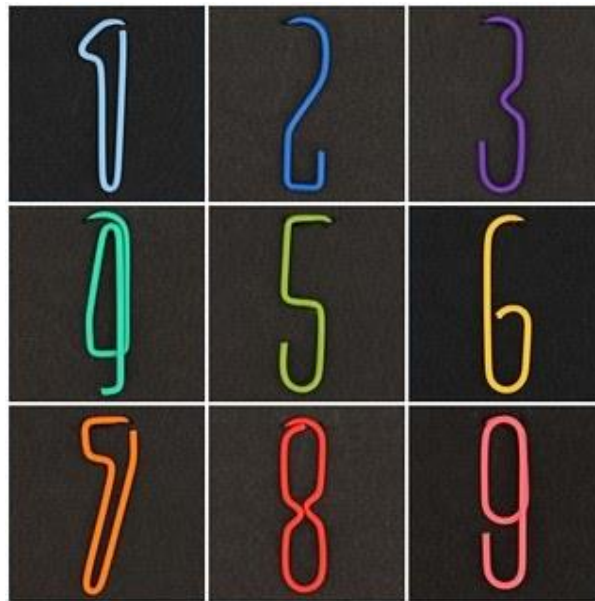
## Snacks for clubs

Just a friendly reminder that, if absolutely necessary, your child may have a piece of fruit as an after-school snack only.

If you choose to provide grapes, please ensure that they are cut in half lengthways to reduce the risk of choking.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

## Year 1 and Year 2 maths lesson with your child!



Would you like to learn more about how maths is taught in school and how you can support your child at home? We are offering two sessions, led by our maths lead, Miss Johnson, where parents may join their child for a maths lesson.

Year 1: Thursday 16th April, 9am – 10am

Year 2: Friday 17th April, 9am – 10am

During this session, you will learn about the Mastering Numbers Programme which is a national programme, based on research into what is important in early maths education. It supports pupils to understand the relationships between numbers and to develop their 'number sense'.

You will participate in games and activities with your child and also receive further activities you can try at home for 5 weeks.

If you attend, you will also receive a goodie bag!

Places are limited, so if you would like to attend, please complete the online form via the link below by Monday 23rd March.

<https://forms.gle/nFbh9Wax6Dbme5REA>

## Thursday 12th March - The Sound of Watlington concert!



This is a great opportunity to perform in front of an audience, and we would love your support, with the details as follows:

- Thursday 12th March

- 5.30pm in the school hall
- The school choir will be performing, solo and group acts, and a special performance from an Icknield pupil band!
- The PTA will be serving refreshments
- Dress to impress!

We look forward to seeing you there! Please email [admin.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:admin.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk), to let us know how many places to reserve. Everyone is welcome!

## Sports Update

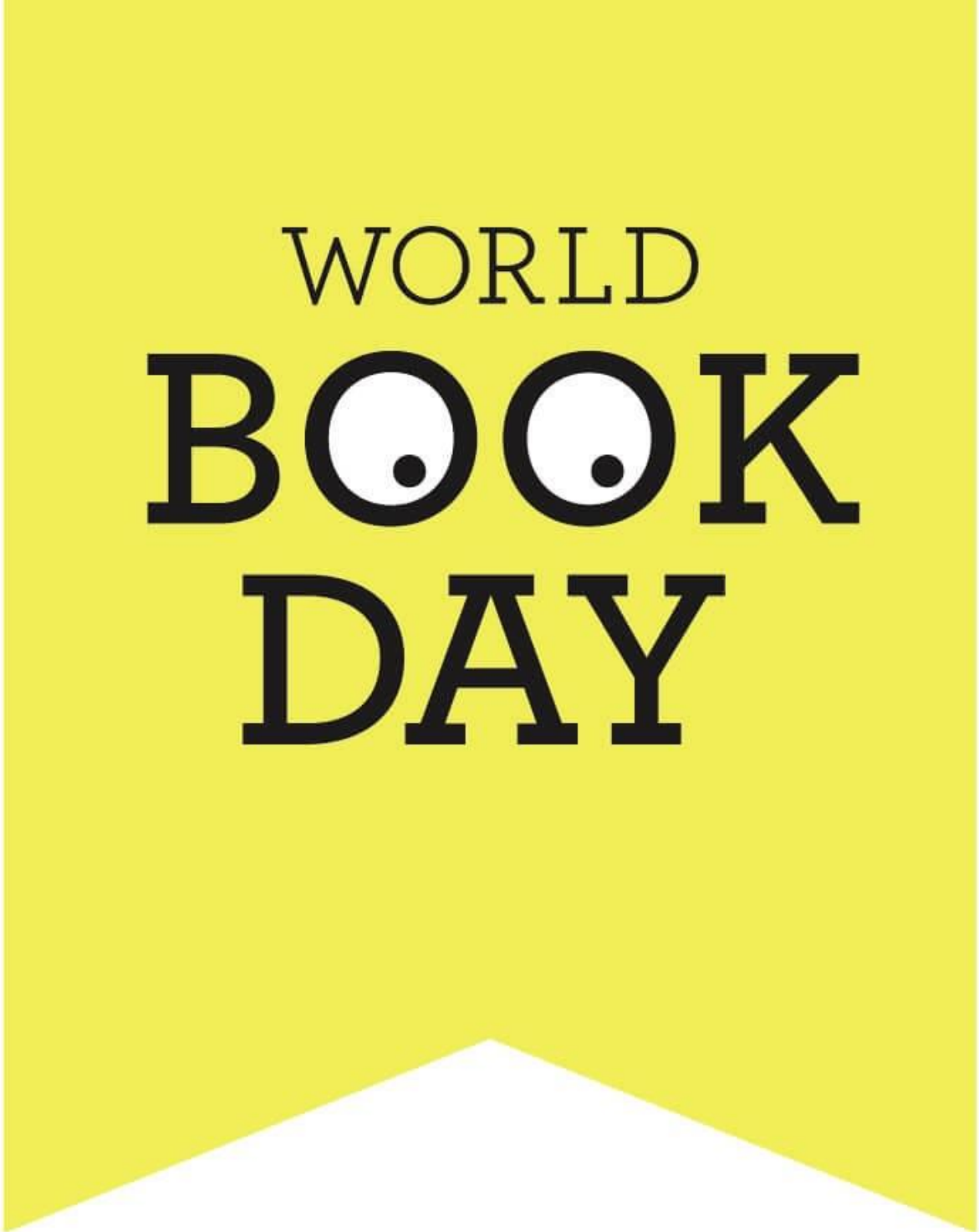


A group of pupils from Key Stage One (the KS1 gym squad) took part in the gymnastics festival at RAF Benson Primary School at the end of last term. A huge thank you to Ms Older for arranging the routine, which was performed to the music Zoo by Shakira!

To watch a video of the performance, [click here](#).



Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

A yellow banner with a white triangular shape at the bottom. 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 to those parents who have signed up so far!**

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Sterjo and Miss Sharman

## Mr Gale's Marathon Challenge!



Mr Gale will be running the **London Marathon on 26 April 2026** to raise money for the charity **Parents and Children Together (PACT)**, which supports families through adoption, counselling and community projects. Inspired by the charity's work helping children and families affected by domestic abuse, he has set a fundraising goal of **£2,000**.

To support this, the school is launching a whole-school challenge called **"Move for PACT."** Pupils are invited to complete **26.2 miles (a marathon) or 13.1 miles (a half marathon)** in any active way they like—walking, running, cycling, scooting and more—while collecting sponsorship. Children who complete the challenge will receive a medal, with additional prizes for effort, creativity and fundraising.

Pupils should aim to finish their miles by **10 April**, with sponsorship donations submitted by **17 April**.

A letter about this will be sent out separately today, and sponsorship forms have also been handed out. Please speak to Mr Gale if you have any questions!

[Click here](#) for Mr Gale's sponsorship page.

THANK YOU!

## 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: **Healthy Me**

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](mailto:admin.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk)) and we can arrange this for you.

## Children's mental health week update

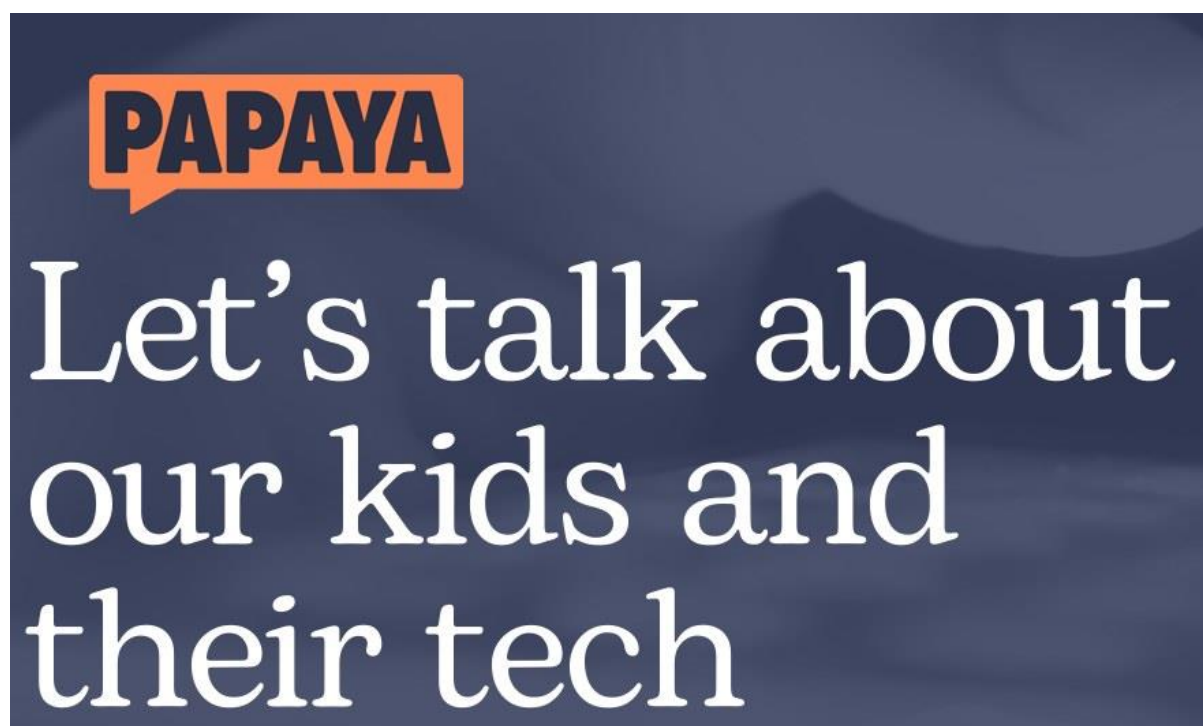


In the final week of term, the School Council organised fun activities to mark Children's Mental Health Week. During the week, we collected money for one of their chosen charities, Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Thank you to everyone for supporting the dressing up, and the £1 donation, with a final total of £148.12!

'I liked running around the playground because it is healthy and important and cleared my mind.', Charlie, Year 1

'We enjoyed dressing up in a colour to express ourselves and we found the photo booth a lot of fun with our buddies.', Mary, Year 6





Thank you to so many parents for attending the Papaya session on Monday. I hope this was a useful opportunity to find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20th April at 6pm, face to face. Please email the office to let us know you are attending. Enter via the school office.

## Attendance

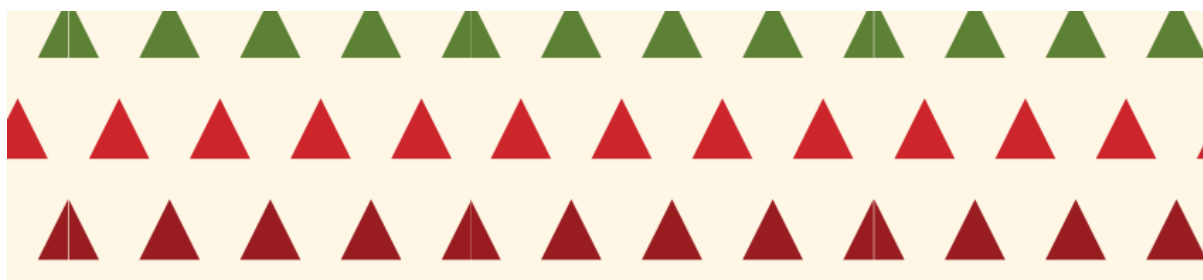


Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.7%.

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



## PTA update



Time to bring out the smiley faces- daffs are daffing, snow drops are snow dropping and we've had days without rain!! And if things couldn't get any better, your PTA finally had their meeting to start planning events for the rest of the school year so here are some dates for your diaries...

- Thursday 5th March – Wonka Bar Sale! Get yourself (or maybe even your child) a delicious chocolate bar and see if you find a Golden Ticket with one of our terrific prizes.

Buy online only at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/index.cfm>

- Friday 27th March – Easter Trail. Join us for the usual fun and games in the rec straight after school. More on this to follow.

- Thursday 7th May – Movie Night. What better way to give yourself some quiet time than keeping the kids at school for a couple of extra hours.

- Saturday 27th June – The Summer Fayre. After last years success the Watlington Summer Fayre is returning and we will have a stall for the afternoon from 12-4pm in the paddock. A great day out with lots to do for all the family and events all over the weekend.

<https://www.watlington.live/>

- Friday 10th July – The Summer Fete. Our grand finale to the school year. Game stalls, bouncy castles, great food and drinks. Plans have started and more to update next time

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

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## Golds



Foxes: Remy

Hedgehogs: Daisie, Mason, Isabel, Eli and Kelly

Red Kites: Ana, Imogen, Reuben, Sam, Henry, Joaquin, Elsie and Jimi

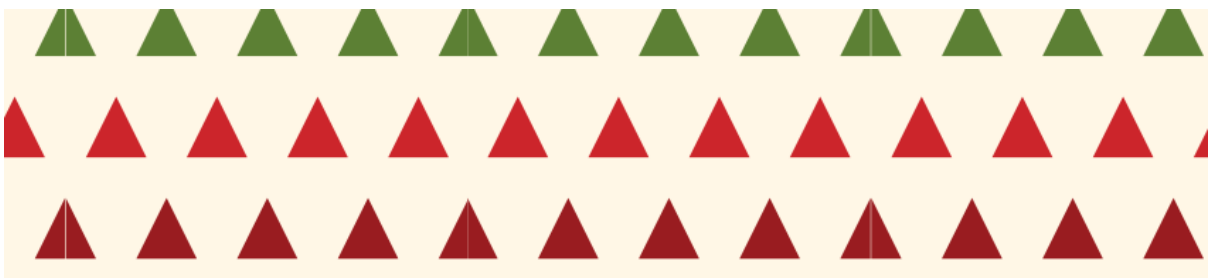
Badgers: Anna, Kit, Joel and Samuel

Owls: James, Rigby, Hazel and Nicholas

Bats: Bella, Rudi, Finlay Lawrence

Golden Eagles: Arthur, Dexter, Leo, Niamh

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- Thursday 5th March: World Book Day + family assembly (2.30pm) **(Reception to Year 6) + PTA WONKA bars for sale after school!**
- Thursday 5th March: Aspens World Book Day themed school lunch
- Thursday 12th March, 5.30pm: The Sound of Watlington music concert + PTA refreshments at the event
- Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th March: Year 6 residential
- Friday 20th March, 2.30pm: Hedgehogs class assembly (Reception parents only)
- Tuesday 24th March: Sports Hall athletics at Wheatley Park School (selected pupils)
- Wednesday 25th March: Year 5 school trip to the Chiltern Open Air museum
- Thursday 26th March, 3.15- 3.45pm: Open afternoon (after school), all year groups
- Thursday 26th March: Class sale after school
- Friday 27th March: Easter trail in the rec, Watlington.

**Friday 27th March: Term ends at 1.15pm**

**Monday 13th April: Term starts**

- Thursday 23rd April: Year 3, Foxes class trip
- Friday 24th April, 2.30pm: Whole school assembly
- Friday 1st May, 2.30pm: Year 2, Owls class assembly (Year 2 parents only)
- Thursday 7th May: Movie night - more details to follow
- Monday 11th to Friday 15th May: Year 6 SATs week
- Tuesday 12th May: School class photos
- Friday 22nd May, 2.40pm- 3pm: Open afternoon, all year groups
- Friday 22nd May: Class sale after school
- Thursday 16th and 17th April, 9-10am: Key Stage One maths lessons, with parents
- Thursday 5th June, 2.30pm: Year 4, Badgers class assembly (Year 4 parents only)
- Friday 19th June, 2.30pm: Year 1, Bats class assembly (Year 1 parents only)

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