

Watlington Newsletter March 2 2026



Friday 13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy two weeks, with World Book day and The Sound of Watlington, music event. We have also had more new pupils joining us! A warm Watlington welcome to you all!

Year 6 had an exciting morning learning about the Hindu festival Holi, marking the Festival of Colours and the triumph of good over evil.

A huge thank you to parents and carers for making such a super effort for World Book day. There was a buzz across the school all day, with lots of happy, excited children. This year, we had a range of parent readers across the school and our School Councillors shared their

book recommendations. A huge thank you to the PTA for running their Wonka Bar sales and congratulations to the lucky golden ticket winners! The prizes were fantastic including tickets to Happy Circus, an unlimited bounce at the summer fete, extra playtime, cake in the staffroom and hot chocolate with me! Thank you also to the library team who hosted the book fair including selling second hand books. A final thank you to everyone who could join us for the family assembly, to Miss Sharman for organising and a special thank you to James for showing us his magic trick!

Next week, we send the year 6 pupils on residential to PGL. We wish them a very happy, adventurous time away. Also lots of good luck to the Hedgehogs class for their class assembly - I do hope I will make it back in time!

Let's hope the sunshine continues!

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









Glorious Gardeners!



A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteer gardeners, Sophie Smith, Kirsty and Josh Robinson-Ward and Vanessa Antoli, for all the care, time and energy they are giving to our outdoor spaces.

Our environment is thriving, with beautiful pockets of flowers blooming and our grounds looking more vibrant each week, including our colourful shed!

If you have any time to spare and would like to support this fantastic work, we would love to hear from you. Whether you can offer a regular hour or occasional help, every contribution makes a difference. Please contact the school office if you would like to get involved.

Watlington Talks

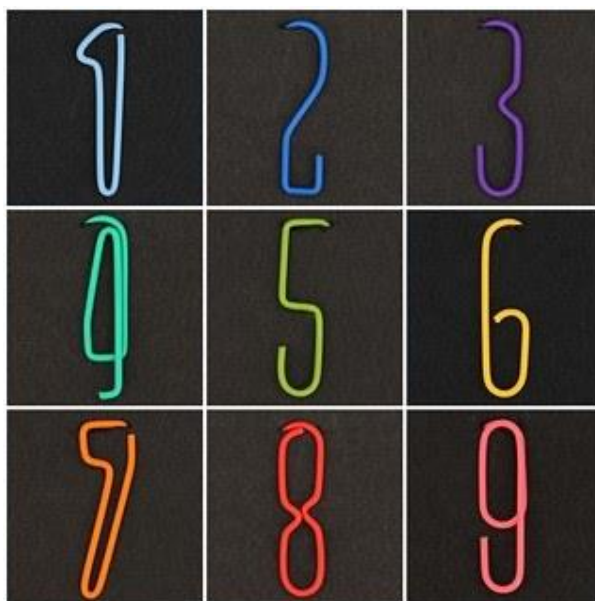


Did you know, that as part of our Oracy strategy, every class has a Talk Tuesday. This is where they discuss a range of topics including questions such as,

- Does everyone have a right to their own opinion?
- Does music bring people together?
- Should we learn handwriting in school? Why or why not?
- Is keeping birds as pets ok?

Children use Talk Tactics to respectfully discuss topics. Why not try a big question at home?!

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>

Sports Update - swimming stars!



The two WPS teams at the Swimathon in Thame swam brilliantly. As far as I know, both teams did more laps than any of the other primary school teams, with both also getting very close to one of the teams from Thame swimming club. They were all amazing, but particular stand outs were Sophie and Mikey in year 6 and Elsie in year 5, who is basically a torpedo in the water! It was really nice seeing them encouraging each other, they were a real credit to themselves and the school.

Partnership football tournament

We are so proud of our year 3 and 4 football team who played really well this week against other schools in the partnership. We came 4 out of 5 but that didn't dampen our spirits! Well done everyone!

Henley Cross Country

If you are interested in joining The Great School Run, in Henley, more information can be found below.



EDUCATION
HENLEY

FREE TO ENTER - SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK
THEGREATSCHOOLRUN.ORG



IN AID OF
Ben's
Duchenne

THE GREAT SCHOOL RUN OF HENLEY

17 MAY 26

AT STONOR PARK
SUNDAY 17 MAY • 9.30AM

CROSS COUNTRY RACES

FOR ALL LOCAL NURSERY AND
SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 3-17
AND FOR THEIR GROWN-UPS
AND SCHOOL STAFF!



STONOR

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 has been sent out to all parents, 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!



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.

You can click on the links below to watch the recording from the parent workshop and view the slides.

[Recap: Watlington Primary School—Papaya Parent Talk with Nicola MacDonald. Monday, February 23 | Meeting | Microsoft Teams](#)

[Nicola's Parent Talk presentation](#)

Attendance



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

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

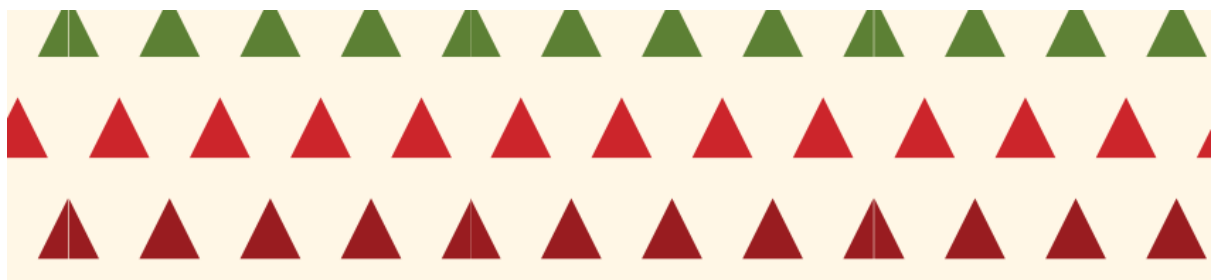


Teaching Assistant Vacancy



We are looking for a teaching assistant to join our team. Please click on the link to find out more. <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/147281/EDV-2026-WPS-08851>

PTA update



Back in the day, Nick Berry from Eastenders and Heartbeat once sung a slow-dance classic 'Every Loser Wins' and nearly 40 years later he's so right not just about love or life, but I think what he's really talking about is the Your School Lottery!

Because every time you play, you COULD win a cash prize but what's GUARANTEED every time you play, is that your PTA wins a slice of your ticket cost so we can keep supporting your kids and the school.

So every time you play, you don't really lose, you just can stop winning!

Tickets are £1, with a jackpot of £25k and anyone can do it - grandparents, friends, butcher, baker, candlestick maker... so sign up here and change your name to Winner!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/watlington-primary-school>

Swimathon

Big thanks to Christy King and her band of merry swimmers who completed the Swimathon with 246 lengths and raised monies for both the PTA and the Thame Rotary Club.

Thank you Sharks and Dolphins!

Dates for the diary

Friday 27th March – Easter Trail 2.0/ Colour Run. The trail has received an upgrade and is now a COLOUR RUN and EGG HUNT in the rec after school. A great way to kick off the Easter holidays plus lots of other things going on. Head to PTA events to book your tickets asap!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/index.cfm>

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: Rocco, Phoebe F

Hedgehogs: Oliver, Mason, Lorenzo, Ophelia, Thomas, Daphne and Phoebe

Robins: Oliver and Marcus

Red Kites: Roni, Ana, Imogen, Harry, Robert, Libby and Shivani

Badgers: Kateryna

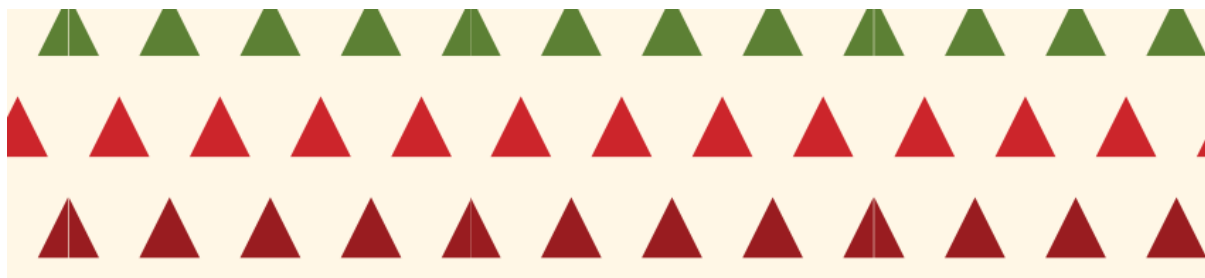
Owls: Luna, Joss, Hadley and Charlotte

Bats: Sienna, William, Albie

Golden Eagles: Oskar

Foxes: Toby, Dawson and Rey

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- 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 16th and 17th April, 9-10am: Key Stage One maths lessons, with parents
- 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
- Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th May: Year 5 residential
- Thursday 21st May: Whole class photos
- Friday 22nd May, 2.40pm- 3pm: Open afternoon, all year groups
- Friday 22nd May: Class sale after school
- Friday 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)
- Saturday 27th June: The Summer Fete, Watlington

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