

# Watlington Newsletter March 3 2026



Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another action packed fortnight with so much on offer for our pupils, with an added bonus of some sunshine!

Year 3 and 4 were invited to visit Watlington Library to meet author of *The Secret Shell*, Sue Palmer. Both classes loved the visit and have been inspired to find out more about rock pool micro-habitats! A huge thank you to the Watlington library team for inviting us to such an engaging workshop.

Year 6 residential was another super experience for our older pupils. They had the chance to access a range of exciting experiences including giant swings, buggy building, trapeze and canoeing. Of course, when asked, most children have commented on the food, which is always a highlight of a PGL adventure! A huge thank you to the staff who go above and beyond to organise these experiences for our children. It really is appreciated.

The Hedgehogs' class assembly was a lovely showcase of what they have been learning this year. The recall of the Talk for Writing text, 'Jungle Scrumble' was very enthusiastic and we really enjoyed seeing all of the art work the children created this term.

This week we have become fully immersed in STEM week, focusing on design and technology. This was launched last Friday with Years 1-5 taking part in immunology workshops. A huge thank you to Marta and her team, from Oxford University for leading the workshops. Each class has also been set a range of tasks including invention design, Science Oxford's Big Science Event investigation, learning about famous scientists and mathematicians and STEM themed 'Let's Talk' sessions. Thank you to Mrs Hanger, Miss Johnson and Mrs Eltham for organising the week. Another final thank you to Pertemps for kindly donating copies of 'Girls Can Engineer' to inspire our young girls even further.

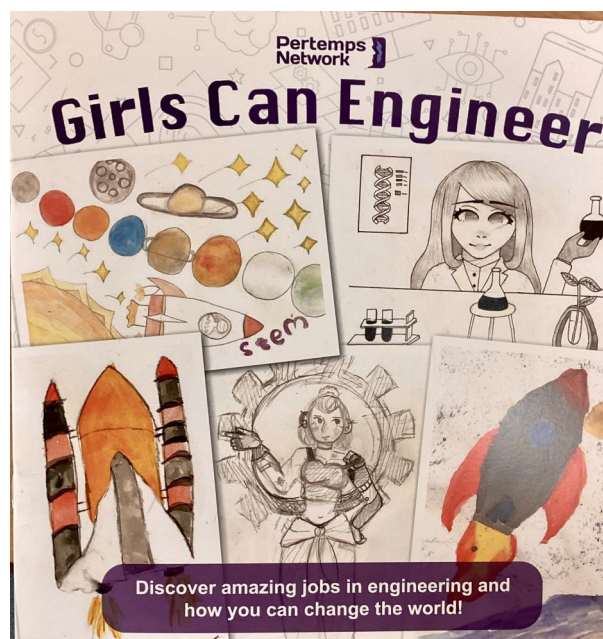
Have a lovely break, wishing you lots of sunshine.

As always, if you need us, email the office or admin and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher



## Easter Reading Challenge!



We are encouraging all the children to keep reading over the Easter break with our reading Bingo Challenge!

1. Complete each challenge on the grid and get a parent or grown up to sign when you have completed each one. If you need a printed sheet, you can collect one from the office.
2. Hand your completed sheet back to the office after the Easter break in exchange for a raffle ticket to win prizes!

## Watlington Primary School - Sunflower Competition



The Gardening Club Sunflower Competition is back for its third year!

Prizes and winners will be announced in September, and this year there are even more chances to win:

- 🌱 Tallest Sunflower
- 🌸 Most Beautiful Sunflower variety (judged from your photos by Mrs Sterjo)
- 🍌 A booby prize for fun – so everyone has a chance!

If you don't have space to grow sunflowers at home, don't worry - your child can grow theirs in our own school allotment. Just get in touch and we'll help to arrange.

We hope you have had a chance to buy your seeds by now, but if you have any questions, or need to purchase more seeds, please [email: wpsgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:wpsgardeningclub@gmail.com)

Good luck and happy growing over the Easter Holidays! 🌻

## Sports Update



**Tuesday 17th March**

### **Watlington Netball Tournament**

*"The netball tournament was so fun and exciting. All of the team played amazingly. Everyone was polite and made sure to shake hands at the end of each match. We won our first match 15 - 1 and our second 11 - 5 ! We worked well as a team and communicated effectively. Well done to our goal scorers Georgie and Niamh! A huge thank you to Christy King for umpiring our matches."*

Written by Katie and Henry, Y5

**Tuesday 24th March**

## **Sports Hall Athletics, Wheatley Park**

Huge congratulations to all the athletes who attended the Sports Hall Finals at Wheatley Park School this week. There were eight schools who had all reached the finals from across South Oxfordshire. The event included lots of sprint racing, relays, obstacle races and a range of field events too. The children demonstrated excellent skills that they have developed over recent months and worked brilliantly with each other. We came 7th in the end, but we should all be really proud of their achievements as this means Watlington came 7 out of 33 schools who took part in the wider competition. Some special mentions too:

Katie managed the longest girl's javelin throw in the competition; Cherry aced the triple jump; Imogen W and William wowed us with their speed and Georgia and Mikey's longer distance race was a thriller which ended in a win!

Well done to all the athletes- time for a rest before Sports Day!

## **Henley Cross Country**

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





## 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!

Smartphone Free Childhood



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

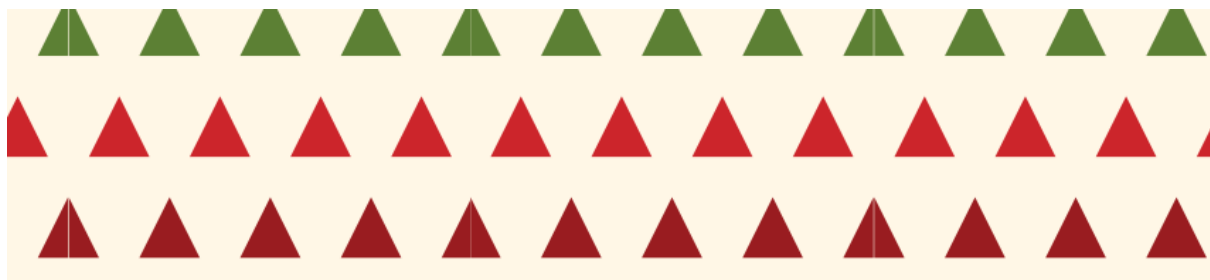


**Excellent attendance habits start now! We are currently at 96.9%. Can we meet our 97% target in term 5?!**

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



## PTA update



In light of yesterday's announcement, and on behalf of the PTA I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Sterjo. She has always been incredibly supportive and positive of the work that we do and probably said yes to more bake sales and cleaned up after more events than anyone should reasonably have to in one career.

We're incredibly grateful for everything you've done and wish you all the very best in your next chapter.

Dates for the diary:

\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE 10th JULY SUMMER FETE \*\*\*\*

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. More to follow!

Saturday 27th June – The Summer Fayre. After last year's 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

\*\*\*\*HAPPY CIRCUS SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER – SAVE THIS DATE TOO\*\*\*\*

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

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## Golds



Foxes: Foxes, Chester, Eliza, Joshua, Nate, Daniel and Wills

Hedgehogs:

Red Kites: Elsie

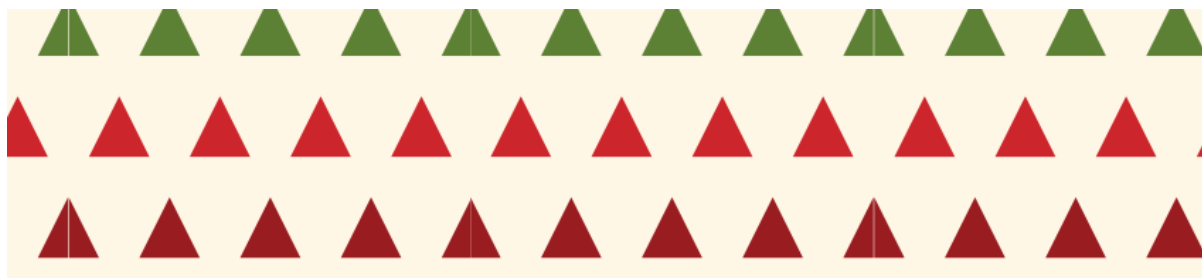
Badgers: Rufus and Max

Owls:

Bats: Jodie, Ruby

Golden Eagles: Arthur, Leo, Freddie and Niamh

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- 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
- **Monday 20th April: Reception School Trip - more details to follow.**
- 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: PTA 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 1st May: Owls (Year 2)
- Friday 5th June: Badgers (Year 4)
- Friday 19th June: Bats (Year 1)

## **Changes to open afternoon dates**

Friday 22nd May, 2.40pm