

Watlington Newsletter - June 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to term 6. Before thinking about the term ahead, I wanted to share the highlights of the final week of last term.

Our 150th anniversary events were wonderful! The school council organised a whole school celebration day including a tea party, school sign competition, making bunting and games based on the number 150. The day began with a whole school assembly which I led with Janet Vaughan, a former headteacher at Watlington, who moved the school from the previous site to our current one. She had so many stories to share with our pupils. Food left over from the event was donated to our school food bank.

We hosted a tea party for staff and governors, past and present which was a well attended, nostalgic way to mark our 150th. Clem, James, Dima, Olivia, Niamh, Katie and Anna did a wonderful job

welcoming guests through the school. They also presented their thoughts on what they love about Watlington. We were so proud of them and they did a wonderful job representing our school.

Sharing photos (how the fashion has changed!), writing in the memory book, voting for the school sign competition, as well as enjoying tea and cake were highlights of the afternoon. We were gifted a weather vane from the old site by the past staff members, attendance medals were shared from 1903 and the Henley Standard captured the event. Our landscaping project will be an additional way to mark this year, and will be enjoyed by future generations to come. Thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation. A team effort led to a successful celebration of 150 years.

The Governors were invited in to school for an afternoon in the final week. It began with a group of year 6s presenting on their thoughts around inclusion: what we do well and what we can do better. I was so proud of the group who spoke articulately, answered questions and showed their excellent PowerPoint skills! Thank you to the governors for giving up their time to come into school, and for their willingness to get stuck in with PE, French, DT and Early Years. The feedback was very positive and we have further areas to consider.

Moving forward, our annual cross country event was another great success! See sports update below.

This term involves assessments across year groups including the Year 4 multiplication check, phonics screening and year group assessments. This is a snapshot of your child's attainment and most importantly highlights areas for us to work on, as well as up to date information to hand over to the next teachers.

The final term of the year is action packed so please check the dates and utilise the class WhatsApp groups. Also, this term can cause anxiety in our children, who may find changes of timetable and thoughts about moving on a challenge. Where possible, we will provide social stories for you to share with your children to support with this. We also carefully consider transition arrangements to suit all children. This includes, meet the teacher meetings, transition meetings between staff, and transition day. If you do need any additional support or have questions, please contact your child's current class teacher.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo









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:

Term 6: Changing 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) and we can arrange this for you.

Sports update

Last term, we took an enthusiastic team of Year 1 and Year 2 children to an athletics tournament at Chalgrove school. The children did our school proud, by listening attentively and demonstrating skill and sportsmanship in each activity. The children's favourite was most definitely 'hungry hippos', where they beat the record for the number of times they completed it. The children ended the morning with running races, which they all performed in amazingly, but more importantly all cheered on the other children with great gusto too. The children came joint top with 2 other schools, and rightly so, were very proud of themselves. Thank you to the Year 6 children at Chalgrove for running such a fun event!

The Watlington cross country today was fantastic! There was a buzz in the air and a very positive attitude from the whole school. A huge congratulations to our winners, and a well done to everyone for taking part! Thank you to the sports captains for their help, to the Icknield students for their support and to Miss Harman for organising.

"On Friday 7th June, everyone from reception to Year 6 participated in a cross country event. Years 1 - 6 raced around Watlington Primary School and Icknield, racing to see who would come through the red gate first. Everyone cheered on the runners, especially when the little Hedgehogs completed their race around the WPS paddock. We had lots of amazing Icknield students helping us and supporting us by leading the races and cheering us on. At the end, there were medals for each year group for the fastest boy, girl and, most importantly, best sportsmanship. We thank all the staff at Watlington Primary School who helped. We give a huge thanks to Miss Harman who organised this event and set it all up. We all had an amazing time and really enjoyed it.

From the Year 5/6 Sports Captains"





Library Update

OXFORDSHIRE BOOK AWARDS 2024

JUNIOR NOVELS







OXFORDSHIRE BOOK AWARDS 2024

PICTURE BOOKS








Above is the short list for The Oxfordshire Book Awards 2024.

We are encouraging the children to read one of these new books, all of which are currently being showcased in KS1 & KS2 libraries.

Why not tell us what you thought? Write a review and we will display it alongside the books in the library.

If you would like to donate any pre loved books or purchase new books we would be delighted to receive them.

Here is the link to the recently updated children's 'Wish List' - select 'unpurchased items'.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3OV8WH7TKOHZZ?ref=wl_share

For anyone who would prefer to shop local we have a new online account with Thame Bookshop. Here is the link for your donation page on The Book House website and QR code for the same

Donations of these books can be left in the box by the school office

Thank you!

The Library team

(Sunny, Ellen, Kate, Helen B, Liz, Helen T and Claire)



PTA Update

The **Horrible Histories trail** over half term was fantastic and so we've decided to continue it for another 2 weeks until Sun 16th June for anyone who was away and missed out! Please sign up on the website <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/>, then either print the map or pick up a copy from So Sustainable. It's £5 per family, with a treat from the Granary café when you finish!

Last chance to win 2 adult and 2 child tickets to go to the **Blenheim Palace battle proms** on 6th July, bidding closes on Saturday 8th June and we will notify the highest bidder by Monday 10th

June. Please email watlingtonoxonpta@gmail.com with your bid – tickets are normally worth £154 and include a cavalry parade, the red devils, and a Spitfire display as well as great music.

The fabulous **Summer Fete** with food, drink, games and space for the children to play in the sunshine is fast approaching, save the date 6-8.30pm Friday 19th July. We would like to hold a raffle to raise funds for trips and activities next year - if you, your business or employer can help by donating a raffle prize please email watlingtonoxonpta@gmail.com prizes could include home-made gifts, a donation of your time babysitting/gardening, or store vouchers.

Our **PTA AGM** will be held at 8.45am in the school hall on Friday 28th June, just before sports day. All parents/grandparents/carers are welcome to attend and hear about the amazing resources we have all helped to fund. If you would like to get involved we would love to hear from you, please email Watlingtonoxonpta@gmail.com. The PTA is a friendly group of parents who meet roughly once a term to plan fun social events for children and their families and to fundraise for the school. We support enrichment activities for the children such as school trips, music and languages teaching as well as equipment such as the climbing frame and picnic benches.

Finally, big thanks to the **Brooks Macdonald Charitable Foundation** who have recently donated £250 towards our pond and landscaping project – thank you to the parents who arranged this as well!

GOLDS



Hedgehogs: Nicholas, Jenny, Lily, Hadley

Owls: Otis, Olivia, Elena

Badgers: AJ, Eliza, Georgia, Belle

Attendance

We are currently at 96.2% We are so very close to our target of 97%! Keep up the great work!

There has been an increase in term-time holidays again. Just a reminder that these dates are not authorised and could result in a fine.

Dates



- Monday 10th June: Phonics screening in Year 1 begins
- Monday 17th June: Rounders tournament
- Wednesday 19th June, 3,30-4.30pm: Year 6 Icknield buddying session 1
- Thursday 20th June: Henley Football tournament for selected children - we will let you know if your child is attending (parents welcome)
- Thursday 20th June (choir): Festival of Voices, Dorchester Abbey
- Friday 21st June, 2.30pm: Foxes class assembly
- Wednesday 26th June (Foundation Stage): Early Years Olympics
- Wednesday 26th June, 2.30pm: Dance performance in the hall for parents (Year 1,2 and 3)
- Wednesday 26th June, 3,30-4.30pm: Year 6 Icknield buddying session 2
- Friday 28th June, 9.15-11.45am: (Years 1 to 6): Sports day
- Friday 28th June: 8.45am, PTA AGM in school hall prior to sports day starting
- Monday 1st July: Arts week
- Wednesday 3rd July, 3,30-4.30pm: Year 6 Icknield buddying session 3
- Friday 5th July, 3.15pm: Open afternoon art gallery
- Wednesday 10th July: Whole school transition day
- Friday 12th July: Rounders tournament (Year 3,4 and 5) Selected children invited
- Friday 12th July: Back up sports day
- Wednesday 17th July: Foundation Stage beach party (details to follow)
- Wednesday 17th July, 7pm: year 6 play
- Thursday 18th, 2-4pm: Year 6 Leavers' BBQ
- Friday 19th July, 6-8.30pm: PTA BBQ

- Monday 22nd July, 9.15am: Leavers' assembly (year 6 parents)
- Tuesday 23rd July, 9.15am: End of year celebration assembly (Reception to Year 6 parents)
- **Tuesday 23rd July: Term ends at 1.15pm**
- Thursday 5th September: Term starts

Click [here](#) for future term dates.

Class	Class assembly date – Friday 2:30pm
Golden Eagles	Friday 17 th November 2023
Red Kites	Friday 8 th December 2023
Badgers	Friday 9 th February 2024
Foxes	Friday 21 st June 2024
Owls	Friday 3 rd May 2024
Bats	Friday 17 th May 2024
Hedgehogs	Friday 22 nd March 2024