

Watlington Newsletter April 2026



Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely break and managed to enjoy time with your families and friends.

At the end of last term Watlington had their first colour run, what a fun way to start the holidays! A huge thank you to Mr Gale for being the Easter bunny leading the children around the course. The children were SO joyful. Thank you to the PTA, with a particular mention to Justine Carter for managing the event with great efficiency and enthusiasm.

With the end of term chaos, I didn't manage to address my news. It is with a heavy heart that I will be leaving Watlington at the end of the summer term, however I do still have two terms to go and I, of course, will say a proper goodbye then. In the meantime, please be reassured that Mat Van De Pette (Chair of Governors) and Nathan Thomas (CEO) are leading the recruitment process to find my replacement. I will also continue to be fully committed to Watlington until the end of August, and will do all I can to support the team throughout the process.

In other staffing news, we were sad to say goodbye to Ms Martine Williams last term, and wish her well for the future. A very warm welcome to Miss Lauren Zanotto, office administrator, and Miss Christina Gerrard, teaching assistant. Ms Dallimer will continue to work in the office over the coming weeks as part of transition.

Please do check the dates below for the final term. We do try our best to send dates out in advance and to vary days and times to support working parents.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo



Easter Reading Challenge!



Well done to all those children who completed the Easter reading challenge.

The lucky winners are Nate and Hadley who will receive their prizes very soon!

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

Good luck and happy growing! 🌻

Sports Update



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

School Council Update

The School Council has been busy over the last few months. We have been working towards being a Rights Respecting School - putting the children's rights at the heart of our school. We were really pleased to share the news with the Thames Valley Ambulance about the money we raised for them

"I have written a letter to tell them that we all dressed up in our favourite colour to represent ourselves, and that we raised money for them by doing this". Alice

The children also enjoyed being reading buddies for the younger children on World Book Day.

"I was so impressed with how well Essy read to me, and I loved sharing her favourite book with her". Sophie

We have had many discussions about what rights are important to children in our School Council meetings. Our next focus over the next few months is 'Protection of Privacy and Access to information.

"You need to be careful with who you talk to online and play games with. Make sure you know who they are". Mary

Mr Gale's Marathon Challenge!



This is a quick reminder to all those children that have been participating in the "**Move for PACT**" challenge in support of my marathon fundraising, that the deadline for this is fast approaching!

If your child has been completing their own marathon challenge over recent weeks, I hope they have had a great time exercising and collecting sponsorship on the way.

Don't forget to return completed sponsorship forms to me **as soon as possible**, so that awards can be organised. Please also collect and submit sponsorship donations via the donation page by **Sunday 26th April (London Marathon day!)** if possible! [Click here](#) for the donation page.

I have been blown away with the enthusiasm and effort shown so far, and I am so thankful for the funds you have already contributed! They have kept me motivated as I have completed my training runs. I look forward to celebrating everyone's achievements.

Of course if your child has not participated in the challenge but you would still like to sponsor me, any donations are very gratefully received!

Thank you for your continued support in helping me raise funds for such an important cause.

Jonathan Gale

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



There have been a number of children off at the start of term. 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.



Golds



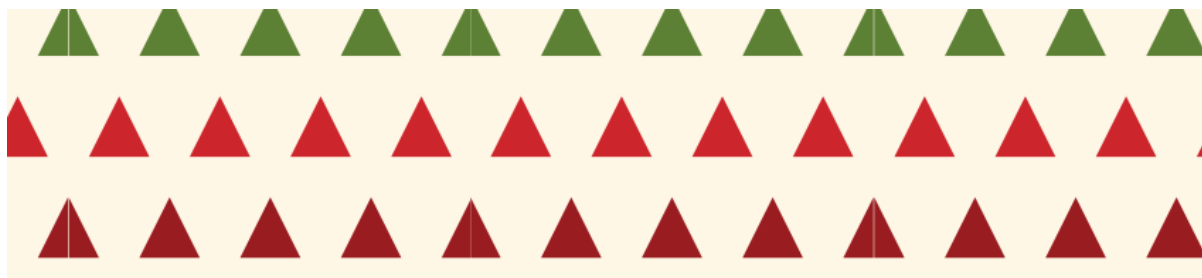
Red Kites: Mani and Sam

Badgers: Bonnie, Mia and Otis

Bats: Alyosha and Charlotte

Golden Eagles: Dexter

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- Thursday 16th and 17th April, 9-10am: Key Stage One maths lessons, with parents **(POSTPONED)**
- Monday 20th April: Reception School Trip to the Earth Trust
- Monday 20th April, 6pm, at school: Smartphone Free parent group
- Thursday 23rd April: Year 3, Foxes class trip to Science Oxford
- Friday 24th April, 2.30pm: Whole school assembly, Poetry themed. (Reception to Year 6)
- **Monday 27th April: CHOIR CANCELLED ON THIS DAY**
- 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 **TIME CHANGE 3.15pm-3.45pm**
- Friday 22nd May: Class sale after school

Friday 22nd May: Break up for half term at 3.15pm (3pm for nursery)

Monday 25th - Friday 29th: Half term

Monday 1st June: School starts

- Friday 5th June, 2.30pm: Year 4, Badgers class assembly (Year 4 parents only)
- Wednesday 10th June: Whole school cross country event (all children to wear PE kit)
- Wednesday 17th June, 9.15-10.15am: EY Olympics (Nursery and Reception)

- Wednesday 17th June, 3.30pm-4.30pm: Icknield buddying session 1 (Year 6 pupils starting at ICC in September)
- Friday 19th June, 2.30pm: Year 1, Bats class assembly (Year 1 parents only)
- Monday 22nd June: Rounders tournament at Lewknor (invited pupils only)
- Wednesday 24th June, 3.30pm-4.30pm: Icknield buddying session 2
- Friday 26th June, 9.20am start: Sports morning (Year 1 to 6)
- Saturday 27th June: The Summer Fete, Watlington
- Wednesday 1st July, 3.30pm-4.30pm: Icknield buddying session 3
- Wednesday 1st July, afternoon, 1.30pm: Year 6 play SAVE THE DATE
- Thursday 2nd July, evening, 5pm: Year 6 play SAVE THE DATE
- Friday 3rd July: Back up sports day
- Monday 6th - 9th July: New class meet the teacher meetings this week (more details to follow)
- Monday 6th July, 4.30pm: Foundation Stage new parents meeting
- Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July: Icknield transition days
- Wednesday 8th July: Whole school transition morning (new classes)
- Thursday 9th July, 2pm: EY beach party
- Friday 10th July: PTA BBQ (all welcome)
- Thursday 16th July, 9.15am: Year 6 leavers' assembly + leavers' party (2-4pm)
- Friday 17th July, 9,15am: End of year assembly

Summer break begins (1.15pm on Friday 17th July)

Tuesday 1st September: INSET

Wednesday 2nd September: INSET

Thursday 3rd September: INSET

Friday 4th September: INSET

Monday 7th September: School starts

Separate arrangements for Foundation Stage pupils

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