

# Watlington Newsletter June 2 2026



Friday 19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Badgers' class assembly last week, was a lovely celebration of everything they have been learning this term. I particularly enjoyed the interviews with 'David Attenborough' aka Isabelle and artist 'Dean Russo', aka Lucas!

Leading on from the class assembly, a huge congratulations are in order to Year 6 and Year 1, who collaboratively sent art work and wrote a letter to David Attenborough to celebrate his 100th birthday. They were delighted to hear that his daughter, Susan, wrote the children a letter, thanking them for their work.

The Early Years Olympics is always a super fun event, another example of collaboration across the school, as the year 5s plan and lead sports activities for our Foundation Stage, and Rainbow Corner Day nursery. They demonstrated kindness and patience as they supported our younger children with each activity - we had lots of positive feedback from all of the parents! Well done to everyone involved.

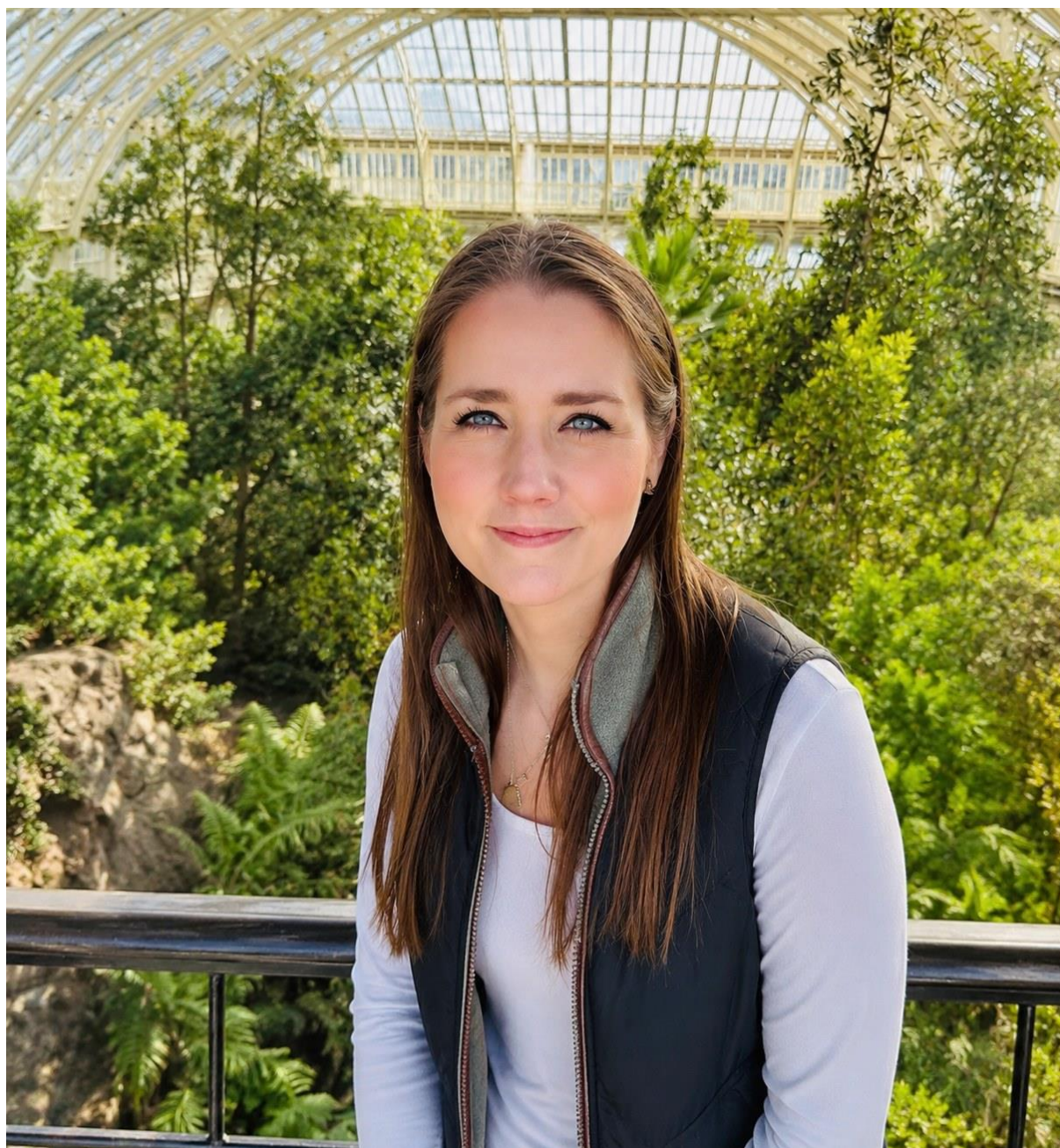
The final class assembly this afternoon was the Bats class. What a wonderful way to end the week with an exciting and enthusiastic sharing about their topic on Kings and Queens. Although I wasn't there in person, I was invited to a preview!

A final friendly reminder, that next Friday is sports morning. See below for more details.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

## Letter from Mrs Pickford



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have been appointed as the Headteacher of Watlington Primary School from September.

Although my official start date is in September, I am keen to build relationships before then. For those of you who don't know me, I lived in Watlington on Brook Street for 10 years and have worked at Icknield for the last 16 years. I am, therefore, truly invested in and committed to supporting this community. It is a genuine privilege to have the opportunity to continue this at Watlington Primary School, such a successful, vibrant, and dedicated school.

I have a strong passion for people and a firm belief in the power of education to inspire, empower, and shape confident, compassionate, and capable young people. I also know that it takes a community to raise a child, and that strong, positive partnerships between home and school are key to helping children thrive. I have already been made to feel so welcome and can sense the strength and warmth of these relationships across the school community already.

I have been visiting the school as often as possible, spending time with staff and children, and I plan to attend as many school events and activities as I can in the final weeks of term. I hope these opportunities will allow me to get to know you and your children, and help ensure a smooth and positive transition. I am aware that I have a tough act to follow in Gemma Sterjo, who has been with you for so long and achieved so much, but I will do my very best for all of you and hope to remain here for many years to come.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and working closely with you from September.

Kind regards,

Vicky Pickford

## **Behaviour Survey - deadline closes today!**

[Parent/Carer Survey: Behaviour and Bullying – Fill out form](#)

We would like your feedback on behaviour in our school. Please complete this survey by Friday 19th June. Thank you.

## **Watlington Cross Country 2026!**

A huge congratulations to the whole school who took part in the cross country event. To the year 1s in particular, who started the race dry and ended it very wet! We are so proud of all the children who demonstrated great resilience throughout. Thank you to Mrs Glover and the team for making it such fun for the children, and for keeping everyone's spirits up in the rain!

Reception: Boy: Arnie Girl: Daphne Sportsmanship: Mason

Bats Y1: Boy: Oliver Girl: Bo Sportsmanship: Benjy

Owls Y2: Boy: Rigby Girl: Hadley Sportsmanship: Reuben

Foxes Y3: Boy: Daniel Girl: Phoebe F Sportsmanship: Rory

Badgers Y4: Boy: Otis Girl: Amelia Sportsmanship: Harry

Red Kites Y5: Boy: Sam Girl: Imogen Sportsmanship: Elsie

Golden Eagles Y6: Boy: Mikey & Freddie joint Girl: Georgia Sportsmanship: Arthur

## Sports Day - Friday 26th June

We are looking forward to our Year 1 to Year 6 sports day next Friday. In preparation for the event, please read the following reminders:

- Children should come to school in their **PE kits** on Friday (black or navy bottoms only).
- Children should come to school with **sun cream on, a hat and a water bottle**. We are expecting the weather to be hot, so please be prepared.
- Please come to school at the normal time. Drop your child(ren) off at the gate and then come down the side of the building.
- We encourage you to join our PTA AGM meeting at 8.45am in the hall, prior to the event starting.
- Once the PTA AGM meeting is over, we will allow parents to enter the school paddock, where we hope to start sports day at approximately 9.15am.
- The children will compete in two parts for Sports day. They will be competing in their house group teams, with siblings grouped together. Please remain with your child's group throughout and provide lots of support and encouragement. This year there will be two parts to Sports Day: Races on our paddock and a round robin of activities on the ICC field. **You will follow your child/children across both parts in their house team.**
- Do not remove your child/ ren from the group/ class as we need to know where everyone is!
- The competitive sprint races will complete the event on our paddock.
- Please remember to only take photos of your own child and do not share photos/video of other children on any form of social media (including WhatsApp).
- Please use the social story to support your child in preparing for the day if needed.

We hope you enjoy sports day – the children are certainly looking forward to it!

## PTA Update



I know it was a shock...I know you're probably still trying to process ...and maybe in limbo as to what happens next but lets' face it, England playing well on their opening match and winning convincingly is just not something we are used to! So you can be forgiven, but let's keep positive because change can be good.....just like...

...change at the PTA!! (You see what I did there?!) These 3 roles are ripe and ready for new heads to take on and a run with. And they are such fulfilling roles because you get to create exciting events and memories for the kids, generate money for the school which adds to the kids enjoyment of school life plus your kids learn from you doing something great for the community! It's just win win all the way!!

As Chair you get to lead the PTA to achieve its goals, work with school to see what's needed and what differences you can make.

As Treasurer you control the purse strings, nothing comes in, nothing comes out without your say so.

As Secretary you make sure the machine keeps running, arrange meetings and keep records of what we do.

The 3 roles work closely together and we were lucky to be friends already, but it doesn't have to be that way. You can make the roles your own! So let us know if you are interested.

TOYS TOYS TOYS!!

Shout out for more toys and teddies for our 2 upcoming stalls please. Watlington Fayre is next week and we need prizes so please drop anything you have to the office for early next week.

CIRCUS NEWS! 3rd October

Circus tickets will start selling from today and will be open to you all first before being sent around the other schools and community. Tickets are limited so please book early because this will be an exciting event on our own doorstep!!!

Dates for the diary:

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

Friday 26th June – PTA AGM. That's when we at the PTA get all official and tell you about all the awesome things we have done, some of the things we might do in the future and then ask you if we can do it all again for another year and (hopefully) you vote us back in. Just before sports day starts, in the school hall, so please stop by and join us at our most serious...not!

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 including a Saturday night music event and a Sunday family day at the rec.

<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](#)

## Attendance



A reminder that holidays should not be taken during term time, as every day in school is important for children's learning and progress. Leave of absence can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, and family holidays are not normally considered exceptional. Thank you for your support in ensuring the best possible attendance for all pupils.

**Thank you for your ongoing support.**



## Golds



Red Kites: Ethan, Mia

Badgers: Joel, Kit, Samuel, Rose

Bats: Iris (missed from the last newsletter!)

Golden Eagles:

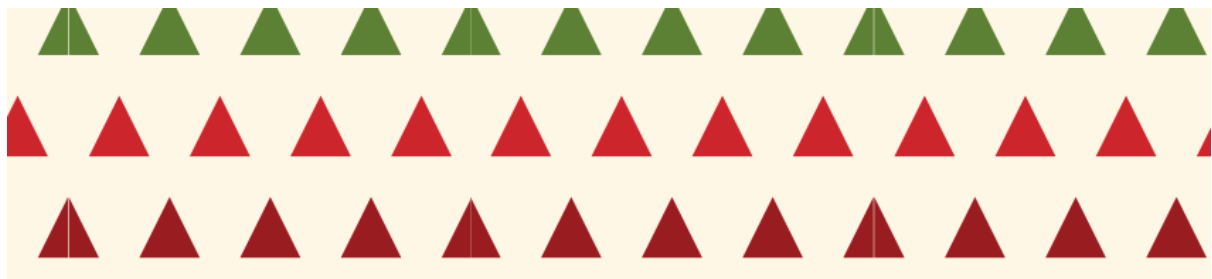
Owls: Nicholas, Robyn

Foxes: Ainsley

Hedgehogs: Elsie, Theo, Rosa, Mason, Torvi, Zakiah, Margot, Molly, Oliver, Phoebe, Gracie

Robins:

Dates (this section is regularly updated)



- Monday 22nd June: Rounders tournament at Lewknor (invited pupils only)
- Wednesday 24th June, 3.30pm-4.30pm: Icknield buddying session 2
- Friday 26th June, 9.15am 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
- Thursday 2nd July, evening, 5pm: Year 6 play
- 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 and 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