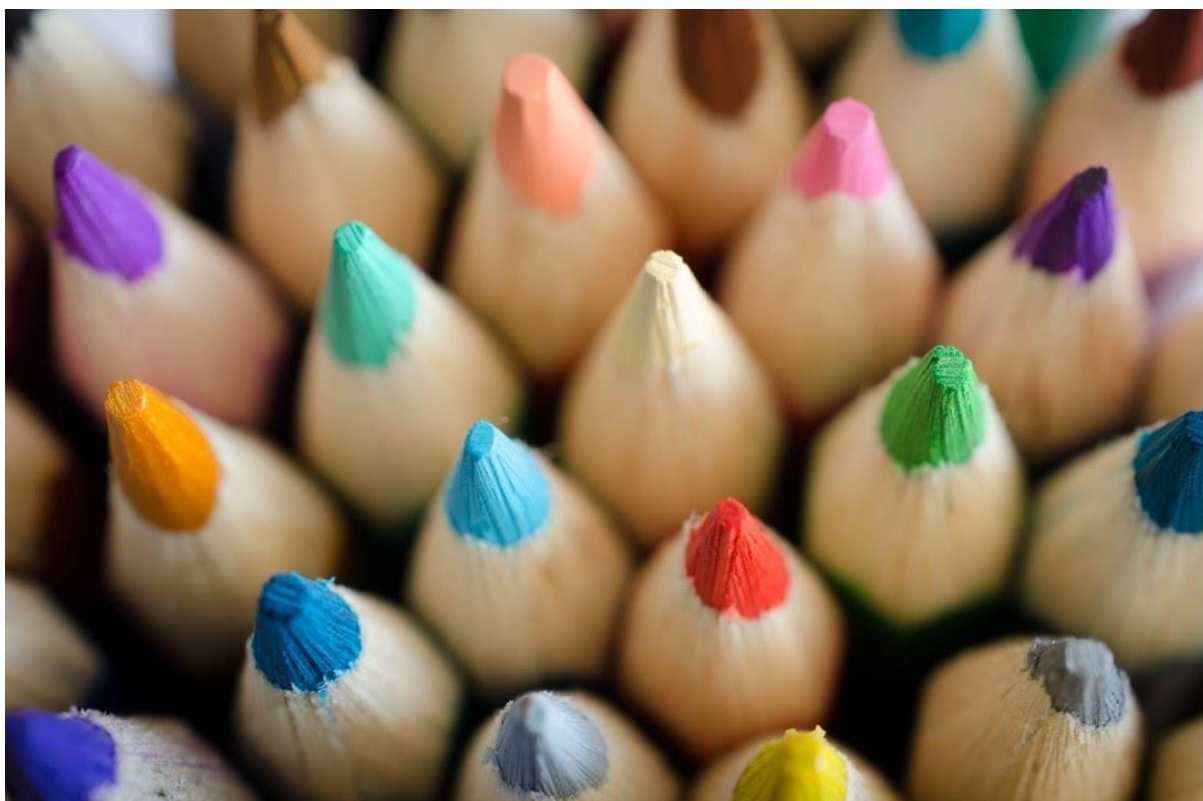




Watlington Newsletter September 11 2026





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first week back, and my first week as Headteacher, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received and to congratulate all of our pupils and staff on such a positive and enthusiastic start to the new school year. I have been really impressed by the enthusiasm, positivity and eagerness to learn that I have seen in the children, as well as the dedication and warmth shown by all of the staff working with them. Together, they create such a positive environment in which children can learn and flourish. A special welcome also to Miss Geary, who has joined us in Year 5. It has been lovely to see the positive relationships that are already developing there.

This week, we have spent time revisiting our school values: **Be Responsible, Be Resilient and Be Respectful**. These values underpin everything we do and will continue to be a key focus throughout the year. Our opening assembly took a sporting theme, exploring how these values are demonstrated by athletes and teams across a range of sports. Together, we explored questions such as: "Why do sports teams wear the same kit?", "Why is it important to respect the referee?" and, perhaps most importantly, "Why is it important to fail?" The children had some excellent points to make about belonging, teamwork, fairness, safety and learning from our mistakes. Please do ask them to talk to you about this at home so that we can continue to strengthen the connection between our school values and the wider world beyond school.

Please also remember to visit the class pages to find out what your child(ren) have been learning and to access useful information about what is happening in school. Click [here](#) to find out more.

The process of selecting our new School Council representatives and Sports Captains is also underway. I look forward to updating you on this soon.

Alongside the fantastic learning taking place in classrooms, we have continued to develop our focus on **Oracy**. One simple change we have introduced is rearranging the tables in the dining hall to encourage more conversation during lunchtime. It has been fantastic to see children chatting, sharing ideas and building friendships through meaningful discussion, and this is something we will continue to develop further. Learning to communicate confidently is a vital life skill, and we are committed to creating opportunities for children to practise this throughout their day.

I have also been struck by how fortunate our children are to have access to such fantastic learning spaces. The outdoor environment at Watlington is exceptional, offering a wide range of areas and activities that support learning, creativity, exploration and play. It is clear that these spaces are highly valued by the children and make a significant contribution to their enjoyment of school.

Thank you to our families for your support as we begin this new academic year together, and a very warm welcome to those families who are new to our community. I am looking forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months and to celebrating the many successes and achievements that lie ahead.

Have a wonderful weekend and a great start to the term.

Vicky Pickford

Headteacher

Housekeeping Reminders



Drop off and collection. Learning starts at 8.45am, - please help your child to be on time! Reception to Year 6: School starts at 8.45am (gate opens at 8.40am) and ends at 3.15pm. Nursery: Nursery starts at 9am (gate opens at 8.40am) and ends at 3pm. Arriving late for drop off and collection can be unsettling for your child.

School uniform. Your child should be wearing full school uniform every day, this includes footwear. If you need support with buying items, let us know and we can help. If your child is not wearing correct uniform they will be provided with spares.

We continue to have a huge amount of second hand uniform and we are encouraging families to recycle and reuse, so please get in touch if there are any items you need.

PE kit. Children are required to wearing their PE kits on PE days. This should be a NAMED, plain PE kit. If there is a chance that it may rain or your child will get muddy, please provide further kit or school uniform for them to change in to. If your child is not wearing correct PE kit, they will be provided with spares. If wearing shoes with laces, please ensure your child can do the laces independently. Earrings will need to be taken out or covered with tape for PE lessons.

For more information on uniform, please click [here](#).

Wellies. As the weather becomes colder and less predictable, it is really important that children have a pair of wellies in school. Please can these be the right size, named and in a bag so that they can be hung up if needed.

Devices. Please be reminded that children should not be wearing watches that have games, access to the Internet or the ability to make calls or send messages. If absolutely necessary, children in Year 6 can bring in phones which will be stored away from use during the school day.

Snacks. A reminder that break time snacks should be fruit or vegetables to encourage healthy eating habits.

Fidgets. Fidget toys are not permitted in school. If your child needs something like this then we will provide this for them in school.

Thank you for your support.

PTA



Welcome back from your PTA team! We hope you had a good summer and are over the shock that your kids don't fit their uniforms anymore!

Fun stuff and serious stuff to get through today so let's start with the fun stuff

The Circus - Saturday 3rd October

Tickets are selling but we have a big space to fill and now we are all back from holidays they will go so please don't miss out and book asap. It's a once in a 'school generation' chance to have a circus on the paddock with all human acts including aerialists, acrobats and of course a clown. It's there for the whole community to enjoy so invite your family, friends and neighbours and create a great memory for the kids but don't leave it to the last minute.

<https://buytickets.at/watlingtonprimaryschoolpta>

Saturday 26th September – Fancy an evening of Jazz and Swing music? Well, our very own parent Adam Beveridge, and friends, are warming their vocal chords for a great music event at St Leonard's Church all in aid of the music department at the school. So, get your glad rags on, support the school and get your ticket – doors and bar open at 7.30pm and tickets are £20

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/event/118795>

Ok now for some serious stuff.

So the PTA still needs a chair, treasurer and secretary to keep its great work going. The summer fetes, discos, movie nights, Easter trails and all the other events raise about £15,000 each year which goes straight to the school to benefit the kids.

With it we fund the learning apps TT Rockstars and EdShed, class allowances for equipment and the support fund for families in need as well as fund or co fund bigger projects like the climbing frames, class tablets and the pond regeneration.

Without the PTA not only do we lose those events that make great memories for the kids, but also a chunk of cash that the school uses to enhance their education.

If you're interested or have questions then please email me at watlingtonoxonpta@gmail.com or see me at the school gates and I'll happily stop and chat.

Follow us on the socials for updates!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

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 1: New beginnings

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.

Artsmark at Watlington Primary



We are delighted to be working towards our Artsmark Award, celebrating and developing the important role of arts and creativity across our school. This year, we will be building on our arts curriculum, with a particular focus on music, drama and oracy, as well as providing children with exciting opportunities to explore their creativity across the curriculum. We look forward to sharing some of the wonderful arts experiences and achievements of our children throughout the year!

Handwriting: Letterjoin

See attached a letter with instructions on how to access the Letter-join website at home. This is an application linked to the handwriting scheme which we are using at school with children to support their handwriting. This can also be accessed at home, should you wish to.

Parent and Carer Code of Conduct



Watlington is a happy school community, with high standards for all. When enrolling your child at Watlington, you agree to adhere to the code of conduct.

Please see the Parent and Carer Code of Conduct attached to this email.

Attendance



We have a **statutory responsibility** to monitor and take action to support good attendance.

Good attendance habits start now! **Our target is 97%.**

Gold Awards



Hedgehogs: Louis

The Nest: Eliza and Dolly

Bats: Eli

Owls: Steve, Ruby and Elora

Foxes: Lily

Badgers: Darcy, Esther, Remy and Rey

Red Kites: Maria, Elena, Kateryna, Oliver

Golden Eagles: Jimi

The Big Future



As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, we have been asked by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, to take part in a national survey, "The Big Future".

Every child's voice matters, and it is important we make sure that children have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that will be shared with the Government.

We would be very grateful if you could fill out the survey which can be completed here:
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

Dates - this section is regularly updated.



- Tuesday 8th September – Tuesday 13th October: Year 6 swimming each Tuesday
- Monday 14th September: Clubs start this week. For after school clubs, if snack needed, please provide your child with one piece of fruit and a water bottle only.

- Thursday 17th September: Icknield Community College open evening for prospective Year 7's
- Wednesday 30th September, 4.00pm: Early Years Curriculum Evening, online session
- Saturday 3rd October: PTA Circus
- Monday 12th October: Flu immunisations (details to follow)
- Monday 19th October, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd: Year 5 Bikeability (details to follow)
- Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October: Parents' evenings
- Friday 23rd October: Term ends at 3.15pm, 3pm (for nursery)
- **Monday 26th - Friday 30th October: Half term**
- **Monday 2nd November: INSET (teachers only)**
- Tuesday 3rd November: Term 2 starts
- Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th November: Year 6 Bikeability (details to follow)
- Sunday 8th November, Watlington High Street: Remembrance Parade
- Tuesday 10th November: Individual and sibling school photos
- Tuesday 10th November: Early Years open evening (prospective new parents)
- Monday 16th November: Anti-bullying week
- Tuesday 18th November, 9.30am: New parents tour (prospective new parents)
- Friday 11th December, 9.30am: Foundation Stage Nativity
- Wednesday 16th December, 5.30pm: Christmas service at St Leonard's Church, Watlington
- Thursday 17th December: Christmas lunch, and jumper day (over school uniform)
- **Friday 18th December; Term ends at 1.15pm**

ASSEMBLY AND OPEN AFTERNOON DATES 2026 – 2027

Term 1

Friday 9th October - Family assembly 2.30pm

Term 2

Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance 9.00m

Friday 20th November – Red Kites assembly 2.30pm

Term 3

Wednesday 6th January – Open afternoon 3.15pm-3.45pm

Friday 22nd January – Foxes assembly 2.30pm

Friday 5th February – Badgers assembly 2.30pm

Term 4

Thursday 4th March – World Book Day assembly 2.30pm

Friday 19th March – Hedgehogs assembly 2.30pm

Term 5

Wednesday 28th April – Owls assembly 2.30pm

Tuesday 18th May – Open afternoon 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Friday 28th May – Bats assembly 2.30pm

Term 6

Friday 11th June – family assembly 2.30pm

Monday 19th July– Y6 leavers assembly 9.00am

Tuesday 20th July – End of year assembly 9.00am

(Please note there will be no Year 6 Golden Eagles class assembly this year – the Year 6 play and Year 6 leavers assembly will remain)

SWIMMING START DATES 2026-2027

Golden Eagles – Tuesday 8th September 2026

Red Kites- Tuesday 20th October 2026

Badgers – Tuesday 8th December 2026

Foxes – Tuesday 9th February 2027