

Watlington Newsletter - February 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a great start to the term with super smart children with brilliant attitudes to learning.

ACER peer review

Drains

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Library Update

The whole school has marked Children's Mental Health Week, beginning with all the classes joining a virtual mental health assembly with hundreds of other schools on Monday morning, where we learnt about the science of kindness. Did you know your body releases 'feel good' hormones when you are kind to someone else?

The rest of the week has been full of other activities such as re-vamping our class worry boxes; reminding children in early years of the 'worry monsters' in class; making worry dolls in Year 1 and Year 5 creating spirals of art work showing what matters to us. Of course, this is just a snippet of what has been going on. All of the work will be displayed in our corridor and you will have the chance to view it at our open afternoon next term.

The grand finale of the week was our 'Dress To Express' day on Thursday. Everyone came in clothes that express themselves, such as their favourite colour, or bringing in things that represents their favourite hobby. We had a photo booth, where the children could use props to help express themselves. School Council were the first to try this out! Families were asked to donate money to support Place2Be, the mental health charity, and we are delighted to announce that we raised **£183** for this important cause!

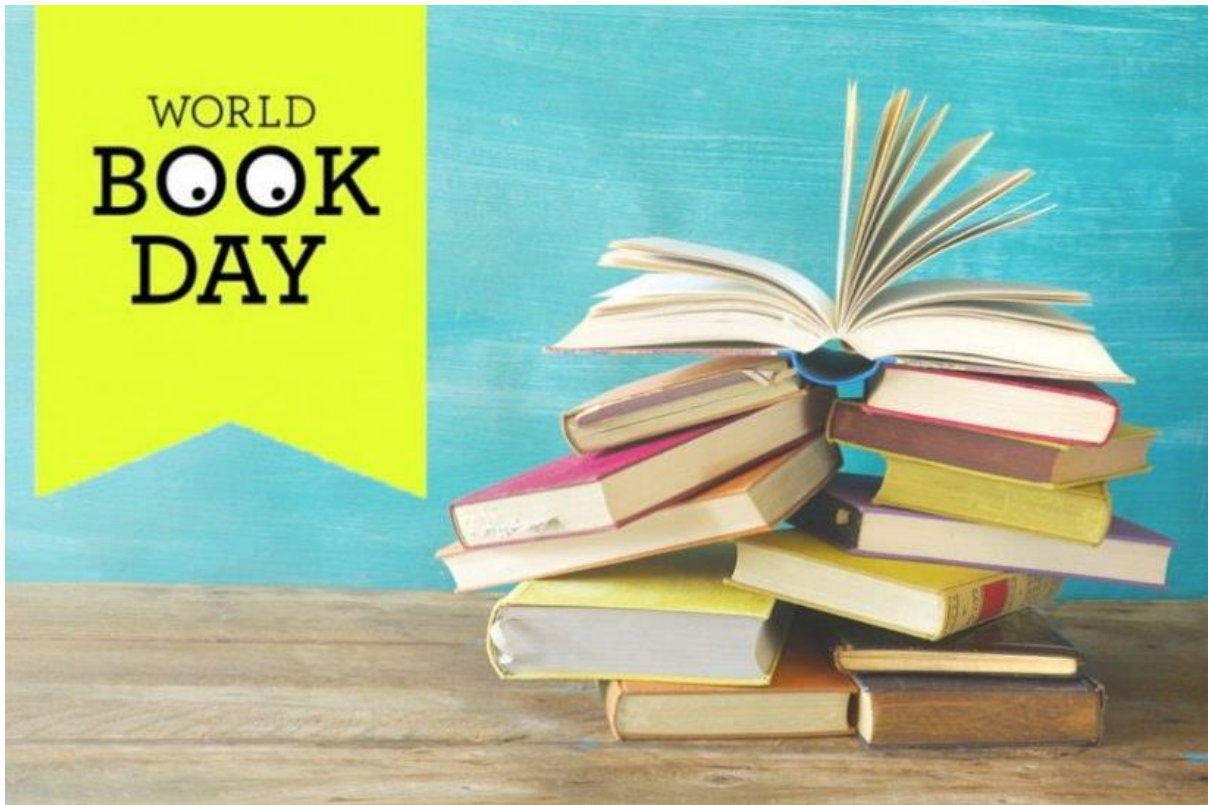
Thank you to all of those who donated, and to the School Council for organising this week!

For more information about mental health, please visit our dedicated website page here:

<https://www.watlington.oxon.sch.uk/wellbeing-and-mental-health/>



World Book Day



This year, World book day is on Thursday 7th March. Our theme is poetry. Children can come dressed as a book character, or be creative with a poetry theme. We urge you not to spend lots of money to dress up!

At the end of the day you are welcome to join us for our reading café, in the hall, straight after school. On Friday 8th March our whole school assembly will have a poetry focus and the children will perform the poems they have learnt during the week.

Health and Safety Reminder



We have had a number of 'near misses' in the car park recently. Some reminders:

- Please use the footpaths when arriving and leaving school.
- Children cycling/scootering should be wearing helmets and be supervised when near the car park. They should be using the long pathway so they do not have to cross a busy car park.
- Please avoid parking/waiting on the yellow lines. They are intended to keep the area safe for all visitors and site users.
- There is a drop off area in the car park.
- Do not block or park in the disabled bays.
- We know the area is busy. Please walk where possible or consider parking further away and walking in.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

Household Support Voucher Scheme

Watlington Primary School is now a referral agency for the Household Support Voucher Scheme. These vouchers are for food or fuel, or split between the two. The scheme is set to run until 31st March 2024, or until funds run out, whichever happens soonest.

In previous rounds, vouchers from the Household Support Fund could be applied for directly by residents of South Oxfordshire. The key change now is that referrals have to be made by trusted agencies, of which Watlington Primary School is one.

Only one voucher is available per household. For the purposes of this scheme a household can be made up of a couple without or without children, single parent households and households including extended family. The scheme is open to a household regardless of whether they are in receipt of benefits, and whatever their employment or immigration status.

If you would like to be referred for help under this scheme, please contact Suzie Bradley in the school office on office.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk or speak with Mrs Sterjo or your child's class teacher in confidence.

GOLDS!

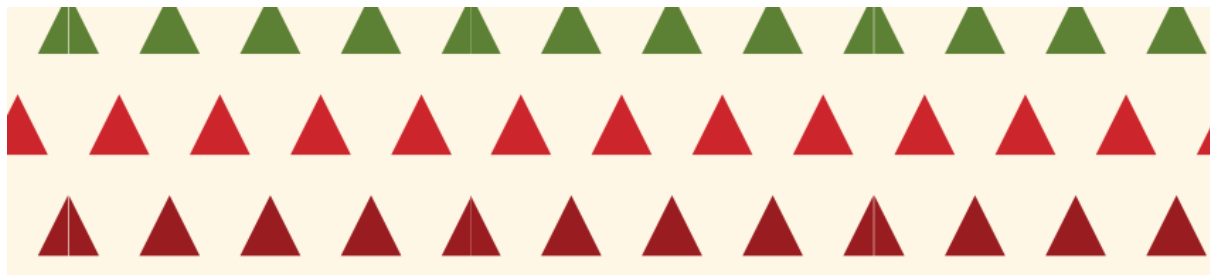
Owls: Wren, Elena

Bats: Wills

Hedgehogs: Charlotte, Chloe and Jenny

Golden Eagles: Freddie, Marley, Callum

Dates



- Term 4 starts on Monday 19th February
- Monday 26th February (Years 5 and 6): Sports hall athletics
- Tuesday 27th February (Years 1 and 2): Gymnastics competition
- Monday 4th March: Book Fair week
- Tuesday 5th March (Years 5 and 6): Sports hall athletics final
- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day dress up day. Reading café after school, from 3.10pm in the hall. All welcome to have a cuppa and share some books!
- Friday 8th March: Whole school assembly, Year 1 - 6 sharing their whole class poems.
- Thursday 14th March (Years 3 and 4): Football tournament
- Monday 18th March (Year 6): PGL residential
- Friday 22nd March (Reception), 2.30pm: Hedgehogs class assembly
- Monday 25th March: STEM week

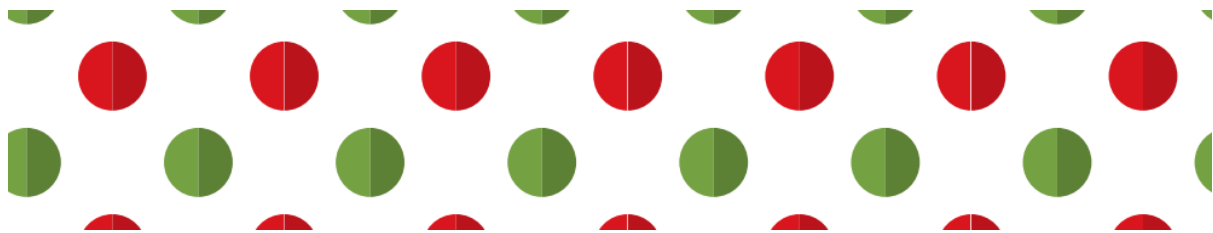
- Thursday 28th March: Break up at 1.15pm (nursery to Year 6)
- Thursday 28th March: Easter trail (PTA event)
- Monday 15th April: Term 5 starts

Save the date (choir only)

Festival of Voices, Dorchester Abbey on Thursday 20th June in the evening. More information (including ticket details) to follow closer to the time.

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

Attendance



Arrive on time! Just a friendly reminder that there are a number of children who arrive late on a regular basis, with varying excuses. Please try to arrive on time so that your child starts the day with their peers.

Another reminder that school finishes at 3.15pm. Please arrive on time to pick up.

We are currently at 95.9%. Let's get closer to our target of 97%!

Please remember that every day really does count.

Here is some useful information from the NHS around 'is my child too ill for school?'

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

