



Watlington Newsletter September 25
2026





Dear Parents and Carers,

The past three weeks have been particularly busy and productive at Watlington Primary School as staff have been working together to develop our new Behaviour Curriculum. This work aims to clearly define the positive behaviours we want all children to demonstrate as they live out our school values of Be Respectful, Be Resilient and Be Responsible.

A Behaviour Curriculum helps us explicitly teach children the positive behaviours, attitudes and habits that will support them to be successful learners, positive members of our school community and, ultimately, responsible citizens. Over the coming months, we will be refining how we teach these behaviours, how we recognise and reward children when they demonstrate them, and how we support children when they are finding things difficult. A key priority is ensuring that our approach is consistent across the school so that children experience the same clear expectations and support as they move between classes and work with different members of staff.

We know that the partnership between home and school is vital. I would encourage all parents and carers to talk with their children about these behaviours at home. Discuss what being respectful, resilient and responsible might look like both in school and at home, and why these qualities are so important for their future success and wellbeing.

Alongside this important work, we have enjoyed another exciting couple of weeks at Watlington. Last week, we held assemblies focusing on Respect and then Rosh Hashanah, helping children to learn about both our shared values and important religious and cultural celebrations. This week, our assemblies have centred on Languages and then Resilience, encouraging pupils to embrace new learning opportunities and persevere when faced with challenges.

At the time of writing, our Languages Day is in full swing. I have just visited every classroom and have been delighted to hear children speaking or signing a range of languages, including French, Italian, Spanish, Punjabi and Makaton. The enthusiasm and confidence shown by our pupils has been wonderful to see. To add to the celebrations, children have also enjoyed croissants as a special second breakfast, helping to bring a taste of European culture into the school day!

Our after-school clubs continue to thrive, providing fantastic opportunities for children to develop their interests and talents. In particular, our choir has been working incredibly hard as they prepare for the Young Voices concert later in the year. We are looking forward to seeing their efforts come together at that event.

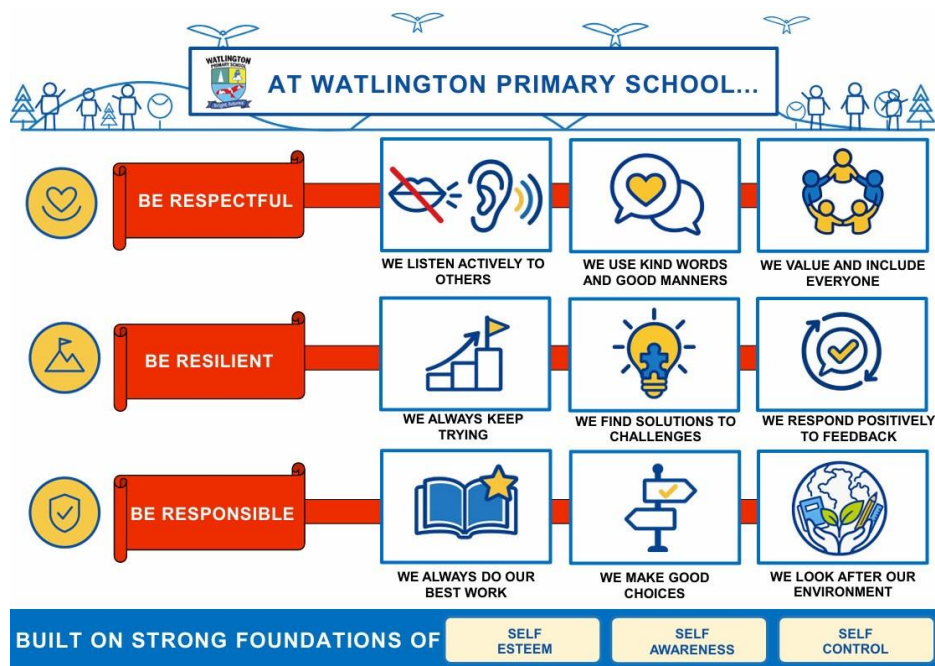
I'm so pleased to have been able to meet many of you over the last few weeks either on the school gates or in school but I'm aware that many parents don't have the same opportunities to meet staff in school due to work or other commitments. We are therefore offering a 'Meet the Headteacher' event on the 13th October at 6pm, in school. This is an opportunity to meet me in person and for me to talk to you about our plans for the school over the next year. To help us assess the level of interest and to plan in terms of logistics, we'd like you to let us know in advance if you would want to attend this event, please [click here](#) to register your interest.

It has certainly been another busy and exciting couple of weeks and I would like to thank all of our children, staff and families for their continued support.

Have a lovely weekend all!

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.

Parking. A reminder to use marked bays only, and to not drive beyond, or block, the wooden gates. The green gates to the rear of Icknield Community College and next to our school site are an **emergency access route**. Please do not park blocking this entrance. This has happened on several occasions recently and presents a significant Health and Safety risk.

Clubs pick up times. Please ensure you arrive on time to collect your child from any clubs they participate in. As a reminder, these are the current clubs finishing times.

Choir **4pm**

WR Sports **4.15pm**

Mindfulness **4.15pm**

Little Masters **4.30pm**

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



The Circus - 1 WEEK TO GO!!

This Saturday morning at the Town Hall we are selling Circus tickets so if you don't have yours yet, swing buy and get yourself a seat in the the Big Top!

Otherwise head online but only a week to go so lets pack it out and invite family, friends, neighbours to this once in a school generation event!!

<https://buytickets.at/watlingtonprimaryschoolpta>

Thank you to the stall volunteers who have stepped up but but we still need more so if you can help, please do let your reps know. Just 30 mins does make a difference and you can do it with your kids too!!

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>

And we are still looking for a new PTA management team - email me on

watlingtonoxonpta@gmail.com

Without them, we will have to close the PTA so please do come forward even just for a chat. Job shares work too so you could team up for all 3 roles.

Parents' Evenings



A reminder that parents' evenings will be held on **Wednesday 21st October** (4.30pm - 7.00pm) and **Thursday 22nd October** (3.30pm - 6.00pm) in the school hall. The booking system will become live on MCAS on **Friday 2nd October at 6.30pm**. More information will follow next week.

Parent Governor Opportunity at Watlington Primary School



Watlington Primary School's Governing Body works collectively to support and challenge the school for the benefit of all. Our success is built around a shared commitment to the school, bringing a blend of different skills and backgrounds.

To support developing the best future for the school, we are actively looking to increase the diversity of our Governing Body to better reflect the school and local communities which it serves.

The Governing Body of the school provides strategic oversight for the school ensuring clarity of direction and holding the Headteacher and leadership team to account for both educational and financial performance.

Parent Governors are elected to the Governing Body for their skills and expertise and can be drawn from any part of the school community. Time commitments include six Full Governing Body meetings per year, which are generally held in the evenings, in addition to a termly link meeting with the associated teacher. We currently have **two** places available for Parent Governors.

For further information on the role of school Governors, please look on the National Association of Governor's website www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor or please contact liam.walsh@acertrust.org.uk , who can arrange for an informal chat with one of our current governors

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email liam.walsh@acertrust.org.uk by **4pm on 1st November** including a brief personal biography and detailing why you would like to become a Governor at Watlington Primary School.

OCC Parent Questionnaire: Moving onto Primary School



Oxfordshire County Council would like to hear about your child's move to primary school.

If your child has started in a Reception class, please take a few minutes to fill in our short survey: [Moving onto Primary School – parent/carers questionnaire](#)

Your answers will help us understand what is going well and what could be better.

We will use your feedback to help nurseries, preschools, childminders, and schools make the move to primary school easier for all children.

Your answers will be anonymous. No one will know what you said.

We will share what we learn with early years providers and schools and use it to improve our transition guidance. This guidance aims to help early years settings and schools support children to settle into primary school smoothly and confidently.

Sarah Paton

Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Advisory Teacher

Day of Languages



Today, we have celebrated our **Day of Languages at Watlington Primary School**, giving children the opportunity to explore and enjoy a range of different languages and forms of communication.

Throughout the morning, the children had a go at learning Spanish, Punjabi, Makaton, Italian and British Sign Language, developing their knowledge of different cultures while discovering new ways to communicate with others. We also started the day with a delicious French breakfast, with every child enjoying a croissant kindly donated by our wonderful PTA.

A huge thank you to our PTA for their generosity and support – without a PTA, opportunities and events like these would be so much harder to put on. It has been a fantastic day of learning, discovery and celebrating the many different ways we can communicate!

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.

Library Bulletin

Our library is looking fantastic and ready to welcome enthusiastic and reluctant readers alike! Children can borrow 2 books for up to 2 weeks at a time, signing them out at the desk and dropping them back with us on return.

We need new volunteers to maintain opening hours—a satisfying, calm role away from the normal demands of life. Email Liz.acaster@gmail.com or speak to Miss Sharman or Mr Gale.

WR Sports half term holiday camps



Please see attached flyer for details of October half term camps offered by WR Sports

Singing Lessons



Group singing lessons are now available at Watlington Primary School through the Oxfordshire Music Hub. Please use the links in the attached flyer for further information from Oxfordshire CC.

Gold Awards



Robins: Vinnie, Aurelia, Max, Evie

Hedgehogs: Frankie, Freddie, Oakley, Cairo, Lorelei

The Nest: Jamie

Bats: Oscar, Molly

Owls: Cora, Arthur, Charlotte, Monty

Foxes: George, Hazel

Badgers: Nate, Rocco, Toby, Lexi

Red Kites: Aiden, Bonnie, Maria, Oliver

Golden Eagles: Roni, Henry

Dates - this section is regularly updated.



- Wednesday 30th September, 4-5pm Early Years Curriculum Evening (details already sent to Reception parents)
- Saturday 3rd October: PTA Circus
- Monday 12th October: Flu immunisations (details to follow)
- Tuesday 13th October: Proposed 'Meet the Headteacher' event at 6pm in school
- 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