

Watlington Newsletter - January 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a great start to the term; pupil behaviour has been excellent, with most pupils wearing full school uniform and demonstrating super attitudes to learning. I have been revisiting the school values in assemblies and have been trying to 'catch the values' when visiting classes.

The Foundation Stage Night Explorers event was great fun, with children arriving in the dark and having the opportunity to do a blindfold trail, hunt for nocturnal animals and hold one of our visiting owls! Thank you to the team for organising and to the PTA for supporting.

The links with Icknield continue to be a highlight of the timetable, including drumming and dance workshops. There are still tickets available to watch the Year 4,5 and 6 dance performance on Monday 5th February at 3.45pm or 5pm. The children have been working hard on this performance, and this is a free event. Thank you for your support.

The reading and phonics workshop was a great opportunity to learn more about how to support your children to make great progress in reading. I hope you found it informative and will use the tips to support your children with reading at home. Thank you to the team for organising and providing a creche.

A huge congratulations goes to Isabelle, Oliver, Orlaith, Mimi and Albie for being the winners of our Watlington Christmas Reading challenge! I will be handing out certificates, books and prizes on Monday.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

GOLDS!

Owls: Rufus, Otis, Bonnie and Harry

Badgers: Freddie, Orlaith and Lettie

Hedgehogs: Freya-Rose, Cianan, Luke, Miller, Reuben, Hazel, George C, Hugo and Jonah

Home Learning Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who provided their opinions on home learning. Please see the attached letter for results.

“Dress to Express” for Children’s Mental Health Week Thursday 9th February

We are writing to let you know that we are taking part in Place2Be’s Children’s Mental Health Week and fundraising to support the mental health of children and young people throughout the UK - a cause we feel is now more important than ever.

Children’s Mental Health Week is taking place throughout the week of 5-11th February and is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on and raise awareness for children and young people’s mental health. This year’s theme is **“My Voice Matters”**.

Place2Be believe every child should have easy access to mental health support whenever they need it. They create safe spaces in schools where students can open up without pressure, arming them with emotional skills to help deal with everything life throws at them. As a charity, Place2Be rely heavily on the generosity and support of the community to continue their essential work in the future and to reach children before it’s too late.

“Dress to Express”

As a school community, we will be encouraging all children and staff to use clothing and colour to express themselves on a non-uniform day which will be held on **Thursday 8th February**. We also kindly ask that all children who take part make a suggested £2 donation to Place2Be, online here¹.

Your child/children's "Dress to Express" outfit can be as simple or elaborate as they like! "Dress To Express" is an opportunity for self-expression and celebrating a diverse range of emotions. This could be sharing their favourite hobby, such as skateboarding or dancing, or wearing their favourite colour or accessory. Or it could just be coming in as themselves.

The whole week provides a great opportunity to be open about mental health and start conversations within our school community.

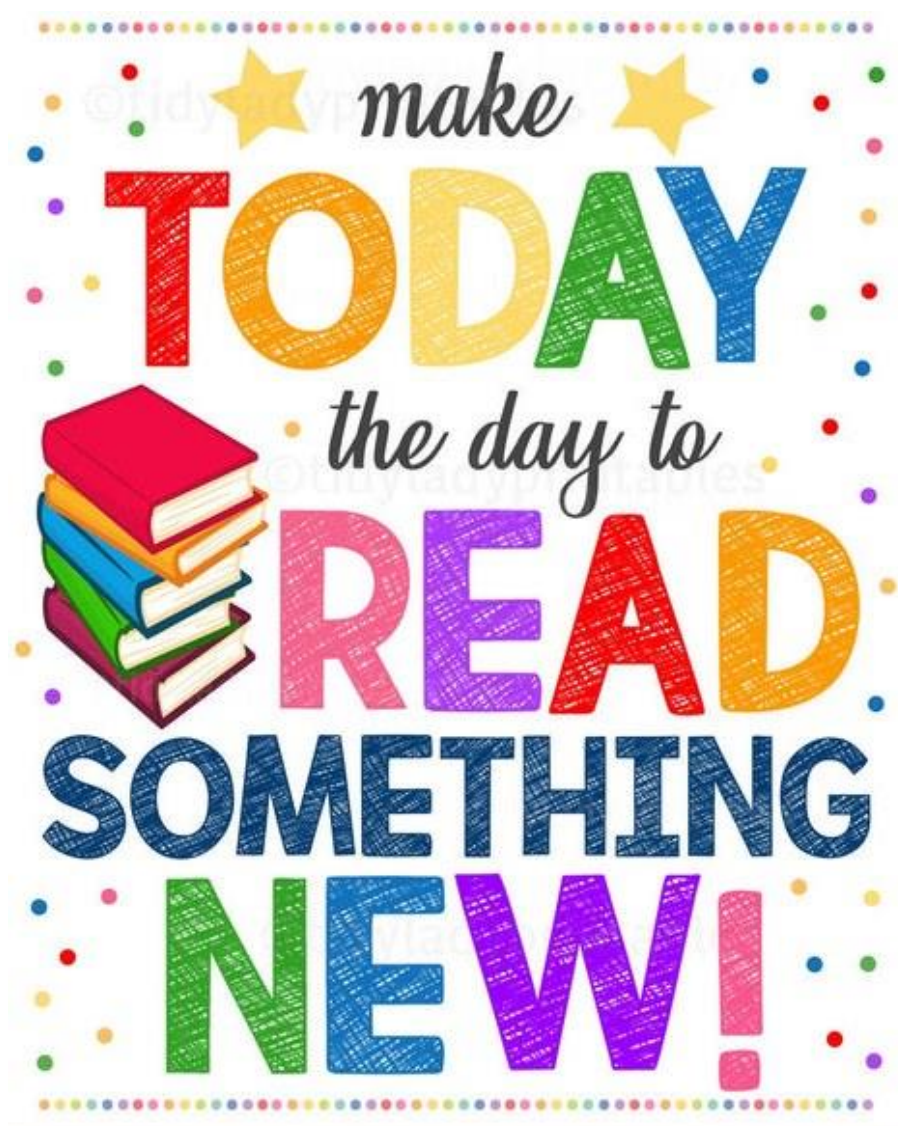
Kind regards,

Clem, Lucas, Olivia, Niamh, Katie, Anna and Phoebe

Watlington Primary School Council

¹https://www.justgiving.com/page/watlington-primary-school-1706250031626?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwatlington-primary-school-1706250031626&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Library Update



It's been a busy start to the school term with the children borrowing lots of books for class reading!

As I'm sure you are all aware, without your donations and help with school fundraising, we wouldn't be able to keep the library updated and relevant.

Look out for details regarding the next book sale which will be held in the school playground. All proceeds from the sale go directly back into much needed funding for new library books.

Here is the link to the recently updated children's 'Wish List' - select 'unpurchased items'.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3OV8WH7TKOHZZ?ref=wl_share

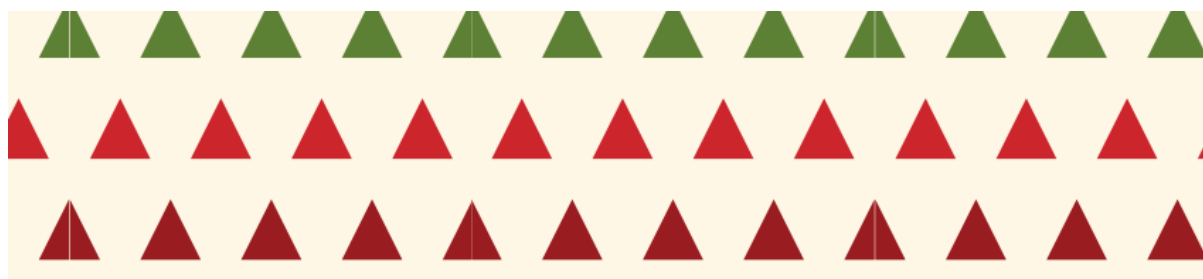
Donations of these books can be left in the box by the school office. Of course books from other sources are most welcome!

Thank you!

The Library team

(Sunny, Ellen, Kate, Helen B, Liz, Helen T, Maria and Claire)

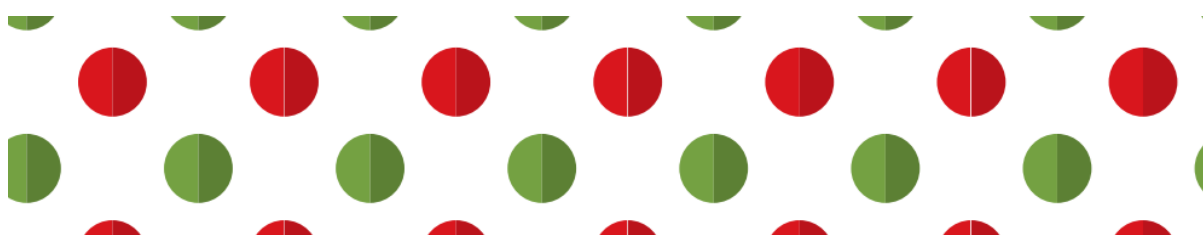
Dates



- Friday 26th January, 2.30pm (Years 1 - 6): Whole school assembly
- Thursday 1st February: Badgers class trip to Oxford Castle
- Saturday 3rd February: Shiplake College cross country (years 1-6)
- Sunday 4th February, 10am: PTA gardening club
- Monday 5th - Friday 9th February: Mental Health week
- Monday 5th February: Dance performance (**Years 4-6**) at Icknield (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 5th and Weds 6th February (Nursery - Year 6): Parents' evenings
- Friday 9th February: KS1 trip to Science museum
- Friday 9th February (Badgers parents only): Badgers class assembly
- Friday 9th February: Break up for half term at 3pm (nursery) and 3.15pm (Reception to 6)
- Term 4 starts on Monday 19th February

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



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/>

