

# Watlington Newsletter - January 1



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a well deserved rest over the holidays and are refreshed ready for 2024!

On behalf of myself and the whole staff, thank you for the kind Christmas gifts, although not expected, they are very much appreciated.

Some general reminders:

- Ensure that your child has suitable clothing for the weather. A fleece is not a coat! This includes, hats, gloves and wellies when needed. As always, do ensure that all items are clearly labelled. Also, make the most of our PTA second hand sales.

- Check your class newsletter to find out when your child's PE days are. Your child should wear PE kit on that day. If the day is muddy, please provide additional clothing to change into after the lesson (PE kit or school uniform).
- Your child should be wearing full school uniform.
- Continue to support your child/ren with home learning. We are currently in the process of collating the home learning survey results.
- We have had an increasing number of children arriving late - please ensure you arrive before the gate closes.
- Please ensure you arrive on time to collect your children, including for clubs.

Let's have a great term.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

## 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:

### *Dreams and Goals*

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](mailto:admin.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk)) and we can arrange this for you.

## How to support your children with phonics and reading



The number of attendees for these workshops are currently very low. Please complete the form below to confirm attendance.

We will review the numbers on Monday to decide whether we will go ahead.

**Where?** In Bat's and Owl's classrooms

**When?** Wednesday 24th January

**Time?** 5-5.45pm

We are running 2 sessions, which will run simultaneously.

There will be time to ask questions.

What will I find out?

- How we teach phonics, from the very start.
- How children learn to read.
- How to help a reluctant reader.
- How to make reading, writing and spelling fun.
- How far a positive early start can take you!

### **Workshop 1**

Mrs Eltham and Mrs Tanner

Phonics and Reading in Nursery, Reception and Year 1

## **Workshop 2**

Miss Sharman and Mrs Flynn

Spelling and Reading in Year 2 and beyond

### **Creche available on request**

In order to run this event we need a minimum number of parents and carers to attend. Please confirm your attendance on the following online form.

Many thanks for your support.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdh3RKeFezi3FCynIW0xmn8p\\_VNL0fcdigZywu3PfUnnFolQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdh3RKeFezi3FCynIW0xmn8p_VNL0fcdigZywu3PfUnnFolQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Uniform

As we start a new term, please ensure that uniform standards are kept high.

Thank you to the majority of families who support our uniform policy.

Our uniform expectations are based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- fosters a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- sets a high standard of appearance for all, whilst clothing pupils in practical, cost-effective school wear.

**We will be contacting you directly if your child is not wearing the correct uniform.**

As always, if you need support, please contact us directly. We can help.

## Sports



**SHIPLAKE COLLEGE**  
HENLEY-ON-THAMES

### Schools' Cross-Country Competition

**Saturday 3 February 2024**

Runners from **any** primary/prep school welcome, no pre-registration required.  
First race 9.00am. Last race 10.15am. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your child's race starts.  
Marjorie's Café open from 8.30am.  
New Field, Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 4BW  
[www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry](http://www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry)

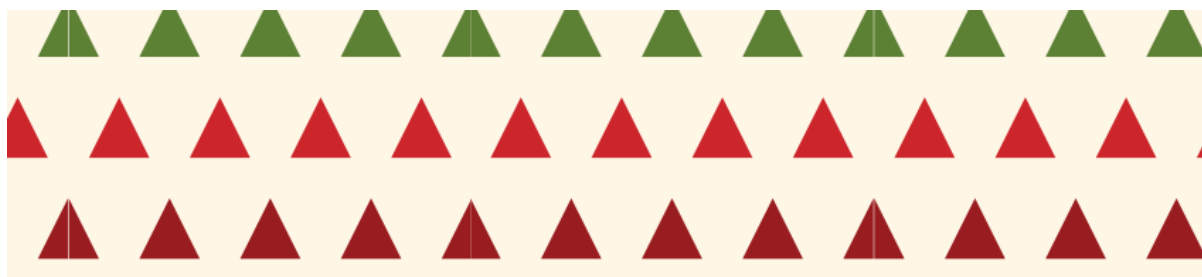
We are looking forward to our sports events this year including more external tournaments and inter school events.

In addition, Shiplake College are hosting their annual cross-country competition on Saturday 3 February . This is where boys and girls in Years 1 to 6 from any school are invited to take part in the Cross-Country Competition.

No pre-registration required (please arrive 15 minutes before race time). The first race (Year 1 boys) is at 9.00am, with the final race (Year 6 girls) at 10.15am. A full break down of race times and distances is at [www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry](http://www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry). Hot drinks and refreshments will be available to purchase from 8.30am.

Please let Mrs Sterjo or Miss Harman know if your child will be attending.

## Dates

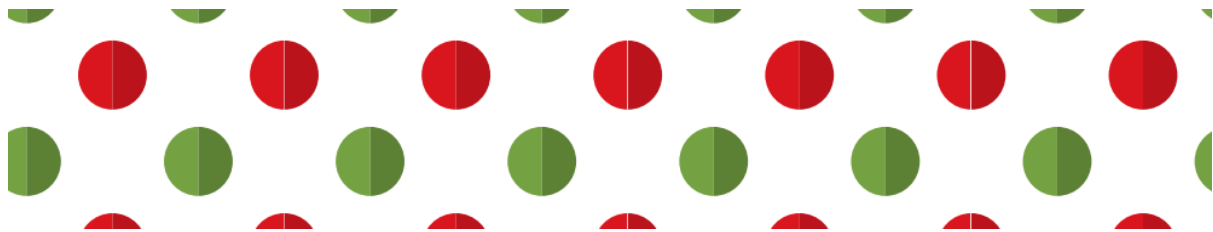


- Tuesday 16th January, 4.30pm: EY Night Explorers (more details to follow)
- Wednesday 24th January, 5-5.45pm (FS and KS1): Reading and phonics workshops, with creche available
- Friday 26th January, 2.30pm (Years 1 - 6): Whole school assembly

- Thursday 1st February: Badgers class trip to Oxford Castle
- Sunday 4th February, 10am: PTA gardening club
- Monday 5th - Friday 9th February: Mental Health week
- Monday 5th February: Dance performance (Years 3-6) at Icknield (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 5th and Weds 6th February (Nursery - Year 6): Parents' evenings (more details to follow)
- Friday 9th February: KS1 trip to Science museum (more details to follow)
- 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 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Red Kites	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Badgers	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Foxes	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024
Owls	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024
Bats	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Hedgehogs	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024

## Attendance



**We are currently at 95.8%.**

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/>



## E-Scooter and Hoverboard safety

Some children (or their older siblings) may have been given an e scooter, hoverboard or other electronic means of transport for Christmas. These devices are the cause of many injuries that are being seen in hospital A&E Departments.

Do you know the rules around e-scooters and hoverboards?

- It is illegal to ride a privately owned e scooter on the public road, cycle path, pavement or in public spaces.
- You can ride a **rented** e-scooter on the road or cycle path but you **must** have a provisional or full driving licence.
- You can only ride a hoverboard in your house or garden or on private property with permission. It is illegal to ride one on the public road, cycle path, pavement or in public spaces.



