

Watlington Newsletter - December 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

This fortnight has been action packed with lots of super opportunities for the children. All pupils have been able to watch live theatre performances, including The Gingerbread Man, Jack and the Beanstalk and A Christmas Carol. The feedback has been extremely positive, thank you to Mr Gale for organising the theatre trips.

The Foundation Stage Nativity (including glitter cannon) was fantastic, with not a dry eye in the house! Once again a huge well done to the team, in particular Mrs Tanner and Mrs Hanger for getting the best from our Robins and Hedgehogs.

The Santa fly past (which was delayed) was enjoyed by all - thank you to Father Christmas for sparing the time to say hello.

Red Kites taught us about the Anglo Saxons in their class assembly, including a quiz. It ended in two festive ukulele performances which were brilliant.

Thank you to the staff for another excellent term of high quality learning and rich opportunities for the children. The hard work and effort from the whole team is very much appreciated.

There are so many individuals to say thank you to (see below) but there is one person in particular who needs a special thank you today. Amy Williams has been an exceptional Chair of the PTA for a number of years. During that time she has done a fantastic job fundraising for the school, including summer fetes, Halloween events, wreath making, cinema nights and so much more. She has been a dream to work with; she's focused, organised and extremely generous with her time, as well as keeping calm when under pressure! On behalf of the Watlington Community, thank you so much for everything you have done to support the school.

As Amy is stepping back from the PTA in January, we are on the search for a new Chair. We are looking for someone who is able to delegate and motivate, as well as work with the school to raise funds. Do get in touch if you are interested or would like to discuss the role further.

While this time of year is about joy and festivities, we recognise that there are a number of pressures on families. Please remember that if you are facing challenges, we may be able to help. This could be helping with finances, supporting you and your family through difficulties, or even having a cup of tea and a chat to talk things through.

Click [here](#) to read the PTA newsletter.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo







Wear your Christmas jumper and help your local community!

This year, we decided not to raise money for Children in Need or Save the Children as we will be supporting our local community with food parcels. So in exchange for wearing a Christmas Jumper on Friday 15th December, we are asking for a food donation.

When? Friday 15th December

What do I do? Wear your Christmas jumper and bring food donation in to school. Food parcels will be made available to any local families in need, with the rest being donated to a local food bank.

What can I bring in?

- *UHT milk*
- *Tinned meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc.)*
- *Tinned fish*
- *Tinned fruit*
- *Sponge/rice puddings*
- *Coffee (small jars)*
- *Long-life juice*
- *Pasta sauce*
- *Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)*

- *Tinned meals (spaghetti, chicken or veg curries, chilli)*
- *Tinned soup*
- *Jam and spreads*
- *Children's lunchbox items (crisps or snacks)*

...Anything that is unopened and within its best-before date!

Speak to School Council for more information!

Thank yous



PTA: Amy, Helen, Justine, Christina, Ellen, Stephanie, Pippa, Claire, Charlotte, Nina, Jennie, Alexandra, Vanessa and Mark, Susie and Sophie

Library volunteers: Sunny, Helen, Liz, Kate, Helen and Claire

Focaccia Fridays: Ellen and Claire

Volunteers: to all the volunteer readers, and to those running clubs, including the choir

Thank you for being so super to work with and giving your time to support our school.



1 - ACER Trust competition winner!

A huge congratulations goes to James Shields for being one of the winners in the ACER Trust Christmas card competition!

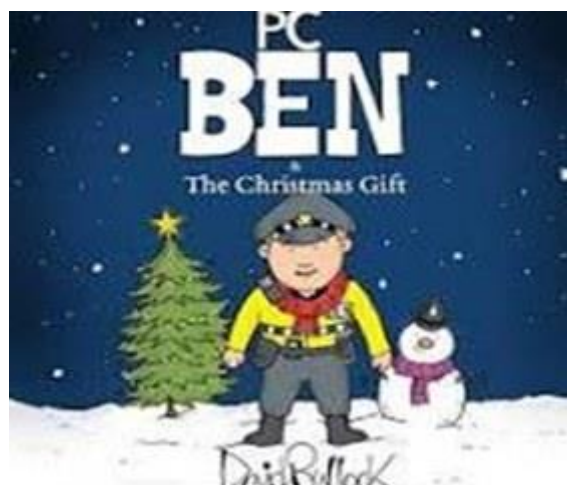
Christmas Reading Bingo Challenge! **ATTACH CHALLENGE**



We are encouraging all the children to keep reading over the Christmas break with our reading Bingo Challenge! Every completed entry will be entered into a raffle to win prizes! Entries to be handed in by Friday 12th January.

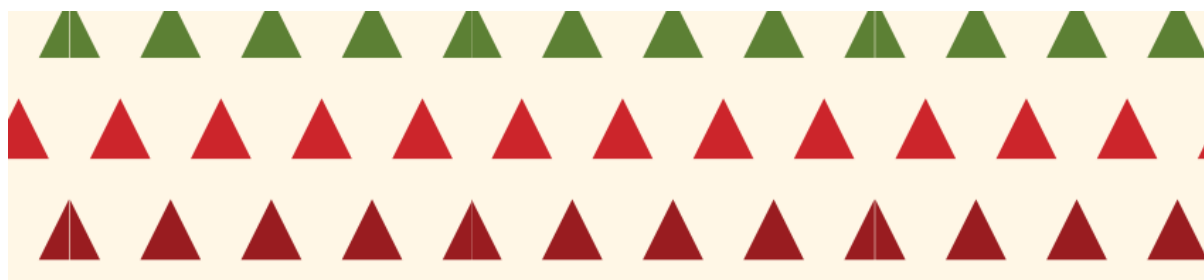
1. Complete each challenge on the grid and get a parent or grown up to sign when you have completed each one.
2. Bring back your completed sheet after the Christmas break in exchange for a raffle ticket to win prizes.

PC Ben Christmas message



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1UDODcy_Ys

Dates



- Tuesday 19th December: Foundation Stage Christmas party
- Wednesday 20th December: Term ends at 1.15pm (all year groups)
- **SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday 24th January at 5-5.45pm, Two workshops: Phonics and , Reading and Spelling (Foundation Stage to Year 2) with a creche included. More details to follow. We need a minimum of ten parents to go ahead.**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!

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 96.1%. We are slightly lower than our target due to lots of illness. I am sure this will improve with a well deserved rest!

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/>



[Golds \(click here to see who has achieved gold this term\)](#)



Robins: ALL OF ROBINS FOR AN AMAZING NATIVITY!

Essy

Hedgehogs: ALL OF HEDGEHOGS FOR AN AMAZING NATIVITY!

Tess, Orion, Joss, Cianan, George C, Rigby, Jenny, Bella, Samuel

Owls: Megan, Amelia, Rufus and Lucas

Golden Eagles: Lee and George

Badger: James S and Madeleine

Bats: Nate, Lola, Esther, Theo, Eliza, Peter, Charlie and Wills