

# Watlington Newsletter - December 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the first of December, Christmas is coming and the glitter and tinsel are out!

There have already been a range of festive events including:

- The bauble making workshop, led by Alex Browne. Each child painted a ceramic bauble and coaster and enjoyed a sweet treat. Thank you to Alex and her family for organising.
- The quiz night was a great success with over £1100 raised towards our pond project. It involved a range of rounds, a conga and raffle! Thank you to Mr and Mrs Naber for hosting.
- The choir performed at The Big Christmas Sing, Oxford yesterday. They sang as part of a massed choir, took part in a huge rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas and performed Believe, from The Polar Express. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Fox and her band of merry

volunteers for leading the choir, and Mrs Tanner for organising the logistics around the event.

- Foundation Stage loved the live theatre performance of 'The Gingerbread Man'. We value the importance of pupils experiencing live theatre and are so pleased that they loved it!

While we want to enjoy the merriment, we also know that this time of year the children are tired, often full of coughs and colds, and the excitement is fizzing! Please work with us to ensure bedtimes are reasonable and that you keep us informed if they are wobbly.

Finally, our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (SRE) policy has been finalised. For more details, please click [here](#).

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

## Uniform

Thank you to the majority of families who support our uniform policy. Just a friendly reminder that we have noticed a lapse in standards recently and so are writing to ask for your continued support. Also to point out that our approach is affordable, relaxed and practical.

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.

## Wear your Christmas jumper and help your local community!

**Written by Clem and Lucas. 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!

## Home Learning Feedback

This year we are reviewing our home learning policy. Click [here](#) to have your say.

## Sports



Sports Captains have been busy this term supporting classes with PE lessons, modelling good sportsmanship and teamwork. Well done!

## Swimming Lesson Support



Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire are currently offering a discount code for Swimming Lessons. They recognise that children are currently needing more support than ever before to learn to swim and are keen to help.

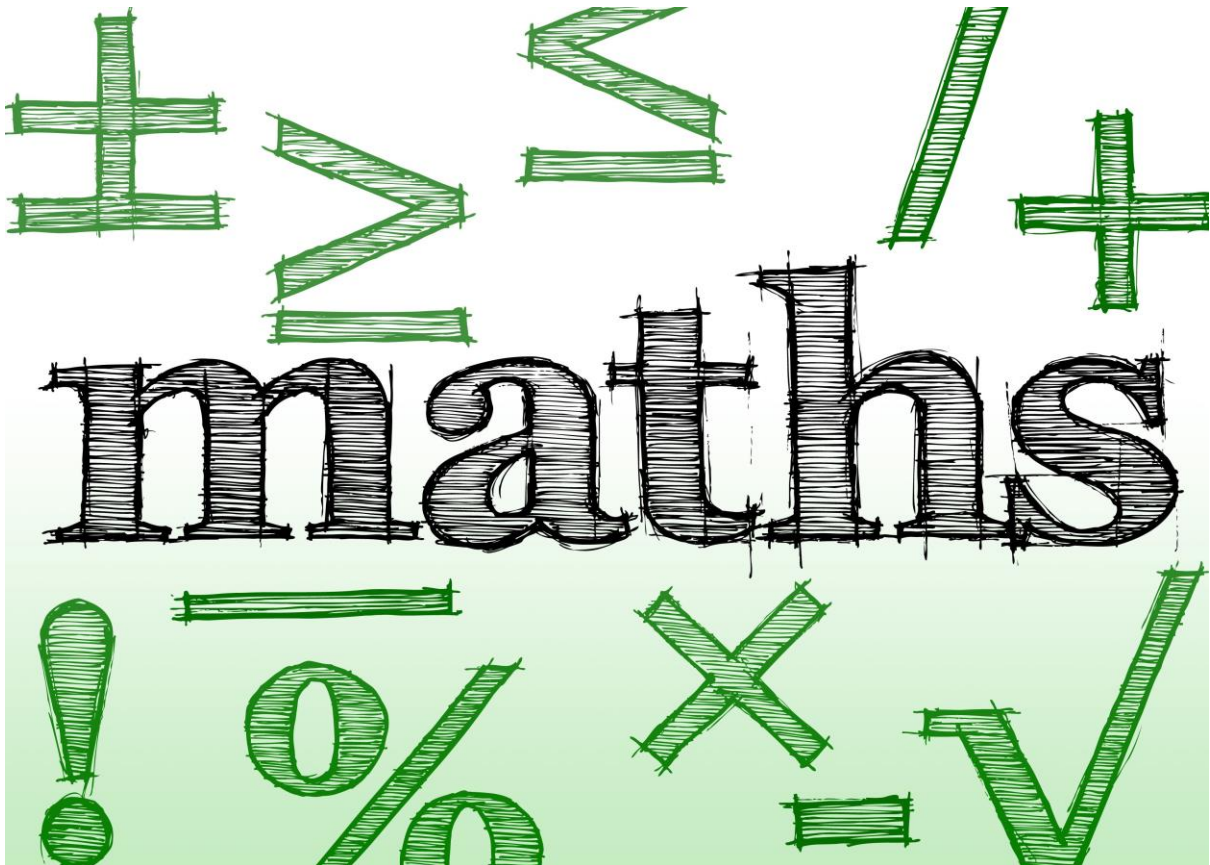
If you are interested in signing your child/ren up for lessons, follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.better.org.uk/what-we-offer/lessons-and-courses>

The discount code: TREAT25 will give 25% off the cost of signing up for swimming lessons at any of these centres:

Faringdon, Wantage, Henley Leisure Centre, Thame Leisure Centre, Abbey Sports Centre Berinsfield

## Making Maths Fun



Quest for Learning are offering an online maths workshop for parents. The online LIVE workshop is for parents and carers of primary age children and is designed to help you to support your child on their maths journey.

Click [here](#) for more information.



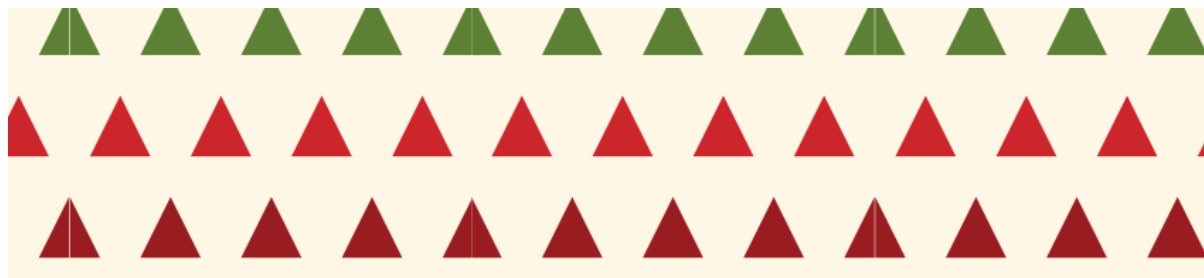
## Big Ambition Survey



The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

### Dates

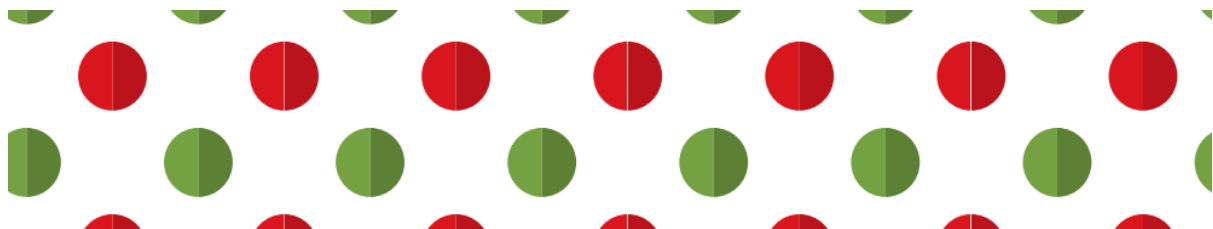


- Friday 1st December: 6.30-8.30pm, PTA wreath making event
- Saturday 2nd December: PTA at the Watlington Fair
- Wednesday 6th December: Years 1-3 theatre trip (Jack and the Beanstalk)

- **Friday 8th December: 2.30pm, Red Kites class assembly, with Golden Eagles playing ukuleles (Red Kites and Golden Eagles parents invited)**
- Monday 11th - Last day for choir practice and Christmas club
- Wednesday 13th December: Foundation Stage Nativity (9.15am)
- Wednesday 13th December: Year 4-6 theatre trip (A Christmas Carol)
- Wednesday 13th December: 5.30pm, Christmas Church service (Years 1-5 taking part, with Year 6 leading) everyone welcome.
- Thursday 14th December: PTA Christmas discos (Year 1 to Year 6)
- Friday 15th December: Christmas jumper and festive lunch day
- Tuesday 19th December: Foundation Stage Christmas party
- Wednesday 20th December: Term ends at 1.15pm (all year groups)

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 96.2%.** We are slightly lower than our target.

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/>



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



Robins: Essy

Hedgehogs: James, Jonah, Samuel, George and Luna

Owls: Kit, Hector, Amelia and Megan



## PTA Update



Thank you everyone who has donated prizes for the stall at the Watlington Christmas fair tomorrow - we now have plenty for our lucky dip and other games, including 'Guess where Santa is now' with a prize donated by Tutu delicious. Please bring your children on Saturday morning and if you possibly can consider signing up for just one hour to help at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/> - we have several volunteers already, but one more for each timeslot would be perfect!

We are running a pre-loved uniform and Christmas jumpers sale after school on Wednesday 13th Dec - in time for school Christmas jumper day on 15th. Please donate last year's Christmas jumper - pop it in the box labelled 'Christmas fair donations' in school reception, thank you!

And remember to buy your child's ticket for the school Christmas disco on Thursday 14th - if you cannot afford to pay for a ticket don't let your child miss out - sign up for a free PTA funded one at the same place <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/>