

Watlington Newsletter - November 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is already action packed with lots of enriching experiences for our pupils. Excuse the long newsletter but there is lots to share this fortnight.

Our catering company (Caterlink) ran a smoothie making session with Red Kites (Year 5), where they tasted a range of fruits and vegetables to create unusual smoothie combinations, including beetroot, passion fruit and guava.

Anti bullying week was launched with a whole school assembly and all classes have joined in with activities to raise the profile of anti bullying and to 'make a noise' to stop bullies. There is more information on our website on how to talk with your children about bullying. [The Anti Bullying Alliance](#) also have lots of useful resources for parents.

Remembrance was marked in school with two whole school assemblies and lots of activities to teach children about the importance of remembering those who died in wars around the world. On Sunday Eddie M (year 1) and Sasha L (year 6) joined me to lay the wreath at the memorial service. They did a wonderful job representing our school - thank you to them both.

Dressing for the weather! Please make sure your child has a coat (NAMED) in school every day.

Pre loved sales are up and running - please do utilise this service as we are very keen to recycle and re-use the donated clothing.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Consultation

Thank you to those who responded to our parent consultation last term, about our Relationships, Sex and Health Education policy and curriculum. The responses were very positive and are now helping to inform us of any our strengths of our provision here at school, as well as adaptations we need to make to meet our pupils' needs. The main outcomes are summarised below, along with some positive comments received from respondents:

- 93% agree or strongly agree that RSHE topics taught in school can make a real difference to young people's lives
- 88% agree or strongly agree that they feel confident to talk to the child about sex and relationships
- 93% agree or strongly agree with the content of the RSHE policy.
- 93% agree or strongly agree that they are aware of the topics that will be covered within RSHE lessons
- 81% agree that our current RSHE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their age, physical and emotional maturity, religious beliefs and special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Parent comments:

"I have trust in the school the content is relevant."

"(The curriculum) is progressively expanded upon in line with the children's development. It is really important for us as a society to be open and normalise these discussions. It helps to reduce secrecy, which is when children (or anyone) are more likely to find themselves in difficult situations. It also helps children to understand that this is a normal part of life and not something to be ashamed of or afraid to discuss and explore."

"Children need to know these facts to grow confidently and respectfully towards others into their adulthood."

"I think it covers a good range and in an age appropriate way."

"Children ask for detailed answers to questions at such a young age I think it's important that they are answered and educated at home and at school as much as possible when it comes to this topic."

Even yesterday my son was asking how babies were made and although for some it might seem a lot to answer, I believe it's very important to and to not feel shame or embarrassment around the topic."

Next steps:

We are currently in the process of updating our policy, based on your feedback and will share this with you once it has been finalised.

Furthermore, a small number of parents commented on how they would like to know more about what is being delivered in Jigsaw lessons on a term-by-term basis, so that they can prepare themselves for any conversations their children may wish to have with them. As a result, we now have access to a 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.

Sports



Our All Stars cricket sessions have started for Years 1 -4 who will be having a weekly cricket lesson this term.

Sports clubs on offer at the moment include athletics led by Miss Sharman, rugby, led by Tom Varndell (English Rugby Union player) and, gymnastics and football led by WR sports. To sign up to one of the clubs, please email admin.2459@watlington.oxon.sch.uk.

Great news as we won the rugby tournament! A huge well done to everyone involved and to Miss Harman for organising.

- Look out for our next tournaments: netball tournament at Icknield, football and cross country at the Oratory.

Here is the rugby report written by our red house captains, Calum and Margot:

On Monday, Watlington Primary School took part in a tag rugby tournament in Chalgrove. We came out on top out of all four schools and won the whole thing! The other schools were Lewknor, RAF Benson and Chalgrove. 10 students went to the tournament: Calum, Margot, Archie, Oliver, Griff, Ben C, Abbey, Maddie, Lucas and Dougie as well as Miss Harman and Mrs Sterjo. Our four best abilities that we showed were teamwork, speed, respect and sportsmanship. It was a really fun experience and we learnt a lot!

Oxfordshire Book Awards



We are fortunate enough to be part of the Oxfordshire Book Awards. This celebrates current books and authors aimed at primary and secondary pupils. Each year, the school receives a set of the shortlisted books for the awards and the children read, review and vote on their favourites. These votes are added to other schools across the county and it culminates in a ceremony to celebrate the winning authors.

This year a group of year 5 and 6 pupils had the opportunity to attend the event that took place at Magdalen College School in Oxford. They listened to some excellent speeches from the authors that included: an illustration workshop; quizzes; golden ticket competition; lots of jokes; anecdotes; extract readings and even a virtual escape room! Everyone was inspired to try reading some different genres and authors.

Some comments from the pupils:

“It inspired me to enjoy more picture books.”

“I really liked the story by an author about his own experiences playing rugby at school.”

“I liked how an author read the start of one of her books all about fish and chips!”

“I loved learning how to draw the characters from one of the books. The author even used to be a musician!”

LIBRARY NEWS

As ever, we thank you for your continuing generosity in book donations to both the KS1 & KS2 libraries.

This term we've received lots of wonderful second hand books and also some fantastic 'new' books, bought from our school Amazon Wish List.

A big shout out to the Woolf family for their continued support and generosity with library Wish List donations.

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.

Look out for details regarding the next fundraising book sale which will be held in the school playground.

Thanks again, without your donations and help with school fundraising, we wouldn't be able to keep the library updated and relevant.

The Library team

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

School Lunches

To have your say about school lunches, please follow the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G9VWNSR>

Parking

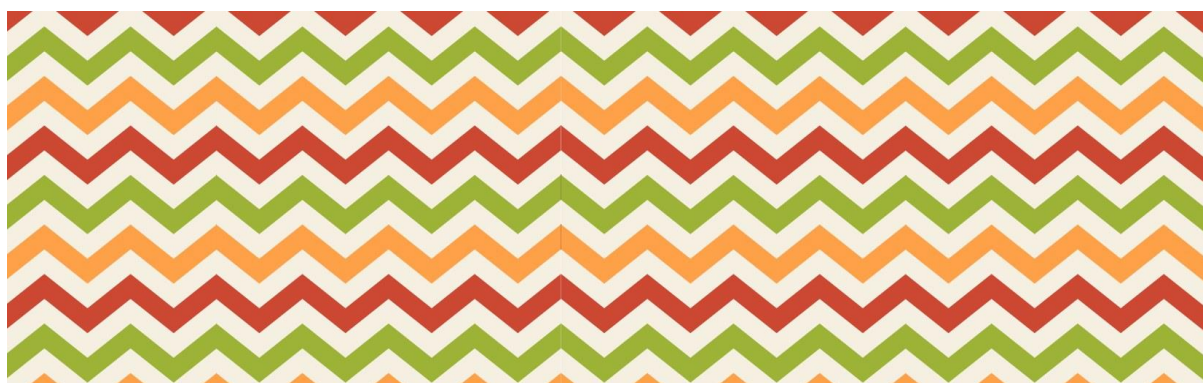


It's that time of year where more of the community are using their cars. Recently, we have had increased congestion through the main entrance, blocking the Icknield buses. Please be mindful about blocking the traffic, do not park on the grass, and do consider parking in the local car parks and/ or walking to prevent the number of vehicles on site.

If you are dropping off or collecting from WASPS please make sure you park in one of the bays. Do not come through the wooden gates or block staff cars in.

Please also be respectful about parking in the disabled bays. We do have families who need the spaces clear for pick up and drop off times. Thank you.

Dates



- Friday 17th November: 2.30pm, Golden Eagles class assembly (Golden Eagles parents only)

- Monday 20th November: PTA bauble painting event
- Tuesday 21st November: 5-6pm, Foundation Stage open evening for new parents
- Friday 24th November: 7.30-10.30, PTA quiz night
- Wednesday 29th November: Foundation Stage theatre visit (in school) (The Gingerbread Man)
- Thursday 30th November: Big Christmas Sing, Oxford (choir only)
- Friday 1st December: 7-9pm, 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 (Red Kites parents only)
- 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 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 96.8%. 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: Sienna and William

Hedgehogs: Jonah and James

Owls: Maria and Jack

Badgers: Albie, Matilda, Cecilia and Ella

PTA Update

If you haven't done so already, check out the PTA November newsletter in which you will find the details of the financial AGM, news on the upcoming PTA events and a summary of our open PTA positions, as well as the regular

features: <https://watlingtonoxonpta.blogspot.com/2023/11/november-2023.html>

Don't forget to book your slot for our beautiful bauble workshop on Monday 20th November, your table for the PTA quiz Friday 24th November (there will be two teacher teams to beat!), and your place at the wreath making workshop (Friday 1st December).

In the meantime, we also have a call for volunteers: the PTA will have a stall at the Watlington Christmas Fair on Sat 2nd Dec with lots of fun games! If you can help for an hour on the day, please sign-up on <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/watlingtonoxonpta/> or alternatively you can help by donating a prize - bottles of wine, small toys for the lucky dip or wrapped sweets. Please leave any donations of prizes in the box in reception, thank you!