



# The Canopy

Together under one canopy of greatness.



# Welcome to The Canopy

- ▶ Welcome to our half-termly newsletter! At Watlington, we're proud to grow together under one canopy – a community where every child is nurtured to reach their full potential. Here's a glimpse of what we've been learning, achieving, and celebrating this term.



## Growing Greatness at Watlington

- ▶ Last half term, we explored what greatness means! Each week, we focused on a different word – **kindness, adaptability, creativity, and dependability** – thinking about how we can show these in school and at home.
- ▶ At the end of each week, we celebrated the children who had shown these qualities in our **assembly**, just like leaves growing on a tree. Each small act of greatness adds to our school's canopy, inspiring and supporting everyone in our community.
- ▶ We're so proud of how our children are **growing their greatness** and can't wait to see it flourish even more this term!

# Bikeability

- ▶ Last half term, our Year 5 children took part in **Bikeability**, learning essential cycling skills and how to stay safe on the road. From mastering balance and control to understanding road rules, the children showed great focus, confidence, and determination – key skills that will help them grow as independent, responsible cyclists.
- ▶ It was wonderful to see our learners putting their new skills into practice and supporting one another, showing that safety and teamwork go hand in hand. Well done to all our Year 5 cyclists!



# Year 1 Active Kids


- ▶ Our Year 1 children had a fantastic time at **LynnSport**, taking part in fun activities designed to develop their sporting skills alongside children from other schools. They threw themselves into the games with energy and enthusiasm, showing great teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence.
- ▶ It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves so much – and behaving beautifully throughout the day. **Mrs Southon was so proud** of their efforts and achievements!



# Harvest Festival

- ▶ Our **Harvest Festival** was a truly special celebration, with the church packed with parents supporting the event and donating generously to the **food bank**. It was wonderful to see the children stepping up with confidence, reading and singing beautifully, and sharing their learning with the whole community.
- ▶ We are so grateful for everyone's support – it was such a lovely experience to bring our school and village community together in celebration and thanks.





## Developing our team, nurturing your children!

- ▶ Last term, our staff have taken part in a wide range of training to ensure we bring the very best for our children. This includes **writing and humanities teaching, EYFS development, leadership and positive behaviour management, paediatric first aid, and essential safeguarding updates**, including DSL and SCR training.
- ▶ We share what we learn across the team, so every child benefits from the combined expertise, skills, and care of our staff.

# Dates for this half term

## (Please check class dojo for updates)

- ▶ **Tuesday 4th November:** Year 4 *Inside Out* visit, followed by parent information session after school
- ▶ **Wednesday 5th November:** Special lunch day for Bonfire Night
- ▶ **Monday 10th November:** New Reception children (September 2026 intake) – Stay & Play
- ▶ **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** Redwood (Year 2) Showcase
- ▶ **10th–14th November:** Anti-Bullying Week
- ▶ **Tuesday 10th November:** Odd Sock Day & special menu
- ▶ **Thursday 14th November:** Children in Need non-uniform day
- ▶ **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November:** Walnuts (Year 1) Showcase
- ▶ **Thursday 20th November:** New Reception children (September 2026 intake) – Stay & Play
- ▶ **Wednesday 20th November:** Flu immunisations
- ▶ **24th November:** Parliament Week
- ▶ **25th/26th November:** Parents evenings
- ▶ **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November:** Chestnuts (Reception) Showcase
- ▶ **Thursday 4th December:** PTA Christmas Fair
- ▶ **Tuesday 9th December:** Rocksteady Performance
- ▶ **Thursday 11th December:** School Disco
- ▶ **Monday 15th December:** Years 1–6 to the Panto
- ▶ **Monday 15th December:** New Reception children (September 2026 intake) – Stay & Play
- ▶ **Tuesday 16th December:** KS1 Nativity
- ▶ **Wednesday 17th December:** KS1 Nativity
- ▶ **Tuesday 16th December:** KS2 Christmas Performance in the church (tbc)
- ▶ **Wednesday 18th December:** Christmas Dinner
- ▶ **Thursday 19th December:** Christmas Jumper Day & last day of term



# Swimming

- ▶ We've made a small change to Year 3 swimming: children will now swim **once a week on Mondays**. We've decided to cancel the Wednesday session because we found that double swimming each week was a bit disruptive to the timetable.
- ▶ We still think it's **vital that every child learns to swim**, and this change ensures they can continue to develop their skills while keeping the rest of their learning on track. A big thank you to our Year 4 children who tried the double sessions – your effort was brilliant, but one weekly session is the best fit for Year 3!

# Clubs

- ▶ **Breakfast Club** runs daily from **7:45am** – a great way for children to start the day with friends and a healthy breakfast.
- ▶ After school, we offer a variety of clubs including **Lego, craft, and sports**, all available to book through the **Arbor app**. To help us plan, we kindly ask that you **book your child's place at least a month in advance**.





# School uniform reminder

- ▶ **School Uniform**
- ▶ Red sweatshirt or cardigan, with or without the school label
- ▶ White or red polo shirt
- ▶ Black or grey trousers, shorts, pinafore, or knee-length skirt
- ▶ Black or grey tights
- ▶ Black school shoes
- ▶ **PE Kit**
- ▶ Black shorts (not cycling shorts)
- ▶ Black tracksuit without logos
- ▶ White or red T-shirt (no logos or football shirts)
- ▶ Trainers
- ▶ **Please note:** PE kit trousers should be **traditional cotton jogging-style bottoms**, not skin-tight Lycra or leggings.
  
- ▶ Long hair should be neatly tied back please

# Calling all children for Reception 2026

- ▶ If you have a little person who will be starting school in **September 2026**, come along and explore our **Reception classroom** – completely free and with no obligation.
- ▶ We know this is such an exciting and important moment in your child's life, so we'd love to give you the chance to enjoy **a little Watlington experience!**

We'll be welcoming families into school from **3:30–4:30pm** on:

- ▶ **10th November**
- ▶ **20th November**
- ▶ **15th December**
- ▶ Please help us **spread the word** – everyone is welcome! 🌟



# A message from Miss Woodrow

- ▶ I just want to say a huge **thank you** to everyone for such a warm welcome to the Watlington community. From the children to the staff, parents, and wider village, it has been wonderful to feel so supported and part of this special place already.
- ▶ I have loved seeing our children **celebrating greatness** every day – in their learning, their kindness, their creativity, and how they look out for one another. Being part of this community, seeing them grow and flourish, and helping to nurture that greatness is exactly why I'm so pleased to be here.
- ▶ Here's to a fantastic term ahead, full of learning, laughter, and lots more moments of greatness!