WATLING VIEW NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1 (2026 / 2027)

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, it has been wonderful to welcome all our pupils back to school and to see how well those who are new to Watling View have settled into our school community. It has been a pleasure watching new pupils & seeing them become familiar with their new routines, classrooms and staff teams.

There has been lots of exciting learning taking place across all departments this half term.

In EYFS, it has been lovely to see how pupils are settling into their new classes. The children have been enjoying sensory stories linked to the Autumn, exploring seasonal sights, sounds, textures and experiences through a range of engaging activities.

Our Lower Middle School pupils have been learning about Superheroes. As part of this topic, we were delighted to welcome the Police and Fire Service into school. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed meeting our visitors, and spending time exploring the police van.

In Upper School, pupils have been thinking about journeys and the different places they might travel to. Classes enjoyed learning about what they would need to pack for different trips. As well as this they have continued to take part in different activities supporting their independence, such as cooking, cleaning and supporting in the café.

Looking ahead to next half term, we have many exciting events planned. Please keep an eye out for correspondence regarding opportunities for families to join us, including our Christmas Fair and Christmas Show. We look forward to welcoming you into school to celebrate the festive season with us.

Finally, a reminder that pupils return to school on Tuesday 3rd November.

Thank you once again for your support. I hope you all have a lovely half-term week, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another busy and exciting term.

Andy Scott

SLICK STARS

Social Skills



I have been coming in to class every day and sitting with the rest of my peers. When at Brick Club I have sat building with one of my peers, as we help each other.
Maisie [Voyagers Class]

Life Skills



My confidence has increased during swimming sessions, especially when jumping into the pool!
Elliot [Daffodils Class]

Independence



I have shown increased independence when arriving at the café, taking my own initiative to begin tasks, setting up the café ready to serve, with no verbal or physical support.
Ibrahim [Pioneers Class]

Communication



I have started to use more words, developing my speech and using phonetics.
Ari [Dandelions Class]

Key Skills



I have been focussed and engaged in class.
Dexter [Buttercups Class]

BUTTERCUPS

Buttercups have settled into our first half term really well. We have made new friends and got to know new staff members.

Our topic this half term has been ‘All about me’ and we have spent lots of time looking at ourselves in photos and mirrors as well as creating our own ‘Buttercups’ art work to display in class. We have also been learning all about Autumn and have enjoyed a sensory story with a windy, rainy and muddy element. In celebration of Harvest, we printed with fruits and vegetables and invited our families to play with us.









DAISIES

Daisies have had a great first half term! Everyone has settled really well and the class have all had lots of fun so far!

Our topic this half term has been ‘All about me’ and the class have engaged in exploring toothbrushing and talking about our feelings. We have visited lots of different places for community including a range of parks and Maidenhead aquatics.

As it is Autumn we have done lots of Autumn themed activities and especially enjoyed exploring the garden through the Autumn time.









DANDELIONS

Dandelions have had a super start to the year! We have settled brilliantly into our class routines, displayed excellent social skills and made some wonderful new friendships. We have certainly been showing off our superpowers! Our topic this half term has been ‘Superheroes and Everyday Heroes’, and we have enjoyed a fantastic range of exciting, multisensory learning experiences. In Literacy, we have been enjoying superhero themed Attention Autism sessions, as well as using switches to activate our favourite superhero theme tunes. We have also loved exploring our sensory story of Supertato. In Numeracy, we have been counting our way to victory through a range of songs, including Five Super Boys, and engaging in exciting tuff tray activities. These have included feeding hungry monsters through posting activities and getting creative with vegetable printing. We have also been exploring 2D shapes. During Food Technology, we have been getting hands-on in our ‘Fun with Food’ sessions, using our senses and scientific knowledge to investigate different food ingredients. We have been mixing, blending, touching, smelling and exploring. In PSHE, we have been learning about being safe and looking after our bodies.

This term, we have had our LMS Harvest Festival which we took part in a range of wonderful, multisensory activities including: apple bobbing, soup making and exploring sensory playdough. As we look ahead to next half term, we are ready to swap our capes for Christmas jumpers and get into the festive spirit. We can’t wait to see what super adventures await Dandelions next!









DAFFODILS

Daffodils have started of the year full on fun; settling back into class really well, making some new friends and building lovely relationships with new staff.

We have really enjoyed our topic ‘Superheroes and Heroes’ across the curriculum, including listening to our own story ‘Daffodils Save the Day’ and ‘Supertato’. Daffodils designed their own superhero costumes as well as identified their own ‘super strengths’. Additionally, we have learnt about everyday heroes such as doctors and nurses, including a visit from the police where we got to explore and try on police uniforms and sit in the police van!

This half term, Daffodils have had a great time going to Forest School. We have explored the woods, going on the different hammocks and swings and even explored the underground tunnels!

Daffodils got very involved in our LMS Harvest Festival, engaging in a range of multisensory themed activities including sensory bread dough, fruit printing and harvest soup making tuff trays. Overall, it has been a fantastic start to the year in Daffodils!









POPPIES

It has been lovely to welcome the students back to Poppies Class after half-term. Everyone has settled in really well and has been building positive relationships with their peers and staff. Our topic this term has been ‘Superheroes’ and we have enjoyed creating superhero self-portraits and writing “I see” sentences. In the community, we have been learning about everyday superheroes by visiting our local hospital, fire station and police station. We have also enjoyed visiting Pets at Home, pumpkin picking and litter picking to help our community. We were also very lucky to have a visit from the police! The children listened to a talk, used their communication boards to identify items such as police hats and jackets, and even had a go at trying them on. Afterwards, we headed to the playground, where the children had the exciting opportunity to explore the police van and see the police car!









TULIPS

Tulips class have had a fantastic start to the year! The students have settled well into their new routines and have been busy building lovely, positive relationships with their new peers and adults. It has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence, becoming more familiar with their environment and enjoying their time together as a class.

Our theme this half-term has been ‘Superheroes’, which has provided lots of exciting opportunities for learning across the curriculum. In Literacy, the students have enjoyed exploring a range of texts featuring superheroes, developing their interest in stories and engaging with different characters and adventures. In Maths, we have been counting superheroes and practising our counting skills through fun, themed activities.

It has also been fantastic to see all the students making such good progress and enjoying their swimming sessions. They have been developing their confidence in the water and making the most of these valuable opportunities to learn and practise new skills.

We were very lucky to welcome the police into Tulips class for a special visit. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about the important work the police do to help keep us safe. They had the opportunity to sit inside a police van, try on police uniforms and ask the officers questions. It was a wonderful, hands-on experience that sparked lots of interest and excitement!

The students also enjoyed taking part in our Harvest Festival celebrations. They had a lovely time exploring the different stalls and taking part in the activities on offer. One of the highlights was our biscuit-decorating stall, which was a particular favourite! It was lovely to see everyone getting involved, having fun and enjoying the festive atmosphere.

Overall, it has been a busy and enjoyable start to the year in Tulips class. We are very proud of how well the students have settled in, embraced new experiences and engaged with their learning. We look forward to another exciting half-term filled with new opportunities, fun activities and lots of learning!









BLUEBELLS

It’s been lovely to see the students settling into the new school year so well. In Bluebells we have been learning about superheroes. We had a fun time taking part in sensory stories and story massage’s building our anticipation skills. During our community visit we went for a lovely walk around Heartwood Forest in the autumn sunshine. As always, the students have been working really hard and it will be soon time for a short break before the exciting run up to Christmas.









SUNFLOWERS

Sunflowers have settled into the new term really well and have been enjoying a wide range of exciting activities and experiences. Horse riding has been a particular highlight, with pupils thoroughly enjoying their time with the horses. We have also been visiting our PAT dog, where pupils have had the opportunity to interact with her, building positive relationships and enjoying some lovely time together.

Our gardening sessions have been very productive! Pupils have enjoyed getting stuck in with lots of digging and harvesting produce from our garden. It has been wonderful to see everyone getting involved and exploring the garden together.

Sunflowers also had a fantastic time at our Lower Middle Harvest Festival morning. Pupils enjoyed exploring a range of exciting multisensory tuff trays, providing lots of opportunities for sensory exploration, engagement and fun. In Numeracy, we have been getting messy and hands-on during our Stage 2 Attention Autism sessions. These sessions have provided lots of opportunities for pupils to develop their attention, engagement and early numeracy skills while having plenty of fun along the way.

It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences still to come!









ROSES

Roses class has had an amazing start to the year, everyone has transitioned into their new class well and have been building positive relationships with both new peers and staff. Our topic this term has been ‘Superheroes’, and we have had lots of fun learning about fictional superheroes and real-life superheroes. We all loved having the Police come in for a visit, where we got to try on outfits and sit in the police car and van. Science has been a favourite this half term, we have been learning about keeping our bodies healthy and having a go at different experiments with water. Well done Roses for a great start to the school year!









VOYAGERS

Voyagers have had a fantastic first half-term and have made a brilliant start to the year!

Our theme this half-term has been “Travelling”, and we have enjoyed taking part in lots of exciting activities linked to this wonderful topic. For example, we have created our own School Passports, where students work towards rewards. For each activity they complete, they collect a stamp. Once they have collected all their stamps, they can celebrate their achievements with their peers.

All of our lessons have been linked to our travelling theme, including English, Maths, Careers and PSHE. We have also had the opportunity to take part in role-play activities related to customer service, such as being flight attendants and tourist guides, and showing visitors around our school facilities. Most of the students have also started their café shifts, where they are developing their skills and supporting with the tills.

We have continued to develop our independence and community skills by going out into the community each week to do some shopping and swimming. As part of developing our life skills, every Thursday during “Cooking Your Own”, we prepare and enjoy our own lunch. This is a great opportunity for students to practise their cooking, independence and teamwork skills.

We are looking forward to continuing to develop even more life skills throughout the year ahead.

This travel journey has only just begun!









DISCOVERERS

Discoverers have had a great first half-term and have made an excellent start to the year!

Our theme this half-term has been ‘Travel & Tourism,’ whereby we have enjoyed taking part in lots of exciting activities linked to this topic.

In literacy, pupils enjoyed listening to a story about pupils within Discoverers going on various holidays and adventures around the world, for example Alfie & Eva visiting the beach in Greece and Elsie & Charles going on a plane to Canada. We are finishing the half term with each pupils planning their own holiday, choosing where they’re going, their means of travel, what activities they’ll be doing etc. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed planning and creating their own travel adventures!

During careers we have been learning about everything travel! Focusing on supporting pupils understanding of travel and what this entails, for example what we’d pack in our suitcase, who helps us on our flight or train journey. During our lessons, pupils have had the opportunity to take part in role-play activities related to customer service, such as being flight attendants and tourist guides, and showing visitors around our school facilities. Within careers, we have also been focusing on supporting pupils with their independence and life skills, learning and practicing looking after the flat (hoovering, using the washing machine), taking out the recycling and food waste and preparing our own snacks.

We have continued to develop our independence and community skills by going out into the community each week to shop for ingredients to make our lunch during ‘Cook Your Own,’ swimming and participating in a football session each Friday afternoon.

We are looking forward to continuing to develop even more life skills throughout the year ahead.

We hope you have a lovely half term!









EXPLORERS

Explorers class have had a lovely start to the school year. Our focus topic this half term was ‘Holidays’, and the pupils have enjoyed taking part in the sensory story, as well as introducing a new lesson this year called Sensology, where pupils explore different stimuli using all of their five senses. We have also been out into the community a lot this half term already, exploring the Christmas decorations in The Range and visiting Verulamium Park, as well as going to Forest School every week with Flow. The half-term finished on a high, with the Upper School Harvest Festival assembly. Explorers really enjoyed attending the assembly, as well as using a switch to activate a blender and make the smoothie for the assembly. Everyone has had a lovely start to this academic year and we look forward to new adventures next half term!









PIONEERS

Pioneers class has had an amazing start to the year! We've already been on some exciting adventures including to a sweet shop run by another school, our weekly shops for cooking and some of us even went fishing! We've worked hard on our Travel & Tourism related work including learning about time and frequency, reading stories featuring Pioneers on holiday and the different aspects involved in planning and executing a vacation. We've made some beautiful art to share including self-portraits and handprint leaves to celebrate autumn! For Upper School Harvest Festival we made some granola to share featuring seasonal ingredients and decorated our table with the wonderful art we created. We're excited to finish the half-term with our talent show and have been working hard to show off our performing, culinary and creative skills with the rest of Upper School!

Everyone has settled in well to the new routines and environment and have been building great relationships with the other pupils and staff in class. We've already had many dance parties, celebrated a few birthdays and made good progress in our learning! This year is shaping up to be amazing, well done to Pioneers for a fantastic first half-term!









SWIMMING & HYDROTHERAPY

Watling View have had a splashing start to the new school year!

Our students have settled brilliantly into their new classes and have been enjoying their off-site swimming sessions at Westminster Lodge and Harpenden Leisure Centre.

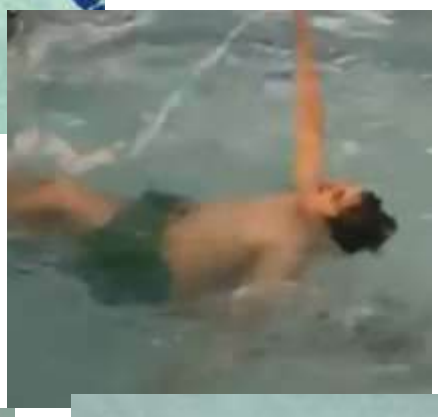
Down in the hydrotherapy pool, some Buttercups students have started their very first swimming lessons at school! Students in Bluebells and Explorers have also returned to their hydrotherapy sessions, and are all very happy to be in the pool.

It has been wonderful to see so many students enjoying their return to swimming, developing their confidence in the water and at the same time, forming new friendships with their classmates. We're looking forward to another fantastic year of swimming, hydrotherapy, learning and fun!















REMINDERS

Student Absences
Should your child be absent from school for any number of days, you must inform the school office on the first day of absence, as early as possible, as well as Transport. **Transport are not obliged to pass messages to the school.**

Please call the school office on **01727 850560** to inform a member of the administrative team, or leave a message on our answering machine, including your child's name, class & the reason for their absence.

Pupil Illness & Medications
Following the Health Protection Agency advice, if your child is sick with diarrhoea and/or vomiting, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last symptom.
If your child is unwell & on antibiotics, they must have had 48 hours of taking the antibiotics before returning to school.
Please ensure any medications your child has in school are clearly labelled by a pharmacist.
For further information, please contact the School Nurse.

Transport / Respite
Please inform the school office & write in your child's home/school communication book if there are any changes to your child's transport arrangements or if they will be attending any respite care.

School Uniform
Please could you ensure all of your child's clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name.
Uniform can be purchased via the PMG Schoolwear website: **www.pmgschoolwear.co.uk**

Parking
Please remember not to park on the zig-zag lines outside the school, as tickets have been issued to people that have parked on these lines.
Please use the intercom to gain access to the car park when visiting school.

EVENTS CALENDAR

AUTUMN 2 2026

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday 2nd November		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3rd November		Pupils return
Monday 9th November		Individual class curriculum coverage to be sent home and put on website
Monday 9th November		Theme Morning – Diwali
Tuesday 10th November	10:00 – 11:30	Stay and Play (Buttercups & Daisies)
Wednesday 11th November		School Photos
W/C 16th November		Theme Week – Maths Week
Tuesday 17th November	9:30 – 10:30	Maths Parent Workshop
Tuesday 1st December		Theme Day – Theme linked to Christmas Performance
Tuesday 1st December	2.00pm	Dressing the Christmas Tree
Thursday 3rd December	10:00 – 11:30am	Christmas Fair
Friday 4th December		Occasional Day – School closed
Friday 11th December		Wear A Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children Fundraiser
Tuesday 15th December	Start at 9.45 - 11.00am	Christmas Show – Followed by PSA coffee morning & raffle
Wednesday 16th December	12:00 – 1:30	Christmas EYFS & Lower / Middle School Lunches – Roses, Dandelions, Sunflowers, Bluebells
Thursday 17th December	12:00 – 1:30	Christmas Lunch – Upper School, Poppies, Daffodils & Tulips
Friday 18th December		School finishes for pupils at 3:15

Please follow the below links to view photos from our events:

Website:
www.watlingview.herts.sch.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/watlingviewspecialschool

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/watlingview

TERM DATES 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st September	**School Closed** – Staff Training Day
Wednesday 2nd September	**School Closed** – Staff Training Day
Thursday 3rd September	Start of Autumn Term
Friday 23rd October	End of Half Term
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2nd November	**School Closed**- Training Day
Tuesday 3rd November	Start of New Half Term
Friday 4th December	**School Closed** – Occasional Day
Friday 18th December	End of Term – School finishes at **3:15pm**

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January	**School Closed**- Training Day
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Spring Term
Friday 12th February	End of Half Term
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 22nd February	Start of New Half Term
Thursday 25th March	End of Term - School finishes at **3:15pm**

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April	Start of Summer Term
Monday 3rd May	**School Closed**- Bank Holiday
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	Half Term Holiday
Monday 7th June	Start of New Half Term
Wednesday 21st July	End of Term - School finishes at **2:15pm**
Thursday 22nd July	**School Closed**- Training Day