Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 17th October 2025

15th IN THE UK

13 years BEST IN BERKSHIRE

Rated EXCELLENT -ISI inspection

Hockey Heroes! Waverley Dominates At Home

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful week. It is hard to believe there are only three days left of this half term! We have managed to pack so much into the past six weeks and this week has been no exception. Our Year 5 and 6 hockey and football players have enjoyed fantastic home fixtures, rehearsals for the House Poetry Competition are well underway and our lessons have continued to focus on celebrating Black History Month.

Black History Month Assembly

This week's assembly focused on Black History Month, a time to recognise the remarkable contributions of Black people throughout history. At Waverley, we are proud to celebrate diversity every day through our rich and inclusive curriculum. In the assembly, Mr Mitchell led a fun quiz where the children were tasked with identifying famous figures such as Rosa Parks, Walter Tull, Mo Farah and Stormzy. I would like to give a special mention to our Year 2 class, who impressively identified Mary Seacole after learning about her in their recent History lessons.

Mr Mitchell also shared an inspiring quote, 'Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance.' It was a wonderful reminder that at Waverley, everyone is encouraged to take part and get involved in everything.

Celebrating Achievements With Year 2

Earlier today, Mrs Shore and I popped into Year 2 at break time to share a hot chocolate with the children while they told us about their latest proud achievements. I must say, I was incredibly impressed with what was on show! From 3D paintings and Maths certificates to photographs of weekend hobbies and Park Run wristbands, it was wonderful to see the effort and enthusiasm they have all put in. The whole class should feel extremely proud of their hard work and accomplishments!

House Poetry Competition

I am excited to invite you to our annual House Poetry Competition next Wednesday (22nd October) in Melton Hall. The children have been practising really hard for solo, duo and whole-House performances and I can't wait to see them perform with confidence.

If parents could please be seated by 13:45hrs and we expect the event will finish around 15:30hrs. Parents are also welcome to show support by wearing their child's House colours. We look forward to seeing who will win the House Poetry trophy this year!

Whole School Photograph Reminder

I would like to remind parents that next Tuesday (21st October) we will be taking our whole school photograph, straight after morning registration. Please ensure your child arrives on time in full summer uniform (summer dress or grey shorts, blazer, black shoes) and not in their PE kit (please bring in a bag if needed).

Hair should be neat and tidy, with long hair tied back and minimal black or bottle-green accessories. Please note, no hats or caps are needed for the photo, but should be worn into school in the morning as normal.

Green Council Meeting

Our Green Council met at lunchtime yesterday to share ideas for the year ahead and it sounds like they have lots of exciting plans to make Waverley greener. The children were especially thrilled to receive their brand-new Eco Club badges!

Have a lovely weekend!

S. Shore

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Pupil Achievements

Pupils of the Week

Saskia, Reception
'For always having a fantastic attitude towards her learning.'

Lancelot, Year 1
'For trying hard in all lessons, even the ones he finds tricky. He even asks for help if he needs it.'

Ellie, Year 2
'For her amazing football skills last week. She is determined, fearless and gets in some amazing spaces for her team.'

Mete, Year 3
'For his hard work, enthusiasm, positive attitude and cheerful smile which is infectious!'

Arjan, Year 4
'For giving every lesson his best and throwing himself into things, even if he is a little unsure at first. He listens to advice and acts on it well.'

Alice, Year 5
'For working well with her peers to create a fantastic poster in History and her invaluable contributions in English lessons this week.'

Aurelia, Year 6
'For demonstrating not only hard work and tenacity in her own work, but also being a brilliant collaborator when working in a group.'

Waverley Way Award

Dhruv
'For always being so kind and supportive to others. He always speaks up for others if needed.'

Mia
'For being such a brilliant partner in peer mentoring. She is caring, thoughtful and kind to her partner.'

Diary Dates

Monday 20th October:	School Assembly: Understanding Our World - United Nations.
Tuesday 21st October:	Whole School Photograph. *09:00hrs.*
Wednesday 22nd October:	House Poetry Competition. *14:00hrs.* *
	School Half Term Ends. *15:30hrs*.
	WFA Halloween Disco. *16:30hrs - 18:30hrs.*
Thursday 23rd October:	Half Term Holiday. Holiday Club Open.

**Parents welcome to attend.*

Our Academic dates can be viewed here.
All calendar dates are available on our parent portal here and on our website here.

Waverley School News

Reception Search For Shapes

This week, our Reception children went on a shape hunt around school, spotting squares, circles, rectangles and stars in everyday objects. They also took part in a variety of fun activities, including making pictures from shapes, sorting shape cards and playing a guessing game where they described a secretly chosen shape for their peers to identify. See photos **here**.

Year 1 Science Experiment

In their Science lesson this week, Year 1 have been learning about their sense of smell. They firstly learnt that our noses are very clever and help keep us safe by detecting things like spoiled food or smoke. The children then took part in a fun smelling experiment, where they explored a wide variety of scents, from coffee and orange to mint and vinegar. Each child predicted whether they would like each smell, before giving their verdict and used a range of expressive vocabulary to describe each smell. See photos from their 'scent-sational' lesson **here**.

Year 2 Forest School Fun

Year 2 had a wonderful time during their Forest School session on Monday afternoon. The children enjoyed toasting marshmallows over the camp fire to make delicious s'mores, getting creative in the mud kitchen with their very own mud cakes and exploring nature by climbing trees and swinging on the rope swing. A perfect autumn adventure! See photos **here**.

Year 3 Write Postcards

In their English lessons this week, Year 3 have been reading the book 'Ottoline and the Yellow Cat.' In the story, Ottoline receives special postcards from her travelling parents. After imagining postcards from Ottoline's travelling parents, the children created their own, decorating the fronts with drawings and writing heartfelt messages to their parents on the back. The children will walk down to the local post box early next week, so keep an eye out for a special delivery landing on your doorsteps soon!

Happy Birthday Mrs Mayes!

We would like to wish Mrs Mayes a very happy birthday! She celebrated her 50th birthday earlier this week (yes, 50! Can you believe it?!) Many happy returns from everyone at Waverley!

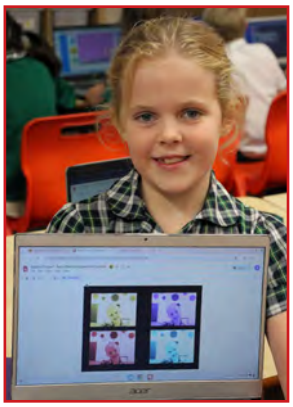
Waverley School News

Year 4 Evaporation Experiment

This week in Science, Year 4 investigated the rate of evaporation. The children tested how heat and air affect drying by placing wet sponges in different conditions, including near a heat source, a fan, both and inside sandwich bags. They measured the sponges' weight to track water loss, made predictions about which would dry fastest and recorded their results on a graph, discovering how evaporation works in real life. See photos **here**.

Year 4 Digital Art

In their Art lesson this week, Year 4 created some fantastic digital artwork inspired by famous pop artist Andy Warhol. The children took photographs of themselves on their Chromebooks and experimented with colours and background contrasts to create their own Pop Art designs. A big well done to Nandi, Arjan and Alice for helping their peers during the session. View all of their creations **here**.
See photos from the class **here**.



Year 6 History

This week, Year 6 explored the Battle of Britain and examined the key reasons why Britain was victorious. They focused on three areas: Technology (Spitfires, Hurricanes and Radar), People (the determination of pilots and ground crews) and Mistakes made by Germany (such as attacking cities, which diverted resources from the skies). In three groups, the children presented each section and then voted on what they thought was the main reason for Britain's success. By a small margin, they concluded that Britain's advanced technology made all the difference in this historic battle.

Year 5 & 6 Fixtures vs St Mary's Henley

In their first home fixture of the term, the Waverley hockey players showed just how well they have adapted to playing on grass, whilst our playground pitch is out of action. Both teams won their matches comfortably and there were stand out performances from both Molly and Anya and excellent goals scored by William and Ellen. See hockey photos **here**.

Our football players faced tough opposition in their fixtures this week. The children showed great determination and resilience throughout, although both matches ended in defeat. Highlights included a fantastic free kick from Otto that resulted in a goal and another brilliant goal scored by Rebecca. See photos **here**.

Waverley School News

Year 1 - 6 Expeditions Week RSVP Reminder

Earlier this week, we sent a Clarion email to parents requesting a form be completed ahead of our 2026 Expeditions Week. Please ensure you complete and submit your required forms by the deadline of Friday 31st October. Please see below links to each specific year group form:

- Complete Year 1 & 2 form **here**.
- Complete Year 3 & 4 form **here**.
- Complete Year 5 & 6 form **here**.

After School Club Update

It has been another busy week in After School Club. In Cooking Club, the children made jam tarts, preparing their own pastry, placing it in cases and filling them with jam. Dance Club saw all of the children busting some fantastic moves, whilst in Gymnastics Club they practised on a variety of equipment, including the exciting new bar. Over in Art Club, the children explored warm and cool colours in their artwork and in Badminton, they honed their skills in fun team competitions. See photos of all the fun **here**.

Poppy Appeal Donations

From Monday 3rd November, our Year 6 pupils will be collecting donations in exchange for some Poppy Appeal items. These will be on sale at the main school gate each morning from 08:30hrs. For those children who arrive in school earlier, the Year 6 pupils will also visit the classrooms to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to buy a poppy.

Suggested donations for the British Legion are: reflector poppy £3, snap band/ruler £2, zip pull £1, wrist band £2 and paper poppy minimum donation of £1. Please note that only cash is accepted.

Car Park Notice

Please could we remind parents, particularly while building work is ongoing, to leave the car park as soon as possible after drop-off. Families who need to park close to the entrance due to very young children or mobility needs are finding it difficult to locate a space, so we also encourage walking, cycling, scooting, or parking a little further down the road and walking the final stretch.

The good news is that we are in the final stages of the building work and hope to reopen our playground for additional parking very soon.

Waverley School News

October Half Term Holiday Club

We have just a few spaces remaining for our October Half Term Holiday Club! Get ready for a 'spooktacular' week of activities, including pumpkin carving, LEGO challenges, a UV glow party and the return of our bouncy castle. Don't miss out, book your space now!

To view the KS1 schedule, click **here**.
To view the KS2 schedule, click **here**.
To book your place, click **here**.

WFA News

Halloween Disco - Final Tickets Available!

Not long to go until our 'frightfully' exciting Halloween Disco next Wednesday! Food ticket sales have now ended, but entry-only tickets are still available. Please remember that every attendee requires a ticket (not just the child.) It is set to be a fantastic evening, so don't miss out, book your tickets **here**.

Pumpkin Carving Competition

Our annual pumpkin carving competition is just around the corner! Once again, Mr Shore will judge the best entries in KS1 and KS2, with the winners announced at the Halloween disco. If you would like to enter, please drop off your pumpkins on the morning of Wednesday 22nd October. Pumpkins will need to be taken home after the disco.

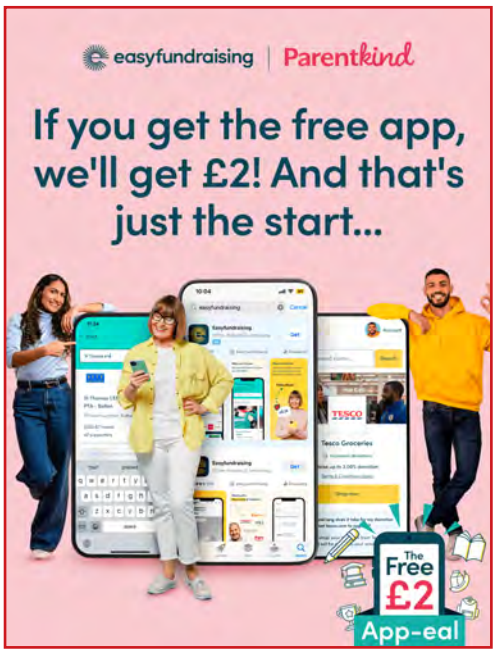
Help the WFA with Easyfundraising

Want to help the WFA raise more money for amazing activities throughout the year? Sign up to Easyfundraising! We have created a short video showing just how easy it is to get started. See **here**.

Until 31st October, the WFA will receive £2 for every new supporter who signs up via the Easyfundraising app.

Second-Hand Uniform Reminder

Winter uniform is required when returning to school after half term. If you are ordering from our second-hand uniform website and would like to collect your items before the start of the new term, please ensure orders are placed by Tuesday 21st October at the latest.



WFA Diary Dates

22nd October: Halloween Disco *(16:30 - 18:30hrs)*

10th December: Father Christmas Visit & Christmas Event

Waverley Nursery News

Nursery Festive Photos – Tuesday 25th November 2025

Smiles at School Photography will be visiting the Nursery on **Tuesday 25 November 2025** to take individual and sibling festive photos. For children who do not normally attend on Tuesdays, parents are welcome to bring them in for their photo. If you wish to do so, please contact Mrs Harding, our Nursery Manager, to arrange this.

National Nursery Practitioner Day

Today, is National Nursery Practitioner Day and we are celebrating and thanking our wonderful Waverley Educators for all the incredible work they do for the children in our nursery. Our team is passionate, dedicated and caring - making every day brighter for our children. We would like to thank them for everything they do. We are sure you will agree they are all superstars!

Emergency Contacts Reminder

We recently sent an email requesting all parents to complete a form regarding emergency contacts. Please ensure you have submitted this for your child. Emergency contacts cannot be parents and must live within an hour's drive of Waverley. If you haven't completed the form yet, you can do so **here**. Please complete just one form per family by **Monday 20 October**.

- **Holiday Booked?** Please complete our short form to advise us of your holiday plans. You can either scan the QR code on the outside noticeboard or click **here**. It helps us with planning and also ensures no food wastage.
- **Poorly?** If your child is poorly and will not be attending Nursery, please message our Nursery Team on **07920 268735** or email **fiona.harding@waverleyschool.co.uk** by 09:00hrs.
- **To book ad hoc sessions** please email our Nursery Manager: **fiona.harding@waverleyschool.co.uk**
- **To make permanent changes to care** such as reducing or changing days, giving notice or wanting additional days of care, please email our Head of Admissions, Mrs Helen Jenkins: **helen.jenkins@waverleyschool.co.uk**
- **To view upcoming events** please check the Nursery website calendar **here.**

Nursery 1

This week, Nursery 1 have continued to explore different animals through a variety of activities. The Babies had lots of fun rescuing zoo animals from pipe cleaners, helping to develop their hand-eye coordination. They also examined sea animals on the light pad using magnifying glasses.

Nursery 1 also enjoyed some autumn activities this week. Whilst out on their walk, the Babies collected a selection of autumn leaves. Once back in the Nursery room, the leaves were placed into a tray with wooden animals hidden amongst them for the Babies to find. They enjoyed exploring the different textures and sounds and some of the Babies even stomped on the leaves to hear the crunching.

The Babies were also given autumn-themed sensory trays to investigate. These included leaves, conkers and fur cones, with pictures of the Babies and Educators hidden amongst them.

Nursery 2

This week, the children in Nursery 2 have shown a keen interest in sounds. They were interested in how things sound, how to create sounds and how volume can change. The children started the week by exploring instruments and making their own shaker drums from paper plates and rice. They used their fine motor skills to decorate the outside of the plates, filled them with rice and then experimented with the different sounds they could make.

As the week continued, the Nursery 2 explored different materials and resources to create sounds by banging and tapping. They experimented with high and low, fast and slow and big and small sounds, whilst using various instruments. This allowed the children to explore how sounds could change depending on how they played their instrument.

Nursery 2 have also spent time exploring nature and natural materials. The children collected sticks of different shapes and sizes and used them to make ribbon sticks. They used the sticks they had made to dance and move their bodies, creating different sounds whilst watching the ribbons move around in all directions.

Nursery 3

This week, Nursery 3 continued to explore the story of 'The Three Little Pigs.' The children acted out the story, building houses for the pigs using different materials such as sticks, straw and bricks. They also pretended to be the wolf, blowing at each of their structures, testing whether the houses would stay standing.

The children also showed a real interest in autumn this week. Whilst out on their woodland walk, they collected some autumn leaves. The children then used these leaves in activities such as creating leaf rubbing's with crayons and also explored how leaves could be moved by blowing on them, linking back to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs.'

Towards the end of the week, the children experimented with different materials to explore force and texture. They used hand fans, straws and an electric fan to see which items could be blown away and which would stay in place. This activity helped the children develop their observation skills and gave them an understanding of hard and soft materials.

Pre-Foundation

This week, Pre-Foundation explored autumn through a variety of hands-on activities. The children collected leaves during outdoor walks, noticing their different colours, shapes and textures. They also created autumnal trees using crayons and paints, mixing colours to represent the leaves and experimenting with different textures.

Inside their Nursery room, the children enjoyed some sensory and creative activities to extend their learning. They practiced writing letters in sand and porridge oats using small logs and used play dough to make leaf and autumn-themed prints.

Foundation

This week, the children in Foundation have been closely observing the progress of their butterflies, with nine beautiful butterflies having now emerged. The children discussed what the butterflies eat and placed fresh fruit slices in the enclosure. They also took a closer look at the chrysalises, sparking curiosity and encouraging questions about the life cycle.

The children also took part in a special woodland school fire session this week, collecting sticks and carefully toasting marshmallows whilst following fire safety instructions. Taking inspiration from this, a mini camp site with a teepee, cosy blankets, cushions, autumn treasures and pretend s'mores was set up in the Nursery room. The children also took part in creative activities included autumn leaf printing and making tissue paper trees.

Menus

Next week our lunch menu will be Week 3.
You can view our Summer menu for School and Nursery **here.**

NUT AWARE · WE ARE A NUT AWARE SCHOOL

We're here to help!... How to contact us...

- **General Office Enquiries**
  info@waverleyschool.co.uk
- **Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs: Mr Alex Kear-Hill**
  clubs@waverleyschool.co.uk 07741 657313
- **Admissions: Mrs Helen Jenkins**
  admissions@waverleyschool.co.uk
- **School Office:**
  0118 973 1121
- **Bursar: Mrs Carole Barke**
  carole.barke@waverleyschool.co.uk
- **Nursery:**
  Mobile: 07920 268735

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