Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 24th October 2025

House Poetry Competition Winners 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you've all had a wonderful week and are enjoying the start of the October half-term break. Although it was a short week, finishing on Wednesday afternoon, we still managed to fit so much in!

House Poetry Competition

On Wednesday afternoon, we held our annual House Poetry Competition – now in its tenth year! Children from Key Stage 1 and 2 took part, performing a wonderful range of poems and short prose pieces. I was extremely impressed with everyone's performances this year and was, once again, very grateful that it was Mrs Adams who had the difficult job of judging.

It was fantastic to see everyone doing so well! All of the children put in a great deal of effort and represented their houses beautifully. I would like to give a special mention to our Year 2 performers, who were our youngest competitors this year. They all spoke clearly and confidently, and I am sure we'll be seeing them take part in many more competitions throughout their years at Waverley. I also thoroughly enjoyed Evie C's solo performance of 'Where Do All the Teachers Go?' and can confirm that teachers do live in houses... And some even wash their socks!

After all of the individual and duo performances, we were also treated to three very impressive group pieces from each of the houses. Neptune performed a version of 'The Computer Swallowed Grandma' by Valerie Waite. Watch a video of this **here**. Jupiter then performed a version of 'Creative Writing' by Gervase Phinn. Watch a video **here**.

Finally, Mercury performed a version of 'My Dog is Not the Smartest Dog' by Ken Nesbitt. Watch a video **here**. After all of the individual prizes were awarded, it was announced that **Neptune** was the overall winner this year, taking home the coveted trophy for a second year running!

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who came along to watch, I'm sure you all agree it was a great event. Well done everyone! See photos **here**.

School Assembly: United Nations Day

Our school assembly this week focused on the United Nations, as today marks United Nations Day. A day to commemorate the founding of the UN in 1945 and to recognise its work in maintaining peace, promoting human rights and fostering global cooperation.

Mr Mitchell spoke to the children about the organisation and explained how nations come together to make a positive difference in the world. He also shared how Waverley is like the United Nations. When someone is in need, others step in with kindness and support.

Whole School Photograph

On Tuesday morning, the whole school headed out onto the front playground to take part in our annual whole school photo. We thankfully managed to dodge the rain and you can see just how slick the whole operation was in this time lapse video **here**. The link to order the whole school photo will be available from Tempest Photography in due course.

Winter Term Reminder

Can I please remind all parents that when we return from the half term break, all children will be required to wear their winter uniform. We have a large number of winter items in our WFA second-hand uniform shop. Please visit the WFA uniform website **here**.

We will also be moving over to our new winter menu after half term. During lunch on Tuesday, our School Council were lucky enough to taste-test some of the potential dishes from the proposed new menu. They tasted dishes including minced beef an onion pie, sweet and sour chicken, pesto and tomato turnovers and puddings including sultana and oat cookies and cherry cake - all of which received a big thumbs up. Once the winter menu has been finalised, we will be able to share this with you.

I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing half term break!

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Pupil Achievements

Pupils of the Week

Niya, Reception
'For always helping others around the classroom.'

Mila, Year 1
'For giving each lesson her best and producing some excellent creative writing.'

Effie, Year 2
'For making leaps and bounds in her writing in English. Her recognition of her special friends, her handwriting and the content have improved so much.'

Toby, Year 3
'For working hard, having a positive attitude towards his work and always trying his best.'

Gabriel, Year 4
'For his fantastic work in Maths. He was working independently to subtract two 4-digit numbers with more than one exchange.'

Effy, Year 5
'For always striving to work her hardest and being a great team player. She offers help and support to her peers whenever she can.'

Mikey, Year 6
'For making such a big effort with his writing assessment. He has shown brilliant focus!'

Waverley Way Award

Vivaan
'For trying really hard in House Poetry. He knows all the words and actions for his House Poem.'

Ellen
'For demonstrating kindness and patience during Peer Mentoring. She is a shining example of the Waverley Way!'

Diary Dates

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October:	Half Term Holiday. Holiday Club Open.
Monday 3rd November:	Second Half Term Begins. School Assembly: Bonfire Night.
Tuesday 4th November:	Year 6 Internet Safety Talk with Thames Valley Police
Wednesday 5th November:	Swim 7. Bonfire Night Themed Lunch. Year 5 & 6 Football vs Reddam. Home. * Year 5 & 6 Hockey vs Reddam. Away. *
Friday 7th November:	Year 5 Remembrance Assembly. *08:45hrs. Year 5 Parents welcome.* ISA Hockey.

**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

Maths Challenge Winners

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the latest Waverley Maths Challenge! Mrs Hatton-Evans was delighted with the huge number of entries and very impressed by all those who successfully completed the questions this year. Every participant earned two house points and the overall winners were chosen at random during Monday morning's assembly.

Congratulations to Harry (Year 2), Samuel (Year 4) and Evie C (Year 5), who each received some sweets as their prizes. Well done to everyone involved. The Waverley Maths Challenge will be back again soon.

Diwali Celebrations

On Monday, we celebrated Diwali at Waverley. Throughout the day, the children celebrated the festival of light by taking part in various activities. From creating colourful Rangoli patterns, to designing bright Diya lamps and drawing out creative Mehndi designs, the children had lots of fun immersing themselves in the cultural celebrations. See photos **here**.

Year 3 Postcards

We mentioned last week that Year 3 had been busy writing postcards to their parents in their English lessons. Earlier this week, the children enjoyed a trip to the local postbox to post their cards and they should be arriving through letter boxes very soon! See photos **here**.

Year 6 Maths

In their Maths lessons this week, Year 6 have started a new topic on converting measures. The class took part in practical, collaborative activities around the classroom, using rulers to measure different items before converting their measurements. Everyone worked together brilliantly, showing excellent teamwork and enthusiasm for learning.

Dinosaur Day

On Thursday 13th November, Waverley is going prehistoric as dinosaurs take over the school! Students can look forward to an exciting Jurassic-themed event with hands-on activities, fun learning experiences and a 'roaring' good time. Make sure everyone is ready for a day full of 'dino' fun!

Waverley School News

A Spooktacular Start to October Half Term!

Things have got off to a fantastic start at our October Half Term Holiday Club, with the children enjoying lots of fun activities! We still have a limited number of spaces available next week, with even more exciting and 'spooktacular' activities planned. To book your space, click **here**.

Secondary School Open Events

Some of the local secondary schools are holding open events soon for families considering next steps. See details below:

St Joseph's College is holding their Autumn Senior Open Morning on **Wednesday 12 November** from 09:00 – 11:15hrs. Attendees will hear from the Headteacher, enjoy a guided tour with a current pupil and get to see the College in action. To book your place, click **here**.

Leighton Park is holding their next Taster Day on **Tuesday 11th November** from 08:30 - 15:30hrs. They also have an Open Morning taking place on **Friday 7th November** from 09:00 - 11:00hrs. To book, click **here**.

WFA News

A Frightfully Fun Halloween Disco!

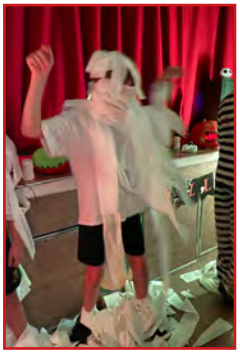
Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Halloween Disco. We were thrilled to see so many fantastic entries in this year's pumpkin carving competition. Congratulations to both Scarlett (Reception) and Theo (Year 4) who were announced as the winners on the night. Your creativity and enthusiasm truly made the evening special! Our 'Wheel of Misfortune' was a particular highlight, with many taking home some delightfully spooky prizes. We hope everyone had a wonderful time.

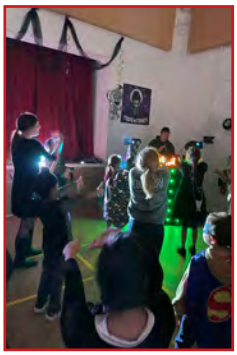
We would like to say a special thank you to the WFA Reps and all of the volunteers who helped set up, run the stalls and tidy up at the end. We couldn't have made the evening such a success without you! You can see a selection of photos from the event **here** or watch a video **here**.

WFA Christmas Event – Countdown Begins

The festive season is just around the corner! Keep an eye out for exciting hints and announcements about our upcoming Christmas event — it is definitely going to be one to remember.

The WFA would like to wish everyone a wonderful half-term break, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.





WFA Diary Dates

13th November: Dinosaur Day

10th December: Father Christmas Visit & Christmas Event

Waverley Nursery News

Now allocating Nursery places for babies due/born from 1st September 2025

We are now busy allocating Nursery places for children due/born from 1st September 2025. If you are currently expecting or have a new baby and will require a Nursery place, please contact Mrs Helen Jenkins, Head of Admissions, as a priority. At Waverley, we try to ensure that younger siblings of our Nursery or Prep School children are allocated a place in our Nursery, but places do depend on availability. Mrs Jenkins can be contacted via **helen.jenkins@waverleyschool.co.uk**. Alternatively, please complete our Nursery Application Form **here**.

Nursery Halloween

Next Friday, (31st October) all children are invited to attend Nursery in a Halloween costume of their choice. We will be celebrating with the children, carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating and also making some spooky treats. They are sure to have a 'fang-tastic' day!

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.

- **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

On Monday, the Babies learnt all about Diwali! They had a wonderful time exploring bright, colourful sand in a tray lit with twinkling tea lights. Using their fingers, they enjoyed the textures and practised their fine motor skills by scooping sand into colourful cases.

Nursery 1 have also been enjoying autumn-themed activities. The Babies explored a tray filled with natural treasures collected on recent walks, feeling the textures of leaves, twigs, and pine cones, and had fun playing peek-a-boo with colourful scarves.

Continuing their autumn exploration, the Babies created artwork using real leaves, sticking them onto paper to make seasonal pictures. They also used scrunched-up cotton pads to dab paint around a paper branch, creating vibrant autumn trees and enjoying the sensory experience of mixing and exploring the colours.

Nursery 2

This week in Nursery 2, the children have continued to explore different sounds through a variety of exciting activities. They particularly enjoyed experimenting with pitched sounds by using mallet beaters on glass jars filled with coloured water at different levels. The children noticed how the sounds changed depending on the amount of water in each jar and explored how the tones differed when the lids were on and off.

The children also got creative with bell painting! They used paintbrushes attached to bells, and as they moved the brushes in different strokes, they discovered how the bells made different sounds while creating colourful artwork.

To finish the week, the children took part in their very own musical concert! Each child had a turn performing on stage while their peers acted as the enthusiastic audience. The children explored a variety of instruments, moving and playing along to different beats of music. The audience members were fantastic at cheering for their friends, creating a wonderful atmosphere of fun, confidence and celebration.

Nursery 3

This week, the children have continued to show a great interest in autumn leaves! This was combined with Diwali activities by using the leaves to decorate CDs. The children added colourful sparkles and paint before placing a tea light in the centre to create their very own Diya lamps.

The children also enjoyed hunting for colourful lights hidden under the leaves. As they moved the leaves around, they listened carefully to the sounds they made and explored the different textures. The children also used the leaves for mark-making, creating beautiful autumn tree pictures together.

Nursery 3 got extra creative by making their own leaf buddies! Each child chose their favourite leaf, stuck it onto a lolly stick and added googly eyes to bring their new little friends to life. The children were so proud of their unique creations!

Pre-Foundation

On Monday, the children in Pre-Foundation celebrated Diwali by creating colourful Rangoli patterns with sand and sequins and decorating their own Diya lamps using pens and glitter.

They also enjoyed autumn-themed activities, identifying leaves by their colour, shape, and length during a nature walk, and creating tree rubbings with crayons. To finish the week, the children had fun with autumn water play, making imaginative mud pies, leaf soup, and acorn smoothies!

Foundation

The children in Foundation had a wonderful time exploring a range of creative autumn activities. They worked with clay to shape their very own light holders, carefully decorating them before taking them home once they had dried.

Outdoors, the children gathered fallen leaves and used them to make their own little leaf friends, adding eyes, arms, legs, and even hair! They also enjoyed drawing pictures of the autumn weather that their leaf friends might live in during this colourful season.

Continuing their interest in autumn, the children experimented with leaf printing. Using a variety of leaves, they placed paper on top and rubbed over it with crayons to reveal the beautiful patterns and textures hidden within each leaf.

Menus

When we return after half term, we will be moving across to our new Winter Menu. Details of this will be announced soon.

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