Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 16th January 2026

A Super Start to the Term at Waverley

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful week. We have now completed our first full week of the new year back at Waverley and it is safe to say we are well and truly back into the swing of things. The children have enjoyed lots of interesting lessons, our first sports fixtures of the year and a full programme of After School Clubs.

Resilience School Assembly

This week, our school assembly was based on resilience. Mr Mitchell introduced the idea of resilience through a fun and memorable visual demonstration. He showed how a scrunched-up piece of paper stays down when dropped, whilst a bouncy ball hits the ground and springs right back up - reminding the children that being resilient means being able to bounce back up when things get tough. The children then put this into practice in a cup-stacking challenge, where pairs from Years 4 and 5 worked together to build the tallest tower. They even managed to persevere through an unexpected gust of wind from Mr Mitchell's hair dryer!

To finish the assembly, Mr Mitchell shared the inspiring true story of explorer Ernest Shackleton, whose resilience helped save every member of his crew after being trapped in Antarctica for two years. The children were all amazed to hear about a real-life example of never giving up.

Year 3 Heads Hot Chocolate

Earlier today, we continued our weekly Heads' Hot Chocolate sessions, with Mrs Shore and I visiting Year 3 during break time to celebrate some of their proud achievements. I was truly blown away by what I saw today, with wonderful examples of artwork, some fantastic Lego creations and photos and videos of rock climbing and indoor sky diving experiences.

I would like to commend all of the children for their effort and enthusiasm. There were some really fantastic pieces of work on show. See the photos **here**.

Sport Fixtures Return vs St Joseph's

Fixtures were due to return this week, with matches scheduled against St Joseph's. Unfortunately, our rugby fixture on Wednesday afternoon was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch; however, our netball teams were still able to play their match away at St Joseph's. I was delighted to see Team Waverley perform so well, winning both matches comfortably.

Thankfully, the rainy weather held off this afternoon, allowing our Year 3 and 4 pupils to enjoy their first fixtures of the year. Our rugby teams braved the muddy conditions and put on a great performance in their matches, whilst our netballers demonstrated some excellent skills and went on to win their games. See the photos **here**.

Scholastic Book Fayre

I would like to remind you that our popular Scholastic Book Fayre returns next week **(19th – 23rd January)**. The fayre will run daily from 15:45 – 16:45hrs in the school reception and all purchases will help support our school library. Payment is card only and children need to be accompanied by parents to browse the books.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

S. Shore

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Diary Dates

Monday 19th January:	School Assembly: Teamwork.
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd January:	Scholastic Book Fayre.
Wednesday 21st January:	Swim 2.
	Year 5 & 6 Rugby vs St Mary's. Home. *
	Year 5 & 6 Netball vs Reddam. Home. *
Friday 16th January:	Year 3 & 4 Rugby vs St Mary's. Away. *
	Year 3 & 4 Netball vs St Mary's. Away. *

**Parents welcome.*

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 Explore Space!

This week, Reception have started an exciting new space-themed topic. They began by looking at the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy, before learning about astronaut Tim Peake and his adventures on the International Space Station.

Throughout the week, the children had a 'blast' learning about space, writing about what they would take to the Moon, dressing up as astronauts in their own International Space Station, creating planets from play dough and also completing some 3D rocket puzzles. See photos **here**.

Year 1 Sort Materials in Science

In their Science lesson this week, Year 1 have been learning about materials by sorting everyday items into different categories. Using a range of objects, including metal spoons, plastic bottles and wooden pegs, the children worked carefully to classify them into wood, metal and plastic groups.

The children showed great understanding of materials and their properties and even challenged one another by selecting an item and asking their partner to correctly identify what material it was made from. See photos **here**.

Year 2 Head Back Out To The Forest

On Monday, Year 2 enjoyed their first Forest School session of the year. With the sun shining and the weather warming up slightly, the children had a fantastic time exploring the outdoors. They made mud cakes in the mud kitchen, built a giant marble run for golf balls, created dens using large sticks and took part in a scavenger hunt searching for bugs, trees and other natural items. The children loved being back in nature and had a wonderful time learning and playing together. See photos **here**.

Year 4 Discuss Their Idols in French

In their French lesson this week, Year 4 have been learning how to talk about their idols. The children spent time learning a range of French adjectives to describe their chosen idol, as well as vocabulary linked to different occupations, such as 'chanteur' (singer) and 'acteur' (actor).

They were also introduced to pronouns and practised using the correct French terms for 'he' (il) and 'she' (elle) when talking about different people. Well done Year 4!

Waverley School News

Year 5 Visit Leighton Park

On Monday, Year 5 visited Leighton Park for a fun-filled morning of Sport and Food Technology! The children took part in a Sports Nutrition workshop, where they had to order foods by calories and nutrients. They all did an impressive job, but were surprised to discover that fried chicken ranked higher than cucumber for nutrients! They also worked in teams to create balanced meals for different situations and raced each other on rowing machines.

In Food Technology, the children made their own granola bars, mixing oats, honey and dried fruit, designing container lids and practicing excellent kitchen skills. They were fully engaged throughout the day, showing great focus, teamwork and enthusiasm. See photos **here**.

Year 5 Undertake A Jelly Experiment

In their Science lesson this week, Year 5 have been learning about states of matter. Working in groups, the children were given jelly cubes to dissolve in water and tasked with carrying out different investigations to see which method worked best.

One group tested whether the volume of water affected the dissolving time, another explored whether the number of jelly cubes used made a difference, while a third group investigated whether stirring the mixture impacted how quickly the jelly dissolved. See photos **here**.

Year 6 Tackle Improvisation in Drama

This week in Drama, Year 6 have been exploring improvisation. Mrs Adams gave them a tricky scenario of finding a bomb on a train. The children came up with some very dramatic reactions, acting as both brave bomb disposal experts and scared passengers. Their scenes were exciting, thoughtful and demonstrated impressive drama skills. Everyone handled the challenge really well. See photos **here**.

A Waverley Reporter for The Week Junior

Congratulations to Year 6 pupil Sienna, who was recently featured in The Week Junior! After using the book club page for recommendations, Sienna created an impressive stack of books from those she had read. One pile reached all the way to the ceiling and the other was as tall as Sienna! As well as her photo appearing in the magazine, Sienna also received a special badge for her achievement. Well done!

Waverley School News

After School Club Update

After School Club was back up and running this week, with a full schedule of activities taking place. In Cookery Club, the children made delicious apple crumble. Tennis club saw the children brave the weather as they developed their catching skills and practised hitting rallies with their partners. The children also enjoyed playing board games, including Chess and Battleships, as well as other fun activities. See photos **here**.

Parents Evening - Bookings Go Live Next Week

Bookings for our upcoming parent/teacher consultations will go live on Tuesday 20th January at 10:00hrs. The consultations will be taking place on 4th, 5th and 6th February. Please book your appointment using the My Child At School (MCAS) app. For instructions on how to do this, click **here**.

Notifying School of Absence

If you wish to notify us about your child's absence or illness, the quickest and easiest way to do so is by using your MCAS (My Child At School) app. Please ensure that we are informed by 09:00hrs on each day of absence.

To report an absence, log into the MCAS app, select 'Attendance' and then 'Report an Absence'. Choose your child, enter the date and the reason (for example, 'high temperature' or 'sickness bug'). You only need to click on the time button if your child will be arriving late. Finally, click 'Send' to submit the information. ***Don't forget that leave during term time for any reason other than illness must still be approved by Mr Shore, with at least 5 days notice (except emergencies), using our online form here***.

Keeping The School Site Safe & Secure

To help keep our school site safe and secure, please make sure you close the gate behind you when entering the school site and do not let anyone else in through the gate with you.

Sharing Pupil Achievements

We always love to hear about the wonderful achievements of our pupils outside of school. Please feel free to send any achievements and photos to our Marketing Manager, Mrs Helen Senter via email: **helen.senter@waverleyschool.co.uk** so we can share your exciting news with the rest of the Waverley family.

Waverley School News

Luckley House Open Events

For Year 5 parents considering Luckley as a potential secondary school, we would like to inform you that your child must be registered by **Friday 13 November 2026**. They will be holding Year 5 Taster Days on **Thursday 23 April** and **Wednesday 13 May** for children to experience a typical school day and meet future classmates.

Families are also welcome at their Open Morning on **Wednesday 18 March** (09:00 – 11:00hrs) or Open Evening on **Wednesday 24 June** (18:00 - 20:00hrs) and can organise individual visits on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. For more details, click **here**.

What Parents Need to Know about Digital Devices & Wellbeing

Digital devices play a big role in children's everyday lives, but finding the right balance can be challenging for families. This week's guide from the National College explores how screen use can impact children's sleep, emotional wellbeing, physical health and online experiences.

Written with families in mind, it offers practical and realistic advice on setting healthy boundaries, encouraging open conversations at home and supporting children to build positive digital habits. Download your copy **here**.

WFA News

WFA Quiz Night

Join us for a fun-filled evening at Waverley on **Saturday 7th February** from 19:00hrs for our annual Parents' Quiz Night! Test your knowledge, enjoy some friendly competition and catch up with fellow parents. Tickets are £25 per person and include a delicious 12-inch artisan sour dough pizza from Fire & Hop and a drink to enjoy whilst you play. Gather your team and get ready for a night of laughter, brain-teasers and great company. Book your tickets **here**.

Valentine's Tuck Shop

Our Valentine's Tuck Shop will be open on **Friday 13th February** from 15:30 – 16:00hrs, offering a selection of treats for everyone to enjoy. Children in After School Club will be able to attend, so please ensure they bring money into school on the day.

WFA Diary Dates:

7th February: Parents' Quiz Night

13th February: Valentine's Tuck Shop

5th March: World Book Day

Waverley Nursery News

- **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 explored their interest in animals through sensory and creative activities. They took part in a touch-and-feel activity with sensory animals, using simple descriptive words such as 'soft,' 'smooth,' and 'rough' to support their speech and language development.

The Babies also created artwork using coloured ice with animals frozen inside. This activity encouraged them to explore with their hands, make marks on paper and develop their fine motor skills, imagination and creativity.

Nursery 1 also explored jungle animals this week, searching for them in a tray of sand and moving them around to create footprints. They took part in a painting activity inspired by the book, 'The Jungle Run,' using bubble wrap to stomp animals across paint, creating textures and popping sounds. The children were also encouraged to try jungle animal sounds, including 'raaa' for a tiger, to support their vocabulary development.

Nursery Extension

In the Nursery Extension this week, the children developed their interest in rolling. They explored sensory trays using vehicles rolled through flour, pasta and cereals to observe changes. They also rolled cars and trains in paint to create marks on paper and investigate cause and effect.

Building on their interest in animals, the children explored an animal sensory tray with different textures representing various habitats, such as sea, snow and grass, while learning about different animals and where they come from.

Nursery 2

In Nursery 2 this week, the children explored their recent interest in winter. They took part in ice painting using frozen paint sticks to make marks and discuss colours. They also joined in ice racing, identifying frozen animals, describing how the ice felt and watching it slide down ramps.

Outdoors, the children explored winter in the mud kitchen, collecting natural materials, mixing ingredients together and transferring them between pots. They also took part in a snowflake soup activity with shaving foam, cutters and cupcake cases and created snowman pictures using paint and craft materials, supporting counting, fine motor skills and creativity.

Nursery 3

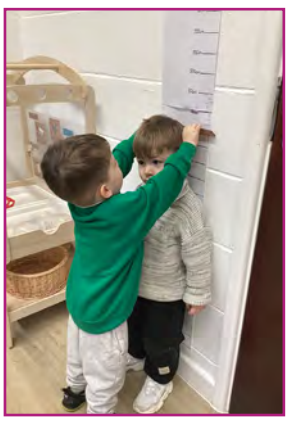
Nursery 3 continued to show an interest in winter weather this week. At the beginning of their week, the children discovered some animals got stuck in a 'snowstorm.' They helped cover the animals in snow and created more snow by tearing and rolling bits of tissue paper into small balls.

The children also showed an interest in aeroplanes flying over the garden, which sparked conversations about where they could be going and who has been on aeroplanes. This interest was further explored through an Earth/world sensory tray. This was created from green and blue rice with aeroplanes, allowing the children to role play planes taking off, flying around the world and landing. They also looked at where aeroplanes are often found and hunted for them under cotton wall clouds.

Pre-Foundation

In Pre-Foundation this week, the children took part in role play using toy food and babies, encouraging conversations about healthy foods and their importance for growth. They took turns to measure each other on a height chart, developing number recognition and comparing measurements and then during Woodland School, they continued role playing with babies, using fruit and vegetables to feed them and reinforce healthy eating.

The children also cut up their own fruit to search for seeds, talking about what they found and counting them. They discussed what the seeds might grow into and created pictures of flowers, trees and vegetables using paints and glue, supporting their creativity and fine motor skills.



Foundation

In Foundation this week, the children explored vehicles through a fun washing activity. The vehicles were covered in 'mud' (paint) and 'snow' (chalk) and the children enjoyed cleaning them with syringes, brushes and sponges. This activity supported their fine motor skills, hand–eye coordination and encouraged discussions about hygiene. They also took part in a vehicle hunt and explored trains by counting their wheels and grouping some.

The children also showed a new interest in rockets this week, which led to a space-themed activity. They watched a rocket take-off, explored books and images of rockets and took part in their own countdown to launch.

Foundation also enjoyed a vehicle hide-and-seek activity, searching for images placed around the room and counting them as they went along. The children looked high and low for vehicles, with some images even hidden on the ceiling! As they counted, they used a blackboard to record everything.

Menus

Next week our lunch menu will be Week 2.
You can view our Winter menu for School and Nursery **here**.

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**
  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