Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 1st May 2026

Smiles All Around for Ancient Greek Day

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely week. With the sunshine continuing, it's been another busy and enjoyable few days at Waverley. From Ancient Greek adventures in the classroom to fun cricket fixtures, alongside lots of great learning across the school, it's been wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic.

Student Success Stories

I am always delighted to hear about the children's successes beyond Waverley and this week has been another wonderful example. Our Judo pupils achieved fantastic results at the Southampton Samurai competition. Well done to Rishi (runner up), Ema (bronze), Kiyaan (bronze), Benji (silver), Theo (bronze), Emma C (bronze) and Charlotte C (gold). I am incredibly proud of you all!

We also saw great representation in football from Neeva, Navya, Zoe and Sara all playing for Finchampstead U7s, whilst Nandi impressed in a county gymnastics competition and Sadhana was awarded a special trophy for winning her dance competition. I would like to congratulate everyone for their brilliant achievements!

Home Cricket Fixtures vs St Mary's

It was wonderful to be back out on the Waverley playing fields on Wednesday afternoon, enjoying the sunshine and a fantastic set of Year 5 & 6 Cricket fixtures against St Mary's, Henley. The children all played brilliantly and definitely rose to the challenge of some strong batters on the opposing side.

I was extremely proud of the sportsmanship shown by our Waverley children, with a number of them stepping in to play for the other team. They demonstrated real maturity as they bowled and batted for St Mary's and even caught out their own classmates! A great afternoon of cricket and a fine example of the values we hold here at Waverley. See photos **here**.

Celebrating Year 6 Achievements

At break time today, Mrs Shore and I enjoyed our latest Heads' Hot Chocolate session with Year 6, although instead of hot chocolate this week, the class enjoyed some refreshing ice lollies. The children took the opportunity to share something they are proud of and there were lots of exciting items on show again today.

From brilliant cross-stitch creations and sports medals, to a Girl Guides mixology badge and skiing success. There were so many interesting achievements to hear about this week. One special highlight was the impressive chocolate babka that Aurelia had baked to share with the class. I can confirm it was absolutely delicious! The whole class should feel extremely proud of everything they have accomplished. See photos **here**.

Past Pupil Work Experience

It was wonderful to welcome past pupil Lucy Stancer back to Waverley this week as she joined us for work experience. Lucy, who left us in 2022, is currently in Year 10 at The Willink School.

It is always a pleasure to welcome former pupils back into school. It was great to hear about what Lucy (and her Waverley siblings) have been up to since leaving Waverley, as well as her plans for the future. I would like to thank Lucy for all her help throughout this week and wish her every success as she continues her education.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the Bank Holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday!

E. Shore

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Pupil Achievements

Pupils of the Week

Nina, Reception
'For her excellent work in Read, Write Inc.'

Kenzie, Year 1
'For always being so helpful and working so hard on her reading.'

Harry, Year 2
'For his intense focus during lessons. He absorbs information and applies himself whole-heartedly to all tasks.'

Lara, Year 3
'For participating more confidently in class discussions, offering her thoughts and answers.'

Jacob, Year 4
'For his excellent writing in English. He wrote two great pieces of work about the Wind and the Willows, using paragraphs, speech, fronted adverbials and a variety of punctuation.'

Teddy, Year 5
'For his excellent enthusiasm shown during the recent Art workshop. He asked engaging, subject specific questions.'

Toby, Year 6
'For his unfailing politeness alongside hard work and determination in all areas of his work.'

Waverley Way Award

Ella
'For helping others in the class and trying her best in every lesson.'

Effy OA
'For consistently trying her hardest in lessons and showing great resilience. She is always polite to everyone and a great example of the Waverley Way!'

Diary Dates

Monday 4th May:	Early May Bank Holiday. School & Nursery closed.
Tuesday 5th May:	Year 5 Parents Sex Ed Meeting.
Wednesday 6th May:	Swim 3.
	Year 5 & 6 Cricket vs Sherfield. HOME. *
Friday 8th May:	Year 3 & 4 Cricket vs Sherfield. 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 Ancient Greek Day

On Monday, Waverley was transformed into Ancient Greece for a very special themed day for our Year 5 and Year 6 children courtesy of Russ from Portals to the Past. The day began with an introduction to Greek life and culture, helping the children get a feel for what life was like in Ancient Greece. They then took part in a Greek quiz, searching boards placed around the room to find interesting facts and complete their quiz sheets.

The children then tested their engineering skills, taking on the Archimedes' Stomachion puzzle (the oldest known mathematical puzzle). Working in teams, they had to use oddly shaped pieces to make a square, before trying to create other shapes. There was plenty of teamwork, problem-solving and perseverance as they worked through some very tricky solutions.

The children also learnt to play Petteia, an ancient Greek strategy game similar to chess or draughts. The aim of the game was to outsmart your opponent by trapping their pieces. The children quickly realised it was all about planning ahead and thinking carefully, rather than luck.

There was lots of laughter in the next activity, with the children re-enacting the famous story of the Minotaur and the Labyrinth of Crete. In the myth, the Minotaur is a fearsome creature who lives in a maze and is defeated by the hero Theseus, with help from Ariadne. The children brought the story to life brilliantly, with Joseph as Theseus, Eloise as Ariadne and Aurelia as the ferocious Minotaur.

After lunch, the children got to see and handle replicas of ancient Greek weapons and armour, including swords, spears, shields and helmets, learning more about how Greek soldiers were equipped. They then marched like the Spartan army, before taking part in a mini Olympic Games, with Year 5 (Athens) competing against Year 6 (Sparta). Events included discus and javelin, with everyone getting involved and giving it their best effort!

To finish the day, there was even a singing competition inspired by Ancient Greek Olympic traditions, with performances from Mateja and Ellen and Evie and Adam. Everyone did fantastically well and after a fun and action-packed day, the Spartans (Year 6) were declared the overall winners.

Overall, it was a brilliant day full of learning, teamwork and fun. The children had a fantastic time as Ancient Greece was brought to life for the day. See photos **here**.

Waverley School News

Reception Forest School Fun

Reception had a wonderful Forest School session this morning, making the most of the beautiful weather. They enjoyed the sunshine in the Waverley Basin, collecting natural items to use in their mud kitchen back in the Reception garden. The children also took part in all their usual forest school activities and had fun on a special Forest School swing that had been set up. See photos **here**.

Year 1 Write Stories

Over the past few weeks, Year 1 have been learning the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and they are now able to retell the story confidently from memory, complete with actions.

Yesterday afternoon, the class headed out to the playground to go back over the story and thought about how they could change parts of it to create their own versions. The children came up with some brilliant ideas, swapping the billy goats for spiders or lions and even changing the troll into something completely different. They then wrote their own stories, showing lots of imagination and enthusiasm.

Year 2 Have Fun in Drama

In drama this week, Year 2 have been acting out The Three Little Pigs and really enjoyed bringing the story to life. They worked hard on their acting, with clear voices, good expressions and some brilliant physical shapes to show the different houses. The Big Bad Wolf also made an appearance and the children had lots of fun reacting as he tried to blow the houses down!

They also took part in a pirate-themed game called Captain's Coming, which was full of energy and excitement. The children followed quick-fire instructions like scrubbing the decks, climbing the rigging and walking the plank, all while trying to stay in the game.

Year 3 Finish Their Sunflowers

This week, Year 3 have been busy finishing their sunflower artwork that they started during Waverley Art Week. They carefully weaved wool around their paper plate sunflowers, creating colourful and effective designs. The finished pieces look great and will soon be added to the fantastic collaborative display in the main school corridor. See photos **here**.

Waverley School News

Year 4 Explore Towns in French

This week, Year 4 continued their learning about places around town and how to talk about where they are going. They have been using the verb aller (to go) with à (to) and practising saying sentences such as 'I am going to…' in French.

The children also sorted different places into masculine, feminine and plural categories, including le zoo, la plage and les halles. They then explored how the language changes depending on the gender of the noun. For example, they learned je vais au restaurant (masculine), je vais à la gare (feminine) and je vais aux magasins (plural).

Year 5 Tudor Portrait Display

A new display board has been put up in Melton Hall showcasing a fantastic range of Tudor-style portraits created by Year 5. The children have done a brilliant job drawing different staff members, carefully adding detail and character to each.

The portraits are very impressive and really capture each person in a fun Tudor style. Can you guess who each one is? See photos **here**.

Year 6 Investigate Mould Growth

This week, our Year 6 scientists have been investigating how mould grows on bread as part of their learning about microorganisms. The children set up a fair test by changing just one variable, such as moisture, light or temperature and will be carefully observing their samples over several days.

Alongside the practical work, they have also learnt about helpful and harmful microorganisms and explored real-life examples, including how Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. It has been a great opportunity for the children to think like real scientists! See photos **here**.

Forest & Woodland School Clothing Reminder

As we move into the Summer term, please can you ensure your child comes to Forest and Woodland School suitably dressed. The most important items are a long-sleeve T-shirt, lightweight trousers, a sun hat, wellies and a lightweight waterproof. These help protect against stings, insect bites and provide essential sun protection. We also ask that suncream and insect repellent are applied before school. Full kit details can be found **here**.

Waverley School News

Waverley is Hiring!

Waverley is currently looking for a dedicated and experienced Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) to join our team. This is a permanent, part-time, term-time only role, working with children aged 5–11 and closely alongside staff, parents and external professionals.

We are looking for someone with strong SEND experience who is caring, committed and passionate about helping every child thrive. Applications close at midday on **Wednesday 13th May 2026**. Full details can be found **here** and interested candidates can contact **recruitment@waverleyschool.co.uk**

WFA News

Colour Run - 17th May

Ticket sales have been extended to Wednesday 6th May at midday. Once ticket sales close, we will be unable to accept any further orders. Premium child tickets are £10 (including sunglasses and a white T-shirt) or £8 for a standard adult or child ticket, with all children receiving a finisher's medal. The event will be an untimed run around Waverley Playing Fields in year groups. Please note that all participants must complete a waiver form in order to take part. FAQs and the waiver form can be found **here**.

Chair and Secretary Committee Roles

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to share that our current WFA Chair, Rachel and Secretary, Lisa, will be stepping down from their roles. We are now inviting expressions of interest from parents who may wish to take on either of these important positions.

Rachel has been a valued member of the school community for many years, previously serving as a Year Representative before becoming Chair for the past three years. Together with the wider WFA, she has helped build a strong and vibrant community.

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help continue this great Waverley spirit. No previous experience is needed, just a willingness to get involved, share ideas and work collaboratively. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please get in touch by emailing the WFA **here**.

WFA Diary Dates:

17th May: Colour Run

5th, 12th & 19th June: Frozen Fridays

3rd July: WFA Summer Fayre

Waverley Nursery News

Foundation & Pre-Foundation Water Safety Talk

On Wednesday afternoon, the Foundation and Pre-Foundation children enjoyed a special visit from Puddleducks for a Water Safety Talk. The session featured a visit from a duck called Puddle and helped the children learn how to stay safe near water.

They were introduced to early personal survival skills and discussed how to stay safe in and around water, especially over the summer months. It was a fun and very useful learning experience for all.

Nursery Photo/Media Consent

We will shortly be sending out an update regarding Nursery photo/media consents as we understand that some of our parents would appreciate further clarification.

We have therefore decided to also delay the RSVP date for responses to the online **form** which was originally set for this coming Monday (4th May). A new RSVP date will be communicated shortly.

- **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 movement through a range of play-based activities. In the garden, the Babies enjoyed pushing vehicles down a ramp, watching how fast they travelled. Throughout the activity, the Educators supported their understanding of movement and speed introducing new words and sounds. The Babies also dipped toy cars into paint to make marks on paper, strengthening their fine motor and hand-eye coordination skills.

Nursery 1 also explored transporting and posting with spaghetti, tubes and colanders. The Babies carefully tested to see which objects would fit, helping to build their concentration and problem-solving skills. They also enjoyed moving fabrics to music and continued their interest in transporting water using boats in the garden water tray.

Nursery Extension

This week, the children in the Nursery Extension continued to explore their interests in animals and colour. They used different coloured paints and animal figures to create animal footprints on paper, stomping the animals into the paint. During this activity, the children spoke about the different colours and animal sounds with their Educators.

The children also took part in animal rescue activities this week, using their fine motor skills to carefully remove tape and free the animals, as well as exploring ice rescue. They also took part in colour matching activities with shapes and wooden circles and showed curiosity when exploring transparent coloured shapes and the reflections they created in different environments.

Nursery 2

Nursery 2 continued to explore their interest in bugs this week. The children took part in an activity where they freed insects from 'webs' using their pincer grips. They also used kinetic sand to mould spider bodies, adding eyes and legs to their creations. This helped to support their fine motor, communication and early maths skills.

The children also investigated some natural resources this week, with some bugs trapped in bark and insects frozen in ice. They also enjoyed some outdoor learning, whilst on a walk to the field where they spotted ants and woodlice. They also took part in a 'what's in the box' activity, exploring different textures and finding hidden bug pictures.

Nursery 3

The children in Nursery 3 continued to develop their interest in Spring and bees this week. They explored how bees collect nectar from flowers, by using pretend flowers and crafted bees. This encouraged imaginative play as they moved bees from flower to flower. The children also created their own bees using play dough, strengthening their fine motor skills and helping them to follow simple instructions and recognise colours.

Another fun activity the children took part in involved threading pipe cleaners through a bee template. This helped to support hand-eye coordination and concentration. The children also created beehive artwork using bubble wrap and paint and enjoyed exploring how bees feed from flowers.

Pre-Foundation

The children in Pre-Foundation had a fun and creative start to the week, as they took part in more activities themed around the story of 'The Gruffalo.' The children enjoyed decorating biscuits with chocolate, icing and edible eyes, to make them look like characters from the story. They also explored a themed tuff tray, where they helped to guide their characters through the 'deep, dark woods.'

Pre-Foundation have also been looking at bugs and insects this week. The children enjoyed a bug hunt outside, where they spotted ladybirds and followed this up with ladybird printing, counting spots and talking about what they had found.

Foundation

Foundation have been exploring the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' this week, through sensory play. They used rice for 'porridge,' along with bowls, scoops and bear figures. They scooped, poured and sorted, whilst acting out parts of the story. This activity helped to develop their fine motor skills, early maths language around size and their imaginative storytelling.

The children also created their own character crowns to support some role play of the story and also made 'bear toast.' This helped them to practise their cutting and spreading skills, whilst discussing portions and the story, before enjoying it as part of their afternoon snack.

Menus

Next week our lunch menu will be Week 1.
You can view our Summer 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:**
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