Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 23rd January 2026

15th IN THE UK

13 years BEST IN BERKSHIRE

Rated EXCELLENT -ISI Inspection

Another Wonderful Week at Waverley!

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful week. Although the wet weather across the week led to the cancellation of some fixtures for our older children, there has still been plenty going on across the school. Once again, we have lots to celebrate and share this week.

School Assembly: Teamwork

Our school assembly this week focused on the theme of teamwork. Mr Mitchell began with a challenge, asking for a volunteer to lift a box using just one finger. Samuel D stepped forward, but quickly discovered that the task was impossible on his own. A team was then formed (including Ibby, Diogo and Miles) and the challenge suddenly became achievable, perfectly demonstrating the power of working together.

Mr Mitchell then shared the inspiring true story of the 2018 Thailand cave rescue, where a young football team became trapped by flooding deep underground. Thanks to an incredible global team effort involving cave divers, engineers, medics, volunteers and even local farmers, the boys were found after nine days and all safely rescued after 18 days.

The assembly reminded us how important it is to be a team player, which is something that sits at the heart of our ethos at Waverley. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or on the sports pitch, **TEAM** really does mean: **T**ogether, **E**veryone, **A**chieves, **M**ore.

Waverley's New Wellbeing Room

At Waverley, we believe that positive mental health is a vital part of keeping children safe, happy, healthy and able to learn to the best of their ability. As a result, we offer a range of wellbeing resources, activities and support that are available to pupils at all times.

I am pleased to share that Mrs Mitchell has now successfully completed her Mental Health First Aid course and joins Mrs Hatton-Evans in our wellbeing team. Miss Billen and Mrs Ayling, have also now completed their training and have begun delivering their first ELSA sessions.

I am also delighted to share that we now have a new wellbeing room available for children to use. This provides a safe and calm space where pupils can decompress, regulate their emotions and develop coping strategies before returning to class ready to learn. The room has been extremely well received by the children who have used it and I am incredibly proud that we are now able to offer this facility. A big thank you to the WFA for their support in helping to fund this great new space!

Year 4 Share Their Achievements

Earlier today, we held another of our weekly Heads' Hot Chocolate sessions, with Mrs Shore and I spending break time with Year 4 to celebrate some of their achievements. We were genuinely impressed by what we saw this week, with fantastic examples of impressive model roller coasters, sporting medals, 3D jigsaw puzzles and excellent pieces of homework on display.

I would like to thank all of the children for sharing their excellent achievements and congratulate them all for their hard work. See the photos **here**.

Scholastic Book Fayre

I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who purchased books at our Scholastic Book Fayre this week. In total we sold over £700 worth of books this year! Not only do the children get to enjoy some wonderful new books at home, but the school also benefits through the addition of new books for our library. This fantastic event helps to develop a continued love of reading across Waverley.

I hope you have a lovely weekend!

S. Shore

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Pupil Achievements

Pupils of the Week

Bella, Reception
'For making a good start to the new term. She has been listening well and trying her best in Read Write Inc.'

Dhruv, Year 1
'For always giving everything his best. He takes on new challenges with positivity.'

Neeva, Year 2
'For her imaginative use of ambitious adjectives to create a vivid dragon description.'

Sebastian, Year 3
'For having a positive attitude towards his work and being more independent.'

Rajan, Year 4
'For his improved focus and determination in Maths. He is working very hard to learn all of his times tables.'

Joshua L, Year 5
'For always working incredibly hard in all subjects and for taking on challenges in Maths with enthusiasm.'

Sacha, Year 6
'For demonstrating hard work, tenacity and attention to detail across all subjects.'

Waverley Way Award

Mehar
'For displaying kindness and respect. She has settled into school incredibly well and is a wonderful role model of the Waverley Way already.'

Alice
'For the kindness she always displays to others and her ability to make everyone feel included. She is a shining example of the Waverley Way!'

Diary Dates

Monday 26th January:	School Assembly: Burn's Night.
Wednesday 28th January:	Swim 3. Year 5 & 6 Rugby vs Reddam. Away. * Year 5 & 6 Netball vs St George's. Home. *
Thursday 29th January	School Council Meeting.
Friday 30th January:	ISA Cross-Country at Sherfield. (Selected Children in Years 3-6). Year 3 & 4 Rugby vs St Gabriel's. Away. * Year 3 & 4 Netball vs Reddam. 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's Indoor PE Lesson

The wet weather on Wednesday morning didn't stop Reception from getting active in their PE lesson. Instead, the children enjoyed a range of fun circuits in Melton Hall, including football dribbling, beam balancing, practising forward rolls, bean bag throwing and climbing and jumping from a soft vaulting box. Everyone had lots of fun taking part and showed fantastic enthusiasm throughout the session. See photos **here**.

Year 1 Lowry Inspired Art

In their art lesson this week, the children in Year 1 created some Lowry-inspired artwork. They began by drawing a school building, similar to those seen in his paintings, including scenes of a busy school playground. Once their sketches were complete, the children used watercolours to bring their drawings to life, experimenting with colour and shading to capture the feel of Lowry's style.

Next week, they will add finer details by going over their paintings with pens, highlighting the figures and features in their scenes. See them hard at work **here**.

Year 3 & 4 Design Viking Shields

Year 3 and 4 have been learning about the Vikings in their history lessons and this week they spent time designing and creating their own Viking shields. After discovering that Viking shields were decorated with bright colours and patterns (red represented strength, blue represented loyalty) and designs often reflected personal or cultural meaning, the children used Viking runes and their own research to create unique shields.

Each child chose significant colours and patterns, including runes spelling out their names. See photos of their creations **here**.

Year 4 Tooth Decay Experiment

In Science, Year 4 have been learning about teeth and how our food affects them. They carried out a tooth decay experiment using hard-boiled eggs, as the shells act like tooth enamel.

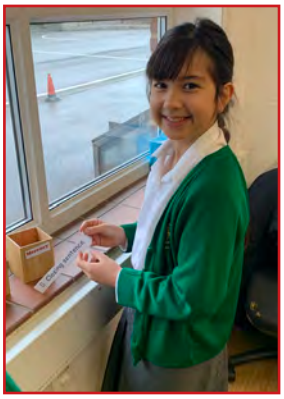
The eggs were placed in water, milk, orange juice, Coca Cola and vinegar to see how different drinks can stain or wear away enamel. Over the next week, the children will observe any changes to the shells, just like looking after their own teeth! See photos **here**.

Waverley School News

Year 5 Learn How to Write Letters

In their English lesson this week, Year 5 have been learning the skills of letter writing and exploring the key features of a letter. The children began by working in groups on a 'features hunt' around the classroom, spotting items such as the address, introduction and closing sentence. They then collaborated to put these features in the correct order as they would appear in a real letter.

To finish, the class read through a selection of letters with missing or incorrect features, identifying what was missing and correcting any punctuation errors. See photos **here**.



Cancelled KS2 Fixtures = Fun Indoor Games

Unfortunately, our home fixtures were cancelled on Wednesday due to rain, but the children made the most of the day by taking part in some friendly, yet competitive games in the school hall. In teams they played benchball, followed by bodgeball (a fun mix of benchball and dodgeball) before finishing with a game that combined elements of basketball and rounders. Everyone had a fantastic time, showing brilliant examples of teamwork, which tied in perfectly with this week's school assembly theme. See photos **here**.

Year 5 & 6 Speak to 'Come From Away' Pilot

This term, our Year 5 and 6 classes have been learning about the story Come From Away and the real-life events following the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11th. They have explored how planes were diverted away from US airspace to places such as Gander, Newfoundland and the incredible acts of kindness shown to passengers during that time.

Both classes had a fantastic opportunity on Tuesday afternoon to speak with Captain Beverley Bass, one of the pilots whose plane was diverted to Gander. The children prepared thoughtful questions, asking things like, 'How did the passengers react when the plane was diverted?' 'How did you stay calm and confident when so many people were relying on you?' and 'How did the kindness of the people in Gander help you and your passengers during such a frightening time?'

The children asked insightful questions and found speaking directly with someone involved in the events incredibly valuable. They will also have the chance in the coming weeks to speak with Nick and Diane Marson (passengers on a different flight), as well as some of the people of Gander who helped to look after the 7000 stranded passengers.

Waverley School News

Skiing Success for Kivanc!

A huge well done to Kivanc (Year 2) who made brilliant progress with his skiing over the Christmas break. He earned two levels at once, received three medals and reached the One Star level. As one of the youngest in his group, he showed great bravery and determination. Well done Kivanc, you should be very proud of yourself!

February Half Term Holiday Club – Book Now!

Bookings for our February Half Term Holiday Club are now open! Join us for a week packed with fun activities, including baking, arts and crafts, sports, woodland walks, a bouncy castle and a very special fairytale fun day. Spaces are limited, so be sure to book soon to avoid missing out!

View the KS1 schedule **here**.
View the KS2 schedule **here**.
Book your place **here**.

Upcoming Secondary School Open Events

The **Marist School, Ascot**, are holding their Senior Open Morning on **Friday 30 January, 09:15 - 11:15hrs**. It will be a great chance to explore the school and meet staff and pupils. For details, click **here**.

Pangbourne College will host their Whole School Open Morning on **Saturday 25 April 2026, 10:00 - 13:00hrs** (arrivals from 09:30). Visitors can tour the campus and meet staff and pupils (including past Waverley pupils like Noah). To find out more, click **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.

This isn't your typical boring quiz! Our quiz masters have cooked up rounds including music, tasting challenges and more to keep you on your toes. Gather your team and get ready for a night of laughter, brain-teasers and great company. Book your tickets **here**.

WFA Diary Dates:

7th February: Parents' Quiz Night
13th February: Valentine's Tuck Shop
5th March: World Book Day

Waverley Nursery News

Getting Ready For Reception

Wokingham Borough Council is inviting parents of children in Foundation to join a 'Let's Get Ready' workshop to help support and prepare your child for starting Reception. The session will be hosted by Amy Dixon, the Headteacher of Hillside Primary School and the Council on **Wednesday 4th February (18:15 - 19:30hrs)** at Hawkedon Primary School.

There is also an online session on **Wednesday 11th February (18:00 - 19:00hrs)**. Book your place at either event **here**.

- **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, the Babies continued to explore their interest in animals. On Tuesday, they took part in Penguin Awareness Day, creating paper plate penguins with paint and brushes. The Babies had lots of fun exploring the paint and getting creative, before sharing their penguin creations with their friends.

Nursery 1 also loved mark-making with play dough this week. The Babies used the play dough to stamp and stomp different animal shapes into, watching to see the impressions they left. This activity encouraged their creativity and speech, as they made a variety of animal sounds whilst playing.

Nursery Extension

This week, the children in the Nursery Extension spent time exploring animal footprints through a number of fun activities. They enjoyed pressing animals into paint and looking at the different marks each animal left behind. Throughout the activity, the children were encourage to make animal sounds to help support their early speech development.

The children also enjoyed creating animal footprints in play dough. The Educators discussed the different prints, animal sounds and how many legs the animals had, supporting the children's mark-making, fine motor and language skills.

Nursery 2

This week, Nursery Two continued to explore their interest in winter. The children enjoyed lots of snow-related activities including walking through shaving foam 'snow' and making snow prints with cotton wool and paint. The children also explored mark-making on a light table filled with flour and rice, which was inspired by snowflake pictures.

Nursery 2 also celebrated Penguin Awareness Day on Tuesday, by rescuing frozen penguin toys from ice, using tools and teamwork to problem-solve. In the garden, they built igloos for Arctic animals using ice cubes and cornflour, enjoying imaginative play whilst also learning about cold environments.

Nursery 3

This week, the children in Nursery 3 continued to explore their interest in aeroplanes. They began by creating their own passports and then packed their suitcases for holiday. They also had the opportunity to look at some real passports, which helped them understand what people need before travelling.

With their bags ready, the children then went through airport security, placing their suitcases through a pretend security machine to check that everything was safe. They then created their own boarding passes, carefully adding different numbers and letters, before finishing the week with Nursery 3's airline taking off into the sky. The children boarded the plane and enjoyed role-playing the different experiences they would see on a real flight.

Pre-Foundation

This week, the children in Pre-Foundation developed their Maths skills by rolling dice and counting out the matching number of seeds, supporting number recognition and counting. They also enjoyed their time at Woodland School, where they searched for acorns and explored pine cones by breaking them open to discover the hidden seeds inside.

In their PE session, the children worked on balance and colour recognition through a range of fun activities. They also learned about the life cycle of a plant, planted their own herbs to observe over the coming weeks and made colourful paper plate flower creations.

Foundation

This week, Foundation took part in lots of creative activities that supported their fine motor skills. They cut out rocket shapes and decorated them using a variety of materials, including buttons, feathers, felt, pipe cleaners and pom-poms. This activity encouraged creativity whilst also helping the children practise their scissor skills and hand-eye coordination.

The children also created name rockets by arranging the letters of their name in order and gluing them onto colourful paper. This fun, hands-on activity supported their literacy, letter recognition and confidence, as the children talked about their finished name rockets.

The rocket-themed activities continued as the children filled their rockets with moon rocks to prepare them for take-off. Each group of rockets had different numbers from 5 to 15, representing the number of moon rocks needed. The children worked together to fill the rockets, practising counting and teamwork, before sending them blasting off into space!

Menus

Next week our lunch menu will be Week 3.
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**
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