Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 25th September 2026

A Fiesta of Languages & Culture at Waverley

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful week. It has been another very busy week at Waverley, with plenty happening across the school. From drama workshops and football tournaments to our Harvest Festival assembly, Macmillan coffee morning and a fantastic Modern Foreign Languages and Cultural Awareness Day, there has been plenty for the children to get involved in. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying all of the different activities and embracing every opportunity. Here are some of the highlights from the week...

Celebrating Our 10th Modern Foreign Languages & Cultural Awareness Day

Yesterday, we celebrated one of my favourite traditions at Waverley... Modern Foreign Languages and Cultural Awareness Day. Now in its 10th year, it is always a highlight of our school calendar. It was wonderful to see the children arriving in such fantastic costumes, proudly representing countries and cultures from around the world. For me, the day really captures the spirit of Waverley, celebrating our diverse community while encouraging children to learn about different languages and cultures. More details can be found on ***page 4***.

We also enjoyed a special international menu at lunchtime, with dishes from around the world, including chicken mandi from Yemen, roast tomato risotto from Italy, saag aloo from India and citronmane (lemon moon

cake) from Denmark. A big thank you to our wonderful Connect catering team for preparing such a delicious feast!

Cultural Creativity Competition

In honour of MFL Day, we ran our popular Cultural Creativity Competition, inviting children to celebrate languages and cultures from around the world through art and craft. I had the difficult task of choosing our winners this year, and there were some fantastic entries to choose from!

From delicious bakes and incredible works of art to impressive 3D creations and much more, the children really went above and beyond. It certainly wasn't an easy decision! The winners will be announced in Monday morning's assembly, but in the meantime, take a look at some of the fantastic entries **here**.

Harvest Festival Assembly

This morning, we welcomed parents to our Celebration of Work Morning and Harvest Festival assembly. Year 6 shared thoughtful reflections on the origins of Harvest Festival, reminding us of the importance of giving thanks and sharing what we have with others. Parents who joined us were also treated to some wonderful performances, including whole-school renditions of 'Harvest Song' and 'Beautiful World', alongside beautiful contributions from our KS2 Choir and KS1 children. You can watch a video of the whole-school performance **here**.

A big thank you to everyone who donated to our Harvest Festival collection. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our Waverley families, with all donations being delivered to the Wokingham Salvation Army, where they will make a real difference to local people in need.

Senior School Fayre

It was lovely to welcome representatives from a number of local senior schools to Waverley for our Senior School Fayre on Monday afternoon. It was also great to see so many of our parents taking the opportunity to come along, speak to the schools and gather useful information to help with those all-important secondary school decisions.

A big thank you to all the schools, parents and staff who helped make the afternoon such a success. I hope everyone who attended found it useful and came away with plenty to think about.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

S. Shute

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Pupil Achievements

Pupils of the Week

Johan, Reception (Hedgehogs)
'For always sitting and listening beautifully during carpet time and giving 100% in Read, Write Inc.'

Aria, Reception (Squirrels)
'For always listening and trying her best in all areas.'

Scarlett, Year 1
'For giving each lesson her best and listening to feedback.'

Henry, Year 2
'For an amazing first swimming lesson, where he showed resilience and perseverance to get in and do his best.'

George, Year 3
'For his determination when tackling his work. He has approached his Maths with a positive attitude and perseverance'

Rupert, Year 4
'For his outstanding contribution in Music this week, when playing the glockenspiel.'

Sophie, Year 5
'For working really hard in her comprehension of War Horse.'

Adam, Year 6
'For his outstanding start to Year 6 with great focus and hard work in all areas.'

Waverley Way Awards

For Being Kind

Asa, Year 2
'For going out of his way to help those around him and tidying areas of the classroom.'

For Being Honest

Toby, Year 4
'For always being honest and taking responsibility for his words and actions.'

For Doing Her Best

Tilly, Year 5
'For demonstrating excellent perseverance in anything that is asked of her.'

Diary Dates

Monday 28th September: School Assembly: Diversity & Inclusion.
Tuesday 29th September: Swim 4.
Wednesday 30th September: Individual & Sibling School Photos.
Year 5 & 6 Football vs Yateley Manor. Home. *
Year 5 & 6 Hockey vs Sherfield. Away. *
Thursday 1st October: Reception Classroom Official Opening.
Friday 2nd October: Year 3 & 4 Co-Ed Football vs Dolphin. 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.

Modern Foreign Languages & Cultural Awareness Day

Yesterday, Waverley celebrated its annual Modern Foreign Languages Day, with children dressing in fantastic costumes and taking part in a number of fun, themed activities. The day aims to promote language learning, raise geographical awareness and celebrate the diverse community we have at Waverley.

The day began with an assembly led by Mrs Lightstone and Ms Bell, who shared that MFL Day has now been running for 10 years (as long as some of our current Year 6 children have been alive!) During the assembly, the children took part in a fun game of 'Through the Keyhole', identifying a selection of famous landmarks, naming them and working out which country and continent they could be found in.

Throughout the day, the children enjoyed a wide range of off-timetable activities, starting with 'Words from Around the World', where they had to identify where different words originated. Some classes used their detective skills to guess the answers, others researched them on their Chromebooks and Year 2 worked together to place their words onto a world map.

There were lots of creative activities too. Year 3 created posters and flags celebrating Canada, using landmarks, animals and other Canadian-inspired designs. Mrs Eden-Higgs introduced the children to Gaudí, the famous mosaic artist from Barcelona, before they created their own individual mosaic designs. The children also made tropical fruit kebabs with Mrs Gibson, using fruits from around the world.

Mrs Lightstone gave the children an introduction to the Welsh language, teaching them a selection of everyday phrases, before helping them create their own Welsh dragon masks. They also tried their best attempt to name the longest town in Wales *(Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch!)* Meanwhile, Ms Bell brought a taste of Spain to the classroom, with the children designing and creating their own Spanish fans using a fun concertina folding technique.

A particular highlight for every class was a special flamenco dancing session, where the children channelled their inner Spanish dancers with plenty of stomping, clapping and some impressive moves!

Once again, it was another fantastic MFL Day, with lots of opportunities for the children to learn about different languages, countries and cultures in a fun and engaging way. Videos from the day will be shared next week, but for now, you can view some of the photos from the day **here**.

Waverley School News

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Earlier today, we took part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning, with the children enjoying hot chocolate and a selection of delicious mini cakes in the playground. Thanks to our fantastic Connect catering team, every child was treated to a delicious selection, whilst our Year 6 Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies did a brilliant job serving everyone.

I am delighted to share that, together, we raised an incredible £210 for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was lovely to see everyone coming together to enjoy a special morning while supporting such a wonderful cause. Well done Waverley! See photos **here**.

U11 Football Tournament

On Wednesday, a team of Year 5 and 6 pupils headed to Yateley Manor to take part in an U11 Football Tournament. The team performed impressively throughout the group stage, finishing in second place and securing a semi-final against Wellesley Prep.

The semi-final was a closely fought and both teams were unable to break the deadlock. With the score at 0–0, the match went to penalties. Samuel and Otto stepped up confidently for Waverley, both finding the back of the net, while Joseph produced two excellent saves to deny Wellesley and send Waverley through to the final.

The team continued to show great determination in the final against LVS, with some excellent defensive work from Joshua, Hugo, Dominic and Varun and impressive attacking play from Teddy. Despite a strong performance, Waverley were unfortunately beaten 2–0 by a well-organised LVS side.

Overall, it was a fantastic team effort and a wonderful achievement to finish runners-up in the tournament. The boys should be extremely proud of their performance and returned to school with some very well-deserved second-place medals. Well done team!

Perform Drama Workshop

On Monday, our Key Stage 1 children had a brilliant morning taking part in a special drama workshop with Perform. In the session, they became superheroes, unearthing their hidden powers before heading off on a fun-filled mission to help save the planet from global warming.

The children threw themselves into their roles, demonstrating some brilliant acting skills and had a fantastic time. See photos from the workshop **here**.

Waverley School News

Reception PE - Judo Taster Sessions

Our Reception children enjoyed something a little different in their PE sessions this week, taking part in special Judo taster sessions with Sensei Paul, our ASC Judo teacher. The children had a brilliant time learning some of the basic Judo moves and skills and getting to grips with this exciting sport. See photos **here**.

Judo is also available as an after school club on Tuesday afternoons. If your child enjoyed their taster session and would like to take part this term, please visit **www.neonjudo.co.uk** and click on the 'Sign Up' tab. You will need to pay Neon Judo the top-up fee and also must book the session on MCAS.

Year 4 Music

In their Music lesson this week, Year 4 had the chance to try out our brand-new glockenspiels following the arrival of a new delivery of instruments. The children did a fantastic job of playing together and keeping in time with one another, and they are looking forward to continuing to develop their musical skills over the coming weeks.

ISA Swimming Competition

For the first time, Waverley is hoping to enter a team into the ISA London West Regional Swimming Qualifier at ASC Cobham on **Tuesday 13th October**. The competition is aimed at children who swim at club level and regularly take part in competitive races or galas, with swimmers competing over 50m.

Places will be limited, so if your child meets this level and would be interested in taking part, please complete the form **here** by **Tuesday 29th September** to help us select the team. Please note that late entries cannot be accommodated. If you have any questions about the competition, please contact Mr Mitchell.

Mr Barlow's Daughter 4th in Powerlifting Championships

We have previously shared updates on Mr Barlow's daughter, Victoria, and her impressive achievements in powerlifting. This week, Victoria travelled to Canada to represent Wales at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships, where she secured an excellent 4th-place finish.

This is a fantastic achievement on the international stage and we are delighted to celebrate Victoria's success alongside Mr Barlow - a very proud dad! Well done Victoria!

Waverley School News

School Uniform Reminder

A reminder that all children are expected to arrive at school in the correct full Waverley uniform each day. This includes a Waverley blazer or green Waverley winter coat, together with the appropriate cap or felt hat. Children should also be smart and presentable, with shirts tucked in, ties correctly worn and hair kept neat and tidy. Please note that full uniform is required even when parents park in the playground for drop-off. The children have also been reminded of these expectations in assembly and in class and we would appreciate your support in ensuring they arrive at school looking smart and ready for the day.

School Photographs Reminder

Our individual and sibling school photographs will be taking place next **Wednesday (30th September)**. Please ensure your child comes to school in full, smart Waverley uniform and is ready for their photograph. ***Reception must come to school in PE kit and bring their full uniform to change into.*** If your child has a sibling in our Nursery who attends on a Wednesday, they will also have the opportunity to have a sibling photograph taken together.

After-School Club Activities

Our after school clubs have been busy this week, with the children developing lots of new skills and having lots of fun.

In **Tag Rugby**, the children have been practising their ball-handling skills, focusing on keeping the ball secure under one arm while running.

In **Cooking Club**, the children made bread from scratch, mixing and kneading their dough before shaping it into their own creative designs.

Our **KS1 Judo** group have been learning how to use Judo grips and form bridges when trying to escape from a hold.

In **Board Games Club**, the children enjoyed a competitive game of Dobble with Mrs Amankwah, racing to spot the matching pictures on their cards.

In **Little Dragons Club**, the children learnt the Chinese names for animals including cow, rabbit and sheep, as well as trying mooncake ahead of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

In **Badminton Club**, the children worked on their shot accuracy through a fun circuit, attempting to dodge shuttlecocks as their peers hit them towards them. See photos from the week **here**.

Waverley School News

Year 5 Teacher - Maternity Cover Vacancy

Congratulations to Mrs Hatton-Evans, who is expecting her second child later this year. We are now recruiting for a part-time Year 5 Teacher to cover her maternity leave. If you know someone who may be interested, please do share this opportunity with them. The job description can be found **here**.

October Half Term Holiday Club - Bookings Now Open!

Bookings are now open for our October Half-Term Holiday Club! Join us for a spook-tacular week packed with frightfully fun activities, including arts and crafts, sports, cooking, inflatables, laser tag and much more. With plenty on offer, there is something for everyone to enjoy! View the schedules **here** and book your place **here**.

WFA News

Halloween Disco - Friday 16th October

Our first WFA event of the new school year is nearly here! Join us for our Halloween Glow Party on **Friday 16th October**, 16:30 - 18:30hrs in Melton Hall. Expect music, dancing, games, entertainment and plenty of spooky fun! Fancy dress is encouraged.

Tickets go on sale **Friday 25th September at 20:00hrs** for £10 per person. This includes a glow stick, glow-in-the-dark tattoo, hot dog, drink and crisps. Save the date and get ready to glow! Click link **here**.

Looking Back & Ahead With The WFA

A huge thank you to our Waverley community for an incredible 2025/26! Your support helped the WFA fund a number of fantastic experiences for the children and lasting projects for the school.

Every ticket bought, ice lolly eaten, hamper entered and rule broken helped make it possible! Thank you to Rachel, Lisa, our committee, volunteers and every family who supported us. Take a look at some of last year's highlights to the right.

Join The WFA

We are always looking for more volunteers to join the WFA! Whether you can spare an hour at an event, help behind the scenes or simply have a fresh idea, we would love to hear from you.
Interested in getting involved? Email **wfa@waverleyschool.co.uk**
We would love to welcome you!

Waverley Nursery News

Starting School in September 2027 or September 2028?
We are now very busy with enquiries, tours and allocating places for both these year groups and have limited availability remaining. If your child is starting school in either September 2027 or 2028 and you would like to find out more about Waverley Prep School, please contact Head of Admissions, Mrs Helen Jenkins, via email: **admissions@waverleyschool.co.uk**. Waverley is not only ranked 15th in the UK and 'Best in Berkshire' (based on our academic results) but we are also current National Athletics Champions! We are also a wonderful nurturing, family-friendly school with one small class per year group! Read more about Waverley **here**.

Nursery Sickness Reminder
As the colder months approach, please remember our Nursery sickness procedures. If your child is unwell and will not be attending, please notify the Nursery Team by 09:00hrs each day via **07920 268735** or via email on **fiona.harding@waverleyschool.co.uk**.

Children must be 48 hours clear of vomiting or diarrhoea before returning and must have had a normal temperature for 24 hours following a high temperature. Children with Hand, Foot and Mouth must remain at home for five days and may only return once blisters are hardening over. Please do not medicate your child before bringing them to Nursery, as this can mask symptoms.

- **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 in Nursery 1 explored their growing interest in habitats, investigating a variety of farm and safari animals through sensory trays, books and creative activities. They explored sand, rice and lentils, discovered animal footprints and enjoyed making farm animal sounds. This helped to support their sensory development, communication and motor skills.

The Babies also enjoyed a range of Autumn-themed activities this week. They created hedgehogs with paint and forks, explored conkers, leaves and sticks and made colourful marks with autumnal paints. On Thursday, to celebrate Modern Foreign Languages Day, the Babies listened to music from different countries, enjoying the sounds and rhythms as they continued to explore new experiences.

Nursery Extension

The children in the Nursery Extension continued to explore their interest in features and colours this week. They made their own mirrors using colourful card, tissue paper and foil, whilst talking about their facial features. They also enjoyed string painting, experimenting with different colours and creating a variety of marks and patterns.

The children also enjoyed a lively dance party this week, as they combined their interests in colours and sounds. They danced to nursery rhymes, explored loud and quiet sounds using musical instruments and enjoyed dancing with colourful scarves and rainbow shakers.

Nursery 2

Nursery 2 have had a busy and creative week. The children made their own colourful mirrors using foil, tissue paper and card before creating faces with playdough. They looked closely at their reflections and used natural resources collected on their walk to add eyes, noses and mouths to their creations. The children have also done a fantastic job walking to and from the field, showing their brilliant listening skills along the way!

Nursery 2 also enjoyed exploring different sounds using a variety of materials and joined in with Modern Foreign Languages and Cultural Awareness Day celebrations on Thursday. They had lots of fun learning about different countries and cultures and spent time creating their very own colourful flags.

Nursery 3 (Younger)

The younger children in Nursery 3 have been busy exploring colours this week through a fun matching activity. They enjoyed identifying objects in red, blue, green and yellow and had the challenge of sorting each item into the correct coloured hoop. This encouraged the children to recognise and name colours, whilst developing their sorting and matching skills.

The children also joined in with Modern Foreign Languages and Cultural Awareness Day, continuing their interest in colours and shapes. They explored landmarks from around the world, using colourful shapes and blocks to recreate them. They also looked at the colours found on different flags before creating their own flags using a range of mark-making materials.

Nursery 3 (Older)

The older children in Nursery 3 spent this week looking at their bodies and facial features. Using mirrors, they looked closely at their faces, identifying different features and talking about their eye and hair colours. They then enjoyed drawing self portraits and creating faces using cut-out facial features. During this activity, the children experimented with different emotions and had lots of fun making 'grumpy' faces with upside-down smiles.

The children have also been getting creative with some colour mixing. They experimented with different paints, watching how the colours mixed together to create new shades and patterns, discussing which colours they could see and how they thought the new colours had been created.

Foundation

This week, Foundation have enjoyed exploring size through a fun sensory activity linked to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They used oats and a range of different sized scoops to fill the bears' bowls, identifying which were small, medium and large. During this activity, the children talked about the different words you can use to describe size, including tiny, big and huge.

The children also began to explore shapes, noticing that the bears' bowls were circular and round. As they pinched, squeezed, scooped and poured the oats, they developed their fine motor skills while comparing different sizes and quantities.

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 Adam Cosser**
  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