Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 30th January 2026

15th IN THE UK

13 years BEST IN BERKSHIRE

Rated EXCELLENT -ISI Inspection

Another Great Week at Waverley!

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful week. Can you believe we have already reached the end of January? Time really does fly when you're having fun and we have certainly had lots of fun at Waverley this week, with plenty of exciting lessons and activities taking place.

School Assembly: Burns Night

This week's School Assembly focused on Burns Night, which took place on Sunday. Mr Mitchell shared with the school about our Scottish neighbours' annual tradition celebrating national hero Robert Burns, a famous Scottish poet. His work focused on kindness, friendship,and treating others equally - some of the values that are also important at Waverley.

Mr Mitchell spoke about the traditional dish of haggis, neeps and tatties and even tried his best to teach the children some Scots words. These included 'bairn' (child), which Mrs Amankwah correctly identified, 'wee' (small), which Ellen knew and 'bonnie' (beautiful), which Aurelia recognised. Learning about Burns Night helped the children develop an understanding of different cultures and traditions, whilst also encouraging respect and appreciation for others.

Past Pupil Work Experience

It was lovely to welcome past pupil Vasu Gupta back to Waverley on Monday, for a day of work experience. Vasu who now attends Reading Boys spent the day shadowing lessons across the school and even enjoyed his favourite school lunch - a happy reminder of his time at Waverley. Well done Vasu, it was great to see you again!

ISA Cross Country Competition

Unfortunately, the ISA London West Cross Country event scheduled for earlier today was cancelled due to the recent adverse weather. The host school, Sherfield School, faced operational challenges across their site and on the course, making it impossible to safely run the event.

They have assured us that every effort was made to keep the competition on, but it was not feasible this time. They will be in touch early next week regarding rescheduling and we will update all of the chosen runners as soon as we have further information.

New Ideas from the School Council

Yesterday at lunchtime, the School Council came together for their latest meeting to share ideas on how to make the school even better. Representatives from each year group shared suggestions gathered from their classes, ranging from new menu ideas (doughnut day anyone?) to more playground equipment, new house events including quizzes and bingo and even a whole school Waverley History Day!

I must say, there were some very imaginative and exciting ideas, which will now be taken forward for further discussion. Watch this space!

Peripatetic Music Concert - Next Monday

I am very excited for our Peripatetic Music Concert, taking place next week. Last year's event was absolutely fantastic, with the children showcasing their brilliant musical talents. The concert will be held on Monday evening, starting at 18:00hrs and lasting approximately 30 minutes.

For those performing, please drop your child at school by 17:45hrs ahead of the start. It promises to be another wonderful event and we hope you will be able to join us to celebrate their achievements!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

ISA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION Accredited Member

Pupil Achievements

Pupils of the Week

Gabi, Reception
'For working really hard in all areas and showing a 'can-do' approach to her learning.'

Sofia, Year 1
'For her fantastic effort in Read, Write Inc. Her reading has really improved and she is growing in confidence.'

Ben, Year 2
'For always doing his best in all subjects. He takes his time and focuses on each task, to showcase his extensive knowledge.'

Emma, Year 3
'For her determination and focus in lessons and for also following the Waverley Way.'

Sacha, Year 4
'For the excitement and enthusiasm he showed in Science this week. He helped lead the experiments and contributed thoughtfully to class discussions.'

Darcey, Year 5
'For working hard in all subjects and checking her work carefully to ensure she had used her fundamentals.'

Toby, Year 6
'For working hard, being diligent across all subjects and for being kind, supportive and helpful to Mrs Eden-Higgs and his classmates.'

Waverley Way Award

Sydney
'For being such a thoughtful and helpful member of the class. She has also displays great manners.'

Otto
'For always being so polite to everyone around the school. He checks in on his peers and makes sure they are okay.'

Diary Dates

Monday 2nd February:
School Assembly: Diversity.
Peripatetic Music Concert. Melton Hall. *18:00hrs.* *

Tuesday 3rd - Thursday 5th February:
Parent/Teacher Consultations.

Wednesday 4th February:
Swim 4.
Year 5 & 6 Rugby vs Lyndhurst. Home. *
Year 5 & 6 Netball vs Sherfield. Away. *
Young Voices Concert.

Friday 6th February:
Year 3 & 4 Rugby vs Holme Grange. Home. *
Year 3 & 4 Netball vs St George's. Away. *

Saturday 7th February:
WFA Quiz Night. Melton Hall. *19:00 - 21:00hrs.*

**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 Paint to Music

This week, Reception continued their Space topic by exploring Mars from Gustav Holst's Planet Suite. As they listened carefully to the music, the children decided it sounded dramatic, dark and angry, sparking a discussion about how music can tell a story without words.

The class then used paint to interpret what they heard, creating jagged lines and swirling patterns to capture the powerful, marching sounds. See them working on their creations **here**.

Year 1 Take on PE Circuits

In their PE lesson yesterday, Year 1 enjoyed a fun circuit of activities that put them through their paces and tested a variety of skills. They took part in shuttle runs, skipping, hockey dribbling, bean bag tossing, tennis ball balancing, goal scoring and more, showing great determination and enthusiasm throughout the session. See photos **here**.

Year 2 Explore Town Buildings in French

This week in their French lesson, Year 2 have been learning about different places around the town. To help with their learning, they sang a song about the different places they pass on their way to school.

The song, 'Quand je vais à l'école', mentioned passing by un musée (museum), un parc (park), un cinéma (cinema), un café (cafe) and une gare (train station). It was a fun and engaging way to teach the children about different buildings and places they can visit in their local area.

Year 3 & 4 Make Viking Bracelets

This week, Year 3 and 4 continued to explore Viking arts and crafts, by making their own Viking bracelets. Using lengths of wool and a trollen wheel, (a circular disc once used by the Vikings for braiding) the children created beautiful, colourful designs.

They carefully chose their favourite colours and enjoyed the calm, mindful process of weaving. It was a fun, hands-on activity that gave them a glimpse into how the Vikings made accessories for their clothes. The children made some brilliant creations, with everyone getting stuck in. See both classes at work **here**.

Waverley School News

Year 5 Create Colourful Canvas Art

Over the past couple of weeks, Year 5 have been exploring Canadian art, with a particular focus on Newfoundland's famous 'Jelly Bean Row,' celebrated for its bright and colourful houses. Inspired by these vibrant streets, the children have been creating bold canvas artworks of their own, featuring colourful houses perched on cliffs, overlooking the sea. Some even added whales, other marine life and stunning sunsets with vivid skies.

The children completed their creations this week and they have done a fantastic job. You can see their incredible work **here**.

Year 5 Make Lemonade

This week in science, Year 5 enjoyed a chemistry lesson about irreversible changes. They made lemonade by mixing water, lemon juice and sugar, then added baking soda and watched the mixture fizz. They even timed how long the fizzing lasted.

It was a fun and interactive lesson that brought science to life and showed how chemical reactions can change substances in ways that cannot easily be reversed.

Year 5 & 6 First Home Netball Fixture

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 5 and 6 welcomed St George's to Waverley for their first home netball fixture. Both teams demonstrated excellent skills against tough competition.

St George's players were quite tall, which made passing tricky, but the Waverley girls showed clever, quick passes and strong marking, with some great interceptions across the court. The fast-paced games kept everyone on their toes and the girls managed to keep up the pace while showing fantastic teamwork. Well done Team Waverley! See photos **here**.

Young Voices Concert - Next Week

Next Wednesday, some children will travel to London for this year's Young Voices Concert. Children should wear their Young Voices t-shirt (or a white t-shirt), with jeans/joggers/leggings, a hoodie/jumper, trainers and their green school coat.

Please provide a packed lunch and tea in a disposable bag (no nuts or fizzy drinks). We leave school at 11:00hrs and the concert runs between 19:00 – 20:45hrs. Children will return to school for collection - parents won't be able to collect from Wembley. For travel updates on the day, follow **@waverleytrips** on X.

Waverley School News

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**.

Drop Off / Pick Up Reminder

A gentle reminder to parents to drive carefully when travelling along Waverley Way, in our car park and near the school playground, as there are lots of children in the vicinity and their safety is our top priority. Please can parents also be mindful of neighbours' cars, as there have been a few recent incidents of accidental damage happening during school drop off and pick up times. Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

Expecting in 2026?

We are now offering the final Nursery places for babies due in 2026. If you will need a Nursery place for your little one in the coming years, we recommend contacting our Head of Admissions, Mrs Helen Jenkins, as soon as possible to secure your place. Please email: **admissions@waverleyschool.co.uk**

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. **Ticket sales end tomorrow (Saturday 31st January) so book now to avoid disappointment!** Get 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

Nursery Sickness Reminder

We have recently experienced an influx of sick children attending the nursery. Whilst we fully understand that many parents have work commitments, bringing children into nursery when sick causes the spread of illness amongst both the children and staff. If your child has a temperature, diarrhoea or sickness, contagious rash, infection or is genuinely lethargic and unable to participate, please keep them home to recover adequately. If your child is attending nursery and we deem them to be unwell, you will be asked to collect them.

- **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 a range of animal-themed activities. They enjoyed getting creative by sticking feathers onto pieces of paper to make their own chicken. This activity showed their curiosity and helped them to develop their fine motor skills.

The Babies also began to show a growing interest in the colourful pages of the books being read to them this week. To explore this more, they were introduced to 'The Colour Monster' book along with matching teddies to help support their early recognition of colours and emotions.

Nursery Extension

This week in the Nursery Extension, the children continued exploring their interest in animals through hands-on play. They washed muddy toy animals using soapy water and cloths, learning about care and responsibility. The children also used blocks to build some homes for their animals, counting the number of blocks they used.

The children continued their interest in caring for animals with some role-play activities. They fed the animals, gave them water and used brushes to groom them. These activities helped develop their gross motor skills and nurtured their sense of responsibility.

Nursery 2

This week, the children in Nursery 2 continued their interest in winter. They used their fine motor skills to melt ice cubes and discover a hidden key, working together and showing determination. They also created ice sun catchers, discussed different Arctic animals and their homes, before using blocks in the construction area to build some.

Following on from this, the children explored a wider range of animals and their habitats. They took part in a fun matching activity, identifying where different animals live by placing them in their correct environments. This activitiy helped to support the children's understanding of the natural world.

Nursery 3

This week, the children in Nursery 3 have shown a strong interest in fire engines. They enjoyed role-playing as fire fighters, inspired by Fireman Sam and learnt about how fires are put out. The children dressed up as fire fighters and using a pretend fire extinguisher to spray water on a 'fire' and put out foamy flames.

The children explored fire extinguishers further through a simple science experiment. For this, they mixed bicarbonate of soda and vinegar together to create foam, just like a real extinguisher. Following this, the children went on a walk around the school to spot fire extinguishers, looking at the different letters that appeared on them, before exploring flame colours using a colourful flame sensory tray.

Pre-Foundation

In Pre-Foundation this week, the children have been looking at plants. They were given different flower pictures that had been cut into separate parts like a puzzle. They worked together to figure out how the pieces connected together to form a whole picture. The children also spoke about what might be found in the soil around plants, learning that insects such as caterpillars and worms could be hiding underground and feeding on them.

Pre-Foundation also spent time practicing their threading and fine motor skills by carefully adding Cheerios onto green and pink pipe cleaners to create handmade worms and caterpillars. The children also worked on their number recognition from 1–20, placing yellow pom poms (pollen) onto numbered flowers, practicing their counting and grouping number skills.

Foundation

This week, Foundation continued growing their interest in Space, through a variety of fun activities. The children learnt about the different parts of a rocket and took part in simple science experiments, creating paper rockets attached to straws and watching how they flew when air was blown through them.

The children also began exploring planets in more depth this week. In small groups, they shared a book about the sky above us, which sparked discussions and questions about Earth and the other planets in Space. They looked at the number of planets in our solar system and talked about their sizes and colours.

Continuing their interest in planets, the children used a range of creative materials to make their own planet models. They mixed paints to create different colours, added loose parts to form craters and used play dough to explore the textures they imagined planets might have. The children also enjoyed a space-themed PE session earlier in the week, filled with movement, music and games.

Menus

Next week our lunch menu will be Week 1.
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:**
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