Waverley
Preparatory School and Nursery

Parent Communication w/e 9th January 2026

15th IN THE UK

13 years BEST IN BERKSHIRE

Rated EXCELLENT -ISI inspection

Welcome Back to Waverley!

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break.
It has been so lovely to welcome everyone back this week and I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the fantastic trips, delicious food and exciting gifts the children experienced over the past few weeks. This term is set to be an exciting one, with lots to look forward to, including Expeditions Week, House Competitions, a Peripatetic Music Concert, Young Voices and of course, World Book Day!

A Big Thank You to Our Parents

I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to you all for adhering to the measures we put in place on our first day back on Wednesday. Despite a rather slippery journey that morning, we successfully managed to get everyone into School and Nursery safely and I am very grateful for your support and cooperation at the time.

Thank you also for using our new My Child at School (MCAS) system to book your After School Club sessions, register your child's absences and keep up to date with our important communications. Your support with our transition to this new platform is greatly appreciated.

Cold Weather Clothing Reminder

With the temperatures now dropping and the winter weather settling in, please can you ensure your children wear their outdoor coats to school each day. Children should also bring in their grey winter hats and scarves to wear when outside.

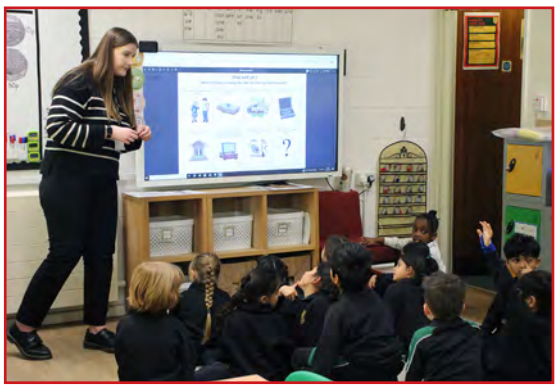
New Year Assembly

Mr Mitchell led our school assembly this week, focusing on the New Year. The children reflected on the past year, looked ahead at what is to come and discussed setting New Year's resolutions. Let's see if we can all keep to our New Year's resolutions this coming year...

Mr Mitchell also shared some fun and unusual New Year traditions from around the world, including suitcase walking in Colombia, first footing in Scotland, grape eating in Spain and dropping ice cream in Switzerland.

Welcome Miss Page!

This week, we welcomed a new face to Waverley as Miss Page joined us as our Year 2 Form Teacher and Mercury Head of House. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Page to the Waverley team and wish her every success in her new role.



New Reception Building

I am very pleased to share that our Reception class moved into their new classroom this week. We would like to thank our parents for their patience whilst the building was completed and we will be sharing more images of the new space in due course.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Diary Dates

Monday 12th January:	School Assembly: What is Resilience? Year 5 Leighton Park Visit.
Wednesday 14th January:	Swim 1. Year 5 & 6 Rugby vs St Joseph's. Away. * Year 5 & 6 Netball vs St Joseph's. Away. *
Friday 16th January:	Year 3 & 4 Rugby vs St Joseph's. Home. * Year 3 & 4 Netball vs St Joseph's. Home. *

**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

Forest School Clothing Reminder

As we prepare to return to Forest School sessions next week, we would like to remind parents of the importance of providing the correct kit, particularly if the cold weather continues. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the conditions, with warm, waterproof clothing, so they can take part comfortably and safely in all activities. View the full clothing list **here**.

Reception Settle into Their New Surroundings

This week, the Reception class have been settling into their new classroom. The children have been familiarising themselves with their new environment, including where to hang their coats, where to sit, how to use the different areas of the room and also exploring their new outdoor space. See photos **here**.

Year 1 'Tackle' Rugby in PE

Year 1 braved the cold yesterday morning for their first PE lesson of the year. Mr Mitchell taught the class the rules of rugby, before they 'tackled' some new skills and practiced passing the ball correctly in pairs. Everyone did a 'try-mendous' job and had lots of fun. See photos **here**.

Year 2 Start New History Topic

This term, Year 2 are starting a new topic on Kings, Queens and Castles. The children have also been learning about the difference between the past and the present, as well as exploring how we can find out about the past. As part of their learning, the children examined pictures of past Kings and Queens and some Royal residences, answering questions about who the people were, whether they were from the past or present and if the residences are still lived in today. See photos **here**.

Year 3 Set Some New Year Goals

The start of a New Year usually coincides with people making New Year's resolutions. In Year 3 this week, the class have been creating some 2026 goals for themselves. They each wrote out four different things they wanted to work towards this year and created spinning glitter ball artwork to showcase them.

From practising their spellings and timetables more, to helping tidy up at home, the children had plenty of good ideas for their goals this year. Let's see if they are able to achieve these over the next 12 months. See photos **here**.

Waverley School News

Year 5 Explore Colourful Art

This week in art, Year 5 have been exploring Canadian art, focusing on Newfoundland's famous 'Jelly Bean Row,' known for its bright, colourful houses. To reflect the bold colours, the children took part in a fun experiment with Skittles. They placed them around the rim of a plate, added water and watched as the rainbow colours spread across the surface. It was a great way for the class to explore colour, ahead of creating bright, bold canvas artwork in the coming weeks.

Year 5 Trip to Leighton Park

Next Monday, our Year 5 class will be visiting Leighton Park for a special trip. The children should come to school in their PE kits and bring a snack to enjoy during the day. Lunch will be provided.

After School Club Reminder

All specialist After School Clubs will begin next week. Please can we remind parents that bookings and payments for external clubs must be made directly with the external providers, in addition to booking a core club space through the school. This applies to Gymnastics, Judo, Scrumys, Tennis and Speech & Drama.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Is your child interested in learning an instrument? We have a few spaces available for our instrumental lessons this year. Mr Holt teaches guitar for Year 2 and above and Mr Ransom provides brass lessons for KS2 pupils only. If your child would like to start learning one of these instruments, please contact the teachers directly using the email addresses below:
Guitar - **james.holt@hotmail.co.uk**
Brass - **tptman5@gmail.com**

Peripatetic Music Concert

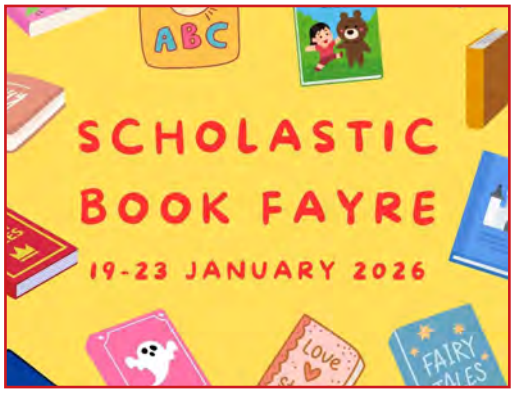
An email was sent earlier this week from Mrs Eden-Higgs to all Year 3–6 parents, inviting children who have instrumental lessons outside of school to take part in our Peripatetic Music Concert on **Monday 2nd February 2026**. Please complete our form **here** if your child would like to participate. Children who take lessons at Waverley do not need to complete the form, as their participation will be organised by their instrumental teacher.

Waverley School News

Scholastic Book Fayre - Coming Soon!

We are pleased to announce that our popular Scholastic Book Fayre will be returning from **19th – 23rd January**. A whole host of books will be on sale after school between **15:45 – 16:45hrs** in the foyer at the front of school. Not only can you pick up some great books at a vastly discounted price, but the fayre also provides the school with an opportunity to gain extra books for our wonderful library.

Children should be collected by their parents after school as normal, before attending the fayre. Payment this year will be card only.



Important Drop Off & Parking Reminder

Please remember to utilise parking areas at both playgrounds during morning drop-off. When entering the school grounds, drive slowly and ensure vehicles are parked appropriately. Parents are also asked to direct children to walk through the designated safe zones marked by cones as they make their way to classrooms each day. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Farnborough Hill Events for Years 4 & 5

Year 4 and 5 parents will soon be deciding which secondary school their child will attend after Waverley. To help with this, many schools offer open mornings and taster days. Farnborough Hill will be holding two open afternoons on **Friday 6th February & Friday 24th April** at 13:30hrs. For more details about these, click **here**.

WFA News

Happy New Year from the WFA!

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the many exciting WFA events we have planned this year. Starting with our popular **Parents' Quiz Night** which will be held on **Saturday 7th February** from 19:00hrs at Waverley. Tickets cost £25 per person which includes a fresh 12-inch artisan sour dough pizza from Fire & Hop and a drink. To book your tickets, click **here**. We are also excited to welcome back our **Valentine's Tuck Shop** on **Friday 13th February (15:30 – 16:00hrs)**, where lots of sweet treats will be available for everyone to enjoy!

WFA Give Back Events

The **Waverley Masked Singer** took place on 10th of December and this was out first Give Back Event of the school year. A Give Back Event is a community-building and social event rather than a traditional fundraiser. The aim is to bring families together, with minimal volunteers required, so everyone can enjoy the event with their children and friends. Despite this, we still raised £115 profit from our snack boxes! Thank you to everyone who attended. See a highlight video **here**. Our next Give Back Event will be **World Book Day** on **5th March**.

Waverley Nursery News

Miss Norris Celebrates 10 Years at Waverley

We would like to congratulate Miss Norris, our Foundation Room Senior, on celebrating 10 years at Waverley! Thank you for your dedication, hard work and the positive impact you make every day. We are so grateful to have you as part of our team!

Congratulations Miss O'Rourke & Miss Moore

Congratulations to Miss O'Rourke and her partner, who are expecting their first baby in April and to Miss Charley Moore and her partner, who are expecting their first baby in June! We are so excited for both of you and wish you all the joy and happiness as you prepare for this wonderful new chapter.

- **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 focus in Nursery 1 has been on supporting the Babies' emotional development and exploring new interests they have developed over the holidays. They took part in messy and sensory play, as well as imaginative play with animals. They also enjoyed playing games such as peek-a-boo, building their relationships with their Key Workers.

The Babies also explored textured mats, a train set, farm animals and a lift-the-flap animal farm book, engaging their senses, developing fine motor skills and building their early vocabulary. They also enjoyed sensory and sound activities with oats, lentils, musical instruments, animals and songs.

The wintry weather this week sparked the Babies' interest in snow, which was encouraged through a creative activity using white paint and stippling brushes on black card, inspired by icy landscapes.

Nursery 2

This week, the children in Nursery 2 enjoyed a range of activities to help them settle back into their routine and explore their new interests. They explored winter-themed play dough with snowflakes and cutters and investigated small-world houses and figures that sparked conversations about families.

Nursery 2 continued to explore winter and snow through some fun, hands-on activities. An ice rink activity with frozen water and small-world figures allowed the children to explore role play, communication and cooperative play, helping them to develop an understanding of the world and improve their social skills.

The children also explored a snow-themed sensory tray where they were encouraged to tip, pour and use funnels, whilst cars and flour were used to create tracks and patterns in 'snow.' The children were also given frozen pots of water and worked together to try to melt them using paintbrushes.

Nursery 3

Nursery 3 has enjoyed welcoming children back in this week after the Christmas break. They have also been greeting new friends, as a number of children have now transitioned into their new setting. The focus has been on helping the children get to know each other and settle back into their routines.

The children showed great interest in the snow at the start of the week, talking about snowmen and the cold weather. They explored ice and snow through a range of activities, including rescuing objects frozen in ice, investigating snowy sensory trays, creating melted snowman gloop and also using scented play dough to make their own snowman figures.

Continuing their winter interest, the children also learnt about the types of houses people might live in during snowy weather, such as igloos. Using bricks and white materials, the children built their own igloos, supporting their creativity, problem-solving skills and imaginative play.

Pre-Foundation

This week has been all about settling into Pre-Foundation. The children have done extremely well adapting to their new surroundings, learning new routines and beginning some of their extra-curricular clubs. They enjoyed investigating a shaving foam sensory tray filled with Arctic animals and special treasures and taking part in their first PE session.

The children also explored winter and ice in a variety of ways. They used tools to free Arctic animals frozen in ice, had fun playing in the snow and took part in activities focused on keeping warm, such as matching clothing to different types of weather and discussing what to wear to stay cosy in winter.

Foundation

This week, the Foundation children have been settling back in, sharing stories from their festive breaks and exploring their newly arranged room. They used colour swatches for mixing, built structures with construction blocks and had a tea party with babies in the home corner. The children also explored some small-world train tracks, art materials and a sensory table with oats and loose parts for counting and sorting.

Foundation have shown a strong interest in vehicles this week, especially trains. They explored different types, counted wheels and carriages, sorted different vehicles by land, air and water. The children also painted train wheels and built a large train together, helping their, problem-solving skills and encouraging cooperation, confidence and turn-taking.

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:**
  Mobile: 07920 268735