



Waverley Abbey School

All things are possible for one who believes. Mark 9:23



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

School Newsletter 9

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16th January 2026

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Next week's worship theme – Hard work

All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk (of it) leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

Learning across the school: As always, super learning has been happening across the school! Mr Kitching and I went in to see many maths lessons this week and Ms Morris, Mr Brown and I have been observing and talking to children this week in other subjects too. Children are using their knowledge organisers well, knowing these help them to be independent learners as well as the use of our working walls and rapid recall (retrieval facts which we call 'sticky knowledge'). The quality of the learning and progress of pupils have been fantastic to see. We are continuing to focus on children's handwriting as well as rapid recall of basic maths facts such as times tables. Please do keep practising these at home too, using the TT Rockstars app.

Next week we are off to the O2 to perform at the Young Voices concert which we all are very much looking forward to. Sing up team!

Collective worship this term: In our collective worship this term, we are focussing in on Daniel, thinking about how his actions stood out in challenging times before going on to consider other 'Heroes of Hope' such as St Monica and St Alphonsa. In school we continue reinforcing the importance of kind words using the 'think' poster (see next page). Generally, our children are thoughtful and kind, however a reminder about this never does any harm!

Trip/ Residential payments: As you know, we are currently in considerable deficit for past residentials

and trips, which cannot continue this year. Parents have asked for a longer 'run up' for payments before trips which we will ensure happens from this point onwards. However, I must be clear that if future trips and residentials are to go ahead we will need to account for all families. If a payment hasn't been made then please arrange to come and see me to discuss options/ payment plans. If we are unable to meet these requirements, we will have no choice but to cancel certain trips which would be a huge disappointment for all.

FOWA Thank you: Last term our Christmas Fair raised over of £2000. This coupled with Cauliflower Cards which raised a further £600 means that we can add more IT equipment into classrooms, to support learning across the school as well as adding further resources in The Hive. Thank you to all who supported and to the FOWA team who worked tirelessly to make the Fair such a success.

Internet Safety: Post Christmas, we have experienced an increase in concerns raised by both children and families about children's safe and appropriate use of the internet/ mobile devices. Please continue to keep a close eye on your children's internet use and of their messaging and WhatsApp threads/ friends too.

Parent Consultations: Parent consultations will be taking place on **Tuesday 10th** and **Thursday 12th February**. A separate communication will be sent out nearer the time with details of the appointment booking system.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Rebecca Marshall

Diary Dates 2026

January 2026

Tuesday 20th	Young Voices at The O2
Wednesday 21st	Reading Café Year 5 - Ahmadiyya Mosque Visit 4HI and 4EW Clarinet Concert - 2:30pm
Wednesday 28th	6SW and 6LB - Rural Living Life Museum Visit
Thursday 29th	6HD and 6EW - Rural Living Life Museum Visit
Friday 30th	Year 3 - Buster Ancient Farm Visit

February 2026

Monday 9th	District Swimming Gala - Invitation Only
Tuesday 10th	Parents' Evening - 3:45pm - 7pm
Thursday 12th	Parents' Evening - 3:45pm - 6:30pm
Friday 13th	Break Up For Half Term
Monday 23rd	INSET Day

March 2026

Monday 9th	Year 4 - Ufton Court Visit Primary Singing Festival
Wednesday 18th	Rodborough Singing Day
Tuesday 24th	Year 4 Production - 2pm
Wednesday 25th	Year 4 Production - 6pm
Friday 27th	Last Day Of Term

April 2026

Monday 13th	INSET Day
Tuesday 14th	Year 4 Bikeability Week

May 2026

Tuesday 5th	Year 5 - Calshot Residential
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LATE FOR SCHOOL?

CHILDREN LEARN BEST AT THE START OF THE DAY

If your child misses....	That Equals...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling that is.....
10 minutes a Day	50 minutes a Week	1.5 Weeks per Year	Nearly <u>1/2 Year</u> of lost learning
20 minutes a Day	1 hour 40 minutes a Week	2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 Year</u> of lost learning
30 minutes a day	1/2 a Day a Week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 Years</u> of lost learning
1 hour a Day	1 day a Week	8 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>2.5 Years</u> of lost learning

Support your child's success. Make sure they attend school, all day, every day!

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

Before you speak

THINK

T = Is it **t** rue?

H = Is it **h** elpful?

I = Is it **i** nspiring?

N = Is it **n** ecessary?

K = Is it **k** ind?

If not, don't say it, text it or post it!

Uniform

A reminder that children should come to school wearing PE kit only on the day/s they have PE. School uniform (including dark socks) should be worn for all other days including their swimming day. White socks should only be worn with PE kit.

Thank you.

Terms Dates For 2026/27 Academic Year

INSET days to be confirmed.

Autumn Term - 1st September - 18th December 2026 (**Half term** - 19th - 30th October 2026)

Spring Term - 4th January - 25th March 2027 (Half term - 15th - 19th February 2027)

Summer Term - 12th April - 28th July 2027 (Half term 31st May - 4th June 2027)

Pupil News

Before Christmas, Darcey and Edie took part in the grand finals of the Spirit of Dance competition. Darcey came 1st for her tap solo, 2nd for her modern duet and then 2nd and 3rd place for her squad group dances. Edie achieved 6th place for her modern solo - out of 14. She also came 2nd and 3rd place for her group dances. Congratulations to Darcey and Edie!



Pupil News!

Recently, Lily competed on her pony Clippy at show jumping and came 3rd out of a large class. The class was judged on style and performance. Congratulations to Lily!



ASK YOUR MP TO RAISE THE SOCIAL MEDIA AGE TO 16 - it takes 60 seconds

Things just changed. Keir Starmer said he's considering an Australia-style age limit on social media. That means this issue is live in Parliament right now – and parents' voices can shape what happens next.

Email your MP now: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.eaction.org.uk/raise-the-age>

MPs need to know how much this matters to their constituents.

We've made it easy:
A pre-written email
Takes 60 seconds
You can personalise it, or just send as-is

This isn't party-political.
It's about protecting children from addictive, algorithm-driven platforms – and making it easier for parents to hold the line together.