



# Waverley Abbey School

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



## School Newsletter 8

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20th December 2024

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### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

#### Next term's worship theme –

*At the beginning of a new term and a brand new year, we begin a new series of themes, reflecting on the life and writings of King David, who contributed much of the content of the book of Psalms in the Bible. We are using the title 'Songs from the heart', because this is exactly what the Psalms were: heartfelt expressions of joy, sadness, frustration, hope and longing, giving voice to experiences and emotions that pupils of all faiths and none can relate to.*

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024. I can't believe that we've already had a whole term this year. This week we have seen 4 lovely church services with some very confident reading as well as some beautiful singing too. Thank you to all our families who were able to attend. Yesterday, we also came off timetable for our Christmas 'Pause Day'. At this time we take a creative look at the Christmas story, using art, drama and a host of other ideas. It is always a very special day and brings us back to the true meaning of Christmas.

Last week we were entertained by both Year 3 and Year 5. All those involved were able to project their voices well, sing like angels (in 5-point harmony at one point) and also show their bravery by being on stage in front of such a large audience. It was also wonderful to see them grow in confidence throughout the rehearsals and into performance night. Even though we are a large school, I have a great sense of pride that all of our children, (who want to) are able to be on stage and perform. My thanks to our Year 3 and 5 staff teams who continue to bring out the best in each and every performer and also to parents who have prepped costumes and supported throughout.

This week has also been packed full of learning. I have had the pleasure of watching Year 6 consider the complex character that is Lady Macbeth. Their writing

this week has been truly stunning. Year 5 have been perfecting their maths this week as well as looking at festive secret codes too! Geography has been a focus in Year 4 with the children learning about volcanoes, through the lens of those living in Pompeii. In Year 3 the children have been mastering some complex computing, focussing on programming using Scratch – their debugging skills are very impressive.

**Uniform** – As we near the end of term, I would like to remind parents that we are expecting full winter uniform until Easter. Children should be wearing a shirt (no polo shirts please), plain small stud earrings if their ears are pierced, hair should be tied back with a plain hairband or small scrunchie and uniform should look smart at all times – this has slipped a little in recent weeks. All pupils still need a coat too as we do try to go outside whatever the weather. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**Thank you** – A huge thank you to our wonderful FOWA team who raised over £4000 at the Christmas Fair! Thank you to all of our families for your continued support.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our Islamabad friends who recently presented us with a cheque for £5000, which will be put towards our new Pastoral building.

And finally... May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas surrounded by your loved ones and every blessing for the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

**Mrs Rebecca Marshall**

### School Meals

A reminder to order your meals ready for the Spring Term via SCOPay.

Please make sure meals are ordered at least 7 days in advance.

Thank you.

### Bag2School

If you are having an early Spring clear out over the holidays, we will be having a Bag2School collection at 9am on Monday 20th January 2025. Bag2School will collect **good quality items for RE-USE: Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.**

Bags will be sent home with children in the New Year and are welcome to come back to school from Friday 17th January (no earlier please).



### Residential Trip Reminders

This is just a gentle reminder of final payments due dates for the following:

Year 4 Runways End - end of February 2025

Year 5 Calshot - end of February 2025

Year 6 UKSA – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Prompt payment is appreciated but please do let us know if you are going to have difficulty meeting the deadline unless extended terms have already arranged.

Thank you.

## **Family Learning Courses are FREE, online courses**

Book before Christmas to avoid disappointment!

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/family-learning>

### **Understanding Neurodivergence/ADHD, Autism and others**

- First Steps to Understanding My Neurodivergent Child (ADHD, Autism, and others)
- First Steps to Understanding Masking Workshop
- Develop Skills for Your Child's Sensory Needs (ASD, ADHD, and others)

Supporting Your LGBTQ+ Child

### **Mental Health and Emotional Well-being**

- Building Your Child's/Teenager's Resilience Workshop
- Help Your Child/Teen Manage Anxiety
- Developing Your Child's Self-Esteem Workshop

First Steps to Understanding Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance

### **Reducing Conflict at Home**

- Who's in Charge? First Steps to Understanding Child to Parent Violence
- Exploring Behaviour Strategies Course

Use a Positive Approach to Build Your Child's Resilience Course

### **Social Skills and Relationships**

- Helping Your Child to Develop Positive Friendships Workshop
- Supporting Your Teenager

The Language of Relationship Education in Primary School

### **Early Childhood Development**

- Learn, Play & Thrive - The Toddler Years

Using Play, Songs, and Stories to Support Your Child's Early Communication Skills

### **Promoting Education**

- What's Happening in School - Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation (Years 1-6)
- Maths - How to Support Your Child's Learning

Understanding Phonics Workshop

### **ESOL-Specific Courses**

- Understanding What is Taught in Your Child's Primary/Secondary School (including ESOL Parents)
- Your Child's Primary/Secondary School Workshop for ESOL Parents
- Read with Your Child for ESOL Parents Workshop
- Raising Your Bilingual Child Workshop

How to Talk About Your Neurodivergent Child for ESOL Parents

### **Life Skills and Routines**

- Helping Your Child to Develop Positive Bedtime Routines Workshop

Successful Cooking in a Neurodivergent Family (Getting Started, Cooking is Fun, Knife Skills)

### **Nutrition and Healthy Eating**

- Healthy Family Meals Under £5.00
- Healthy Lunchbox for School
- Help I Have a Fussy Eater Workshop

Simple Spring Meals on a Budget

### **Diary dates for Autumn Term 2024**

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Friday 20th | Last Day Of Term - Early Finish |
|-------------|---------------------------------|

### **Diary dates for Spring Term 2025**

#### **January**

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Monday 6th | Return To School |
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|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 14th | Rural Life Museum Visit - 6EW and 6HD |
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| Wednesday 15th | Rural Life Museum Visit - 6LB and 6SW |
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| Monday 20th | Bag2School Collection - 9am |
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| Wednesday 22nd | Young Voices at The O2 |
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#### **February**

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| Wednesday 5th | Watts Gallery Visit - 4MB and 4HI |
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| Thursday 6th | Watts Gallery Visit - 4LS and 4LH |
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| Friday 14th | Break Up For Half Term |
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| Monday 24th | INSET Day |
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| Tuesday 25th | Return To School |
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### **Remaining 2024-25 Academic Year Inset Days**

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025