



# Waverley Abbey School

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



## HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

### **Our worship theme next week– praise**

*"The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;  
where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call  
forth songs of joy." [Psalm 65:8](#)*

The last two weeks certainly have been busy at Waverley! I have had the opportunity alongside Mr Brown and one of the GST central team, to observe in a variety of lessons, talking to pupils and looking at books. I was particularly impressed with the progress in English books, and the general improvement in handwriting and presentation. First impressions count when looking at books, so it was very pleasing to see pupils take such a pride in their learning.

On St Patrick's day, we were treated to some wonderful Irish dancing by two of our Year 4 pupils during assembly. We have also heard several pupils play the piano as we enter and leave the hall. Our children thoroughly enjoy watching live performances and if your child/ren would like to showcase their musicality or dancing, then please do let us know.

As you will have noticed, the entrance to the field car park has now been repaired and we have commissioned the repairs of the sandy car park too. Thank you for your patience while we were going to tender in this process.

**Parent forums:** Many thanks to those families who came to this term's parent forum, held this week, titled 'nurturing your child through their ages and stages'. I think we are all navigating a pathway with our children and it is lovely, on occasion, to pause and reflect.

Next term, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, we have Papaya coming in for our parent forum with a talk called

## School Newsletter 12

### In this issue:

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## 21st March 2025

Email: [info@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk)

Telephone No: 01252 782321

**'Let's talk to our kids about tech'.** Their website is <https://www.papayaparents.com/> and provides lots of useful information about helping children to thrive in the digital age. So that more of our parents/ families can attend, this meeting will be at 7.30pm. Please do save a date in your diary for this.

**British Science week:** Our British Science Week last week was a huge success. As the week progressed, all children had the opportunity to explore the world of virtual reality, looking at our solar system. The interactive workshops were very informative and were a real insight into space! We were also fortunate to have an outside speaker in every day to talk about their STEM careers. Many thanks to those who shared their experiences with the children. The subject matter was absolutely fascinating - it has given many of our young people the opportunity to consider a variety of career paths.

**Easter closure:** Please note our last day this term is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April and pupils pick up times are as follows:-

Y6: 1.10pm  
Y5: 1.15pm  
Y4: 1.20pm  
Y3: 1.30pm

We return to school, following Easter Monday, on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Enjoy your weekend,

Mrs Rebecca Marshall

## Spring term's Spotlight on

### Safeguarding:



#### **Over sharing**

Children and young people can sometimes feel pressure to overshare online. Remind them that they shouldn't share private things, such as:

- personal information, like names, phone numbers,
- links to other social media accounts or their school
- live or frequent locations
- other people's personal information
- links to join private group chats
- photos of themselves, photos of their body

#### **Sharing their location**

Remind children that many apps and games give the option to share their location. We should help children think about how and when they're sharing information. Some of the ways they may be likely to share location include:

- tagging photos with the geo-location
- checking into venues
- sharing journeys
- location settings on your child's device
- sharing images or videos that contain street names etc. If shared publicly, their location could be seen by someone they don't know.

Children are often unaware about oversharing information and that anyone could find out where they live or go to school, allowing a picture of their daily life to be built up.

#### **Talking to people they don't know**

Some social networking such as Omegle and Kidschat.net promote connecting children to chat with people they don't know. This puts young people at risk of grooming or online forms of abuse, along with the risk of moving the conversation to other platforms which are less safe. This is an ever-changing landscape and one that we are hearing about more and more in schools. Please continue to be vigilant.

#### **Sending or receiving inappropriate content**

Young people can feel pressured into sharing content that could be harmful to themselves or others. This could be in the form of sharing photos, or it might be sharing memes and images of others without their consent – which can be a form of cyberbullying. DMs (direct messages) can be used to share very quickly and children then have no control over how the image is shared further. Some social platforms have features such as disappearing messages – where an image or text will only show for a certain amount of time for the recipient before deleting. This might make children feel they can share more, but the recipient can still screenshot and forward the content to others.

#### **Age restrictions of Social Media Apps**

Please be mindful that social media apps are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13. Below are the age restrictions for the most popular apps:

What's App—16 years +

Instagram—13 years +

Snapchat—13 years +

#### **The Safeguarding team**

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team. Ms Morris is the Designated safeguarding Lead (DSL). This can be done anonymously. We also have a e mail address for DSLs which is [dsl@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dsl@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk)

### **Mr Kitching Is Running The London Marathon!**

In less than 6 weeks, I will be running the London Marathon in memory of Steve, my father-in-law. Steve was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia with a language variant nearly six years ago at just 63, gradually losing his ability to communicate before facing memory loss and confusion. Sadly, he passed away on December 15, 2024. Steve was a loving family member who was always willing to help others and has been an integral part of my life.

Two years ago, I took up running for my physical and mental well-being, and I know Steve would have supported this journey. On April 27, I will run the London Marathon in his memory, as well as for his son, Nick, who passed away on the same date in 2022. I am raising money for The National Brain Appeal and will be grateful for any donations. The aim of this charity is to transform the lives of the millions of people living with neurological and neuromuscular conditions.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to The National Brain Appeal, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to my JustGiving page by clicking here :-

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/oliver-kitching-1735733904763?  
utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=EM](https://www.justgiving.com/page/oliver-kitching-1735733904763?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM)



Thanks very much,  
Mr Kitching



### Residential Trip Payments

2<sup>nd</sup> payment reminders have been sent out this week for all outstanding trip payments unless an extended payment plan has been agreed. Please make sure that balances are settled promptly.

Thank you.

### Save The Date!

**Tilford Fair, Saturday 12th July 2025**

Further information to follow, but there will be a parade at 1pm, stalls, games and in the evening a children's disco followed by Tilfest.

### Pupil News!

Recently, Olivia in Year 3 entered into The Nationals for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. After 4 matches/fights she won second place! She won DOUBLE silver. Olivia is training ready for her next competitions which take place in May and July,

Congratulations Olivia and we wish you luck for your next competitions!



### Surrey County Council Transport Survey

As in previous years, Surrey County Council's Safer Travel Team are undertaking research with parents on pupils' modes of travel to and from school.

Annual Primary School Travel Survey (public URL): <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/safer-travel/primary-school-travel-2025>

The objective of the research is to assist us as we continue to develop a better understanding of the different types of travel used to and from school, and to ascertain if this is changing over time. The Safer Travel Team's goal is to assist schools to continue to encourage safer and more active ways of travelling to school.

To encourage parents to take part, we are once again offering a charity incentive for participation – we will donate £25 for every 100 surveys completed to a charity that the parent will choose from either Momentum Children's Charity or Orchid Environmental Trust.

### Remaining 2024-25 Academic Year INSET Days

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

### INSET Days for 2025-26

**Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - New Year 3s In School 1:30pm- 3:30pm**

**Wednesday 3rd September 2025– Pupils' First Day Back**

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

**Term Ends For Pupils - Friday 17th July 2026**

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

## Diary Dates 2025

### March

Tuesday 25th	Rocksteady Concert - 2:30pm
Monday 31st	Year 4 Production - 2pm

### April

Tuesday 1st	Year 4 Production - 6pm
Friday 4th	Last Day Of Spring Term - Early Finish
Tuesday 22nd	Return To School - Summer Term Year 4 Bikeability Week

### May

Friday 2nd	Wisley Trip - Year 3
Tuesday 6th	Calshot Residential - Year 5
Monday 12th	SATs Week
Friday 16th	Swimming Gala - Year 6
Monday 19th	Year 6 - Hankley Commons Walks Week
Tuesday 20th	Swimming Gala - Year 5
Wednesday 21st	Swimming Gala - Year 4
Thursday 22nd	Swimming Gala - Year 3 Break Up For Half Term
Friday 23rd	INSET Day

### June

Monday 2nd	Return To School UKSA Residential - Year 6
Friday 6th	Year 3 Roman Day
Monday 9th	Runways End Residential - 4LH and 4HI
Wednesday 11th	Runways End Residential - 4MB and 4LS
Friday 20th	School Photographer - Class Photos
Thursday 26th	Sports Day - Lower School AM/Upper School PM