



Waverley Abbey School

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



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

School Newsletter 10

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30th January 2026

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Next week's worship theme – being positive!

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"

Psalm 118:24

I am glad to see that the inclement weather has not dampened spirits at Waverley and despite a few coughs and colds the children have worked just as hard in their learning. I am also pleased to see that children are wrapping up warm too. In the past I have asked parents to ensure children are wearing coats so thank you for your support in this. January feels like a particularly long month, and I know we are all looking forward to lighter evenings and warmer weather!

Medicines in school: A reminder about medicines in school. All the following information is also on our school website, however the main points are as follows:

Where possible parents should administer medicine at home - if medicine needs administering 4 times a day then one can be at school, but the medical form must be filled out beforehand, giving specific dosage and the time needed.

On the day, if Calpol is needed the office will phone to request permission. Please send an Email to info@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk confirming that your child can have Calpol. This will only be administered following written consent. As the school's Calpol is for emergencies only, please supply your own Calpol with a completed Pupil Medication form if you think your child may require any during the day.

Staff are not permitted to administer aspirin to any child unless prescribed by a doctor.

All medicine must be in its original packaging. Staff are not permitted to administer if it is not.

When the course of medicine has been administered, parents must come to collect the medicine. It will not be given to children to take home.

Parents/ carers are responsible for checking that medicine e.g inhalers, are in date.

Where possible, we encourage children to be responsible for going to the office for their medicine but would recommend parents schedule the doses so that this falls at the start of lunch (12 to 12.30pm) as children and staff are focussed on teaching/ learning during lesson times!

WhatsApp: Since Christmas, we have noticed an increase in children mentioning unkind comments that have been shared via WhatsApp groups between pupils from our school, whilst they are at home. Overleaf is some information regarding this App, including its age restriction (16+). Please continue to be vigilant with your child's online presence.

Mobile phones: We actively encourage families not to allow their children to bring expensive items into school including mobile phones, however If your child must bring a phone in then our school policy is that they need to drop it off at the office first thing in the morning, returning to pick it up at the end of the day. We should also have a letter confirming that your child will be bringing a phone onto the premises. Thank you for your co-operation in this.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Rebecca Marshall

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted - it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes - encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded - so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe - but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' - choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list - so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.03.2022

Diary Dates 2026

February 2026

Thursday 5th	Year 6 Showcase - 2:30pm
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
Tuesday 24th	Return To School World Thinking Day/Founder's Day

March 2026

Monday 9th	Year 4 - Ufton Court Visit Primary Singing Festival
Tuesday 17th	Rocksteady Concert - 2pm
Wednesday 18th	Rodborough Singing Day
Tuesday 24th	Year 4 Production - 2pm
Wednesday 25th	The Music Works Showcase – 9am Year 4 Production - 6pm
Friday 27th	Last Day Of Spring Term

April 2026

Monday 13th	INSET Day
Tuesday 14th	First Day Of Summer Term Year 4 Bikeability Week

May 2026

Tuesday 5th	Year 5 - Calshot Residential
Monday 11th	Year 6 - SATs Week
Monday 18th	Year 3 Swimming Gala - 9:15am
Tuesday 19th	Year 5 Swimming Gala - 9:15am

May 2026	
Wednesday 20th	Year 3 - Wisley Trip Year 4 Swimming Gala - 9:15am
Thursday 21st	Year 6 Swimming Gala - 9:15am
Friday 22nd	INSET Day
June 2026	
Wednesday 3rd	Year 3 - Tilford Walk
Friday 5th	School Photographer - Group Photos
Monday 8th	Runway's End Residential - 4LH and 4EW
Wednesday 10th	Runway's End Residential - 4LS and 4HI
Thursday 18th	Year 6 Leavers' Service - Guildford Cathedral
Friday 19th	Year 3 Roman Day
Monday 22nd	Year 6 Portland Residential
July 2026	
Thursday 2nd	Sports Day Waverley Abbey Challenge Celebration - 6pm
Tuesday 7th	Rocksteady Concert - 2pm Year 6 Production - 6pm
Thursday 16th	Year 6 Leavers' Service - All Saints' Church - 2pm
Friday 17th	Last Day of Summer Term

Caterlink Survey

We are carrying out our annual pupil survey to assist us in improving our catering service to our customers and we would value the opportunity to survey your child,

We will provide feedback to schools whose pupils complete the survey once results have been analysed.

Survey closes on 27th March 2026

Primary Pupil Survey Link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3RTFTV>

Pupil News

Congratulations to Joey and the Surrey Nomads team travelled to Saint George's Park (home ground of the England team), to play in National Finals. The top 3 teams across the country made it to the finals, meaning Joey and his team played both teams.

The Boys did extremely well and won both of their games with Joey only conceding 1 goal all day! Joey's team were then crowned National Champions and the best team in England from the JPL league.



Pupil News



Following an outstanding debut season with Farnham Cricket Club in 2025, Siddharth was honoured as the **Player of the Season**. His exceptional performance earned him a selection for the prestigious **Hampshire Pathways Programme**. This ECB-led initiative is designed to identify and develop elite young talent for county representation, with the ultimate goal of producing future England national players. Congratulations to Siddharth!

Diary dates

We have a number of exciting events planned for this term. We'll be welcoming three specialist external agencies into school to share strategies and practical advice on supporting your child with anxiety and neurodiversity. Please see below for more information

Thursday 5th February Primary Mental Health Worker (Nikki Brunton-Smith) presentation on Anxiety

To sign up, please use the link or QR code:
<https://forms.office.com/e/IXZrebejL5>



Wednesday 25th February National Autistic Society presentation

To sign up, please use the link or QR code:
<https://forms.office.com/e/9cDHpPGwhD>



Tuesday 3rd March Freemantles Outreach presentation

To sign up, please use the link or QR code:
<https://forms.office.com/e/uAU09k3Kee>

