



Waverley Abbey School

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



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Next week's worship theme –Advent

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023. I can't believe that we've already had a whole term this year. Time certainly flies at Waverley Abbey!

As we well know, the final weeks before Christmas are some of the busiest in the calendar and there is no exception to this at Waverley Abbey. The Christmas performance from Year 5 was utterly brilliant and I am in no doubt that Year 3 will be equally strong next week too. The Year 5 children were able to project their voices well, sing like angels 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 fractions in maths. I was particularly proud of a group of boys who came to show me their learning earlier on in the week as they had openly admitted to struggling when this was first taught. However, they had persevered and were now confidently able to explain the strategy – a real lightbulb moment! Geography has been a focus in Year 4 with the children learning about volcanoes and earthquakes as well as being in a 'real' Japanese earthquake at the Natural History Museum on Monday. In Year 3 the children have been mastering some complex

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8th December 2023

Email: info@waverley-abbey.surrey.sch.uk

Telephone No: 01252 782321

computing, focussing on programming using Scratch – their debugging skills are very impressive.

I am very much looking forward to being part of church services next week too as well as watching the Year 4 service on Thursday, which was lovely. Parents are warmly welcomed to join us for these services (see separate Year group letters). While all the festivities happen, there is still a strong focus on our curriculum and squeezing every learning opportunity into the final week as well – staff and children certainly do not get bored!

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. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Learning Support Assistant role - Next term, we are looking to recruit a learning support assistant to join our team. The job is full time and term time only. If you have a GCSE or equivalent in English and maths and enjoy supporting children, please have a look on the school website where further details can be found or contact the school office.

A final reminder that school closes after lunch on Friday 15th December, and pupils return on Wednesday 3rd January 2024. I hope that you all have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing everyone back safe and well in the New Year.

Merry Christmas!
Mrs Rebecca Marshall

Lost Property

From January, all unnamed school uniform items will be donated to the second-hand uniform stock or disposed of. Any **clearly** named items will be returned to the children as quickly as possible. All other items will be made available at the front of the school, but will be regularly disposed of. We hope this will reduce the amount of lost property around the school.

PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS.

School Trips

Whilst payment for school day trips is voluntary, we cannot continue to run these activities without parental contributions. Please check that you have paid for any trips your child has attended this term via your SCOPay account.

Thank you.

Milk at Break Time

If your child is supposed to have milk at break time, please remind them to go and collect it from the dining hall every day. Their teachers will be reminding them periodically as well, but we are currently throwing most of it away.

Thank you.

Clubs

A reminder that all **teacher led** clubs finish today (Friday 8th).

Artbox are running an event at The Maltings, Farnham during the Christmas break. Please see the link below for further information.

<https://farnhammaltings.com/events/artbox-christmas-workshop-8-16-years>

Additional Diary Date

Village Carols by Candlelight on Saturday 9th December 18:30pm at All Saints' Church, Tilford.
Free entry, free mulled wine and mince pies.

Generously sponsored by Darwin Escapes (Tilford Lodge Retreat).
Retiring collection for charities.

Last Day Of Term Early Finish Timings

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12.50PM BECAUSE THE GATES WILL NOT BE OPEN, DUE TO CHILDREN BEING ON THE PLAYGROUNDS.

Year 6 - 1.10pm

Year 5 - 1.15pm

Year 4 - 1.20pm

Year 3 - 1.30pm

Diary dates for Autumn Term 2023

December 2023

Monday 11th	Christmas Lunch And Jumper Day Year 6 - Church Service - 10am
Tuesday 12th	Year 3 - Church Service - 10am
Wednesday 13th	Year 5 - Church Service - 10am
Thursday 14th	Pause Day
Friday 15th	Last Day Of Term - Early Finish

Diary dates for Spring Term 2024

January 2024

Tuesday 2nd	Inset Day
Wednesday 3rd	Return To School
Friday 5th	Year 6 - Evacuee Day
Monday 15th	Young Voices at The O2