



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 17.07.26

So, this is it, my final update letter of the year!

It's hard to put into words how I feel coming to the end of what has been another positive year in the continued growth and development of Wadham School.

All I can say is a massive **thank you** to the staff, students and families that have come together when it has really mattered to ensure the learning and well-being of our students remains at the heart of what we do.

It was a real treat for me to be part of the Wadham Rhineland Visit to Germany this week and I have thoroughly enjoyed making new connections and building relationships with many students I wouldn't ordinarily see. At the end of each busy day, I've enjoyed seeing updates posted online from the other trips, visits and in-school activities and am proud of how well students have grown, both personally and academically, over the course of this year. It is moments like this that remind me why working in education is so important, and so rewarding.

I am privileged to work alongside such dedicated, resilient and caring colleagues, and feel strongly that it is a direct result of their efforts that the culture, values and expectations of our school have been so successfully embedded. It has made for a superb end to the year.

That's not to say the students haven't been awesome either, because they have! Holding yourself and others to high standards is never easy, yet despite this and other challenges, Wadham students have consistently shown great spirit and commitment to do what is right over what is easy.

The potential they have is huge, and we're excited to be part of their lives, helping them shape and define who they are and where they want to be.

As this final week closes, I'm delighted to share that Mr Hopwood has published another edition of 'the Quill' – giving further insight into the magic that happens here every day.

On behalf of everyone here at Wadham School, I would like to thank all members of our community for your continued support and wish everyone a positive and peaceful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mrs R Hawkes



**Crewkerne & Ilminster
Schools Partnership**
Work, Play & Learn Together

Top Performing Students

The table below is the final one for the 2025-26 academic year!

It's been an absolute pleasure to see how the podium has continually changed over the last 11 months, a testament to the culture of rewards we have instilled in recent years, as well as the determination of students to consistently give of their best.

Well done, everyone, for your hard work and achievements 😊

Week Commencing 06.07.26

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1	Harrison Ford	Abigail Key	Olivia Donohue	Corey Wadkins
2	Matthew Hodder	Jasmine Ham	Toby Maddocks	Jayden King
3	Betsy Best	Olivia Moncur	Poppy Green Jake Hardman Charlie Hughes	Jasmine Guppy

Mobile Phone Pouch Launch!

We enjoyed a smooth launch of our lockable pouches last week, with many students commenting on improved concentration and less anxiety regarding the need to 'check in' with their phone. It's still early days, and we have collected pouches back in for the permanent launch in September, but I would like to extend my thanks to the students, staff and parents for collectively recognising the impact of what we are doing and seeing the benefits that it will bring.

We will issue lockable pouches and exemption cards when students return in September.

A reminder of the expectation:

Where parents have said their child does not have a mobile phone or will not bring one into school, an exemption card will be issued.

This process is quick, simple, and will be supervised by staff as part of our daily routine:

- **Upon arrival:** Students power off all smart technology including their mobile phones, place all devices in the pouch, and lock it before entering the site. Students will show their locked pouches or exemption cards to staff each morning as they pass through the main gate.
- **During the day:** Students keep the locked pouch in their schoolbag or locker.
- **At dismissal:** Students unlock pouches at designated stations to retrieve their devices.

Safeguarding over the Summer

Finally, whilst we hope that the summer break passes without incident, safeguarding concerns can still be reported to keepsafe@wadhamschool.co.uk

You may also find the following contacts useful if you need support during the summer, while the school is closed.

- If someone is in imminent danger, call 999.
- If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child, please contact Children's Social Care on 0800 123 2224

If you are a child and are worried and need to talk to someone, please see the contacts below:

- Samaritans- <https://www.samaritans.org> or call 0800 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org
- Childline- <https://childline.org.uk> or call 0800 1111.
- You can email a Childline counsellor any time by signing up for an account. You won't need an email address, and you'll get a reply within a day.
- Shout- <https://www.giveusashout.org> or text 85258.
- Shout is a free, confidential and 24/7 text messaging service for anyone in the UK who needs support.

Arrangements for the start of term in September have been sent out in a separate letter: [**Start of Term Arrangements 2026-27**](#)

Richard Burgas
17.07.26

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026						
M			7	14	21	28	Mo			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
T		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	T		3	10	17	24	
W		2	9	16	23	30	We			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		Fr		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	S		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		S	1	8	15	22	29	
December 2026							January 2027							February 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25	M			1	8	15	22
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu			2	9	16	23
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27	W			3	10	17	24
Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28	Th			4	11	18	25
F		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29	F			5	12	19	26
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa			6	13	20	27
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	31	Su			7	14	21	28
March 2027							April 2027							May 2027						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24		Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	2	9	16	23	30	
June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	29	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 03 September – 23 October 2026 (37 days)
Term 2: 02 November – 18 December 2026 (35 days)
Term 3: 04 January – 12 February 2027 (30 days)
Term 4: 22 February – 25 March 2027 (24 days)
Term 5: 12 April – 28 May 2027 (34 days)
Term 6: 07 June – 23 July 2027 (35 days)
TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2026/27

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2026	Easter Monday	29 March 2027
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2026*	May Day Bank Holiday	03 May 2027
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2027	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2027
Good Friday	26 March 2027	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2027

*Replacement Bank Holiday when Bank Holidays falls on a weekend.

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.