



Warden Hill
PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2020

Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020!

I hope that you have all managed to read the curriculum information sheets for each year group which were sent out (via the Xpressions App) in the first week of term. They contain an overview of what your child will be covering in the Spring term and they have made a brilliant start with it all!

Myself, Mrs Andrews and Mr Antonious had the pleasure of speaking with a selection of our pupils from years 2, 5 and 6 this week about their learning. They were able to talk with confidence and enthusiasm about what they were currently learning, what they enjoyed about their lessons and how the subjects taught in school could benefit them in their future careers. They shared with us their books and the quality and range of learning and progress in them was fantastic. We look forward to meeting with other year groups later in the term.

Communication

Our main form of communication with you is via the Xpression App. Whilst this worked perfectly well before Apple released another iOS update during the summer holidays, the level of support we received from Groupcall (the umbrella company) in sorting out the many problems it presented when we came back in September, was extremely poor. Since then we have

been actively looking for alternative providers to use as our main communication system with you. We hope to have news of a new system before the end of the Spring term.

When we need to communicate with you about an activity relating to your child's class we will send out an Xpresison and then update the school online calendar as well for extra convenience.

If you need to communicate with school you can use the Xpressions App or the school email: admin@wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk or give the school a ring on 01242 523827 where our admin team will be happy to assist you.

If you need to have an urgent quick conversation at the start of the day regarding your child then our teachers and TAs are usually available (but please bear in mind that they may be preparing for the day). Failing that contact the office to make an appointment with them. Our Heads of Key Stages: Mrs Harrison (Head of Key Stage 1) and Mr Williams (Head of Key Stage 2) are also available to meet with, if you have a more general key stage related question/comment or concern. Mr Antonius, Mrs Andrews (our Assistant Heads) and myself are available for more whole school questions, comments or concerns.

I had a chat with a parent recently and it was discussed that maybe a box could go out so people can pop in comments anonymously. I can absolutely see the value in that and will be looking at creating a virtual 'box' on our website. It will be checked on a regular basis but it will not be somewhere for urgent items to go that

require immediate attention. For many years we have operated an open door policy and I would encourage you to come and chat to us.

Staff update

Miss Jones (who taught in Mr Antonious' class on a weekly basis and across the school covering classes) decided to leave Warden Hill at the end of December. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work with our children (in and out the classroom) and wish her well with her onward career.



In other news, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Andrews and her husband are expecting another baby in May.



I am really pleased to let you know that Mrs Jones is returning from maternity leave next week and she will be covering classes across the school.



I would like to welcome Mrs Sara Young who has joined our Admin team as the front of house in the office in the mornings.

PTA update

The final figures are in from the:

Christmas Fayre - £3082

School disco - 693

Big fat quiz of the year-£520

This amazing fundraising wouldn't be possible without your support and donations for all the tombolas and raffle tickets etc as well as our fabulous PTA team chaired by Kala Wilkes.

As many of you know from previous newsletters, the last big purchase with monies raised was for new library furniture as well as new book corner furniture in KS1. Prior to this was the library furniture for KS2. The school has also benefitted from starting to buy new books from EYFS all the way to Year 6. This is something with the PTA funds we will continue to do and we are also considering other purchases to benefit all our pupils. The PTA also give the school £1000 each academic year to subsidise the cost of coaches for each class trip.

A massive thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Curriculum/training update

All our teaching staff have attended the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education training run by our Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Team (GHLL).

As this is a new statutory curriculum for 2020, we will be holding a consultation drop in session where you can come and view the lesson plans and resources that will be used. We will also have members of the GHLL available too as well as our Senior Leadership team to answer any of your questions.

I wish you all a happy weekend.

Warmest regards
Georgina Flooks

Driving up Durham Close

As you know I am usually at the bottom of Durham Close in the mornings, but more recently I have been tied up in meetings or other aspects of my working day. I really do ask that we don't drive up the close and that we park responsibly please - it's all about keeping our road as safe and 'clean' as possible for our school and wider community.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Walking Bus

Please remember that the walking bus still continues every Wednesday from Morrisons. We leave at 8:40 on the dot - unlike other transport providers!

Make the change today - park and let your children do the stride - or join us too.

Term Dates 2020/2021

Next academic year's term dates have been approved. You can download a pdf from our website: <https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/about-warden-hill-primary-school/term-dates/>

GAMELAN

On Wednesday 15th January year 3 went on an interesting trip to Gloucester Cathedral and Gloucestershire Academy of Music. First, we ate our lunch. Then we walked to Gloucester Cathedral whilst 3H had their music lesson. We went inside and had a look around, it was incredible. I liked trying on the dressing up clothes they had. After that, we returned to the Gloucestershire Academy of Music. When we were there we got to play Gamelan instruments from Indonesia. I found it very hard but fun too because with my instrument I had to play off the beat.

Finlay 3W



School Council

January School Council Election Results:

1W	Jack H
1H	Ellis G
2W	Chloe M
2H	Rose B
3W	Liam W
3H	Millie D
4W	Callum K
4H	Madeleine S
5W	Chloe A
5H	Poppy W
5S	Daisy M
6W	Ethan B
6H	Elena P



School Council, together with Eco Warriors, will be working over the next few months, to get ready for the Big Pedal 2020 at the end of April. Watch this space!

Eco Warriors

Spring term Eco Warriors are:

Y1 Isobel, Jemima
Y2 Juliet, Luke
Y3 Jemima, Evie
Y4 Logan, Emily
Y5 Daisy, Ellie, Joseph F
Y6 Amy, Alfie

Over the next couple of weeks we will turn into conservation scientists by taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, helping to track the ups and downs of birds in our area.



YOUNG VOICES 2020

Last week our Young Voices choir of 60 Year 4, 5 and 6 children went to the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham to sing with another 6,000 children as well as Tony Hadley (from Spandau Ballet), Ruti Olajugbagbe (The Voice winner 2018) and professional rock musicians and street dance group “Urban Strides”.

After weekly practices since September learning a variety of songs and dance moves we performed in front of a full stadium of proud family members.

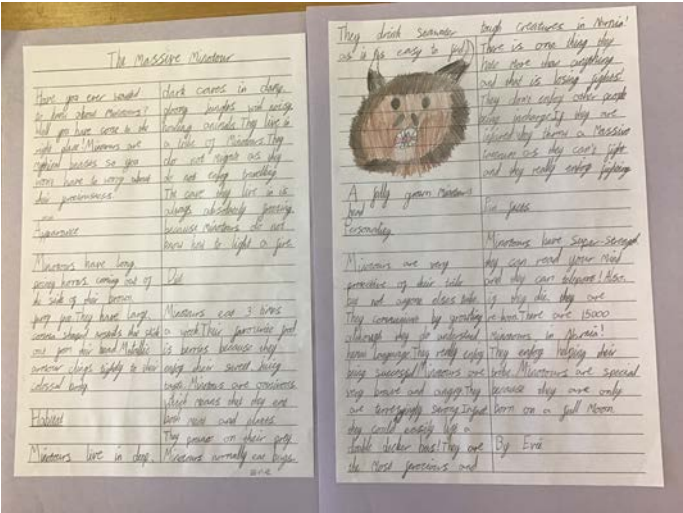
The children were absolutely amazing and a credit to the school. The can be proud that they took part in the largest school choir in the world.



Click the link to see a little taster of a great atmosphere of the night.

<https://vimeo.com/388510868>





Year 3 English unit on mythical creatures



Year 5 Art



Year 4 have been learning about types and functions of teeth

Pupils' Success



Congratulations to Sam, Rhys, Thomas, Rufus, Alfie, Gus, Luke, James and James whose Churchdown Panthers football teams have won both their respective football leagues.



Rufus J-L and Luke A competed in the Gloucester County Swimming Championships at Hengrove Pool, Bristol. They both swam amazingly and came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Boys 50m Breaststroke.



Congratulations to Noah S who has been selected for the Gloucestershire County Academy Golf programme 2020. He also received his official golf handicap back in december, so a great end to 2019 for him.

NETBALL

Warden Hill v St James'

Warden Hill netball teams continued their winning streak against St James' last Thursday, with Team A scoring 12 hoops and the B Team scoring 7 and only conceding 1. Let's try and keep this up and beat all the other schools we going to play against. Come on Warden Hill!

Gus C, A Team player

Warden Hill v Dunalley

On Monday the Dunalley netball teams arrived at Warden Hill to face our A and B netball teams. After four intense quarters and many goals, the Warden Hill A Team won 12-1 and the B Team won 7-1. Both teams were fantastic and passed the ball amazingly using shoulder, bounce and chest passes.





Rhys, B Team player



House Points

Congratulations to Windrush House for last term's House Points win.

Below is the summary of house points at the end of January 2020.

	Coln	2653
	Leach	2640
	Windrush	2401
	Churn	2140

Belong, Explore, Succeed

We have asked all children to bring in photos to show how they belong, explore and/or succeed in something they do outside of school. Thank you for your support in providing these photos.



Year 6 children created this button montage to be the central piece in the display. We look forward to sharing the end result with you.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3 February	Whole School Assembly
Monday 3 February	Active Lunchtime 4W
Monday 3 February	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday 6 February	Year 1 and Year 2 Gymnastics Competition
Monday 10 February	Active Lunchtime 3H
Tuesday 11 February	Reception Towers and Turrets Day
Wednesday 12 February	Year 2 Assembly
Thursday 13 February	Mid-Year Reports Out
Thursday 13 February	Year 5 and Year 6 Gymnastics Competition
Friday 14 February	House Rugby
Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February	HALF TERM
Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February	Move More Activity Camp
Thursday 20 February - Friday 21 February	Move More Football Camp
Monday 24 February	START OF TERM 4

For times and detailed information please visit the Calendar page
wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/events/

Warden Hill Primary School
Durham Close, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 3DF
T: 01242 523 827 • E: admin@wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk W: www.wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Mrs Georgina Flooks