

# DECEMBER 2020



## Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The last few weeks have certainly brought about all things festive; Christmas choirs, pantos, Christmas parties and fabulous buzz around the school. I know that our children have had a fantastic Autumn term back in school and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my amazing team for all their hard work and effort during these last 2 terms but especially in these last few weeks – ensuring that the Christmas spirit is alive and well. It has been a very different way of working for them and they've taken it in their stride, thus ensuring our children still continue to get the very best.

In September we launched our new reading curriculum, which focused on new class novels, books and poems used for guided reading as well as the new process of reading at home with our Infant children. Listening to the book chat around the school from children and the staff it is clear that everything that has been implemented is having a positive impact on the children in terms of their engagement with books and reading. The books have all been carefully selected to allow for a mix of male and female leads, as well as, different cultures, adventure and diversity. The idea behind this is that whilst at Warden Hill our children will experience a wide range of authors and build a solid foundation of books read in the literary world. If you are thinking of any last minute book

present ideas for your children then I can recommend this website: <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/christmas/gift-giving-guides> for a fantastic selection.

Over the last year we have been developing our whole school curriculum to ensure that it is relevant, inclusive and forward thinking. All the curriculum subjects have now been carefully planned out to show the progression of learning from Reception to year 6. These have been created by our staff in their subject leadership groups and are presented as a thumbnail version for parents, of the whole school curriculum progression maps. I am proud of the results we have achieved and, alongside the [Year group curriculum mapping documents](#), they will give you a very clear picture of the curriculum that your child is being taught, as well as what's to come in future years. The link can be found here: [wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/curriculum-progression-maps/](https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/curriculum-progression-maps/)

Work has continued behind the scenes on our new school and I have been working really closely with the architects and Design Team since September formulating the plans. I hope to be able to bring you more news (and drawings) of the designs in late January and February. There will obviously be a formal consultation process linked to the planning application and I will keep you updated as and when information is ready to be shared publically. I am ever hopeful that the start date for the new build will be late July 2021.

When we come back on Tuesday 5th January all our Covid Risk Assessment measures will be exactly the same. The classroom doors will be open from 8:40am and school officially starts at 8:55am. I'd like to take





this opportunity to remind parents that it is essential out children are all in school by 8:55 to make sure they have the best start to the day – it really does impact on their learning if they are consistently late. The pickup times at the end of the day will remain the same as well. Thank you for your continued support in adhering to these elements of our Risk assessment.

As 2020 draws to a close, I am reminded of the very different year we have had. If it's taught me one thing it's to be mindful of the here and now and not take it for granted. I am very much looking forward to spending quality time with my own family over the

festive period, however, on the 31st December, I will raise a glass to all our Warden Hill families for a brighter 2021 filled with hope and happiness.

So, from all the staff at Warden Hill, we wish you all a very, Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Festive Wishes

Georgina Flooks  
Headteacher



## Recycle This Christmas

Warden Hill Eco Warriors would like to encourage you to recycle as much as you can this festive season. We have organised a Christmas card recycling scheme for the first 2 weeks of January. We would like you to bring in old Christmas cards, which will then be taken to a local charity who will use them to create new cards.

Y5 and Y6 Eco members have also researched other ways you can recycle this Christmas and have created a video packed with information about what you can recycle in Cheltenham:



We hope everyone remembers the 3Rs this Christmas, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Happy Christmas from Warden Hill Eco Warriors!

## Art Project

Artworks created by Art Project run by Mrs Smith, our Wellbeing Lead.

Each one made from recycled canvas and recycled Christmas cards.







## Tree Planting

Eco Council members spent a very productive afternoon with Cheltenham Borough Council Trees Officer Christopher Chavasse, planting 200 native tree saplings along the border of Forest School, as part of the Council's aim to plant one million trees to offset carbon emissions by 2030.

The children all worked really hard getting the trees bedded into our somewhat clay-heavy soil. With trees from the Woodland Trust, we will re-visit the site in March next year, to replace any trees that have not survived the winter.





## Stone Age Day

On Stone Age Day, 3W and 3B took part in a wide range of activities. Here is what we did. With Mr Bridgwood, the two classes (one at a time) went on a beast hunt. On the beast hunt, there was lots of acting and it was fun. With Mrs Weaver, we made clay pots using designs we drew ourselves. Later that day, we made dances to the song mammoth hunters. Finally, we made Stonehenge with biscuits (we could not eat them!). Soon the day was over. It was so fun!

Kacie (3W) and Sammy (3W)



## Young Voices Biggest Sing, 2 February 2021

We are delighted to let you know about an exciting singing opportunity! Young Voices are organising a virtual concert at the O2 Arena on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 2pm. It is a free concert and will take place during school time.

All the children in years 2-5 will learn the song 'Lovely Day' as part of their weekly music lessons starting in January. On the big day each class will tune in to a Live Streamed Concert and will sing 'Lovely Day' with over 220,000 other children and several famous artists.

Young Voices are hoping this event will break the World Record of the Largest Children's choir and raise money for the amazing Children's Mental Health Charity Place 2 Be – for more information of their marvellous work [click here](#).

OPTIONAL: A recommended voluntary donation of £1 per child to the fantastic Children's Charity.



OPTIONAL: Special 25th Anniversary Edition T-shirts - if you would like to buy a special 2021 25th Anniversary Young Voices t-shirt, please [click here](#)

Please keep checking our website calendar for future updates:  
[wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/event/young-voices-biggest-sing/](http://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/event/young-voices-biggest-sing/)



[youngvoices.co.uk/biggest-sing](http://youngvoices.co.uk/biggest-sing)

## Children in Wonderland Virtual Choir

As they had such a great response from schools, Winter City Music decided to also produce regional videos, so that each school can be seen.

The links are now on YouTube for all to enjoy and share. They really do show much more of the children's personalities coming through.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=7dcmKz4lyOQ>

<https://watercitymusic.com/>



## Spring 2021 Lunch Menu

Spring term menu is now available on our website:  
<https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/school-meals/>

## House Points Update

[wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/school-houses/](https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/school-houses/)



**Windrush**

**3598**



**Churn**

**3474**



**Coln**

**3374**



**Leach**

**3170**

## Pupils' Success

Well done to Toby (4W) for passing his grade 1 piano exam with merit.

## Advent Running Challenge

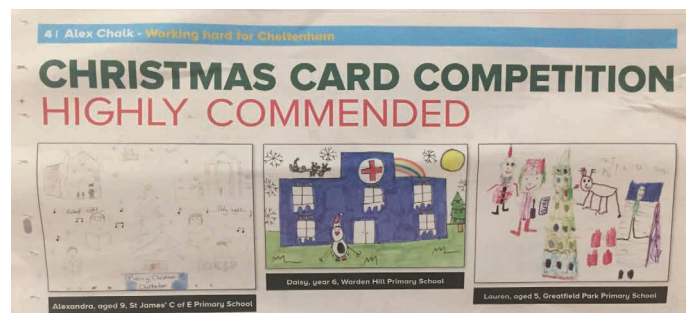
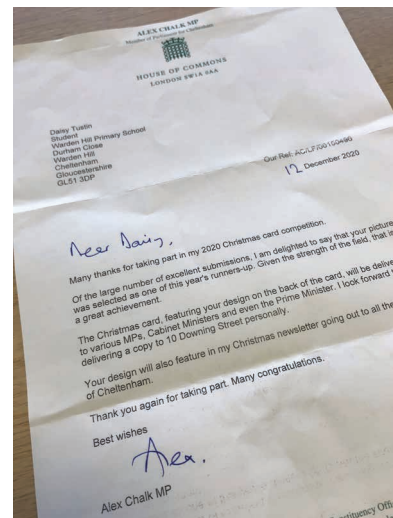
Neve (5R) is doing an advent running challenge. She is running every day in December up to Christmas Eve. She has done really well so far.

Well done and keep it up!

## Christmas Card Competition

Daisy (6B) entered Alex Chalk's Christmas card competition. Her entry was highly commended and featured in his latest newsletter.

We are delighted that we have such artistic talent at Warden Hill!







## **Flavoursome, appetising, glorious Brussels sprouts**

Want your daily vitamins?  
Would you like to have a healthy digestive system?  
Well look no further- it's sprouts to your rescue!  
They improve the digestive system and are packed  
with vitamins. They're every chef's choice this  
Christmas.  
Flavoursome, appetising, glorious Brussels sprouts.

Lottie (5R)

During English lesson Year 5 were  
writing adverts to persuade people  
to eat sprouts.

Want to make your immune system an  
indestructible force?  
Want to lower cholesterol this Christmas?  
If so, look no further because brilliant Brussels  
will solve your needs.  
These amazing vegetables contain only 28 calories  
and will also deliver a punch of vitamins.  
They're also guaranteed to strengthen your  
immune system so you never get ill.  
They will make your stomach rumble, your mouth  
water and your taste buds tingle.  
It has got to be sublime sprouts this year!

Oscar (5R)

## We are Photographers

Year 2 have been learning how to take photographs in their computing unit called 'We Are Photographers'. The children took pictures of nature and then learnt how to edit their images. Here are a few examples.



Ben



Evie



Edward



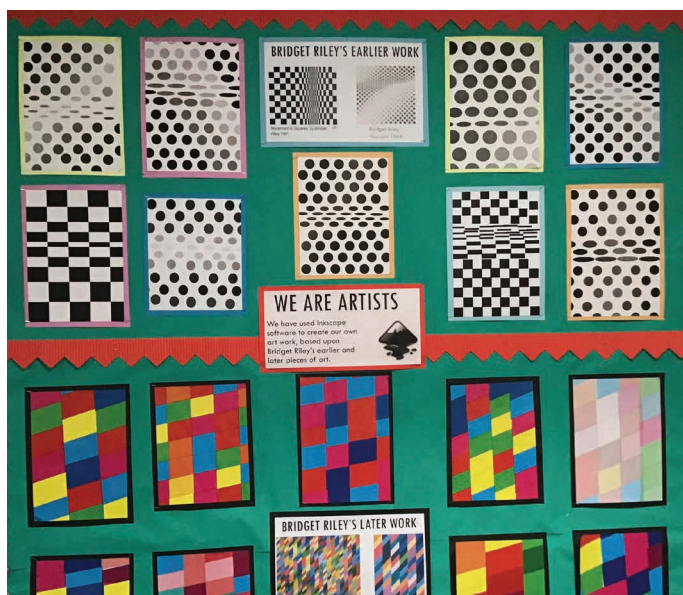
Thomas



## We are Artists



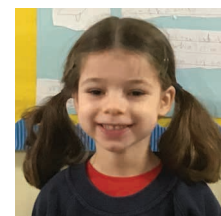
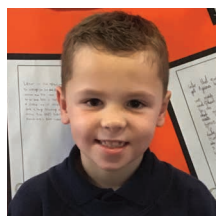
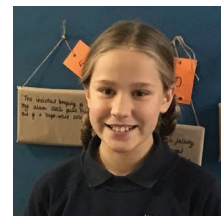
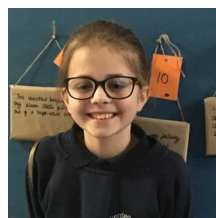
Year 5 display of wellbeing bubbles



Year 5 pupils have been using computer software to create pieces of art inspired by Bridget Riley's work. This is a display of work created by 5C class.

## School Council

Warden Hill School Council members were selected earlier this term. Meetings will start in January 2021. One of their agenda items for 2021 will be looking at how to improve lunchtime provision.



## Family Learning Courses for Parents

We have some interesting family learning courses for your parents starting in January 2021. All of our courses are currently being delivered via Zoom. They are open to all parents/ carers or grandparents in Gloucestershire, with the courses being free for many parents (see website for details).



The tutors all have a wide experience in their subject and bring great energy and enthusiasm to the course.

There are three Wellbeing courses:

### Calming the Mind

A focussed mindfulness course for 5 weeks on Tuesday mornings from 10:30am - 11:30am

### Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home

This course looks at the science behind wellbeing

### Yoga and Guided Meditation

The first half of this course focuses on yoga, which is aimed at all abilities. The second part of the session will be a guided meditation so that parents can find new ways to relax fully. Parents don't need any experience or special equipment- just space to lie down in.

## Supporting Children's Maths:

### **Give Your Kids A Boost in Maths in the Infants**

Focuses on how children learn maths skills in Reception, Year 1 and 2, giving parents tips on the language used in school today and also sharing how they can bring maths into everyday situations

### **Keeping Up With the Kids Maths in the Juniors**

Focuses on supporting children with maths in the Juniors. We will discuss the way maths is taught in school today and give parents support with helping their child to learn their tables, and complete specific numeracy tasks, such as fractions.

## English as a Second Language:

### **Improve Your English and Help Your Child**

delivers English lessons for ESOL parents and teaches them how their children learn in school

### **Help Your Child with English in the Early Years**

is a course for parents with preschool children. They come together (virtually) to share a story and make some resources to go with it. This course focuses on teaching parents how they can support their child to develop their language skills.

[gloucestershire.gov.uk/adult-education-in-gloucestershire/](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk/adult-education-in-gloucestershire/)





## Cheltenham Table Tennis Club

Cheltenham Table Tennis Club is a friendly club and we are looking to increase attendance at our junior coaching sessions. CTTC is Covid safe and adheres to all Table Tennis England and Government guidelines.

We are looking to add an extra coaching session on Tuesday evenings. The first session will run from 7.00pm - 8.00pm and the second session will run from 8.15pm - 9.15pm. This allows time for the venue to be sanitised between sessions.

The cost per session is £5 and CTTC runs a “credit” system whereby payments are made directly to the club’s bank account in blocks of either 5, 8 or 10. Numbers are strictly limited due to current restrictions so booking in advance is essential. We are unable to accept walk-ins.

If you are interested in attending please contact Graham Slack, CTTC Head Coach, by email [grahamslack@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:grahamslack@blueyonder.co.uk) or mobile 07906855236.

CTTC is based at Cheltenham YMCA Sports Centre, Arle Road, Cheltenham, GL51 8LE.



[clubs.tabletennisengland.co.uk](https://clubs.tabletennisengland.co.uk)  
[facebook.com/CheltenhamTTC](https://facebook.com/CheltenhamTTC)  
[twitter.com/CheltenhamTTC](https://twitter.com/CheltenhamTTC)

## Merry Christmas from the Open The Book Team

We are really missing our weekly Open The Book assemblies this year and wanted to send you some links to a few of the YouTube Open The Book stories as a temporary substitute. We hope that the children find the bible stories interesting.

[The Story of Ten Young Girls](#)

[John's Dream](#)

[From Saul to Paul](#)

[Lots of Mouths to Feed](#)

[The Marvellous Picnic](#)

[Forgiven and Grateful](#)

I have also attached a virtual Christmas card from all the Open The Book team.



We hope and pray that all the Warden Hill staff and children have a safe and good Christmas.

## Child Friendly Gloucestershire

On Monday 7 December, the leaders of Gloucestershire launched the the county's first Children's Wellbeing Coalition. Our aim is simple: to create a single vision which builds a brighter future for all young people in the county.

So far, the Coalition includes key statutory bodies, business and third sector organisations from across the county committed to working with young people and shaping services around their wellbeing. We hope to grow this coalition over the coming months.

It is the first time in many years that we have the right people, at the right time, working together to build a single vision. The task ahead will not be easy but we are determined to work together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust to bring about change. What is more, at the heart of this change is a commitment to listening ever more carefully to the young people of Gloucestershire and to what will help each one of them to thrive and develop their potential.

We want our children and young people to know what is happening in their county. As such, we have created a video explaining events and the commitment we are making. I ask that you share it with your students, your organisations and your families. It is essential we all understand the enormity of today's event and how we can all help shape a brighter future. You can view the video on our [website](#).

I have also published an open letter to all young people in Gloucestershire (please see attached). I am

keen to talk directly to them so again, I ask you to share this onwards.

This is just the beginning and the conversations are just starting. The Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Revd Rachel Treweek, is planning an event to hear the thoughts, views and feelings of as many young people as possible, in and around Gloucestershire. To help the conversation, she would love young people to tell her in one sentence what worries or concerns them. She would also like to know what makes them really happy and gives them joy. Please email responses to Lucy Taylor on [ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk)

As ever,

Dame Janet Trotter,  
Chair of child friendly Gloucestershire





## An open letter to the young people of Gloucestershire

Today the people who run our great county have made a pledge to you that things will change. That your voice will be at the heart of our plans for the future of Gloucestershire. This is your chance to set the agenda and help drive it forward.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey so far. We would not be where we are today without your efforts. But we still have a long way to go and we will need more help.

Over the next few months, we will be making contact through your schools and your clubs or organisations to let you know how you can be part of this.

Please step forward, step up and make your voice heard.

You are the future, help shape it.

Best,



**Chair of child friendly Gloucestershire**



Working together to create a child friendly Gloucestershire



## POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping  
with our Appeal.

£ 217.21.....  
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to  
continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

AP Local Honorary Organiser  
*Lynne Hulme*

District Total (if available) £ .....

Registered Charity No. 219279





## Facts4Life December Wellbeing Challenge

#mindfulmonday #wellbeingwednesday  
#feelgoodfriday

We are excited to be launching our December Wellbeing Challenge for all of our followers on Facebook and Twitter!

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout December we will be posting mindful, wellbeing, and feel good activities on our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

[facebook.com/facts4life](https://facebook.com/facts4life)

Twitter: [@facts4life](https://twitter.com/facts4life) org

### Listen

Take a slow deep breath and listen.  
What can you hear?  
Make a collection - see if you can collect 10 different sounds.



  
Facts4Life  
[www.facts4life.org](http://www.facts4life.org)

### Stretch and Shake

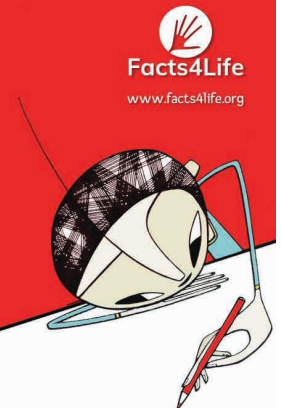
Stretch your fingers like stars.  
Stretch your arms up to the sky then out to the sides. Reach up with your right hand and down your side with the left, now up with the left and down with the right. Shake it all out.



  
Facts4Life  
[www.facts4life.org](http://www.facts4life.org)

### Doodle Draw

Let your pencil go for a walk on a blank page. Let it swirl and loop and intersect the other lines. Notice the sound your pencil makes against the paper; notice how the marks made vary as you change direction and pressure. Choose a selection of coloured pens or pencils and fill the different spaces with colour and pattern. Notice the colour effects and the sounds as you colour, draw, dot and dash.



  
Facts4Life  
[www.facts4life.org](http://www.facts4life.org)

# OPERATION BLETCHLEY

YOUR VIRTUAL CODEBREAKING CHALLENGE

BERLIN

SUPPORTING

ABF

THE SOLDIERS

CHARITY

The Army's National Charity

**The 12 days of Christmas but not as you know it. 24 miles: 12 codes: 12 days - do you have what it takes?**

It's Christmas 1948. Since the fall of the Nazi regime, cooperation between East and West Germany has swiftly deteriorated. With the Soviets dead-set on kicking western allies out of Berlin, Stalin's communist regime is closing road, rail, and water supplies, leaving two million Germans cut off from vital resources.

Only your codebreaking pupils and their families can help beat the blockade before it's too late by taking part in Operation Bletchley: Christmas in Berlin - the virtual codebreaking challenge, beginning on 26th December.

Can you help us by sharing the mission with your pupils and their families?

[Access full mission briefing](#)

Operation Bletchley: Christmas in Berlin is a virtual codebreaking challenge combining history, mental challenges and physical activity.

With three levels of code to choose from - Junior, Codebreaker or Cypher Expert - the challenge is suitable for pupils of all ages and abilities and their whole family.



## Agents will be required to:

- Register online ahead of the mission launch date - 26th December.
- Cover 24 miles on foot - recording distance manually or using a phone or fitness tracker.
- Crack the codes, delivered to their email inbox, to decipher a hidden message.
- Deliver that message by midnight on 6th January to break the blockade!



For more information, visit the [FAQ page](#) on our website or contact us using the details below.

We look forward to welcoming your talented pupils to Operation Bletchley: Christmas in Berlin - the mission!



# Away in a manger

A walk through candlelit Christmas crib for 2020

St Peter's Church, Leckhampton, GL53 0QJ

Open 3-6pm Christmas Eve

Bring your bubble to a walk-through candlelit Christmas crib.  
No booking required.

Hear the Christmas story from kings, shepherds & angels.  
Sing along with the choir to your favourite carols.  
Place a candle at the Christmas Crib

Angelic stewards will keep everyone moving along the one-way trail.  
Disabled parking only. Please wear facemasks & stay in your bubble.  
Don't forget to boo King Herod along the way!

[www.southcheltenham.church/christmas](http://www.southcheltenham.church/christmas)



# Dates for your Diary

Friday 18 December	Last Day of Autumn Term, Finish at 1:15pm and 1:30pm
Tuesday 5 January	Start of Spring Term
Thursday 7 January	Windrush House Non-Uniform Day
Tuesday 2 February	Young Voices Biggest Sing
Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February	Half Term