



OCTOBER 2021

Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

What a wonderful first term we've had! Our children have worked so hard over these last few weeks and I know you will have heard about all their amazing successes during the recent parents evenings.

All being well, if our covid cases stay low after half term, we will be inviting you in to school to see your child's amazing learning. You will be able to collect your child from their classroom with their tray of books and go the respective KS1 or KS2 halls to sit and look through the work together. We will stagger this for different year groups on different days to limit numbers on site. More information on this will follow after half term.

I also wanted to say a massive thank you for all your support and effort in taking your children to get PCR's as when we have advised over this term – it has been very much appreciated and you and your children have been brilliant!

This week I had my latest project team meeting linked to the new build. Due to pre-planning conditions, long lead times for building materials and few other elements, the builders have been really up against it, but they are just so positive about our project (as are the entire project team) and can't wait to get started on site.

I think it's important to give you an overview of time

scales and so below I have captured this, but please bear in mind, as with any form of building work these timescales may vary:

- groundbreaking ceremony - Thursday 11th November.
- From this point on it will be about 53 weeks until the completion of the 'new school'.
- We then move into the new school in approximately November 2022.
- Demolition of the existing buildings take place and landscaping to be implemented.
- The entire project is completed by June 23rd 2023.

When we return from the half term there will be a few visible changes on our site due to the building work.

The first thing that you will notice is the hoarding, which will have gone up to separate the construction site and our current school buildings.

We will lose the entire 'front playground/carpark', the area to the left as you enter through the main gates.

We will also lose the one way system which has been in place for the infant children and parents to walk round onto the infant playground.

We will therefore introduce the following operational changes from 2 November:

JUNIOR CHILDREN MORNING ROUTINE

Junior children will enter through the small blue gate as normal, which is opened at 8:45am (school officially



starts at 8:55am). Junior parents - I really need to stress the importance of the children arriving not too early before 8:45 am. This is due to the very limited space that will be available at the front of the school to wait on.

JUNIOR CHILDREN END OF DAY ROUTINE

Year 3 exit round the side of the library (as they have been doing)

Years 4 – 6 exit from the small blue gate (as they have been doing)

INFANT CHILDREN MORNING ROUTINE AND END OF DAY ROUTINE

All infant children and parents enter through the blue gates from 8:45am (school officially starts at 8:55am), however the difference will be using the narrow path to walk round onto the playground. This is also going to be the exit route. I know that for some this will feel a bit awkward due to the lack of space so, please feel free to wear masks if you wish.

This is the start of a very exciting journey for all our school community and I know I can count on your support over the next year and a half when it comes to the 'next phase' and set of changes that each of these will bring. The end outcome is going to be so worth it for our children!

Over the course of the construction of our new school, we will be maximising the school field due to the loss of the junior playground. So, with this in mind

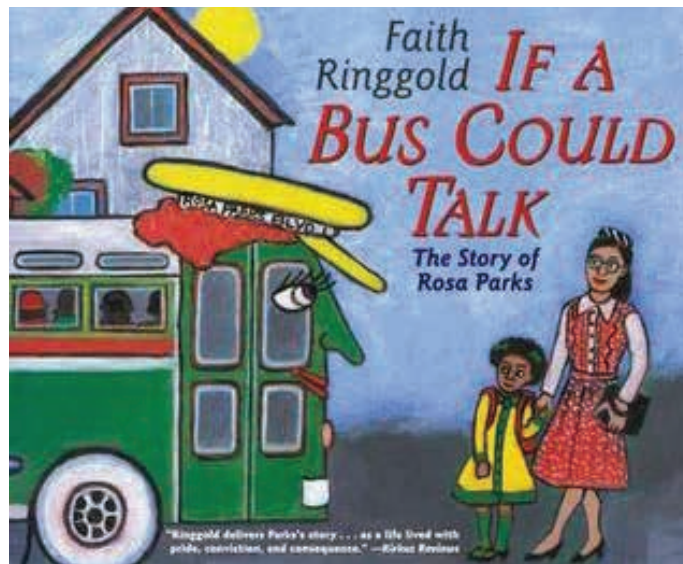
please could I ask that the children **bring in wellies Monday – Friday** in addition to their trainers for games days – many thanks in advance.

I hope you all found the recent virtual parents' evenings valuable. I know that the teachers are so proud of their pupils in terms of how hard they have all been working.

Our whole school assemblies this term have focussed on the following themes and books:

Tolerance – another of our British Values.

KS2: We have shared the following book with the children linked to Black History Month:



It was a really powerful story to share with the KS2 children about this inspirational woman.



own happiness increases.

On that note, I hope you all have a very happy half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 2nd November.

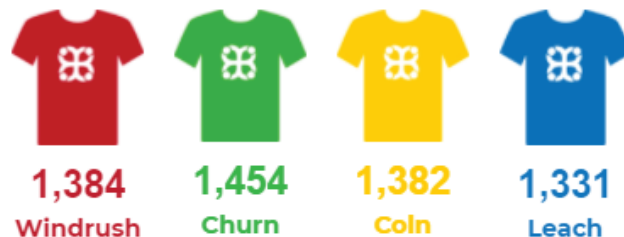
Kind regards

Georgina Flooks
Headteacher

KS1 and KS2 - The story follows badger who wants all the forest animals to be more badger and he lets the ones that can't be like a badger go because they're not like him. This is a very clever book to show children how being mean and unreasonable to someone can make them feel.

Today we finish the half term on a Well-Being Day. The children have had a range of experiences linked to the five ways to well-being – Connect – (keep) Learning – Be active – take notice and give. As you know, Well-being is something we, as a school, feel very passionately about and therefore we dedicate specific days to it as well as built in curriculum time with links to Yoga and Forest School sessions. Scientific studies have shown time and time again, that if we increase doing the 5 ways to well-being then our

House Points



House Events

NOV 5	All day Non-uniform Day for CHURN only
NOV 12	All day House Football



Eco Warriors in Action

On Friday 15th October, the Eco Warriors, dressed in their hi-vis jackets, armed with gloves and litter pickers, set out to Salisbury Avenue Playground to clear it from all the rubbish gathering in every corner. The mission was inspired by a Warden Hill pupil Ella Head who recently took it upon herself to do a litter pick in her local area.

When the Eco Warriors arrived at the park gates, they were greeted by Councillor Tony Oliver who helped to coordinate the litter pick. Eco Warriors were also supported by Councillor Iain Dobie, Mrs Flook and



Karen Watson, who manages the UBICO waste collection contract for Cheltenham Borough Council.

The children were fantastic during the litter pick and represented Warden Hill brilliantly, helping each other to sensibly collect and bag up the unwanted wrappers and rubbish.



The litter pick was an important activity which continues to raise the awareness within our school and local community of the damage that litter is doing to our environment.

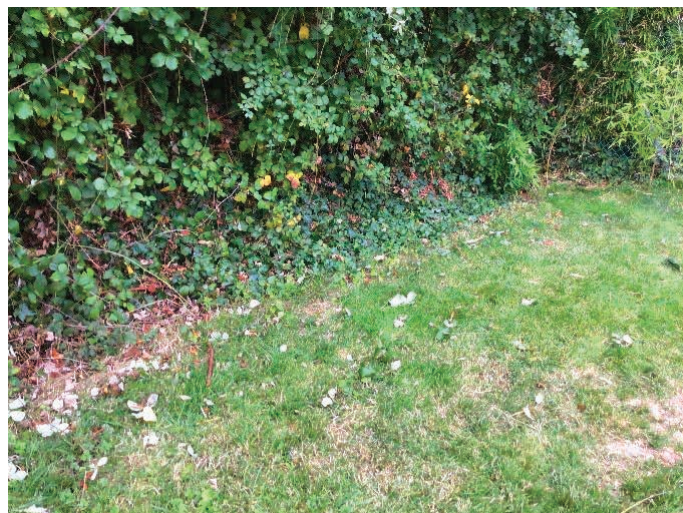
Well done Eco Warriors – a great job!



BEFORE



AFTER



Creative writing

Year 6 have been using a video titled 'The Eye of Storm' to create an extended narrative. Please enjoy Russ' (6H) opening paragraph.

"The dragon raised his head slowly. The smoky darkness of its silhouette was interrupted only by the bright radiance of its eyes as they reflected the golden glow of the setting sun, like pools of soft amber or liquid lava. Its elegant face was encrusted with coarse, shimmering scales which covered its body like armour. The creature stood firm as the figure approached. A cautious flicker undulated down the dragon's razored back, flexing the spines which protruded like daggers. But as the figure placed his long fingers on its head, a sense of trust, a deep connection, passed between them."

Pudsey Day at Warden Hill

We will be fundraising for BBC Children in Need on Friday 19 November. We have set up our fundraising page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pudsey-day-at-warden-hill>

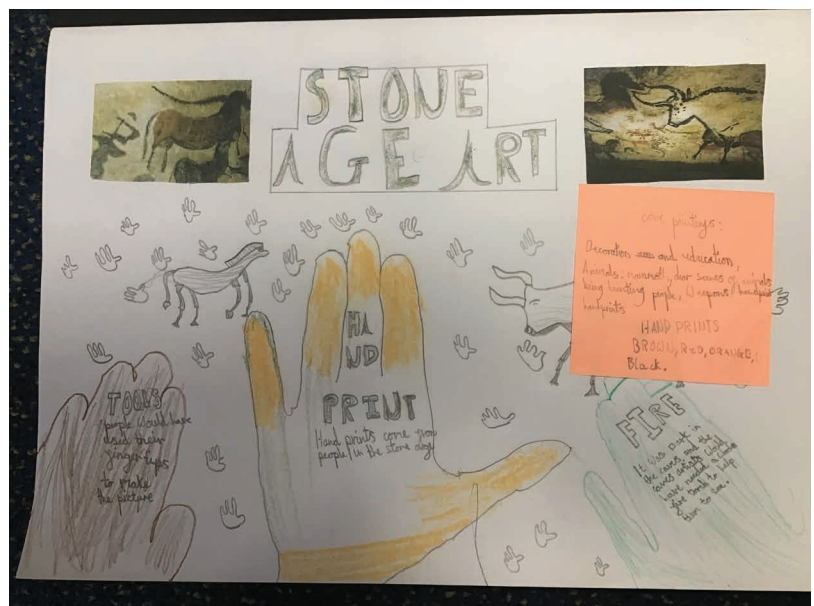
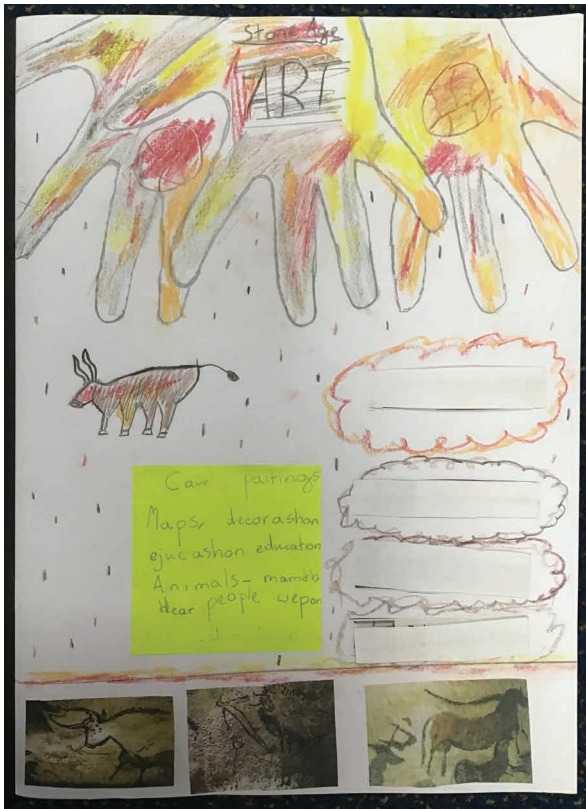
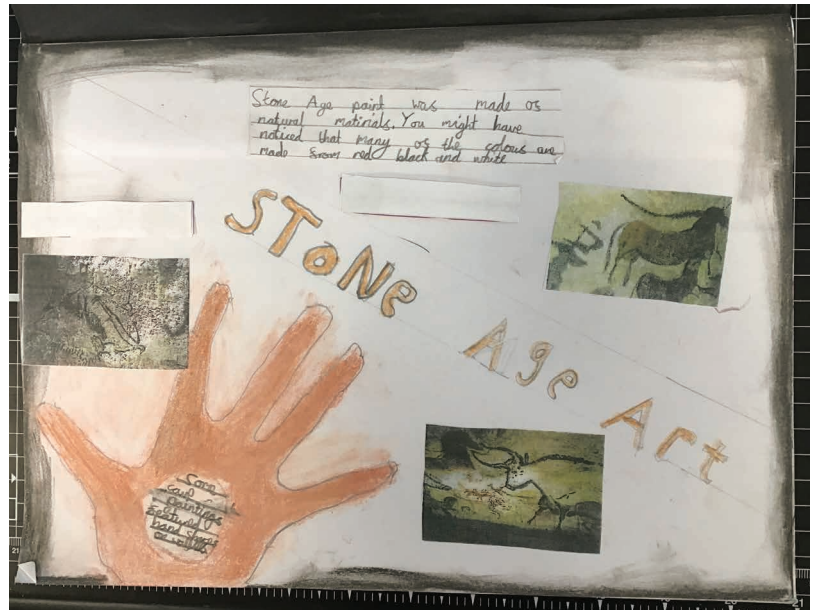
More information to follow.



Year 3 Stone Age Exploration

Year 3 pupils have been working towards creating Stone Age artwork.

So far, we have spend time researching artwork from the Stone Age and explored using pastels and charcoal.



Year 4 Art

Year 4s were studying Jean-Michel Basquiat, Brooklyn-born graffiti and street artist.

On the opposite page you can see examples of our pupils' art works inspired by Jean-Michel's style





by Lily



by Oscar



by Harry



by Ivy

Pupils' Success

Over the summer, Oscar won South Side Star FC's 'Safe Hands' award as 'Goalkeeper of the Year'.

Only one of these awards is given out each year across the whole club. There are 18 teams just in the youth league, so it's a big achievement and a great honour. Oscar also won his team's 'Parents' Player of the Season' award, as voted for by the parents of the rest of his team, the Under 10's Lions.

Goalkeeper of the Year – Safe Hands Award

🏆 **Oscar Davies (U10 Lions)**

An ever-present for the U10 Lions over the last couple of years', Oscar began where he ended last season, after scooping the Rising Star Award, with a Player of the Match performance in the first round of the cup – a scintillating 2-2 draw, including two penalty shoot-out saves, to send the Lions through to the second round of the cup competition for the first time. Oscar helped manage a 3rd place finish in the first half of the season with two clean sheets and providing some extraordinary goalkeeping. A regular attendee of Nigel's goalkeeping training, Oscar is becoming more confident and able each season and has pledged his 'career' to Southside.

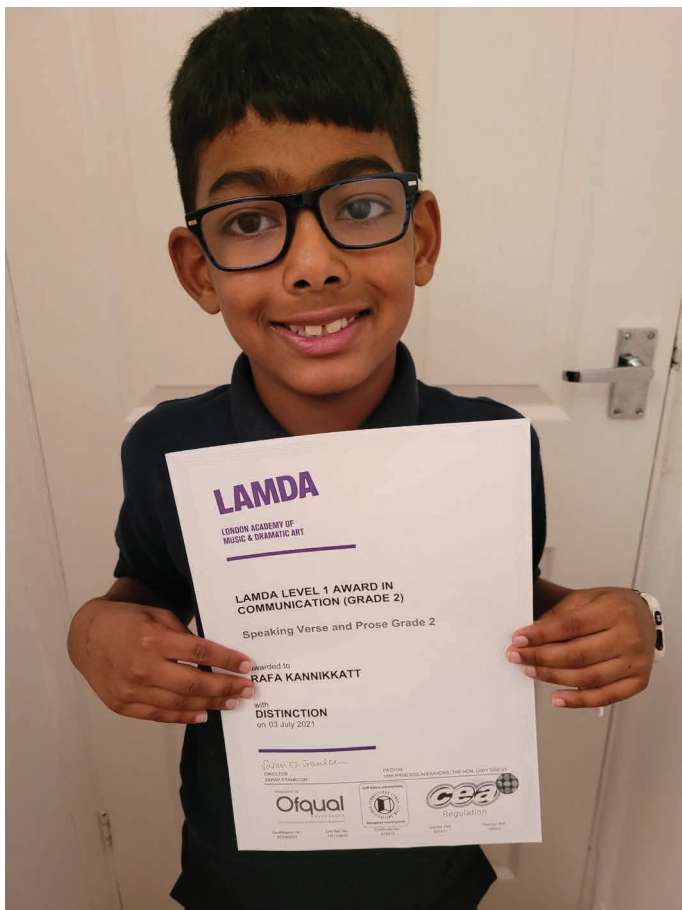


Pupils' Success

Rafa Kannikkatt 4J recently completed his LAMDA grade two Speaking Verse and Prose exam and passed with flying colours, receiving a distinction - the highest possible award.

And we are super proud of his attempt and would like to share his success with the school.

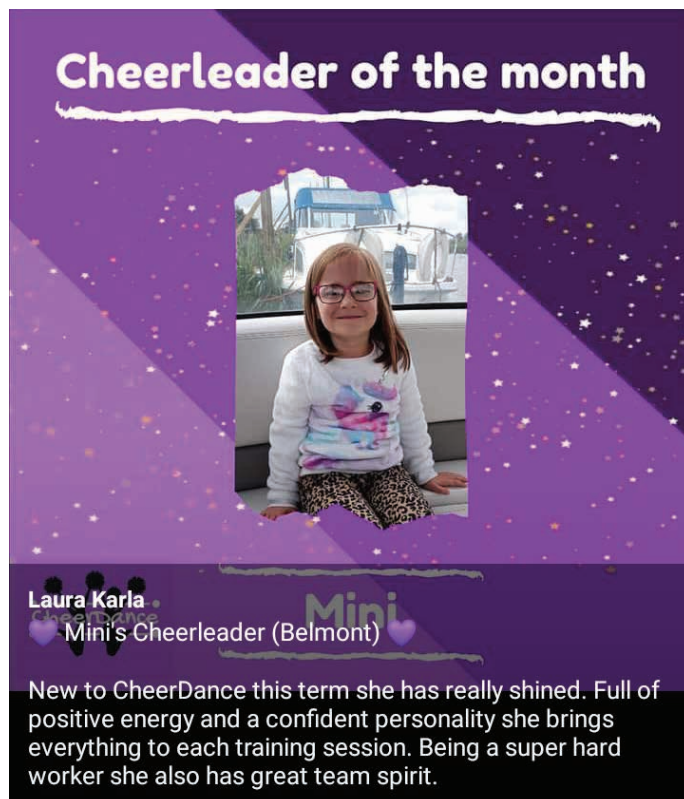
*Kind regards
Sam & Renju*



Pupils' Success

We just wanted to share with you, as discussed with Mr Antonious this afternoon, this fantastic achievement by Ellie at CheerDance! She made Cheerleader of the Month for September, after only a month of attending, and we couldn't be more proud of her!

Vicky and Dave Austin xx





Warden Hill

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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