



 Warden Hill  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2022

## Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

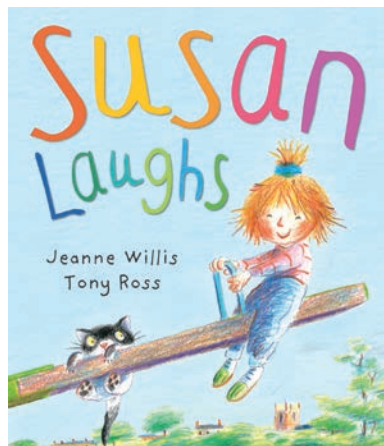
Our first month back has gone really well, and, despite the numbers of Covid cases increasing across the school, the teaching team have ensured that classes are covered and remote learning is fully in place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for their continued efforts in managing the '2' classrooms (the face to face and the virtual) and their dedication to ensuring their classes have equal opportunities whether in school or at home isolating. This additional workload for the teaching team was also noted by Governors in the recently held committee meetings and they are also very thankful. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all parents who have been asked to regularly test their child or children when there have been positive cases in school – this is really helping to keep the transmission rates down – thank you.

### Building Update

Our building work continues and, so far, is pretty much on track to the given timescales. Carters builders are doing a fantastic job of keeping us updated, with photos every two weeks (see the News section on our website: <https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/building-work-update/>) as well the Project Team meetings I attend. Recently, our school council met with our Building Project Manager Dean, to ask him questions about the building progress. The children found it really interesting and were excellent in relaying their collated answers back to their classes – thank you School Council and Mrs Redman.

### Assemblies

As per our Covid Risk Assessment, we have continued with virtual whole school assemblies this term. Some of the themes have been: Thinking for Yourself, Challenges and Chinese New Year. Our Year 5 and 6 children also had a separate assembly about Abi Elphinstone's visit. Mr Williams and Mr Herbert also put together a results assembly for the House, Vice and Sports Captain results for this term. Congratulations to our Year 6 children on being voted for these roles by their respective houses. We are also looking forward to our first Inter-house event this term – House Rugby which is this Friday. Mr Antonious continues to record our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion assemblies for 'Thursdays' and these assemblies the assembly themes are all explored through books and his most recent ones have been:

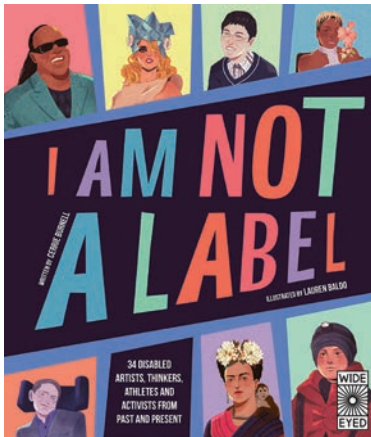


### Susan Laughs

by Jeanne Willis and  
Toby Ross

Susan laughs, she sings, she flies, she swings. She's good, she's bad, she's happy and she's sad. In fact, Susan is just like everybody else, even though she is in a wheelchair.

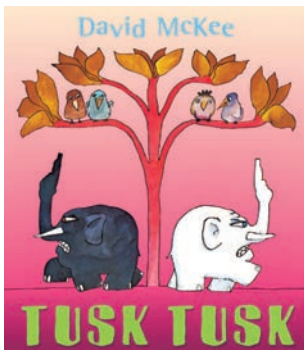




## **I am Not a Label** by Cerrie Burnell and Lauren Baldo

In this stylishly illustrated biography anthology, meet 34 artists, thinkers, athletes and activists with disabilities, from past and present. From Frida Kahlo to Stephen Hawking, find out how these iconic figures have overcome obstacles, owned their differences and paved the way for others by making their bodies and minds work for them.

These short biographies tell the stories of people who have faced unique challenges which have not stopped them from becoming trailblazers, innovators, advocates and makers. Each person is a leading figure in their field, be it sport, science, maths, art, breakdance or the world of pop.



## **Tusk Tusk** by David McKee

A modern classic, this story about prejudice and conflict is more applicable today than ever. Once, elephants were black or white, and the two different tribes were at war, destroying each other until it seemed there were no elephants left in the world. However, one day the descendants of the peace-loving elephants emerge from the jungle, and they are all grey.

### **Staff News**

We would like to welcome **Ms Vikki Scarrett** to our teaching team. Ms Scarrett started working at school from October covering supply days. We are delighted that she has now joined our team and is currently teaching in Year 2, one day a week. She has taken over from **Mrs Catherine Smith**, who will sadly be leaving our school at half term.

Catherine has been a key member of our teaching team for the last 12 years and her calm, caring manner and sense of humour will be greatly missed by all of us here. I'm sure you will join me in saying, a huge thank you to Catherine for all she has done over the years and we wish her every success in her future adventures! From all of us at Warden Hill – we will miss you! x

And finally, huge congratulations to **Mrs Weaver** who is expecting her first baby in April – we are all delighted for you and can't wait to meet baby Weaver when they arrive.

**Mrs Rebecca Gowan** is joining our teaching team to take 3W in the summer term – welcome Mrs Gowan!

### **Staff Professional Development**

The teaching team have recently had updated cyber safety training which was delivered by the police. They also produced a parent information letter which

we sent out and is available here: <https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Cyber-Safety-Gloucs-Constbulary.pdf>

### **Curriculum updates**

We have dedicated staff meeting time to allow us to review assessment processes in our foundation subjects. We have utilised the training we have had on retrieval practice, cognitive load and assessment for learning strategies to make informed amendments which will continue to benefit our teaching and learning processes as well as our pupil outcomes.

Over the course of the next few weeks our Subject Leadership Groups will be writing updates for you linked to developments in their different subject areas. The subject starting this additional curriculum information will be from the computing team which is led by Mrs Bloomfield and Mr Bailey.

We have an INSET day coming up on Friday 18th February and I will update you with the training that takes place in the next newsletter.

Georgina Flocks  
Headteacher

## How (and why) to get your child to read more

Reading is an essential skill that contributes to the development of literacy comprehension skills, communication skills, and overall academic performance.

However, young people today are reading fewer books for pleasure compared to previous generations. Some teachers suggest this is because of an increased pressure to read books students often don't choose themselves at school.

A large scale study followed the lives of more than 17,000 people from birth to adulthood, documenting their reading habits and academic performance. Their habits were then compared to other children and took into account socioeconomic status and cognitive test scores.

They found that children who read frequently for pleasure by the age of 10 and more than once a week by the time they were 16 years old performed significantly better academically than those who didn't read as much.

### **How can i encourage my child to read?**

Encouraging our children to read can be a challenge, especially if they don't have a natural love of reading. So, here are eight tips to make reading more enjoyable and develop better reading habits in your child:





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## Final thoughts

The importance of reading should not be ignored. Not only can it benefit young people's social and cognitive development, but their education as well. Parents play an essential part in developing their child's reading skills so it is important to foster a home environment where reading is encouraged.

If your child doesn't like to read, it is important to find out why so you can address the issue. When children don't like reading when they're younger, it is unlikely they will be motivated to read when they're older.

However, don't force your kid to read things they don't want to. Books should transport your kids into imaginary worlds, making them smile or laugh or even cry as they get invested in the story. It shouldn't be a chore - don't make it one.

Read full article on our website: <https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/how-and-why-to-get-your-child-to-read-more/>

1. Dedicate time towards reading
2. Be a role model
3. Read and then watch or vice versa
4. Have a reward system
5. Encourage reading to their siblings
7. Let them choose the book
8. Use Technology

## Talking about Reading

Mrs Andrews has been able to spend time with some of our children talking to them about their reading and she has been blown away with the responses from the children.

“Our children love reading. The enthusiasm from our children when talking about their class reads was palpable. One child even pleaded for me to see their Reading Journal as they were so proud of how much they were reading at home. It was so lovely to hear that our older members of the school are still getting chance to read to their parents at home. It was a real pleasure and joy to spend time with our children talking about reading.

The children whom I spoke to were able to talk to me about their reading, when in the day they get chance to practise their reading as well as talking to me about the support they receive in the learning of new skills. One Year 1 child spoke brilliantly about the support they receive when practising their reading and the language that they used was remarkable, showing such awareness of what they are learning.

‘I love reading in school to my teachers. I have to practise my high frequency words and then I even have to practise digraphs that I am learning in my Phonics lesson’

Another child in Year 5 stated, ‘I am expected to work independently, but I know I can ask my teacher for support when I feel that I need it.’

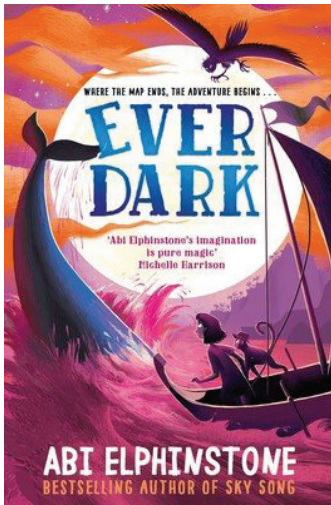
## Author Visit: Abi Elphinstone

Year 5 and 6 were fortunate to had the pleasure of an author meet with Abi Elphinstone. She told us all about her journey into being an author, what inspires her books and giving us a sneak preview into her upcoming book.



After an inspiring session, the author of Sky Song, Everdark, The Shadow Keeper, Jungle Drop and her latest book the Crackle Dawn Dragon, shared with us her four top tips for creative writing:

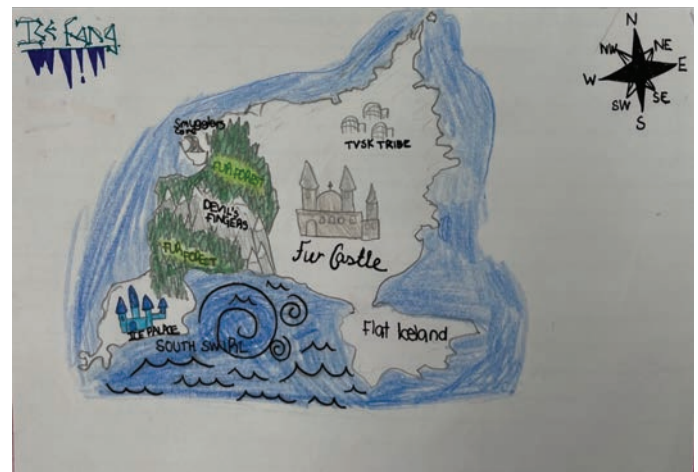
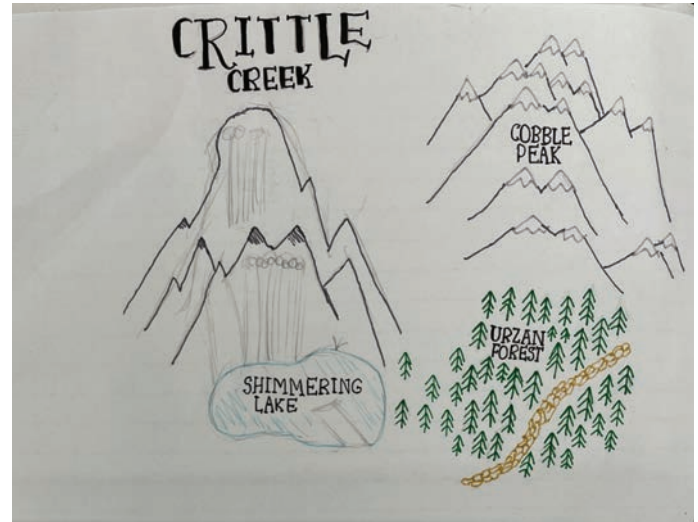
1. **Create a map of your story** - then you can draw onto it the journey your characters might take. Abi told us about how she finds the names for her



make that magical too?

4. **Message** - what will your overall message be? What do you want your reader to feel at the end of the book?

Here are Noah (6W) and Ewan's (6W) maps. What might you create?



places in the weirdest of locations, like street signs or shower gel bottles!

2. **Objects** - what objects could be crucial to the story. Often these could be everyday objects given, as Abi called it, 'a sprinkling of magic'.
3. **Transport** - consider how you want your characters to move around. If they only travel on foot, they're never going to get very far! Could you

## The Lakeside Community Project: Food Bank

Costs are spiralling at the moment, and I have recently visited the Food Bank at St. Margaret's Hall on behalf of some of our families, who are finding the rise in the cost of living at the moment a real challenge.

Supported by Morrisons and local Parish Councils, it supplies a wide range of everyday items:

- store cupboard goods such as tins and dried foods
- fresh bread, eggs and vegetables,
- cleaning products, toiletries and nappies
- dog/cat food
- food for special diets.

Staffed by volunteers and Morrisons, the Food Bank is open to anyone who is concerned about how they are going to manage their food bill. Everyone is welcomed and treated with absolute respect and confidentiality.

The Food Bank is open to the public 11.30am - 12.30pm every Tuesday at St. Margaret's Hall. Please do take the opportunity to use this wonderful resource if you need to. You are welcome to call me via the school office if you need any further information.

Alternatively, you may feel that you are in a position to donate to the food bank

The Food Bank is generously supported by Morrisons, and if you feel you are able to help it couldn't be simpler:

- pick up a green Grab Bag as you enter the store (they each have a price on so you decide just how much you want to donate)
- put the bag through the till with your shopping
- leave it in the basket by the exit on your way out.

Every penny of your donation provides much needed supplies for our community.

Belinda Chavasse  
Well-Being Lead



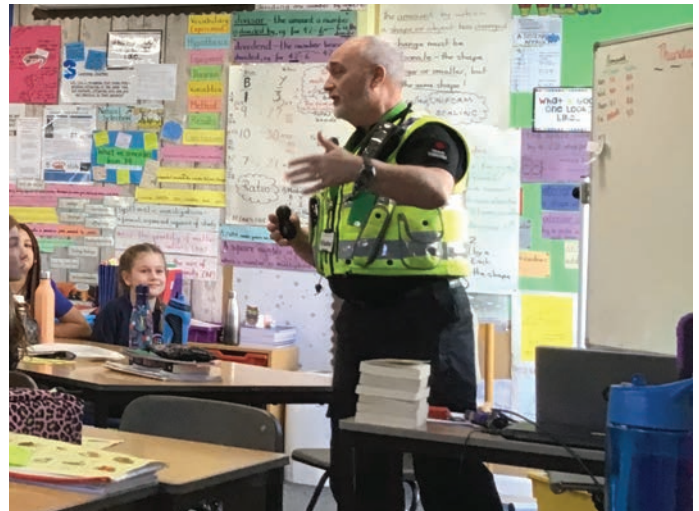


## Year 6: Schoolbeat Officer Visit

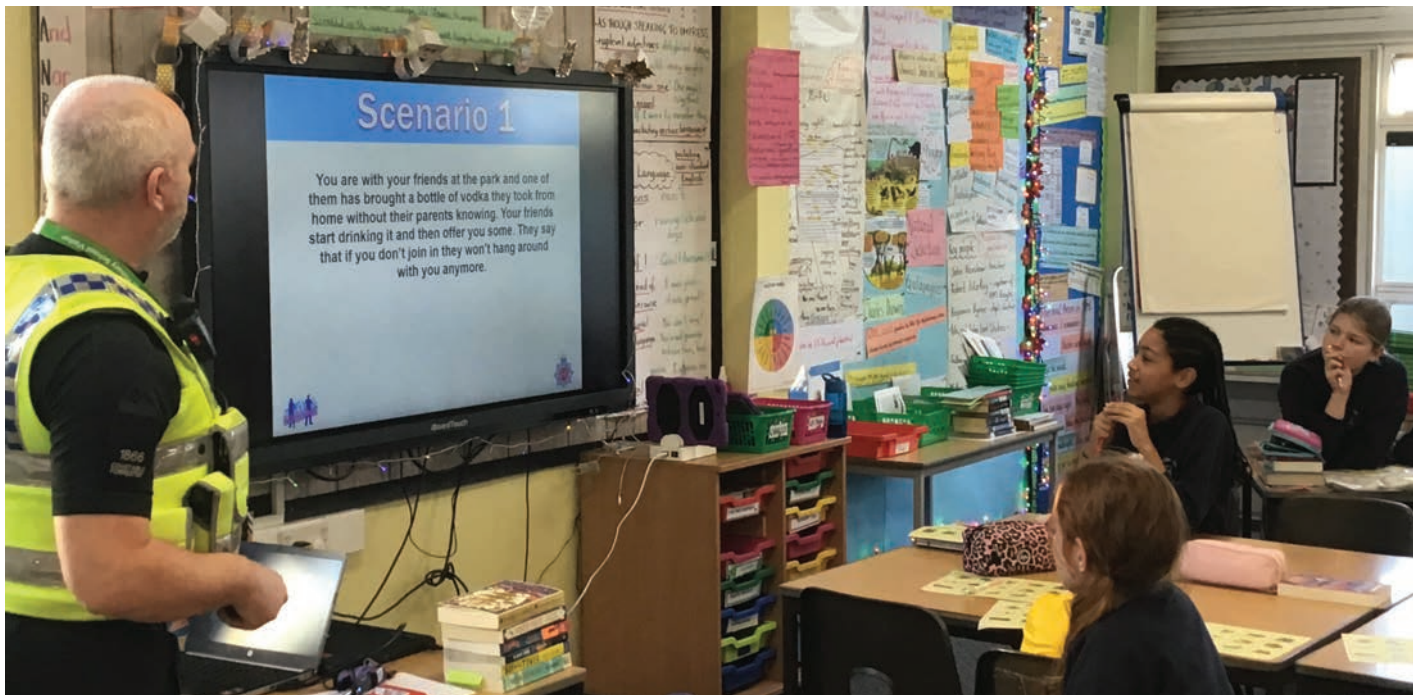
Over the last couple of weeks, Year 6 had their talks with PC Forrester, a Cheltenham-based Schoolbeat Officer with the Gloucestershire Police School Unit.

Schoolbeat is an initiative from the Gloucestershire Constabulary that sees Officers visit schools all over the county and talk to children in Year 6 to Year 9 about a range of potential hazards that they may encounter as they mature both in and out of school.

During these sessions, Year 6 found out about internet safety, online relationships as well as drugs and peer pressure.



Find out more about Schoolbeat team here: <https://www.ghll.org.uk/partnership-projects/gloucestershire-police-schools-unit/>



## Reception and Year 1 sessions at Forest School

Year 1 and Reception have been enjoying Forest School over the last few weeks, and we have been so lucky having some really beautiful weather.

The children make the most of every minute. I am always amazed by how self-contained and creative they are.

We have had shops selling tree bark, homemade see-saws, dinosaurs in perilous swamps, mud kitchen pies, soups and souffles, monkeys swinging in the trees, and a very beautiful peg tree.

It all looks and feels like play but so much learning is going on as they set themselves challenges, extend their social skills, learn new vocabulary and work as a team to achieve things they cannot achieve on their own.



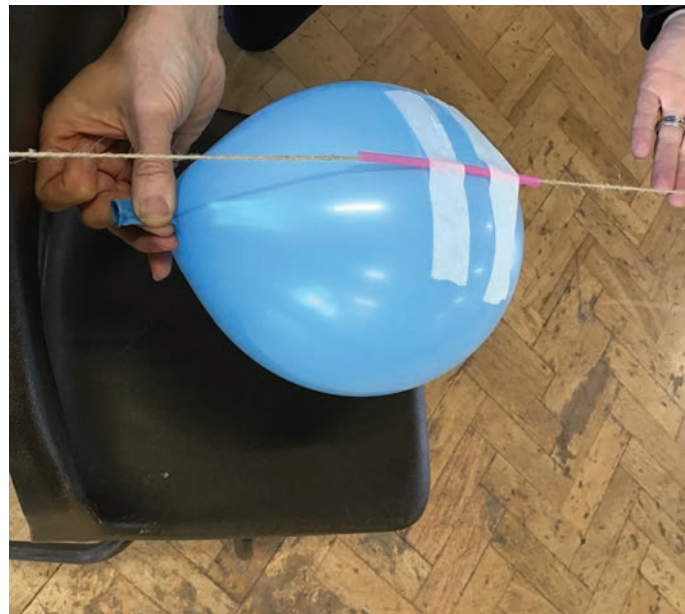


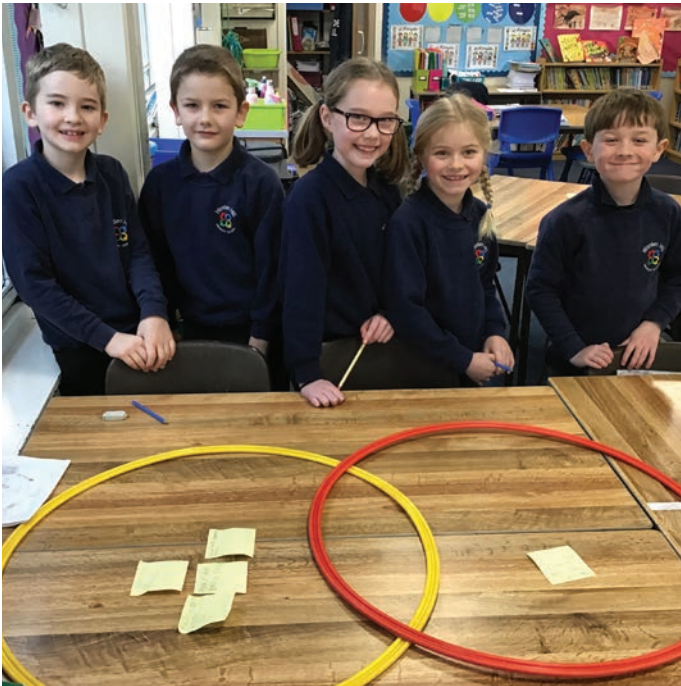
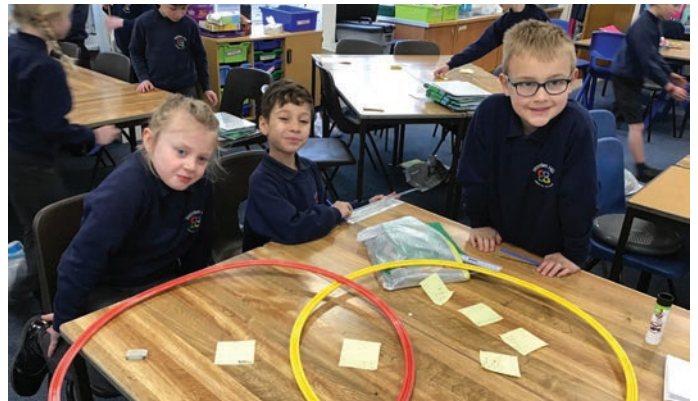
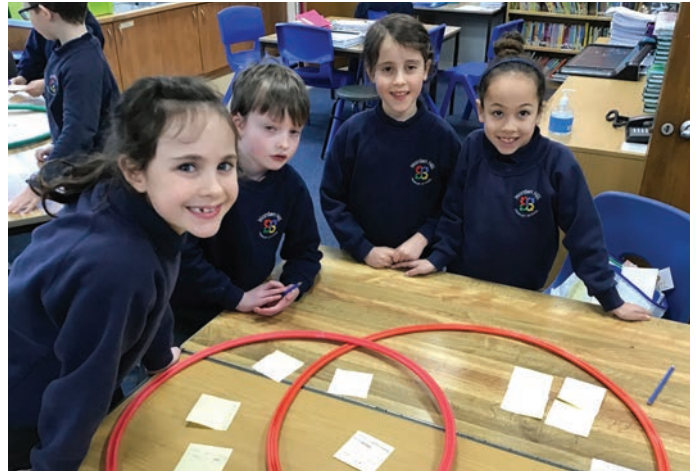
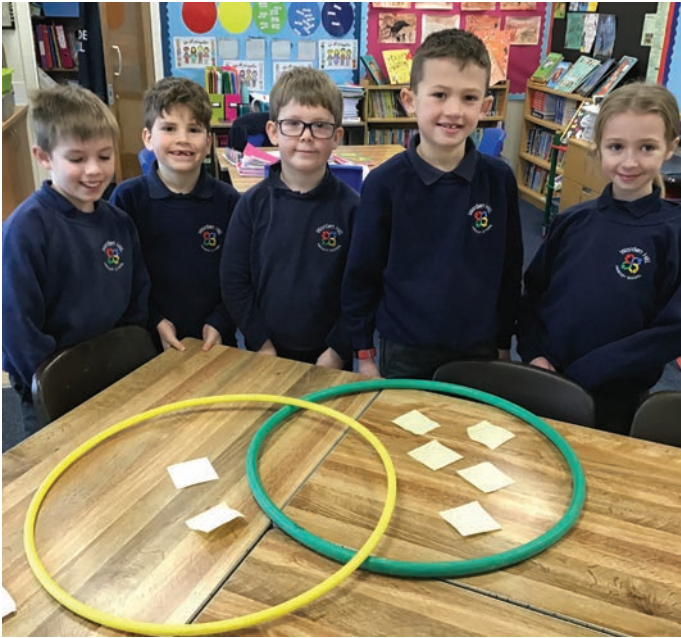
## Year 3: Force and Magnets

In Year 3, we are enjoying exploring our 'Forces and Magnets' science unit of work.

We have been learning about friction and one of the investigations we carried out was a balloon rocket experiment. We were examining how far the balloon travelled along different track materials (garden wire, string, wool).

We have also been exploring different push and pull forces. We sorted these into a Venn Diagram to show which are pull, which are push and which could be both forces. We discussed whether the push or pull caused the object to start moving or stop moving.





## Year 4: Geography Fieldwork

Last week, Year 4 went on a trip to Moorend Stream, which leads into Hatherley Brook. We measured the depth and the speed of the water. We had so much fun and we even got to go in the stream!

Hanna and Georgia 4G





## Eco Warriors: RSPB Big Birdwatch

This week our Junior Eco Warriors took part in the RSPB's Big School Birdwatch. The children spent their lunchtime identifying and counting the number of common bird species they saw, using an identification sheet to help them. It was wonderful to see that our school site provides a habitat for such a range of birds from Goldfinches to Black-headed Gulls. The data our Eco Warriors collected has been uploaded to the RSPB, who will use it along with data from other schools in the country to see how birds are faring in school grounds right around the UK.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>





## Eco Warriors Action Plan

Our Eco Warriors have been very busy this term. They have carried out an Eco Review to identify areas where the school is eco-friendly as well as areas that could be improved upon. From this, they have created an action plan to target those areas for development. The children have fed this information back to their classes so that all of the children in the school are aware of what our eco actions are.



### Litter

Litter was identified in the Environmental Review as an area for development and so the Infant Eco Warriors have wasted no time in carrying out a litter pick of our school grounds. Unfortunately, they found quite a lot of wrappers and general litter! Following this litter pick, the children have decided to create anti-litter posters to put up around the school and its grounds to remind other pupils about why it is important not to drop litter and the harm that it can have on animals.

### Fruit Waste Recycle Bin

At our eco meetings last term, we discussed recycling and how it is important to recycle our food waste, otherwise it can contribute to green-house gases, which is not good for our environment. Therefore, a new fruit waste recycle bin, which you may have seen, has been purchased and is being kept under the shelter by the Infant Hall. The bin is just for fruit waste only so that children can put their banana skins, apple cores and orange peels and other fruit waste in the bin at break-time so it can then be collected and recycled!



## Architects and Builders visit to Year 1

Year 1 had a very exciting afternoon with a visit from the Project Manager, some of the building team and the architects who are designing and building our new school. We heard all about the processes involved, including the machines and materials used, and all the different companies and workers needed to complete

the build. We saw the architects' plans and drawings, had a virtual tour of the inside of the new building and some of us even tried on the builders' safety helmets and hi-vis jackets. It was a fascinating talk and lots of the children are now hoping to go into the construction industry themselves!





## Year 2: Pollock-style paintings

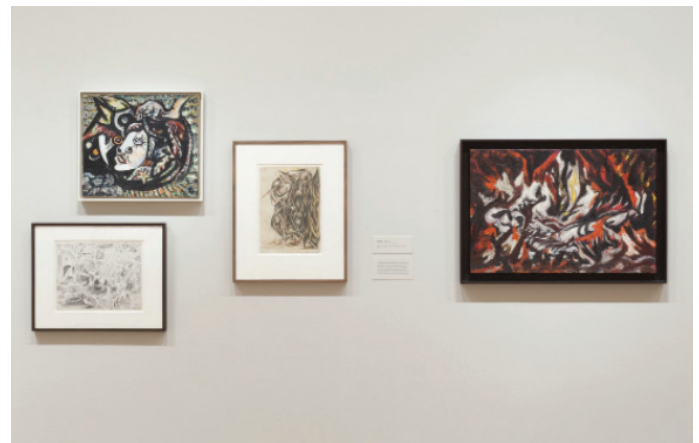
Year 2 have been studying the work of Jackson Pollock, an artist famous for making splashy, drippy, messy paintings.

‘He dripped paint onto large canvases on the floor. This way of painting was called action painting because Pollock would move very quickly across the painting, dribbling the paint in long, wobbly lines. Sometimes he threw the paint onto the canvas – and some of his paintings still have footprints on them from when he stepped in the paint.’ (tate.org.uk)



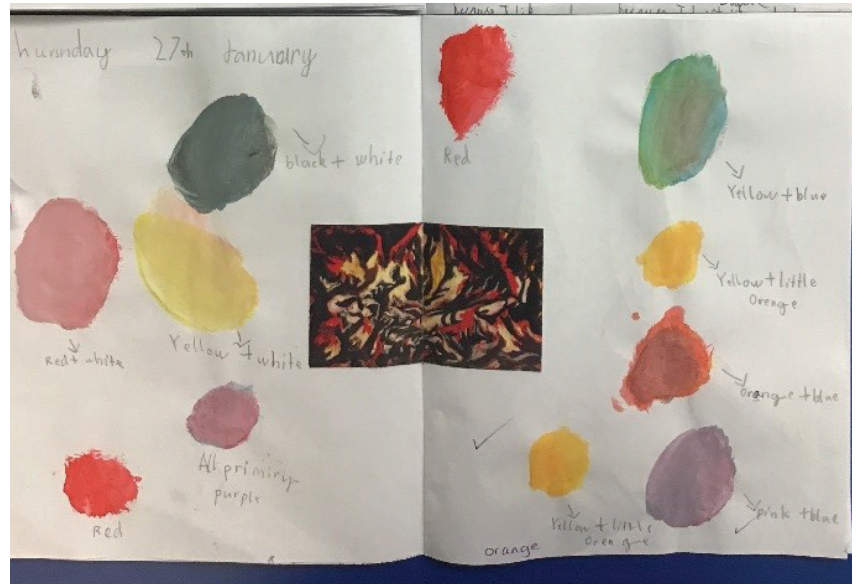
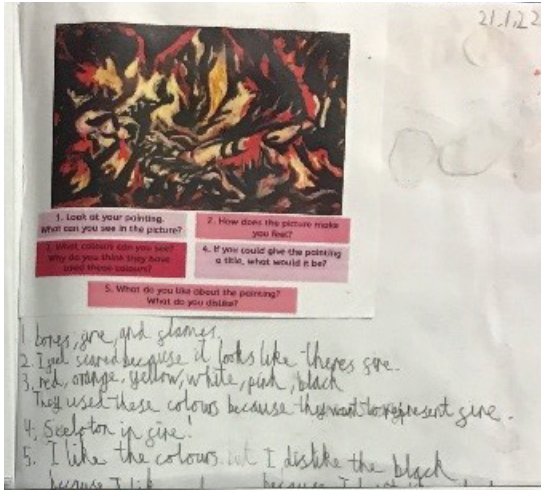
Jackson Pollock was an abstract expressionist artist. He made paintings that were non-representational, meaning they didn't look like anything. Instead they tried to show emotions, like happiness or anger, in the expressive marks that he made in his paintings.

Children have been analysing his painting called ‘The Flame’, looking in particular at his use of colour.



The Flame by Jackson Pollock on display at MoMA (Museum of Modern Art), New York

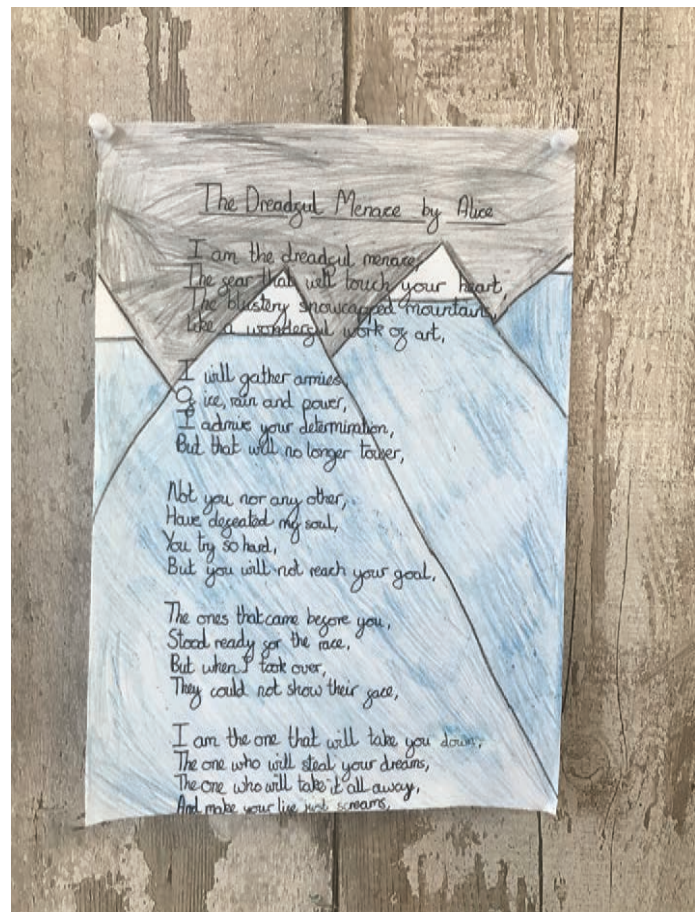
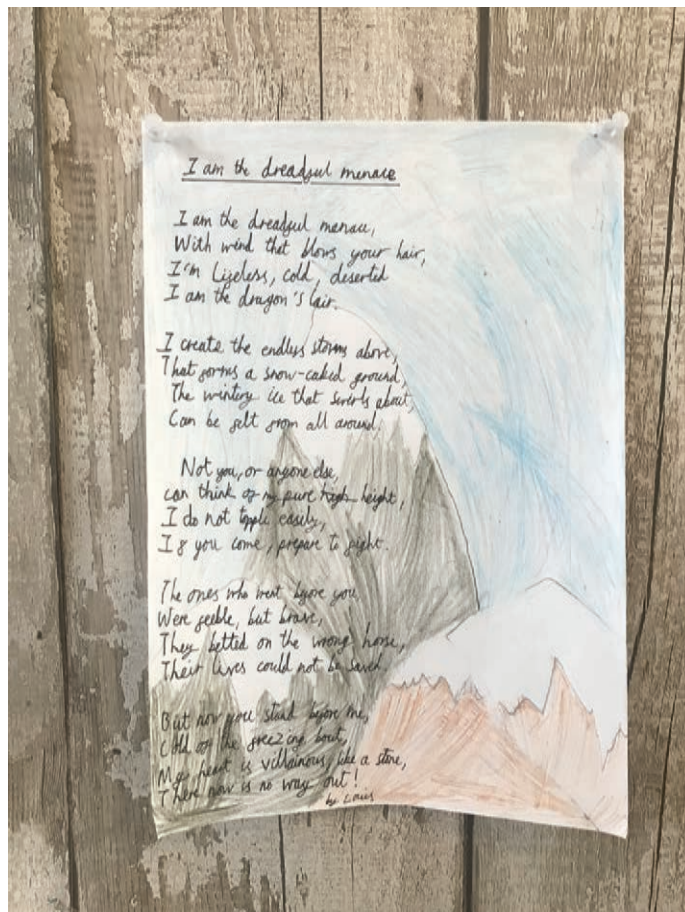
Year 2 then had a go at colouring mixing using just the primary colours and then created their own flame pictures inspired by Jackson Pollock's work.

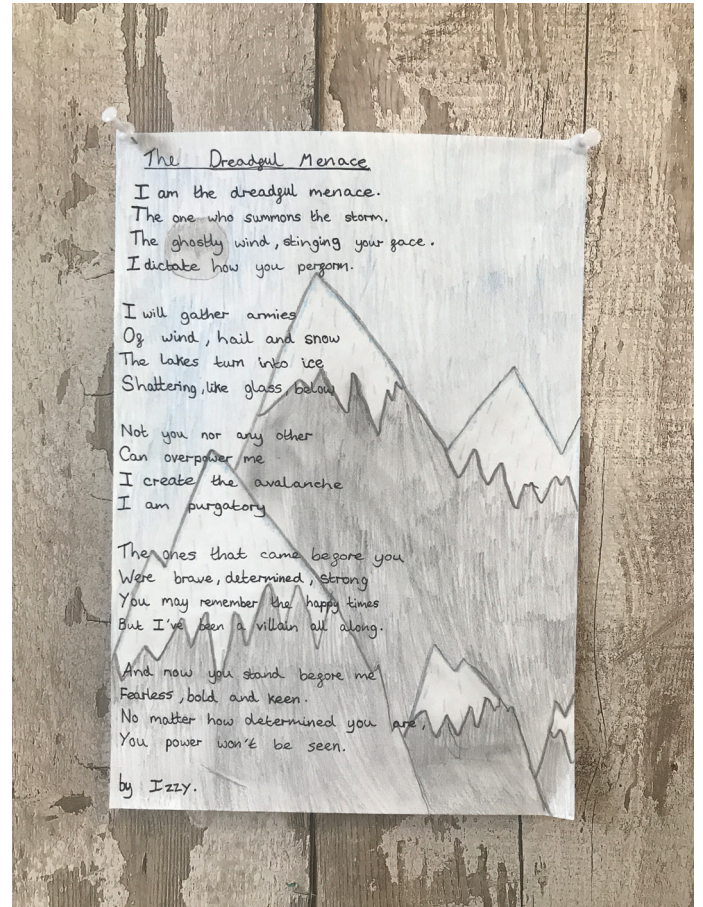
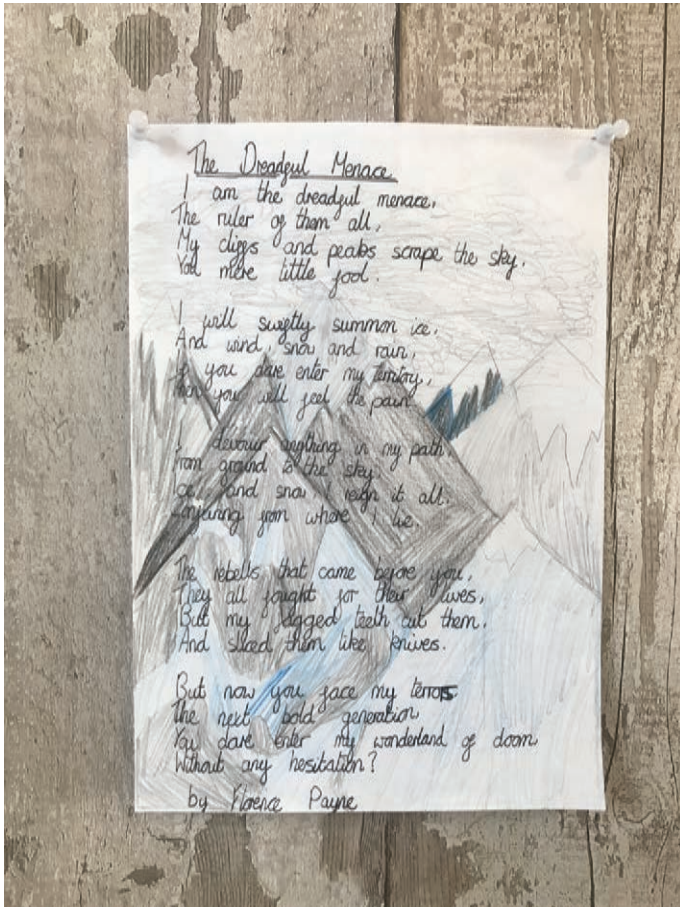


## Year 5: Poetry Unit

Year 5 pupils have been studying 'The Dreadful Menace' poem, taking it apart, looking at writing devices used to create an effect.

They have then created their own versions using similar personification, rhythm and rhyme.

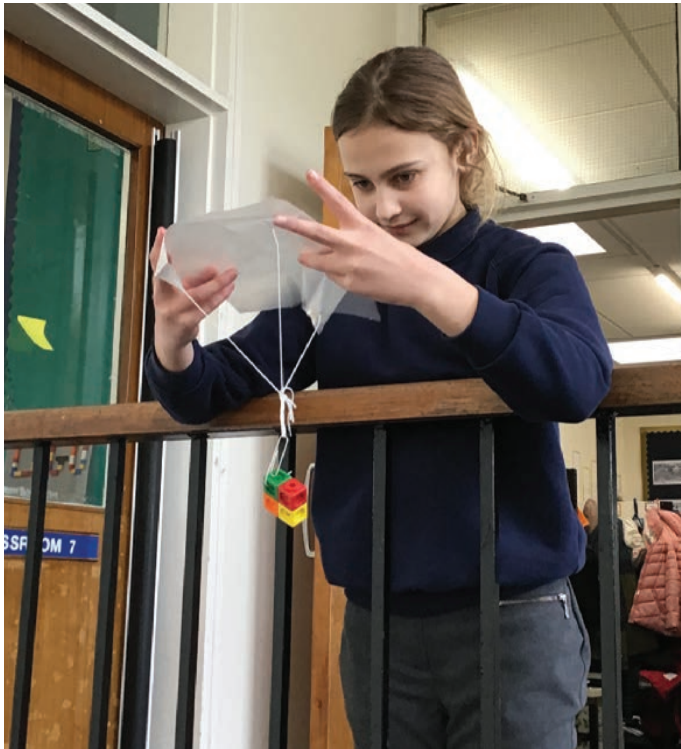




## Year 5 Super Scientists

Our Year 5 children have been Super Scientists this term. They have been learning about the effect of forces, by answering their own questions such as 'How does changing the size of a parachute affect the speed it falls?'

The children planned a fair test enquiry by identifying and controlling variables. They had lots of fun testing the different sized parachutes, carefully timing how quickly each parachute fell and repeating readings for accuracy. Well done everyone for writing your conclusion to explain your results, using your knowledge of air resistance!





# House Points Update

House points are calculated and updated every week on our website: [wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/house-system](http://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/house-system)



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## House System

Our houses play a significant role in our school. Not only do our children join their classes but they join a bigger community in their school houses – thus nurturing that sense of belonging.

Within our school houses the children take part in a vast variety of inter-competitions from choir to rugby, from spelling to Times Table Rockstars, Athletics (and a lot more in between!)

We are very proud of the competitive nature we develop and encourage in our children. They learn what winning feels like and what losing does – but alongside that they learn to congratulate the houses and respect their wins but also they learn a want to do better. They also become fiercely proud of their houses and love to represent them in the many competitions we offer at our school.



## House Captains

The role of a House, Vice and Sport Captain is one of privilege, pride and responsibility. It is more than just a title and a badge. It requires dedication and commitment for an entire term, to grow into young leaders of our school.

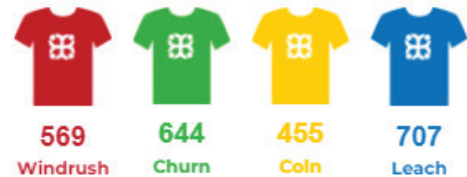
Our House, Vice and Sports represent our school in many ways and uphold our school values at all times.

Belong – Explore – Succeed

Our House, Vice and Sports epitomize the 'The Warden Hill Way'

[House Captain Job Description](#)

## House Points



## House Events

FEB All day  
**11** House Tag Rugby

# WINDRUSH

House Captain



Vice Captain

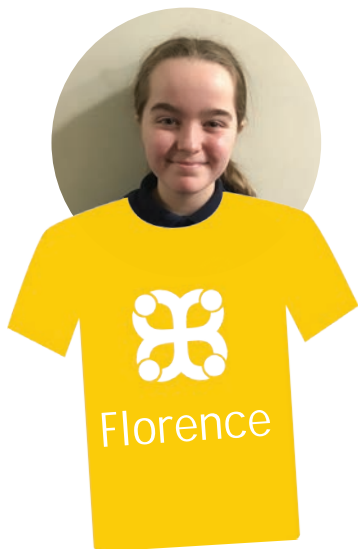


Sports Captain



# COLN

House Captain



Vice Captain



Sports Captain



# CHURN

House Captain



Vice Captain



Sports Captain



# LEACH

House Captain



Vice Captain



Sports Captain



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 16 February	Reception: Towers and Turrets Day
Thursday 17 February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 28 February	First Day of Term 4
Thursday 3 March	World Book Day
Friday 4 March	Mid-year Reports Out
w/b 4 April	Open hour mornings
26 and 27 April	Parents Evening: YR, Y2, Y6
3 and 4 May	Parents Evening: Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5



**Warden Hill**

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Warden Hill Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Georgina Flooks