



Warden Hill  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



**MAY 2022**

## Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

It was a wonderful to see so many of you joining us for our sports week afternoons. What a lovely way to finish the term.



Thank you to all of you who made a point of saying how great it was to be able to be part of these events again – we have all missed them!

A special mention goes to our Year 6 Sports, House and Vice Captains who were out helping our younger children – this was also noted by lots of our parent body too. The encouragement and support you gave them was superb, ensuring that every child finished their race – thank you.

Congratulations to Churn house as the overall winners of the sports cups this year!

Full report and a photo gallery from the Sports Week will be available on our website soon.

I am also delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag.



The Eco Schools award is an international accreditation that has recognised and rewarded young people's environmental actions for over 25 years.

Both Mrs Catchpole and Mrs Taylor (who run our Eco Warriors council) decided that applying with the children for the green flag award was the perfect way to acknowledge and celebrate our school's ecological achievements. It was a lot of work for the team, but it clearly demonstrates the motivation in actively engaging with environmental issues now and going forward.

We are very proud of this achievement; so from all our school community – thank you Eco Warriors, Mrs Catchpole and Mrs Taylor!

We are all very much looking forward to Monday 6th June for our Jubilee Celebrations – don't forget our bake off for those who want to get involved. Information about our plans for the day can be found on our website:

<https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/queens-jubilee-celebrations/>





I look forward to welcoming as many of you who can make it on Monday 6th June – until then I hope you all enjoy the Platinum Jubilee Bank holiday weekend.

Yours  
Georgina Flocks

## Staffing update

Miss Charlie Rand started teaching at Warden Hill in 2012. Over those 10 years and 300 children, she taught the first 2 in year1 and the remaining 8 in reception. I have always been in awe of reception teachers and have a firm belief that it takes someone special to be one – Charlie Rand has always exceeded this notion. Her caring, friendly manner, alongside her ability to make learning fun and challenging (no mean feat!) has always been a pleasure to observe. It is testament to her qualities and the lasting impact she has on our children that in the Year 6 leavers' assembly they talk about her with great fondness.

On a professional level, as well as being part of the leadership team, Charlie has also been a key member of the English Subject team, driving our phonics curriculum over the years. It is down to her dedication that this key aspect of our children's learning is firmly embedded across the school allowing all our children to succeed highly in their reading. Charlie has also provided our children with numerous wider personal development opportunities over the years and 'Young Voices' has to be a highlight of this.

However, this will be her last year at Warden Hill as she has decided to take a career break. I know that we are going to miss her incredibly, but I am also mindful of the wonderful opportunities that await her outside of Warden Hill too!

Charlie - it's been a privilege to have had you on our team over the years and we wish you every onward success. So here's to a one of a kind – our Miss Rand!

Mrs Sophie Harrison has been with us since 2013 and in her time has taught a range of year groups in her nine years - Year 3 ,4, 6 and latterly 1. This alone is a tribute to her amazing teaching abilities, but also a recognition of her flexible and supportive approach to our school in ensuring that the needs of the children always come first.

During her time with us, Sophie has gained a wealth of leadership experience by successfully gaining a head of key stage position within our school. She has sat on the leadership team for the last 5 years and has brought with her a considered perspective and strategic oversight in contributing to the school's continued development.

Sophie has also been a key member of the Maths Subject leadership group, driving changes and supporting and delivering training for staff over the years.

Whilst we are going to miss her, I am delighted to announce that she has been successful in gaining a teaching position at Eastington Primary school for this September. Huge congratulations!

Miss Jasmine Fisher has been a Teaching Assistant at our school for a number of years and has worked in a variety of classes as well as providing 1:1 support. Jasmine has decided that a career change is on the cards and therefore we wish her well in her onward ventures!

Thank you from all the team at Warden Hill.

Finally, as I know some of you are already aware of this exciting news: Mrs Katie Gaisford is expecting her first baby in September. We are all delighted that another new 'family' member will be joining us soon.

## **New staff update**

Linked to the above, I am pleased to announce that joining the team in September will be Miss Abigail Rees teaching in Year 1 and Miss Olivia Ashton teaching in Reception.

Georgina Flooks  
Headteacher



## Year 5: Bikeability Training

This term our Year 5 children took part in a week's course of Level 2 Bikeability training. The expert instructors took them onto quiet roads, to experience 'real' cycling.

The instructors were extremely impressed by our children's progress during the week, with all children achieving the Level 2 standard.

You were 'wheely' great Year 5!

## Pupils' Success

Poppy Burtwell represented Warden Hill in the South West Schools Ski Championship.

She entered the year 3 and 4 category and she came 4th.

Well done Poppy! We are all proud of you!



# Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Following the Queen's Jubilee, we are going to have a celebration day in school on Monday 6th June.

## Jubilee Bake Off

If your child would like to take part in the Jubilee Bake Off, please can they bake either one larger cake or a maximum of six cupcakes or biscuits.

School Council will then judge the cakes and winners will be chosen from each year group. An overall winner for the school will also be chosen from these winners.

If your child would like to enter, please can they bring in their baked goods on the morning of the 6th June. They should be in a container clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Please can we remind you that they must not contain nuts.

## Jubilee Tea Party

The children would like to invite you to a Jubilee Tea Party on Monday 6th June from 2.40 onwards. You will be able to taste the cakes and biscuits the children have made. Each class will have a jubilee themed activity that you can complete with your children. Squash will be provided for the children. If you would like a drink, please can you bring your own in a lidded cup.

Please can infant parents enter through the side gate by the nature area (the entrance that you use each morning). Junior parents should enter the school through the main entrance.

## Raising Money for Charity

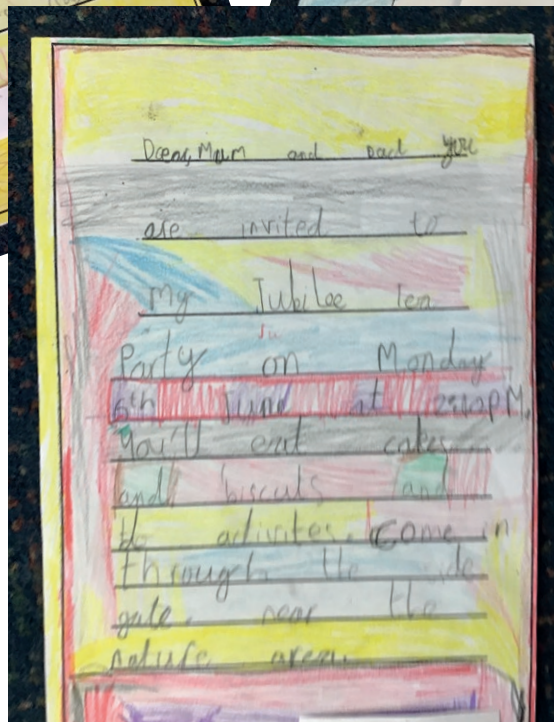
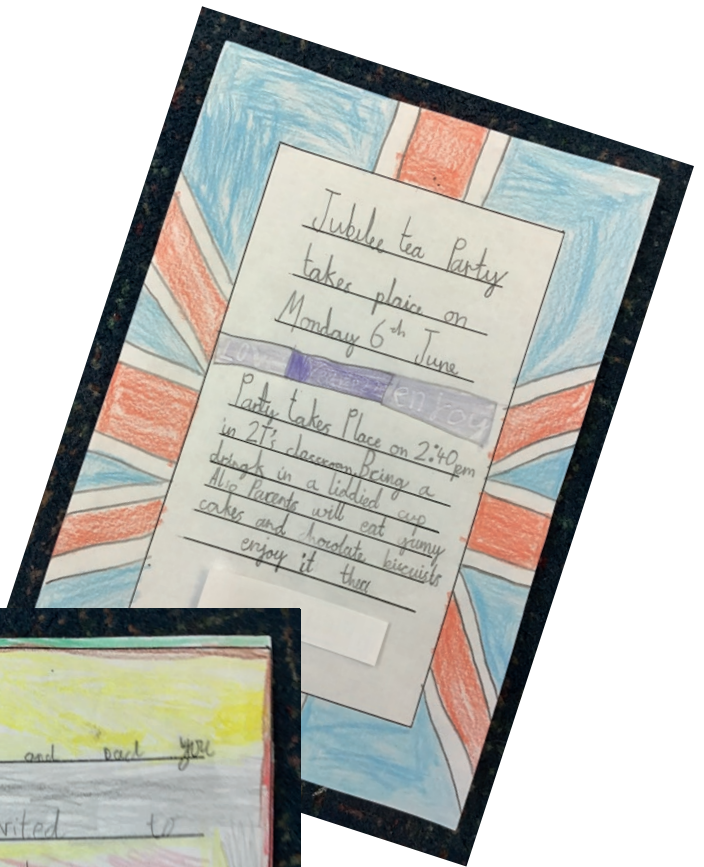
As part of our jubilee celebrations and tea party, School Council wanted to raise some money for charity. They are asking for donations, to be given online, to help Ukraine and a local cancer charity, Maggie's.

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

<https://www.maggies.org/get-involved/donate-maggies/>

All children should wear normal school uniform on that day.





In English, Year 2 have been learning about invitations to understand how they are structured and what the features of this text type are. The children then designed and created invitations to invite their parents and family to come and join us for our Jubilee celebrations at school!

Invitations to Jubilee Tea Party by Year 2 pupils

## Forest School

Forest School has been wonderful this month as sunny days have encouraged masses of leafy spring growth making our site feel very lush and secret.

The children always manage to find ways through the undergrowth and little paths appear, at the end of which I often find 1 or 2 children playing quietly in the shade.

2B have been enthusiastically making the most of their sessions and fresh “sticky weed” has been a big feature for making crowns and creating garlands. An abundance of snails have been endlessly collected and raced (though they do not follow rules,) and some very pretty 3 course meals have been served up in the mud kitchen.

The children are endlessly inventive coming up with clever solutions to solve problems, and using all sort of items for purposes other than that for which they were intended, like pegs as art and leaves as flags. This month the litter pickers have been used in so many ways and it is a great reminder that when left to their own devices children can make a toy out of anything.

Trees are like old friends and some children like to just find a vantage point and sit and watch their friends at play. Days at school are wonderfully busy and whilst some children relish the opportunity to immerse themselves in everything Forest School has to offer, I do also see it as a chance for other children just to sit back and let the world go by for a while.

Mrs Chavasse



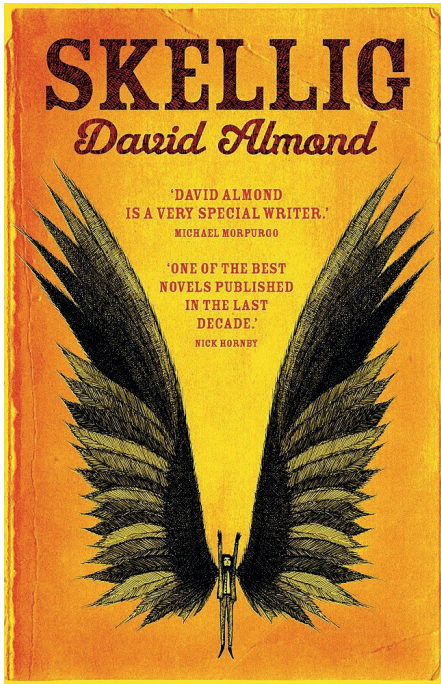






## Year 5: Take One Book Week

At the start of the summer term, Year 5 spent a week doing everything about last term's class read: *Skellig* by David Almond.



The week started looking at owl pellets as they were talked about in the story.

Like other birds, owls cannot chew their food - small prey items are swallowed whole, while larger prey are torn into smaller pieces before being swallowed. Some owl species will partially pluck bird and larger mammal prey.

Unlike other birds, owls have no 'crop'. A crop is a loose sac in the throat that serves as storage for food for later consumption. Since an owl lacks this, food is passed directly into their digestive system.



The children worked in pairs to carefully take apart each pellet and then using the grid, were able to work out exactly what this was.

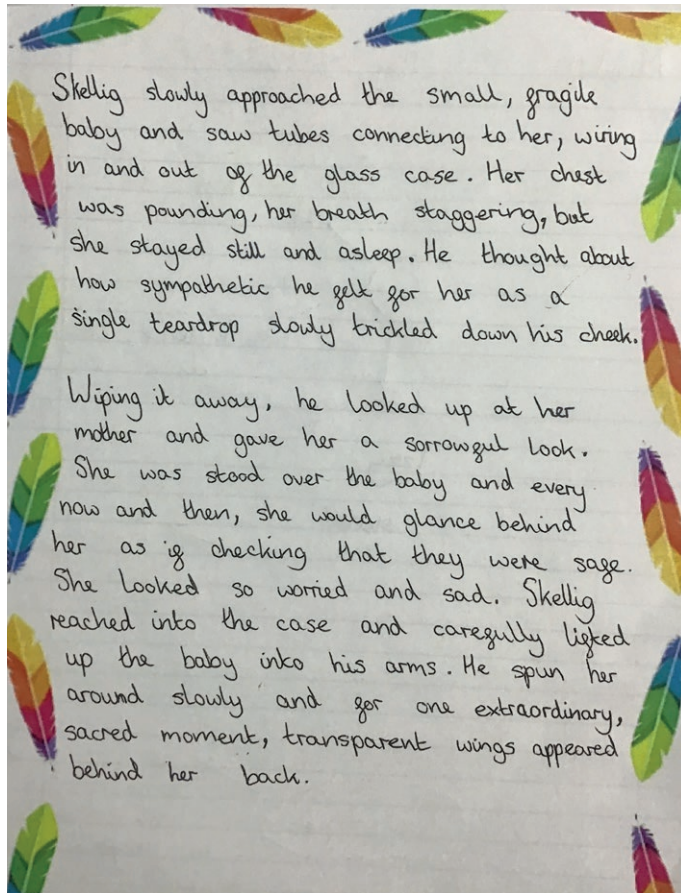


After this we wrote amazing descriptive pieces explaining all about Skellig's visit to the hospital.

Was he the reason baby Joy recovered?

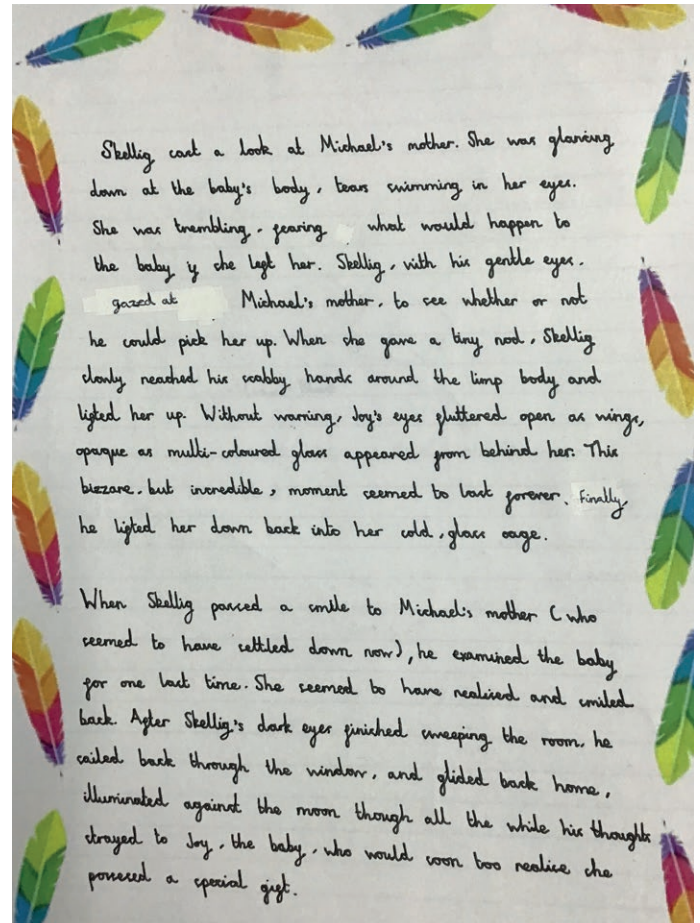
Did she really grow wings like him for a moment in time?

Read the work attached by Izzy and Rosemary to find out more.



Skellig slowly approached the small, fragile baby and saw tubes connecting to her, wiring in and out of the glass case. Her chest was pounding, her breath staggering, but she stayed still and asleep. He thought about how sympathetic he felt for her as a single teardrop slowly trickled down his cheek. Wiping it away, he looked up at her mother and gave her a sorrowful look. She was stood over the baby and every now and then, she would glance behind her as if checking that they were safe. She looked so worried and sad. Skellig reached into the case and carefully lifted up the baby into his arms. He spun her around slowly and for one extraordinary, sacred moment, transparent wings appeared behind her back.

by Izzy



Skellig cast a look at Michael's mother. She was glancing down at the baby's body, tears swimming in her eyes. She was trembling, fearing what would happen to the baby if she left her. Skellig, with his gentle eyes, gazed at Michael's mother, to see whether or not he could pick her up. When she gave a tiny nod, Skellig slowly reached his wobbly hands around the limp body and lifted her up. Without warning, Joy's eyes glittered open as wings, opaque as multi-coloured glass appeared from behind her. This bizarre, but incredible, moment seemed to last forever. Finally he lifted her down back into her cold, glass cage. When Skellig passed a smile to Michael's mother (who seemed to have settled down now), he examined the baby for one last time. She seemed to have realised and smiled back. After Skellig's dark eyes finished sweeping the room, he sailed back through the window, and glided back home, illuminated against the moon through all the while his thoughts strayed to Joy, the baby, who would soon too realise she possessed a special gift.

by Rosemary

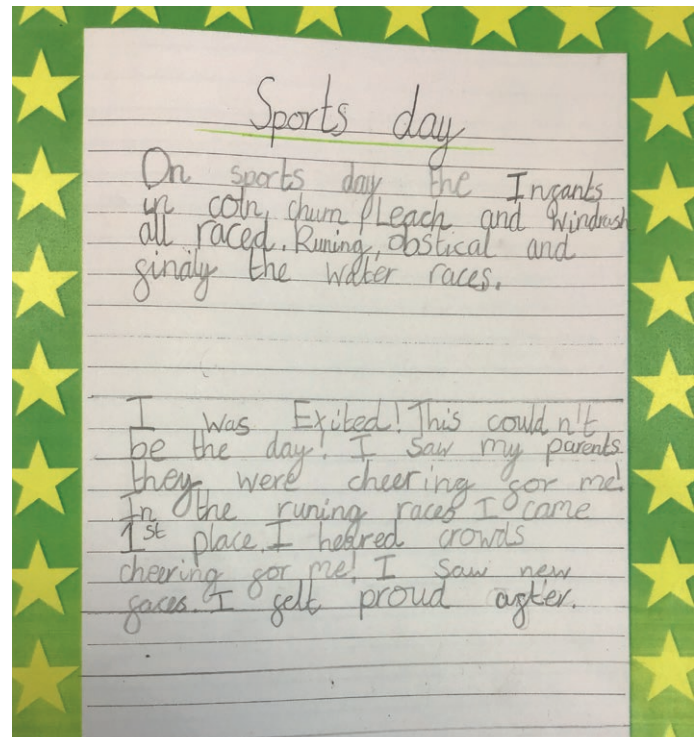
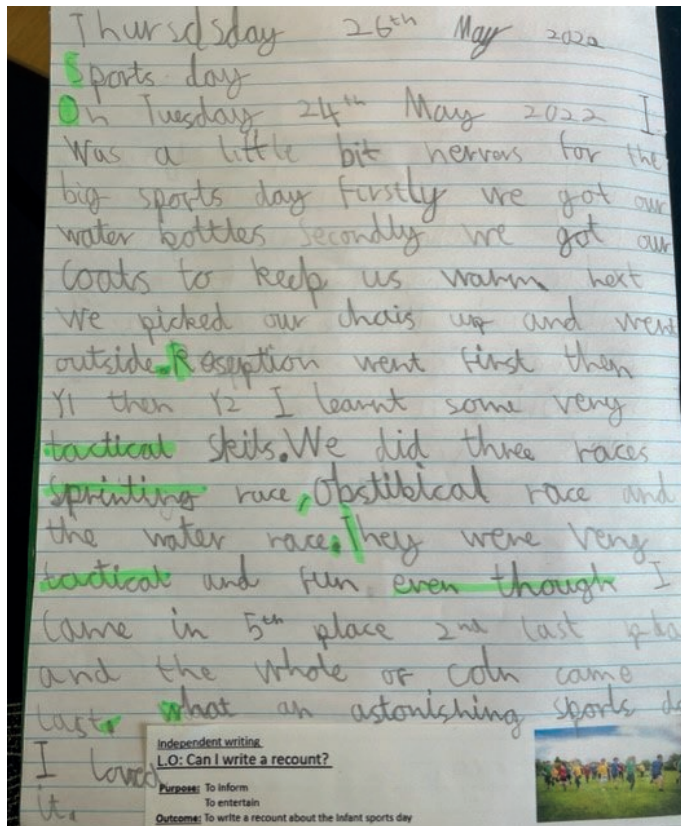
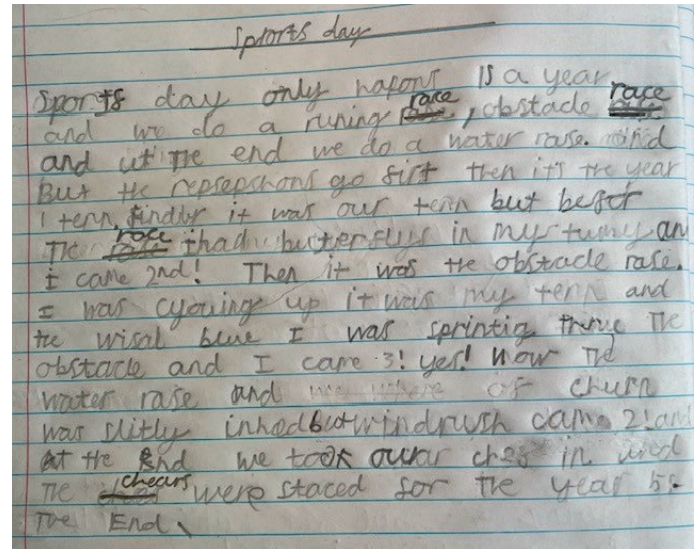
We also created feathers and an amazing display with all our fantastic writing displayed around it.



## Year 2 Independent Writing

Year 2 had a fantastic time at the Infants' Sports Day on Tuesday 24th May. The next day, they wrote recounts of the afternoon. We were so proud of them as they wrote and edited their recounts independently. The children used fantastic word choices and their recounts, alongside their smiles on the day, made it clear that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

Miss Barrett, Mrs Taylor and Ms Scarrett



Independent writing

L.O: Can I write a recount?

**Purpose:** To inform  
To entertain

**Outcome:** To write a recount about the infant sports day



A Sparty day

It's sparty day! I said to myself, firstly we took our chair out and we organised our chairs into rows 1, 2, 3 and 4. I was in row 3 and in row 2. When it was my turn I was shaking with fear. But I was full of sunshine inside and delight.

Sports day is where we have 3 fun races which are water running and obstacle course.

It was so much fun I could hear cheering and whistles.  
I

It WAS Fantastic!

## Warden Hill's Amazing Achievements in Swimming

A very exciting evening was had by all at the CSWPC's Primary Schools' Gala.

Leo, Zara, Milly, Noah, Ella and Jack swam fantastically in the Year 6 relay and Faye, Toby, Jasper, Harry, Noah and Ellie did a very fast heat to gain a place in the final.

In individual races, Noah from Year 6, Zara, Faye and Toby all swam two lengths with Noah and Faye gaining places in their respective finals.

We all watched on, to see the Year 5 relay team take bronze medals and Noah win gold in very nail-biting races.

Thank you to all the children for take part and to the families who came and supported. It was such a fun event.

## Warden Hill's Swimming Cup

A number of years ago now, when the Berry children left Warden Hill their family donated a cup to be given to a child/team who had represented the school in swimming. This Year, we decided to give the cup to Faye Ashenhurst in Year 5. She swam in both the relay and individual races at the gala, gaining places in both finals. As she was only in Year 5 (most individual swimmers are from Year 6), she had to get out after her race and almost immediately get back in for her second final. She constantly had a smile on her face and was very supportive of everyone – well done Faye.





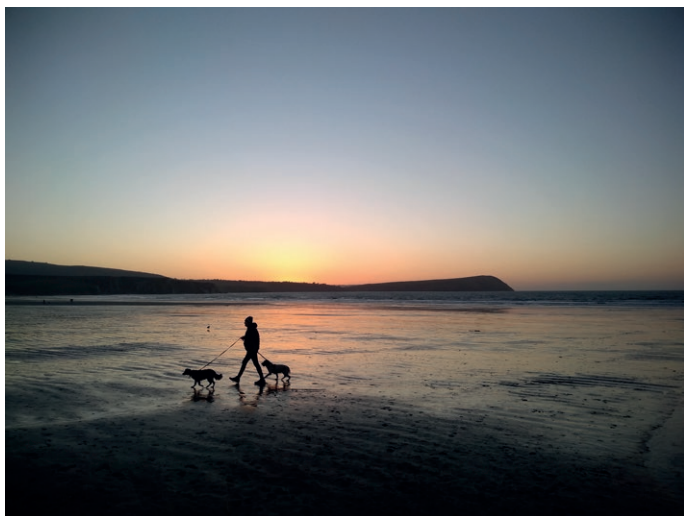


## Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year

A number of Warden Hill pupils submitted entries to the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the year competition.

We had two award winners - Poppy and Eden.

Eight of our entries were selected for a display at Chapel Arts as part of the Cheltenham Camera Club's Annual Exhibition.



Dogs at Dinas, by Poppy



Light in the Dark, by Eden



## Young Voices 2022



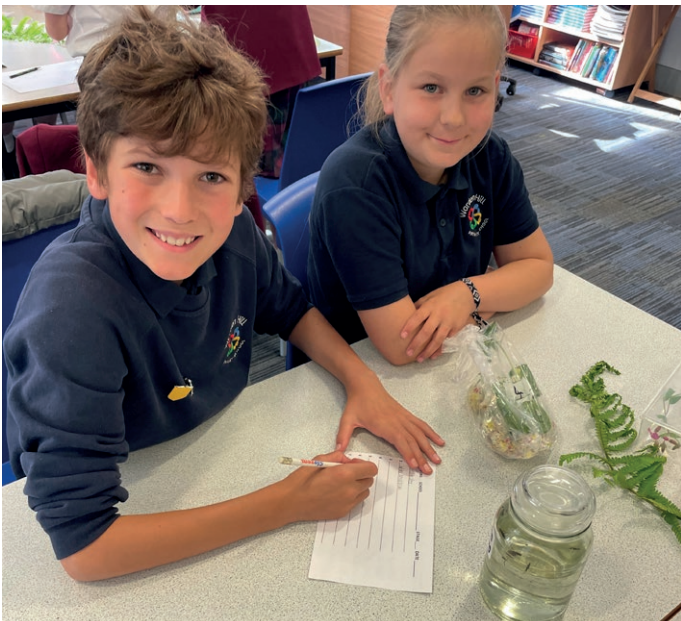
What a night! After uncertainty caused by cancellation of the original date, our Warden Hill Young Voices have finally made their journey to Birmingham and joined thousands of other pupils for this one-of-a-kind concert. Short preview available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeV-7ILVpMw>



## Wildlife quiz

A team of children from Year 6 represented the school in the second round of Gloucestershire Primary Schools' Wildlife quiz. We were against Dean Close and St Mark's Primary School. The teams were closely matched throughout each round, with our team answering some very tricky questions. Well done Noah, Yasmin, Milly and Ana for coming second and beating Dean Close, you were amazing!





## Warden Hill Way Ambassadors

Our Governors have gathered again to award pupils who, through their attitude and behaviour, best represent The Warden Hill Way. Pupils were invited for a little celebration, where they shared stories of their achievements, as well as cake!







Warden Hill

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs Georgina Flooks