



Warden Hill
PRIMARY SCHOOL

June
2022



Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

It's that time of year when the Year 6 leavers' songs start to drift down the corridors and the soon-to-be newest members of our school come in for playdates. This last month has been incredibly packed with enrichments experiences for the children, as you can see in the rest of the newsletter.

Wider Personal Development Opportunities

Wider personal development experiences is all about the opportunities that we are able to offer our pupils in addition to the curriculum – it allows them to have an appreciation of diversity, it grows their resilience and respect through sport, it allows them to keep physically and mentally healthy and it also ensures that they are prepared for next steps in their future. Over the last year our children have had a vast array of these opportunities and this newsletter showcases just some of them from this month: inter-house events, a whole school Windrush Day Sporting matches and Athletics meets, our reception children have had balanceability, Forest School sessions, school trips to enhance the learning in the classroom by taking it outside. These opportunities allow our children to build resilience, build team work skills and hopefully spark an interest.

Staff Update

Mrs Louise Prew

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Louise Prew will be joining our KS2 teaching team in September.

Mrs Prew is an exceptional teacher and we are so excited to welcome her to our school.

Mr Mike Bridgwood

Mr Bridgwood was appointed by the head teacher at the time, Mr Harris, in 1994 and was given the position as a year 5 class teacher. Mike quickly became a key member of staff and was given additional duties of not only of an academic nature... bizarrely one of them was to keep the chlorine levels right in the school swimming pool!

Mike became renowned for his amazing creative assemblies and love of drama. This turned into drama clubs and his input and direction on the year 6 leavers' plays. When I first started at Warden Hill, I remember being in awe of the productions and how involved Mike would get, how much he cared for the children in performing their best, getting them to practice their voices and their line delivery till it was perfect; the end results were exceptional! In later years, I had the privilege of him helping out on one of our Year 6 productions. You never knew what you were going to get from one rehearsal to the next with Mike, as he would suddenly go off script and add another line in here, a cameo role there and I was left frantically penciling in the changes and then he would casually turn to me and say - 'You got that, yeah?' Needless to say, the play was always better off from a 'Bridgwood' touch.

In his early career Mike was heavily involved in the school sports and coached and led the very successful athletics and football teams for a number of years – the football team at the time under his remit made it



to the district finals 5 years in a row. In the classroom, where possible, he would always make the learning come alive and it wouldn't be uncommon to see him walking around dressed as a pirate, or a caveman, or as a wounded soldier from WWII as part of the Year 2 Florence Nightingale unit of work – Mrs Courtman and Mr Bridgwood made such a good double act!



And his talents didn't stop there. He specifically learnt to play the guitar to run a guitar club for the children, his class assemblies were legendary with humour, singing and a creative take on the children's learning. As a staff he kept us on our toes in our 'one stop wonder' rehearsal for the school panto – giving stage directions, organising the songs and yes children and parents...even telling us off when we were talking too much and not concentrating on the practice! He would also regale stories of past events in school and as staff he would have us on the edge of our seats (and invariably laughing) – he would always bring a bit of light relief at the end of a staff meeting.

He has taught many children over his time, but to have children he has taught come back as teachers to our

school says a lot: Mr Herbert, Mrs Andrews and Mr Williams can put testament to his brilliant teaching abilities. However, inevitably change happens and sadly for us, Mike has decided that it is time to leave Warden Hill and move onto other ventures.

In his time with us he has taught over 840 children, worked with 28 different year group partners, he has taught 28 different classes, he has taught in 5 different year groups (2,3,4,5,6) he has had four different Headteachers, but for us - there will only ever be one Mr Bridgwood.

Mike, I know that all of us will miss you deeply and our school will be a very different place without you but we wish you all the very best with everything that your future holds

From all of us at Warden Hill, children, staff, parents past and present – quite simply thank you for everything you gave to our school.

Yours
Georgina Flooks

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



Sports Week

The final week of spring term saw all of our pupils compete in our annual sports week. Throughout sports week, the children get the opportunity to compete in house rounders, house frisbee, field events (KS2 only) and each key stage also has its own sports day. We were blessed with perfect weather conditions for the week, overcast but warm, and the children competed admirably all the way through. It was the perfect celebration of sport at Warden Hill.



Before looking at the event reviews, we must pay special thanks to **Mr Roberts** for his support across the week, and to our house, vice and sports captains for their roles in the week.

HOUSE ROUNDERS

Over the first few days of the week, each year group competed in house rounders. For the infants, this consisted of kick rounders and for the juniors it took

its more traditional form. Scores were collated by our fantastic house, vice and sports captains and the results were as follows:

HOUSE
ROUNDERS
RESULTS



1st

WINDRUSH



2nd

CHURN



3rd

LEACH



4th

COLN

FIELD EVENTS

Our KS2 children competed in the field events on Wednesday, which consisted of four different events:

- standing long jump
- shot put
- discus
- vortex throw

Each child was selected for at least one event where they competed against other members of their class or year group, ranking first through fourth depending on results. The results for the event were totalled and (for the first time in living memory!) the field events trophy was awarded to two houses.

FIELD
EVENTS
RESULTS



251

CHURN



251

LEACH



240

COLN



195

WINDRUSH





HOUSE FRISBEE

On the final Friday of spring term, Mr Roberts and his coaches took all of the children for a house frisbee session. This involved developing the skills of throwing and catching the Frisbee, accruing points for houses depending on how quickly and accurately the children threw. The day culminated in the playing of the house Frisbee tournament, in which each house won one, drew one and lost one. This meant that the points from the morning events were all important and the results were as follows:

HOUSE
FRISBEE
RESULTS



HOUSE ATHLETICS

Our three sports days were a pleasure to be a part of. We were able to once again welcome parents back into school and watch the children compete in their individual sports day events.

Our infant children (all competing in their first sports days in front of parents) were simply superb, each partaking in a sprint race, an obstacle race and the ever-popular water race.



The results for the infant sports day were as follows:

HOUSE
ATHLETICS
RESULTS



Infants

89

82

77

73

WINDRUSH

CHURN

LEACH

COLN



Our lower KS2 and upper KS2 sports days were also resounding successes. Again, children were competing in front of their parents for the first time in a number of years, so thank you so much for coming in your droves to support your children. For the KS2 children, each child competed in the sprint and had the opportunity to be part of the long distance races too, before the day culminated in the house relay races.



The overall house cup is awarded for a combination of the field events, infant and junior sports days and the results were as follows:

OVERALL
HOUSE
CUP
RESULTS



403

CHURN



399

COLN



398

LEACH



360

WINDRUSH

An enormous well done to Churn who were our overall winners this year.



As well as brilliant collective performances, we were also extremely proud to award 3 individual sports leader awards. These went to: Stephen (Y2) for demonstrating such determination and resilience, Faye (Y5) for putting her house before herself and Noah (Y6) for his unrelenting support of others.

Mr Williams and Mrs Taylor

Year 4 Cricket Tournament

On Wednesday the 22nd June, The Year 4 Cricket team went to Hatherley and Reddings Cricket club to represent the school. The team had a wonderful day in the glorious sunshine. They won two matches and narrowly lost a third, just missing out on the semi-finals on wickets taken. The team showed excellent sportsmanship and cricket skills. The tournament was a brilliant opportunity to develop the core cricket skills for those who were new to cricket as well as a moment to shine for those who were more experienced. There were stand out performances from William W with the bat, Rohan's bowling and Noah showed great captaincy in organising his field.

Sammy C and William W, Year 4 Cricketers



The Girls' Cricket Tournament

The Girls' Cricket Team went to Hatherley and Reddings Cricket club on Wednesday 8th June and played four matches of dynamo cricket. The children were excellent ambassadors for Warden Hill and played with a smile throughout every match. Not even the unexpected downpour could dampen their spirits. There were stand-out bowling performances from Beth and Amber and some incredible batting from Faye. It was amazing to see how they all improved throughout the day and hopefully I lifelong love of cricket has been igniting in all of them. By the end of the day, they had won two games and narrowly lost two games.



Year 5 and Year 6 Cricket Tournament

Warden Hill took two teams of Year 5 and 6 children to the Cricket Tournament at Cheltenham Cricket Club on Tuesday 14th of June. Everyone enjoyed themselves and showed their love of cricket. The matches were played in beautiful conditions, under a cloudless sky. One of the teams went all the way to the final and in the end were victorious, which means they progress to the county finals. There were some stand-out performances, Toby showed his all-rounder credentials with amazing bowling and batting, Joseph's team spirit and bowling prowess and finally Sean's batting, where vital runs were scored in the final.

Sean, Year 5 Cricketer



Athletics Festival

On Friday 17th June over 40 of our pupils went to the Prince of Wales stadium to compete in the Cotswold Shield Athletics Festival. The Cotswold Division is the top division of 3, and this pitted Warden Hill against the top 11 schools based on their performance at previous editions of the athletics festival.

Our pupils competed brilliantly – not only was it many pupils' first time competing in a stadium and in that environment, but also with it being the hottest day of the year so far!

The children's performances throughout the afternoon were incredible: our year 5 and 6 children competed valiantly in the 600m and 800m; our field event athletes threw and jumped to their best abilities (many of them competing alongside their track events); our individual sprinters were brilliant, racing under the noses of a boisterous crowd of pupils, parents and staff; and our relay teams were incredible in their respective 4 x 50m and 4 x 100m races. We had a high number of finalists in the sprints and relay races (Warden Hill made 6 of the 8 relay finals!) and our medallists were Evie B – who came second in her 100m sprint – and the Year 5 girls relay team – who also came second by a matter of centimetres in their relay final.

Overall, we finished a very creditable joint 7th of the 12 competing schools - a brilliant achievement against some very stiff competition. All of the attending Warden Hill staff were extremely proud of how our children behaved and performed! Well done everyone!









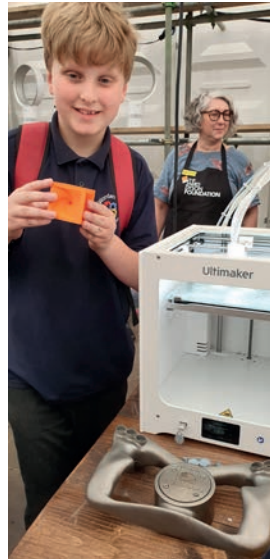
Science Festival: Year 5

Year 5 had brilliant time at the Cheltenham Science Festival. We started the day completing a Science Trail around the site, finding out about some amazing animals and plants.

After that, we went into the Town Hall where we met Dr Sheila Kanani who describes herself as a space cadet, with her head high up in the clouds even when her feet are firmly on planet Earth. We found out that Sheila became interested in space and astronomy at the age of 13, and her passion sky-rocketed from there. She shared with us many facts about Space as well as inspiring our children to consider following a career in the space industry by sharing her book *How To Be An Astronaut And Other Space Jobs*.

After lunch, we visited the MakerShack where our children explored an incredible range of creative activities. They learnt how to impale an inflated balloon with a skewer without it popping, how to program a robot, make a flower seed bomb, make a model mosquito and even use Lego to create towers that were taller than themselves! What a brilliant day!





Science Festival: Year 4

When year 4 went to the science festival all had an incredible time. We took part in two activities which were the arcade and the science walk. In the arcade we were allowed to go wherever we wanted as long as we stayed with our partner. We got to crack codes, solve hacks, play games and so much more. We also went to see a talk all about sound and there was a different sound for each letter of the alphabet. There were so many sounds and noises to experience. Everyone loved it. Afterwards, we had a challenge to find a set of animals on a walk around the festival. We were very successful and found all of them. Overall, we had an amazing time and learnt so much.

Annabel and Megan 4J

Science Festival: Year 6

What an incredible day that Year 6 had at the Cheltenham Science Festival on Thursday 9th June. We were extremely lucky to spend the whole day at the very well-organised festival not only attending our pre-booked events, but also exploring all of the other tents with hands-on activities that the children could fully immerse themselves in.

We started the morning off by visiting 'The Arcade' where the children had free-reign to explore all of the retro arcade games. The aim of this tent was to showcase past technologies that have shaped the modern amusement arcade. Our children could try their hands at a series of creative and cryptic challenges – being rewarded with lollipops if they were



successful. This was a fun, vibrant and inclusive space and suffice to say - this tent was a hit.

Our mind was completely blown by Stefan Gates in our 'Weirdology' session in the iconic and historic Town Hall. From fart acoustics, to edible, toxic drinks we were totally grossed out in the wonderful world of science. The fascinating thing about this session was that all of the experiments shown were replicating what happens inside each and everyone of us.

A wonderful day had by all.



Feet First Dance Festival

Seven Year 6 children attended the prestigious Feet First Dance Festival on Monday 13th June in the iconic and historic Cheltenham Town Hall. We had been leading up to this event since September, meeting every Thursday after school to choreograph a 4-minute dance. This year would be slightly different then in previous years. This year I told the dancers that we would be dancing with chairs – and what we produced, was just stunning. Our dance was full of original, contemporary movements around, on and over chairs!

We were one of twelve schools performing in front of a full audience of adults, and the program was rich with diverse choreography. Our dancers performed the best that they ever performed, showcasing elegance and style. If it were a competition, we would have definitely been awarded first place!

Not only did they perform well on stage; they were also superb ambassadors for the school – upholding our values during every minute of the day. It was an absolute pleasure taking these stars to the festival and they should be extremely proud of themselves – I know I was!

Thank you Year 6 dancers.

Mrs Andrews





"What an incredible festival filled with glitter, smiles and wonderful dancers! Our dance with chairs certainly added to my nerves and excitement but no-one fell and we all performed exceptionally well!"

Ewan Paddock, dancer, 6W



"Our dance with chairs was unique and no-one else performed with them. I enjoyed dancing knowing my mum and dad were in the audience. They loved the dance too!"

Grace Hozier, dancer, 6W

"I was nervous but I am really proud of myself – because I actually did it and performed!"

Leah Budd, dancer, 6W



"Both of my parents were on the edge of their seats whilst watching our dance. They said it was incredible to watch. I loved performing it!"

Matilda Siddons, dancer, 6H

"It was so lovely to perform in the Town Hall."

Brooke Clevely, dancer, 6W



Reception Balanceability Week

Recently Reception have had a fantastic week of balanceability on the balance bikes with Mr Roberts. Everyone had the chance to develop and perfect their balancing skills on the bikes and had a great deal of fun doing it. The progress of the children during the week was incredible and a big thank you goes to Mr Roberts.



Spider Plants for Everyone!

Eco Warriors have decided that each class should have a plant, as studies have found that plants have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. They are linked to decreased stress levels, improved mood and greater attention span.

They decided to buy spider plants because they found out that they are amazing plants, as they actually clean the air!

Each class have decided on a name for their spider plant, so they can talk to it!



Warden Hill Windrush Arts Day

National Windrush Day was introduced in June 2018, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Windrush Generation's arrival in the UK. Since then, National Windrush Day has been celebrated across the country every year on 22 June, to celebrate the incredible contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants to the UK.

Warden Hill School held its first Windrush celebration day last week. The entire school experienced both music and arts associated with the Windrush generation. Calypso workshops were held in infants and Juniors were given steelpan lessons. Classes were introduced to artists and their works and explored the impact that this mass movement of people from the Caribbean has made to this country. A great time was had by all.





DR ABC

As part of our PSHE curriculum, Years 5 and 6 each received a day of first aid training. All the children had fun as well as learning some important life skills. The children practised applying plasters and bandages to wounds, as well as doing CPR on the manikins. Edward in Year 5 was excellent and pretending to be unconscious so that the instructor could demonstrate how to put someone in the recovery position and he showed how easy it is to do to someone bigger than oneself. The children also learnt about when to call an ambulance, how to treat burns, anaphylaxis, asthma attacks and nose bleeds. The instructor ended each day by applying casualty make-up to the children so that they left school like they had been in a battle!





Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bake Off

The Bake Off on Monday June 6th was a huge success. The event was organised by School Council, who delighted in judging the cakes.

Florence (Y6) said, 'I was really impressed with how many people took part.'

Cameron (Y4) stated, 'I was excited - the quality was so high.'



The children did not taste the cakes – that was left to the tea parties held by each year group in the afternoon. They were judged on presentation, how they fitted the theme and originality. 'I was blown away by how many good bakers we have,' announced Alex (Y5). Thomas (Y3) added, 'I was awestruck by how different they were.'

Thank you to all the parents, who came in to share cake with their children.

Archie (Y4) said, 'It was fun to be with our parents and eat cake.' 'I ate four cakes,' announced Darby (Y5), 'and they tasted delicious.'



The school council chose a winner from each year group and then together voted for the overall winner.





Year 5: Forest of Dean Trip

Year 5 visited the Forest of Dean to develop their geographical field work skills.

First, we visited New Fancy View Point where we looked at a 'geomap' which showed the Forest of Dean's geology and historical land use. Our children used this to learn about past land uses of the forest and to draw their own maps.

Next, we visited Beechenhurst where our children walked through the forest, experiencing the sights and sounds. They identified the layers of the temperate deciduous forest and compared these with the layers of a rainforest. Back in class the children used what they learnt on our trip to compare land use in the Forest of Dean to that of the rainforest in Brazil.

Well done Year 5, you were great geographers!







Year 1 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park. We had a busy day seeing so many different animals - some of our favourites were the enormous green anaconda, the elegant giraffes and the sunbathing meerkats!

All the children learnt about how some of the animals have adapted to their environments in a talk from one of the zookeepers there. We also got to have a ride on the train, going past the rhinos, zebras and camels.

The animals were fascinating but the real highlight of the trip was how brilliant the children were! We were so impressed with how sensible they were; every single child represented Warden Hill beautifully and this enabled us all to have a really wonderful day.

Well done to them all!





Forest School

We have had varied weather in Forest School this month with some wonderfully wet days, which encourage inventive den building and happily brings the snails out to play. 1H have made the most of every session, and it's fascinating that each change of class sees new ideas and games emerge.

Flower arranging has become a thing this month, as has piling up tyres to reaching up into the trees and also for creating obstacle courses. The mud kitchen always produces interesting delicacies, and this month giant meatballs have been very popular, alongside mud painting and hand printing.

I have also been lucky enough to take some cross school groups up to forest school, and it has been great to see how well the year groups mix, with KS2 children not only looking out for the infants, but actively playing with them and being incorporated into their games. Collaboration is a big part of the learning

that takes place in forest school, asking for help and seeing what you can achieve as a pair that you cannot achieve alone. Equally it is a joy to see the children who are just enjoying spending some quiet time in our beautiful setting.

Mrs Chavasse





Pupils' Success



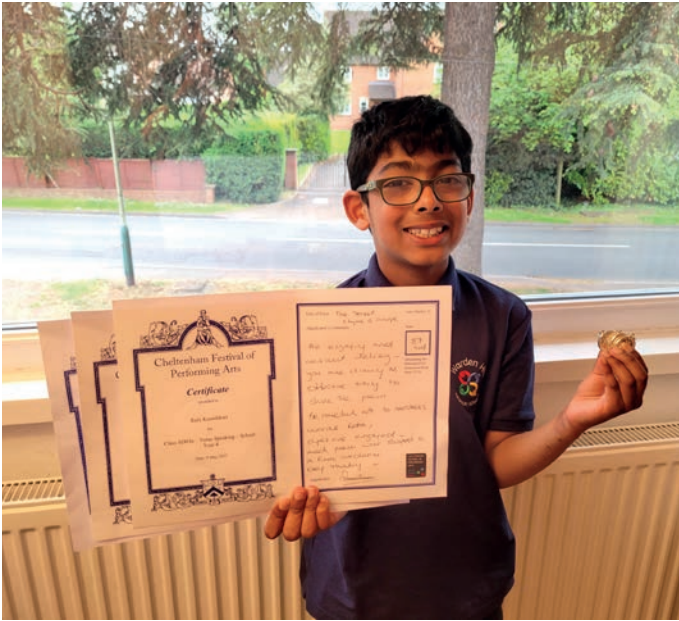
I thought I would share with you the news that Jack has been signed by the Cheltenham Town Academy this weekend. He got to play for them against Tottenham last weekend scoring a hat trick! He will be starting the new season with the U9's on July 4th.

*Best wishes
Clare Hozier*

I thought it was worth mentioning as we were really proud of Luke Smith 4G making and selling Jubilee bunting to family, friends and neighbours over the Jubilee bank holiday. Luke raised £50 which has been sent to Parkinson's, a charity important to our family.

*Many thanks
Mrs Smith*





Rafa bagged three silver medals, came 2nd for his Public Speaking, Bible Reading and Verse Speaking at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts 2022.

What a great performance from Rafa!

Dear school,

We would like to share with you some good news for Linkang. He performed in Cheltenham performance art festival and achieved 3rd place for his piano performance for age 7 and under category.

He is super proud to also achieved honours in age 8 and under category.

*Best wishes,
Yuyan (Linkang's mum)*



Warden Hill

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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