

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

It's been another incredibly busy and successful year at Warden Hill and that has culminated in the most wonderful last few weeks of this summer term, with a fabulous Inter-house Tug of War on Wednesday! The cheering and encouragement that came from our children, as the staff demoed what do, under the expert guidance of Mr Bailey, is certainly another memory banked.

It's been wonderful to see how much our children have grown academically and socially this last year, exploring deliberately chosen opportunities by the team, which have really enhanced and enriched our children's learning experiences. From the Oracy to the Arts, from competitions to Inter-school and Inter-house events, from County events to school trips, from residential to leadership roles; these experiences have shown our children that they can do anything they put their minds to and we are incredibly proud of their achievements and successes and it's been a privilege to teach them.



I would like to thank my school staff for their commitment to their roles and the energy they bring. It makes them a very special team to work with and I'm ever grateful to the additional opportunities and experiences they provide for our children. The number of emails and notes of thanks from parents and grandparents recognising this is testament to the amazing jobs you all do – thank you.

And to you as parents I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks too, not only for entrusting us with your children's education but also for being steadfast partners in this important endeavour. Your support is invaluable—whether it's helping with reading, attending school events, or simply encouraging your child to embrace their learning experience. Together, we form a strong community that fosters not only academic success but also the personal and social development that is critical in shaping well-rounded individuals.

Our Year 6 children led their last assembly on Friday and it was wonderful to see them sharing their memories of their time here. What really shone through was the confident, go-getting pupils they've grown into. Pupils who have inspired others, pupils who have learnt to be graceful in winning as well as in defeat, pupils who champion each other. I along with the rest of the school team are so proud of the individuals you've become and you leave us with a brilliant lifelong learning attitude – keep making the most of the opportunities that come your way and we have high hopes for each and every one of you!

Friday was Mrs Beccy Andrews' last day with us after 15 stunning years of service at our school. Beccy joined our school and started teaching in year 2, moved to year 4 and then joined me in Year 6. Beccy's ability to engage and inspire our children, day in day out, with a smile on her face is something to be admired. She has a natural ability to champion every pupil, she sees the unlocked potential in them and by the time the end of year comes – that potential is realised – for every single pupil in her class. She is in the truest sense a game changer, a difference maker. In 2017 she was successful in her applying for one of the Assistant Headteacher positions and continued to pursue leadership opportunities, embarking on her NPQH (National Professional Qualification

for Headship) an 18 month course and then supporting another Cheltenham school in the position as Head of School. Her successful appointment as Head to Charlton Kings Junior School was no real surprise, maybe a little to her, because that's the other thing about Beccy, she's too modest in her own abilities. She will be missed by so many of our school community, but will still remain very much a part of it as a parent. Beccy leaves us with the perfect reminder of her - 'The Andrews Award for the Arts' – a beautiful cup, that was presented at a special assembly this week – thank you Beccy, you leave us quite the legacy.

On a personal note, to say that I loved working with Beccy over the years as a class teacher and leader would be an understatement and I am proud to call her not only a colleague, but friend too. But she's come to the end of her Warden Hill chapter for the second time, her last time as a Year 6 pupil herself. The beauty about chapters, is that there's always another one to write and that page is blank and waiting for her at CKJS.

So Beccy, it's not what you're leaving or losing – it's what's waiting for you – you'll be an incredible Headteacher and we all wish you every onward success!

That leaves me to say, I hope you all have the most amazing summer, wherever you go and whatever you do. Enjoy the family time together and we all look forward to welcoming our children back on Tuesday 2nd September.

But till then – enjoy!

# Summer Pledge

As a school we have been learning about the children of Palau <https://palaupledge.com/> and have come up with the idea of our own summer pledge, which all our children signed on their transition day. By embracing the principles of the Palau Pledge through our Summer Pledge, we not only honour the beauty of our own environments but also instil values in our children that will benefit future generations.

These our summer pledge ideas:

## 1. Nature Exploration

Make a promise to spend time outdoors. Organise nature walks, beach clean-ups, or garden planting events.

## 2. Sustainable Practices

Pledge to adopt sustainable practices at home, such as reducing plastic use, recycling, and conserving water and energy.

## 3. Environmental Education

Dedicate time to learn about environmental issues. Read books, watch documentaries, or visit places like Slimbridge, or create a bug hotel, maybe even plant some wild flowers to encourage our pollinators.

## 4. Community Involvement

What can you do in the local community or beyond (especially if you go on holiday) to share your sustainable practices.

## 5. Gratitude for Nature

Foster a sense of gratitude for the natural world. Create a family tradition of expressing appreciation for nature, whether through art, writing poetry or anything else you can think of.

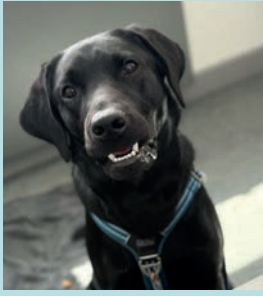


This summer, let's create memorable experiences that inspire hope and action, shaping our children into the responsible guardians of our planet. We'd love to see what you've been up to so please add a photo to our Google Photo Album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/d5k4HjuBLBX1Qfo79> so we can share them in assemblies as well as our website.





# Murphy



Murphy has had a wonderful first year at our school and has been welcomed by so many of our whole school community. He has reached the grand old age of 11 months and we are planning a summer meet up with his brothers, sisters and mum to celebrate the big '1'.

In the latter weeks of term, our Reception children, with Miss Barrett, have been taking time out to read to Murphy in Mrs Flooks' room. The fact he fell asleep several times, just goes to show how relaxed he feels in their company and also how brilliant their 'nap time' story reading is.



This year has been all about socialisation for Murphy, getting him used to being in a busy school environment, whilst balancing his needs and wellbeing too.

We have been very well supported by Bethany Kent from Barking Buds, who is overseeing our journey and our training every Saturday. This training is also building towards the Therapy Dog UK training we will start next academic year.

He is looking forward to the holidays and spending time on West and East Sands in St. Andrews as well as walks back home with his mum Lottie and sister Olive.

Murphy wishes you all 'pawtastic' time, wherever you may be.

# Update from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to celebrate another successful year at Warden Hill Primary School.

Mrs Flooks and her team have worked tirelessly throughout this academic year to enable all our pupils to achieve and be successful, not just academically but in the broader aspects of life and society.

As governors, we are charged with overseeing the school's management. We provide challenge and the school's staff provide evidence that they are meeting their statutory duties. We meet once every term to work together and monitor events in school.

This year we have adopted the Circle Model of Governance, whereby we no longer have Committee Meetings. Instead, we have elected Link Governors. Amongst other things Link Governors visit the school and meet leaders to discuss the running of different areas of the curriculum, meet with staff and pupils, then they report back to the whole Governing Board. This is a much more "hands on" approach.

I would like to thank all Governors and staff for their enthusiasm and dedication. I would also like to thank you and your children for engaging in all that goes on in our wonderful school.

Have a relaxing summer break with your children and if you are interested in joining our Governing Body look out for vacancies next term. It's a very rewarding role.

Best wishes,

Lynda Dineen  
Chair of Warden Hill Governors



## Year 4 Step Back in Time on WW2 Evacuation Trip

Year 4 students had an unforgettable experience this term, as they stepped back in time to the 1940s during their World War II evacuation trip. The day was packed with learning, discovery, and a touch of steam-powered adventure!

To start the day, pupils boarded a beautiful steam train—just like evacuees would have done during the war. With gas masks in hand and labels around their necks, they truly looked the part as they imagined what it must have been like to leave home and family behind during wartime.

At the Winchcombe railway station, children explored a fascinating collection of World War II artefacts. From gas masks and ration books to uniforms and propaganda posters, every item told a story. The children also had the chance to hear from real evacuees who shared their personal memories of being sent away as children during the war. Their stories were moving, powerful, and gave everyone a deeper understanding of the impact evacuation had on families and communities.

The trip brought our classroom learning to life in the most meaningful way. It's a journey Year 4 won't soon forget!



# Cheltenham Science Festival

Our children had a brilliant time at Cheltenham Science Festival.

Year 1 engaged in the enlightening session “You and Your Body” with the wonderful doctor and BBC star Punam Krishan. The children were enthralled as they toured the human body, discovering the maze-like brain, the might of muscles, and the marvel of the gut, all connecting the wonders of their own anatomy.

Year 2’s adventure, “Do Bears Poop in the Woods?” led them on a globe-trotting expedition with Huw Lewis-Jones, filled with fascinating animal facts and plenty of laughter.

Meanwhile, Year 3 explored “Amazing Animal Bodies” with the enthusiastic vet and author Jess French. The children delved into the inner workings of extraordinary creatures, learning about marvellous mammals and fantastic frogs, all while cultivating a love for the natural world.

Years 1, 2, and 3 also enjoyed their visit to the MakerShack, an interactive space where creativity and science merged through hands-on activities.

Year 6 visited the Arcade, an inclusive zone filled with retro games and tech challenges, highlighting the exciting intersection of culture and technology.

It was wonderful to see our children display such curiosity and passion for learning during their visit. We’re so lucky to have this incredible festival on our doorstep to enrich our children’s education!





# Transformation Story

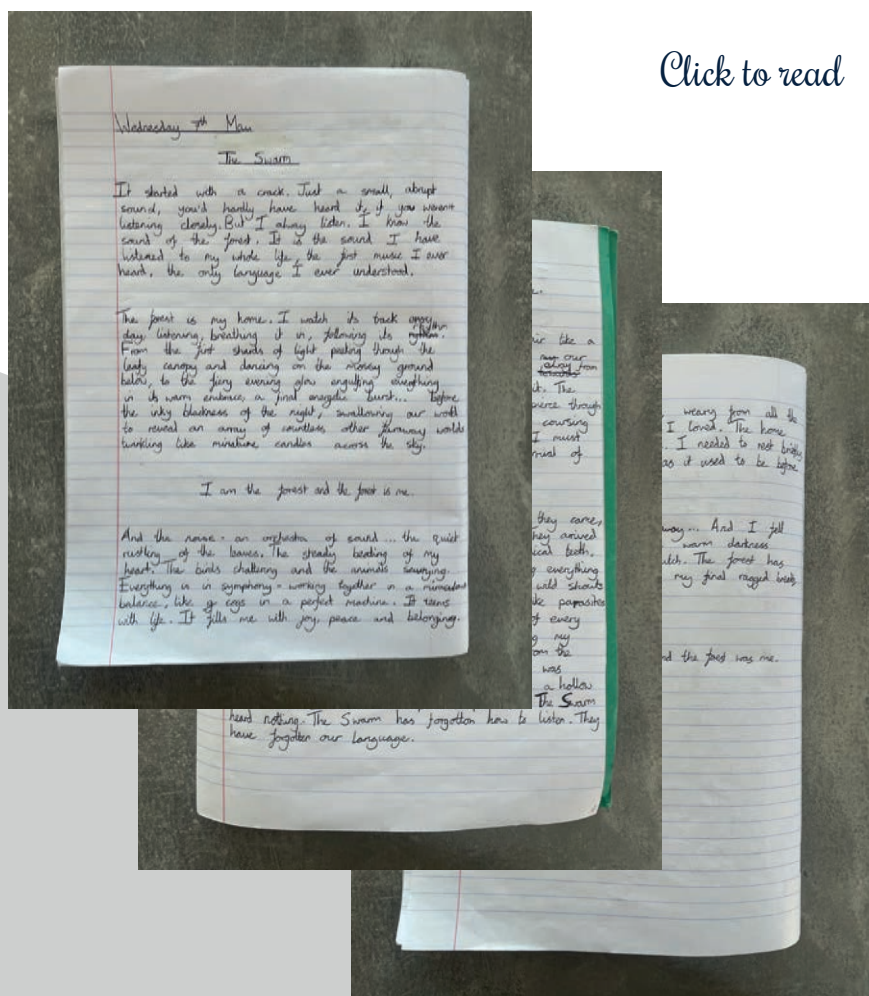
We are bursting with pride for Natalie and the incredible author she has become!

We tasked our children to write a 'transformation story' and what you are about to read is a very cleverly, thoughtfully crafted story, where the forest is the narrator. Prepare to be captivated!

Feel free to drop us an email to let us know what you as a reader felt whilst reading Natalie's magnificent story. Natalie would love to hear your feedback.

Thank you so much in advance.

From two very proud teachers: Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Andrews



Click to read



## Year 3 Greek Day

We're thrilled to share that our Year 3 Greek Day was a fantastic success! The children had a wonderful time delving into the fascinating world of Greek history and mythology, all thanks to the wonderful team from Guarderobe. They brought an engaging workshop to our classroom, where the children learned about the origins of Greek myths and had a chance to see traditional Greek dress. Guarderobe even let the children try on Greek armour and both women and men's traditional fashion, which was a real treat for everyone!

One of the highlights was when Guarderobe shared a real Greek coin and arrowhead from ancient times — it was a tangible connection to the past that truly captivated the children! Our adventure didn't stop there! The students were able to don their own Greek-inspired costumes, which made the day even more special.

We also had an exciting session using VR headsets, allowing the children to explore virtual Greek houses. It was an immersive experience that sparked our children's curiosity and imagination.

Seeing the enthusiasm and creativity of the children throughout the day was such a joy. It is clear that they learned so many interesting facts about an inspirational civilisation.



# Release the Caterpillars!

We are thrilled to share details of our recent visit from Tricia, a representative of the Butterfly Conservation charity, who came to inspire our Junior and Infant Eco Warriors! The children were absolutely captivated as Tricia introduced them to some fascinating black and yellow striped caterpillars from the Cinnabar moth, which she brought along to release in our newly created Wildflower Meadow.

The Eco Warriors were filled with excitement as they had the wonderful opportunity to observe these intriguing creatures up close. They took turns letting the caterpillars walk on their hands, mesmerised by their vibrant stripes and delicate movements. These remarkable caterpillars feast on the leaves and flowers of Ragwort plants, which are essential for their growth.

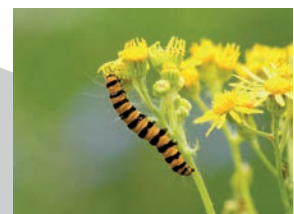
Once the caterpillars reach a substantial size, they will pupate and, come next summer, transform into striking little red and black moths. Unlike many of their nocturnal relatives, these moths are active during the day, seeking out more Ragwort plants to lay their eggs upon. The lifecycle continues as the eggs hatch into tiny caterpillars, starting the cycle anew.

A heartfelt thank you to Tricia for her visit and for igniting our students' passion for nature and conservation!



Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

**Butterfly  
Conservation**



[butterfly-conservation.org/](https://butterfly-conservation.org/)



WARDEN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL







## David Hockney Artwork

This term, Year 3 pupils were studying famous British artist, David Hockney. They used his unique blend of harmonious colours to create their own masterpieces. They started off their journey recreating Hockney's very famous 'Garrowby Hill' piece, which was drawn to celebrate Earth Day in April.

The portfolio also included sketching Warden Hill's view of Crickley and Leckhampton from the balcony as well as bringing a bright splash to local Cheltenham landmark, Pittville Pump Rooms.

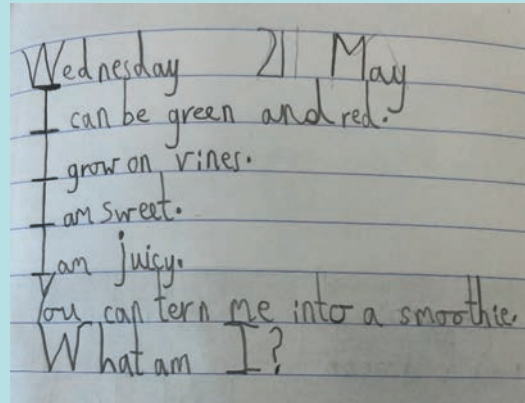
We had loads of fun tapping into our creative sides!





# Action-packed term for Year 1

Year 1 have had a fabulous term, learning about plants and how they grow, how to make healthy breakfast pots and writing our own versions of stories about plants - the Gigantic Turnip, Handa's Surprise, The Secret Sky Garden as well as creating riddles about food.



This was all showcased beautifully in the Year 1 assembly where the children demonstrated fantastic oracy skills when delivering their lines.



We are so lucky to have been on three school trips this term. We went to the Science Festival where the children listened to a talk by Dr Punam Krishan (TV doctor and 2024 Strictly contestant). She was most impressed by the questions our children were asking her and their knowledge of the human body (a previous science topic).

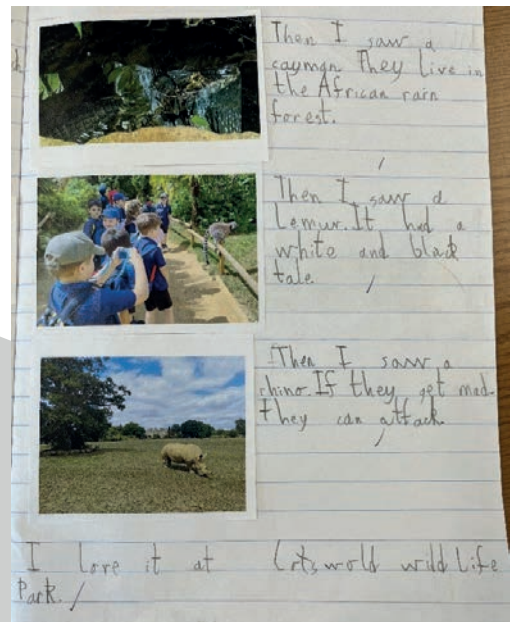
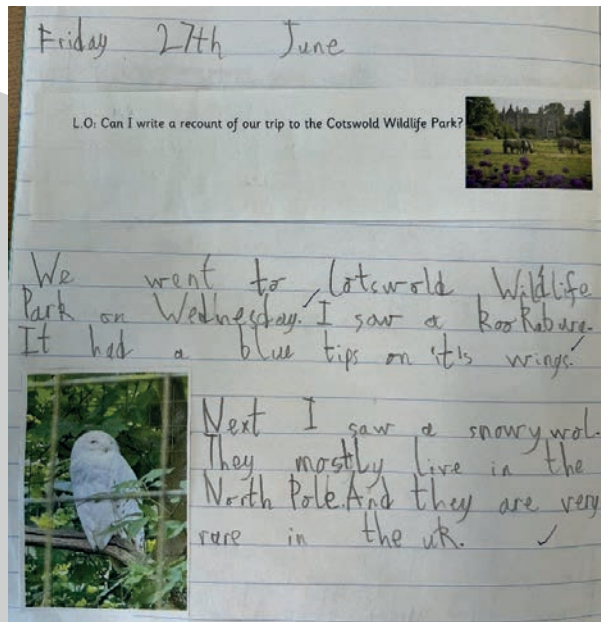




We have been to the Cotswold Wildlife Park where the children loved the train ride past the giraffes, zebras, rhinos and camels and were thrilled to see the penguins being fed.



Later that week we wrote recounts of our trip.



Written by Aiden (1B)




We also wrote a letter from Paddington (our class read) to Aunt Lucy about his adventures at the Cotswold Wildlife Park

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Independent Write

LO: Can I write letter to Aunt Lucy from Paddington about his trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park?



Dear Aunt Lucy,

I am writing to tell you that I have been to Cotswold Wildlife Park. First I saw the rhinos. Then I felt a little nudge and one of the rhinos was trying to eat my marmalade sandwich! Now I would not have anything to eat for lunch! Oh No!

Next I went on the train but I fell off and I quickly asked is to help me get back on before the train left but they said No! We were having too much sun! Then we saw the penguins. They were soooooo cute. I had to jump in. I hugged one of them and it bit me. owwwwwwwwwwwwww! I had to go to the hospital! From Paddington. XOXO

Written by Cecily 1S

We have been lucky enough to go on another recent trip this time to Copsegrove Farm in Bisley for a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed day where the children toasted marshmallows as well as making chocolate and marshmallow wraps cooked over the fire, creating special "woodland chocolates", a hunt for clues in the woods, den making and just having the most wonderful day! We are so grateful to Kate the farmer who managed to fund the whole day for everyone.

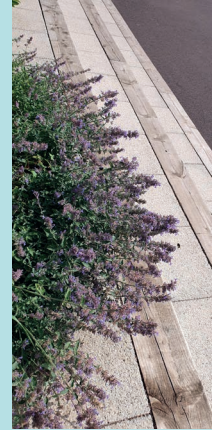






# We are bumblebee friendly. It's official!

This year our school has made significant strides in creating a bee friendly environment by both creating a wildflower meadow and planting 'pollinator friendly' plants around our car park and playgrounds. As a direct result of these efforts, two colonies of Whitetail Bumblebees have made their homes on our school site!



Our pupils were absolutely fascinated during a recent assembly, where they learnt about these insects through resources provided by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. They were particularly amazed to discover the incredible variety and number of bee species.



Our Eco Warriors have taken a keen interest in identifying different types of Bumblebees, with some spotting both Whitetail and Redtail Bumblebees! In recognition of our hard work, we have applied for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's Bronze Award to become a Bumblebee Friendly School. We are proud to report that our application has been successful and we are now officially Bumblebee-friendly Bronze Accredited!



**Bumblebee-friendly Schools**  
Bronze award June 2025

# House Champions



All year round, children have been working exceptionally hard at school and demonstrating brilliant behaviour and attitudes to their learning. They can earn house points in their classes for this, which are then totalled up and announced in our weekly whole school assemblies. Our children are always keen to be the winning house each term and earn the prized non-uniform day that serves as a reward for their efforts. Well done to Coln, who were announced as this term's winners. This being the final term of the year, we have also announced the final house point totals for the academic year. Incredibly, over 45,000 house points were given out this year to children and little more than 100 house points separated first and second. This year, our house champions are... Windrush!

Congratulations!



# Cricket Season Round-Up



It's been a fantastic cricket season at Warden Hill!

One of our open teams made it all the way to the County Finals Festival, where the girls played incredibly well and narrowly missed out in a thrilling final.

Throughout the season, our children truly embodied the spirit of cricket—competing with determination, showing respect to all, and giving their absolute best. I am so proud of every child who represented the school with such aplomb.

Our Year 4 team also showed great promise for the future. A special mention to our brilliant captains—Matilda, Jack and Sam—who led their teams with maturity and enthusiasm.

Well done, everyone!

# Football Season Review



Warden Hill has enjoyed an incredible football season, showcasing a very talented team who played with skill, determination and passion.

Three standout players—Jack, Jamie and Edward—were even selected to represent Cheltenham Schools, a fantastic achievement. The team played some excellent football throughout the year and, on their day, were a match for any school. They reached the semi-finals of the prestigious Albert Dix Tournament, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. However, their resilience paid off as they went on to win the second tournament of the year, defeating Lakeside in a dramatic penalty shoot-out, Jamie bravely stepping up to score the winning penalty.

Well done to all our footballers and fans—what a season!



## Primary Schools' Swimming Gala

This always proves to be a fun evening, showcasing some amazing swimming. Year 5 and 6 relay teams all swam extremely well and really enjoyed the gala- for many their first time at an event like this. Eliz, Matilda, Thomas and Seongbin also competed in individual heats, swimming two lengths (66m). Eliz gained a place in the final and achieved the Warden Hill swim cup this year. Thank you to Lexi and Zachary, our reserves who came along and supported the teams. Well done to everyone.



# Cheltenham Athletics Championships



On Friday 27th June, our 40-strong athletics team went to the Prince of Wales athletics stadium to compete in the Cotswold Shield. This is always a brilliant event, where we come up against some very talented athletes from across Cheltenham, but the children competed brilliantly as they always do. Each team member competed in either an individual sprint, a long distance race, the howler throw (Vortex) or standing long jump and most children were also part of relay squads too. As staff we were complimented on how well behaved and well mannered our children were – so they did us proud off the track as well as on it!

We had many successes with a 3rd place finish for the Y5 boys relay team, a silver for Bella in the Y5 long distance race and 3 golds: Thea in the Y4 long distance, Ellis in the boys open howler throw and the Y3 boys relay team. Once these were combined with the points from a host of other 4th and 5th place finishes, when the overall results were announced Warden Hill finished a collective 3rd of the 12 competing schools. A brilliant achievement!





# Dates for your Diary

## AUTUMN 1:

2 September	First Day of Autumn Term
9 September	Reception Curriculum Evening
12 September	Reception Parents Coffee Morning
17 September	Year 3 and Year 4 Trip: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

27 October - 31 October HALF TERM

CALENDAR [wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/events](https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/events)

NEWS [wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/news](https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/news)

TERM DATES [wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/](https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/)