



## Newsletter – Tuesday 7 February 2023

### Headteacher's message

It seems hard to believe that we are nearly at the half-way point of the school year. Time certainly continues to move at pace! Thank you to all parents who attended our parents' evening appointments last week. We really value your time in discussing your child's progress and hope that you found the session with your child's teacher useful.

I am very sorry for the disruption caused by Friday's sudden school closure. It seems like we were actually very lucky as the water leak was detected almost as soon as it started. If it had started half an hour later, then the school would have been closed and the damage caused by a burst water main within the school building could have been potentially catastrophic. Thank you to teaching assistant Ms. Burnley for her swift action in discovering the leak and to Mr. Orchard and the team for getting everything sorted in double quick time.

As you will be aware, three of our classes were affected by the NEU strike action that took place last Wednesday. The NEU has indicated that they will continue strike action for a further three days. Further strike dates have been arranged on Thursday 2 March, Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March. Please make a note of these dates now and I will write to you in advance of each date to confirm any changes to arrangements and whether the strike is going ahead. Please note that it is possible that further classes could be affected by any future strike action. Should that be the case we will inform you as soon as possible.

We would like to thank you for your understanding with regards to this matter and we are sorry for any disruption that this may cause for your families.

Wishing you all a fantastic half term break.

Best wishes  
Mr. Hackett

### New office team for Warden House

Both Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Morgan will be finishing their employment at Warden House on Friday this week. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them all the very best as they embark on the next stage of their careers. We are deeply thankful for all that they have done for us during their time working in the school office and very much hope that they will keep in touch.



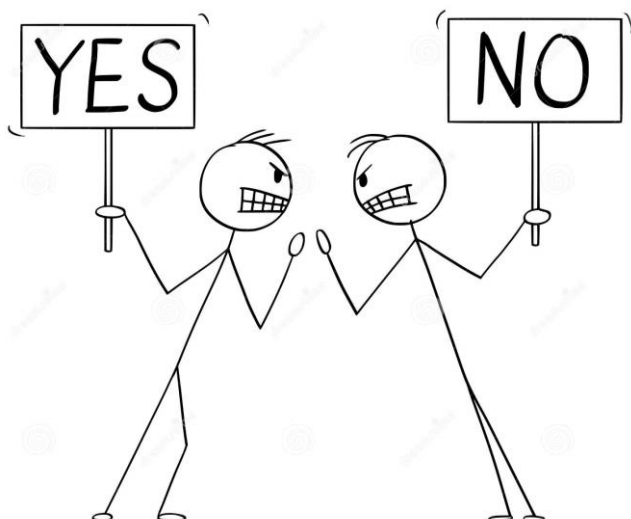
Following a day of interviews last Tuesday, we are pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs. Monique Farmery as our new 'Attendance and Admin Assistant' and Miss. Luci Stevenson as our new 'School Receptionist'. We would like to welcome them both to our staff team and Warden House and are looking forward to getting to know them.

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### A reminder about adult conduct

We would like to remind all adults attending our school site that we do not tolerate aggressive behaviour, swearing or inappropriate language **at any time**.

Any arguments or disputes with other families must not be carried on our school site.



Please continue to do all you can to safeguard our children and families and ensure that our school site remains a happy and welcoming place for all.

We reserve the right to restrict access to our school site for anyone behaving inappropriately towards children or other families.

Should you ever be concerned regarding the conduct of an adult on our school site, please make sure that you report this to a member of staff as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support and understanding with the matter.

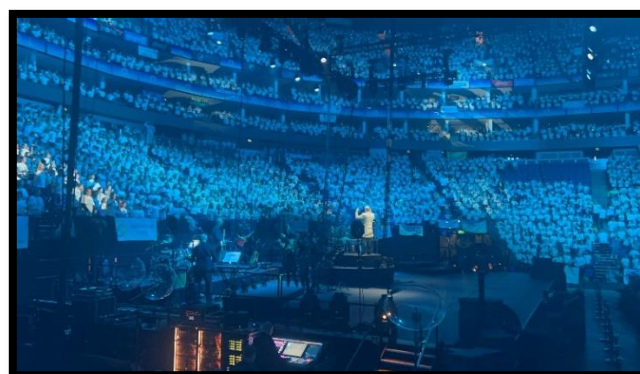
### Young Voices 2023

On Thursday 19 January, our school choir of 50 children headed up to the O2 arena to take part in Young Voices 2023. Young Voices is a series of concerts that takes place in arenas across the country where children sing alongside pupils from hundreds of other schools.



The children had an absolutely amazing time and sang their hearts out alongside 9000 other children— performing with Heather Small (M People), The Beatbox Collective and Deal-based violinist Anna Phoebe.

The children represented our school brilliantly and we were very proud of all of their efforts.







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### IMPORTANT MESSAGE

**At the start of term 4, please can we ask that our families do all they can to arrive on time and that only any very urgent messages are delivered in person to the school office at the start of the day. This is due to the fact that we will have new staff in place learning their new roles.**



Any non-urgent messages can be sent via phone (01304 375040) or email ([office@warden-house.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@warden-house.kent.sch.uk)). Thank you for your support with this.

### Swimming update

Following on from contact from several parents, we thought it would be useful to provide an update regarding swimming lessons in school. As you may be aware, swimming is a statutory part of the national curriculum. In fact - it is the only sport that we are legally required to teach! We feel it is a vital life skill and fully endorse the government's position that every pupil should be able to swim at least 25 metres by the time they move on to secondary school.

Given that swimming is a compulsory part of the curriculum, some parents have questioned why they have been asked to pay. Whilst it is true that school budgets have a notional amount included in to cover the costs of swimming, this is not in practice sufficient to ensure that all costs are covered. We ask parents to contribute to help subsidise the cost of tuition and the hire of the pool.

We do not need to charge for transport costs – unlike many other local schools whose children attend Dover Leisure Centre for example. Also - the amount we request from parents does not cover the full amount of the tuition/pool hire. This situation is not unique to Warden House and the vast majority of schools will request the financial support of their families towards swimming due to the current financial climate.



I hope that you understand that without the financial support of all parents, it is very difficult for us to provide this provision for our children. School budgets are incredibly stretched at present due to the ongoing government cutbacks.

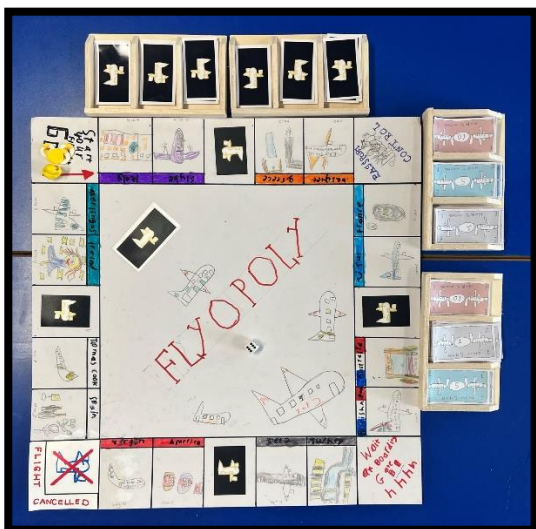
If all parents do not contribute to this then the costs would have to be recovered from other areas of school life, pulling from resources such as staffing, curriculum resources and other areas of school life that we currently enjoy. We thank you for your support in working together in to ensure that we can teach this vital life skill effectively

### Well done Hugo!

Hugo from our Year 2 Tigers class has created his very own "Fly-opoly" board game in his own time. The game comes complete with its own hand-made pieces, cards, board and card holders.

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We are so impressed with the care and detail that he has put into this amazing project! Very well done Hugo!



### Children's Mental Health Week

This week is [National Children's Mental Health week](#). We are recognising this at Warden House and have started the week by welcoming the NELFT Emotional Support Team into our whole school to lead a session on the importance of looking after your mental health.



The website linked above has some very useful information and resources supporting the ongoing development of children's wellbeing.

### Awesome geography

Our Hippos Class have been learning all about climate change and sustainability in their Geography lessons. They have worked in teams to produce these very eye-catching information posters containing a range of information about the impact of climate change and what can be done to prevent it.



We have been really impressed with the children's passion and enthusiasm about this really important topic.

### A special letter from Buckingham palace

Our Year 4 children received a very special delivery from the postman last week... a letter direct from Buckingham Palace! The children had written to the King in the run up to Christmas following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

They wanted to express their sympathy and sent their very best wishes recognising that the run up to Christmas would likely be very difficult for him and the rest of the royal family. It was lovely that Buckingham Palace found the time to reply and share such a thoughtful message with the children.



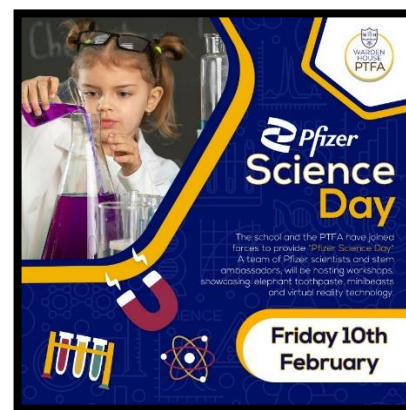
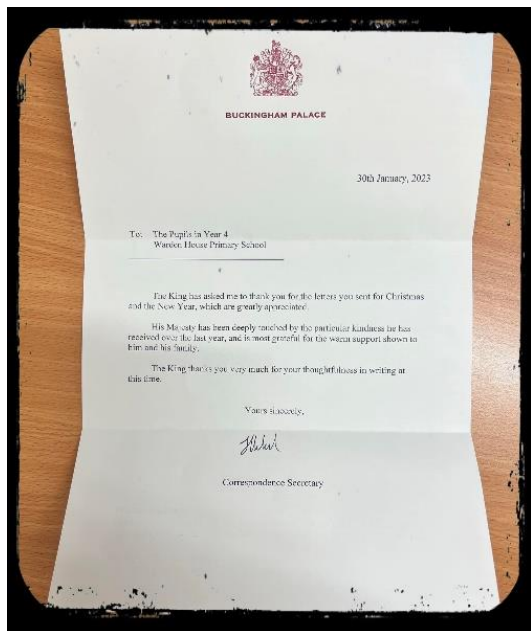


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Thanks to Mrs. Marsh for her hard work in organising what should be an amazing day for our children.

### Reading challenge update!

We continue to encourage our children to do all they can to read at home each and every day. Our librarian Ms. Burnley has been sharing our new points totals in assemblies since our return to school after Christmas. After week three, the totals are as follow...

Please note that the scores for children in classes in Year 2 and above are cumulative since the start of the school year – hence why the numbers are larger! We started a new system for tracking reading in Year R and 1 at the start of Term 3. The children are all working hard to try to earn the reward of a visit from the ice cream van at the end of Term 6 **if** they can reach the total of **22,500** points!

Class	Total	Class	Total	Class	Total
Hedgehogs	120	Bees	345.1	Hippos	783.3
Ladybirds	86.5	Starfish	472.1	Elephants	1243.7
Otters	121.5	Sharks	336.6	Falcons	925.6
Bears	153.5	Zebras	604.2		
Frogs	446.8	Pandas	549.1		
Tigers	492.4	Giraffes	1168.8		

### Whole school science day

This Friday 10 February, we will be holding a very special Pfizer's Science Day at Warden House. A team of scientists from Pfizers in Discovery Park, Sandwich will be joining us for the day and will be working with the children to showcase some amazing science and experiments not normally seen in the primary classroom.

Planned activities include: A Virtual Reality Space Journey, Mirror Maze, Coloured Fire, Bubble-ology, Minibeasts and lots, lots more!

This event has been sponsored by our PTFA who have funded some of the more expensive activities for our children. We are looking forward to what should be a really inspiring day.



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Key Dates for Terms 3 and 4 2023	
<b>Term 3 begins</b>	<b>Tuesday 3 January 2023</b>
<b>Swimming Sessions for Pupils in Year 5 Pandas Class</b>	Every Monday starting on 9 January 2023
<b>Swimming Sessions for Pupils in Year 5 Giraffes Class</b>	Every Tuesday starting on 10 January 2023
<b>National Children's Mental Health Week</b>	Monday 6 February – Friday 10 February 2023
<b>Whole School Pfizer's Science Day</b>	Friday 10 February 2023
<b>End of Term 3</b>	<b>Friday 10 February 2023 at 3:15pm</b>
<b>Start of Term 4</b>	<b>Monday 20 February 2023</b>
<b>Swimming Sessions for Pupils in Year 3 Starfish Class</b>	Every Monday starting on 20 February 2023
<b>Swimming Sessions for Pupils in Year 3 Bees Class</b>	Every Tuesday starting on 21 February 2023
<b>World Book Day 2023</b> <i>(The date may change dependent on strike action)</i>	Thursday 2 March 2023*
<b>Potential NEU Strike Action</b>	Thursday 2 March 2023 Wednesday 15 March 2023 Thursday 16 March 2023
<b>Year 6 PGL Trip to Windmill Hill, East Sussex</b>	29 March 2023 – 31 March 2023