

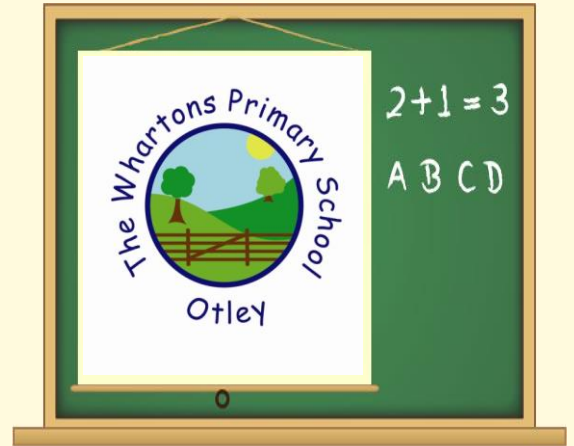
# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a good break over the half term.

Well we have really had all 4 seasons in the last few weeks. Beautiful sunshine and bright mornings at the beginning of the half term and winter wonderland, snow drifts and ice last week. It was with regret I had to close school on Thursday last week, but unfortunately, it was impossible for enough staff to make the journey to school in order that the school could run. Let us hope we have seen the last of the severe winter weather this year.



## Assembly Themes

Our new theme in assemblies for this term is 'Healthy Me'. We have talked about keeping healthy through exercise, also how to make sure we keep germs at bay through careful hand washing, plus 'catch it and bin it' approach to coughs and sneezes.

Well done to all those children who received certificates for their hard work and focus over the last two weeks, despite the disruptions.

**Reception - Justin, Charlie W & Justin C & Freddie W**

**Year 1 – Jacob W, Libby S & Charley F**

**Year 2 – Noah R & Thomas L**

**Year 3 – Teddy N-C, Callum B & Sam M**

**Year 4 – Austin D & Katie R**

**Year 5 – William T & Lea E**

**Year 6- Oscar C & Sam G**

## Film Afternoon

On Sunday afternoon last week the Parent's Association had organized a film afternoon. We arrived at school to watch Gnomeo and Juliet in our pyjamas and onsies and brought our cushions and blankets to snuggle in to.

We all had a big bag of popcorn and a drink. I loved the film and it was fantastic to see it on a huge screen. It was like being at the cinema!!

After the film we watched Mini Minion Movies and played musical bumps and musical statues, until our parents arrived. It was a lovely afternoon and we hope there will be another one soon.

Written by Natalie Bowman Y6

## Otley Food Bank

[Otley Food Bank](#) is a partnership between 'Churches Together in Otley' and the wider community.

They help people in crisis situations from Otley and surrounding areas such as Pool, Farnley, Menston and Guiseley.

People can find they need the help of a food bank for many different reasons and there is no judgement or stigma attached to asking for help.

If any family finds themselves at the point where a Food Bank voucher would help, The Whartons can make a referral on their behalf.

Please ask to speak in confidence to Mrs Mitchell or myself (Mrs Dickson) about your worries, so that we can help before things get worse.

- **Snowflakes**
- **Lunchtime Clubs**
- **Skipping Workshop**

### **Snowflakes**

Year 1 took advantage of the beautiful snowflakes this morning and used the new outdoor magnifying equipment to study them in detail. The children absolutely loved it, as you can see.

Quite a few children had already brought their outdoor kits into school too which meant they were well equipped. Well done!



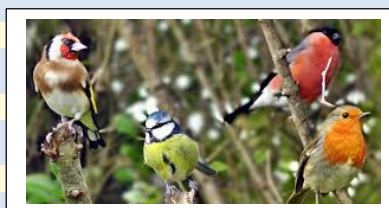
## *Year 6 Lunchtime Clubs*

It has been very encouraging to have Year 5 and Year 6 children approach me to ask permission to run a lunchtime club for younger children.

At present we have a drama club, a pop up card making club and a new bird watching club.

The older children are very organized in their approach; they survey a focus class to find out what they would like to do, write a programme of events for a set number of weeks, source materials, write registers, prepare a working space for the club and even produce certificates to present to the children during celebration assembly.

As either myself, or one of the other senior leaders, are on duty each lunchtime we can oversee the pupil led clubs. This is a fantastic way for our older children to develop their organizational skills, build maturity and further cementing the family ethos we are so proud of at The Whartons. Well done to all of our club leaders



## **Skipping Workshop**

This year we have used our sports funding/grant from the Government in a range of different ways. We have purchased a new PE scheme of work and trained staff to deliver the scheme effectively, hired coaches which transport pupils to competitions, we have funded a lunchtime sports coach to run playground games and have paid for external experts to lead activity sessions for children.

One such funded activity was a skipping day for all Y4 children. Skipping is fabulous exercise, and if you have learnt some tricks and techniques, is amazing fun and very rewarding. With this in mind, we invested in a skipping workshop day to enthuse Y4 children to take up skipping and spread their enthusiasm to others.

In Year 4 they had a wonderful morning learning all sorts of skipping skills with their special visitors from The Skipping School. Jodi, the lead adult taught Y4 how to do lots of different types of skipping and they all tried really hard to grasp the moves whilst having lots of fun in the process. It was also great to see children supporting each other in learning partners, sharing tips and techniques. They will be joined by Jodi again in March and will be going to a competition in May at Trinity University.



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## Diary Dates

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> & Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March** -Mother's Day Stall

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March**-PTA Meeting-7.30pm

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**-Yr4 Bun Sale

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**-Yr3 Class Assembly

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March**-Dress In Red Day for Children's Heart Surgery Fund

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**-Pop Choir Concert- Yeadon Town Hall-6.30pm

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**-Yr5 Class Assembly

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March**-Parent/Staff

Gardening Day

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**-Yr4 Class Assembly

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**-School Closes for Easter

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April**-School Reopens

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April**-Yr1 & 2 Bun Sale

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**-Reception Writing Open Morning

## Cross Country Competition

A few weeks ago Mr Hampson entered a team of runners for the heats of the Leeds School's Cross Country Competition. The children performed so well they got through to the finals at Temple Newsam House.

Last week Mr Hampson took the small team of dedicated cross-country runners over to a competition at Temple Newsam.

The children excitedly joined Ashfield runners on a shared coach journey to the venue where other schools from across Leeds were also represented.

The children attacked the course around the grounds with grit determination, we are very proud of the huge effort made by all the children, Ethan S, Alex G, Cory H, Beth S, Charlotte C, Harry C, Joe D, Taylor Jai S, James S, Ethan G, Natalie B, Emily B, Aiden P, Sam G & Freya R.

Stand out performers were Aidan (Y4) and Charlotte (Y5) who have qualified for the Yorkshire Schools Finals.



## Snow Friday

What a week it was last week! The snow really disrupted school as it did to many schools across the country, but we managed to open on Friday and took full advantage of the amazing snow all around us.

All the class teachers took their reduced classes outside for some of their learning, although due to the freezing temperatures we had to keep the time spent in the chill quite restricted. Mr Fisk took KS1 children on to the field where they used the snow and canes to construct 3D shapes and geometry snow sculptures.

KS2 children had a fabulous playtime with all the staff, I think there were definitely some competitions to see who could throw a snowball the furthest. Mr Williamson somehow was in the wrong place at the wrong time and ended up looking like a real life snowman!



## A final Note:

Please remember to send children with a separate set of outdoor clothing and footwear so that we can use our outdoor classroom on an impromptu basis, as Y1 managed to do this week. Thank you.

Julia Dickson