

The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

19th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable break.

Elections for this term's Head and Deputy Head Girls and Boys were carried out this week and voting was close with all children doing really well. Congratulations to James Lyon-Murphy and Beth Scott for being elected Head Boy and Girl and to Alex Grime and Anouk Bloomfield for being elected Deputy Head Boy and Girl. Well done and thank you to all those Year 6 children who bravely shared their campaign manifestos and spent time on their election posters.



Assembly Themes

Our assembly theme for this half term fits with our Jigsaw focus, which is Goals and Dreams. We will be considering with the children, through assemblies and class PSHCE lessons, what the keys to reaching their goals might be. We will be reminding ourselves about our learning to learn skills, and how we can use our mistakes to improve understanding.

Well done to all those children who received certificates for their hard work over the last two weeks.

Reception - Logan S & Sophie T

Year 1 - Abigail G & Gracie A

Year 2 - Una JC & Jacob P

Year 3 - Lenny G & William G

Year 4 - William P & Annie C

Year 5 - Charlie C & Charlotte C

Year 6 - Freya R & Harry C

Parents' Association

At the first Parents' Association meeting of the New Year, the committee shared the successes of the Christmas Fair and looked forward to upcoming fundraising events in the calendar.

Events range from discos to a film afternoon, quiz nights to bun sales. If you can help at any of the events, please let the committee know or just pop into school and tell the office who can pass on the message. Everyone is welcome at committee meetings, come along and find out what is going on, lend your voice/ideas.

All the hard work of the members and volunteers really does make a difference to the whole school and there are always so many resources we would love to purchase to enhance your children's education.



Cluster Training Day

On the 2nd January teachers from all the cluster primary schools met for our annual joint training day at Prince Henry's. It was a fantastically productive and enjoyable start to the New Year.

Teachers worked together in cross-school teams to consider the importance of developing Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education through the whole curriculum. Focusing on developing children's understanding in these areas ensures our children are prepared to take their place as global citizens in a rich and varied society.

Subject leaders also spent time developing cross-school schemes of work. They shared good practice and strategies for successful teaching and learning in their subjects, from Art to PE and Maths to Music.

- **Action Research Projects**
- **Governors' Visit**
- **Handball Competition**

Action Research Projects

As teachers and teaching assistants we are always striving to improve the way we teach and to support learning so that all children reach their potential.

We have been considering how we might support children who can lack confidence in their own abilities and who are reluctant to make mistakes. A whole school focus on Growth Mindsets has highlighted a positive approach to learning through making mistakes. This term we will be embarking on small action research projects in mixed year group teams to trial different approaches and strategies to build resilience and positively impact on raising outcomes. I will keep you updated on the focus of each project and the impact.

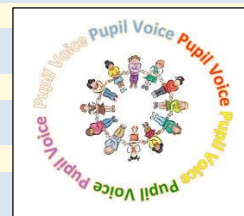
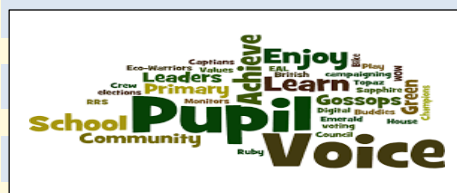
Governors' Visit

Last week two of our governors, Mrs Dix and Mrs Hendley spent a morning in school chatting to some children about their learning.

The governors were keen to find out from the children which subjects they most enjoyed and why. They also asked the children about how they liked to learn and what helped them to understand. Mrs Dix and Mrs Hendley asked the children if they were ever unsure of offering answers in front of the class or if they lacked confidence to share their ideas. They asked what helped them to feel more confident.

The reason for this monitoring visit was to gather the views of the pupils, in this case girls, at the beginning of the term before we embark on a series of initiatives to boost confidence and resilience.

Thank you to our governors for giving up their time to listen to the views of our children, they will be back at the end of term to talk to the children again about their experiences.



Handball Competition

Owls Class (Year 5) were thrilled to take part in a Handball Competition at Prince Henry's Grammar School on Friday 12th January. The competition was attended by the other local primary schools and organised by Prince Henry's sixth form pupils. The logistics of such an event is a huge task to undertake and PHGS students performed brilliantly. The whole event was planned extremely well and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part. They have since written to the organisers to share some of their feelings:

"Thank you for organising the handball tournament, I felt determined and included, I'd love to do it again."

"I now feel like I'm fitter, faster and a more confident handball player after taking part in the tournament."

From the outset our pupils were enthusiastic and raring to go and they worked well in their teams supporting each other, great qualities for a winning team.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the staff and pupils of PHGS for offering Otley pupils the opportunity to take part in such a great event.



This page >>>

- *Dyslexia Friendly*
- *Diary Dates*
- *Online Safety Evening*

Diary Dates

Mon 8th Jan - PTA Meeting
Tues 6th Feb - Year 3 Bun Sale
Fri 26th Jan - Glow Disco!
Mon 5th Feb - PTA Meeting 7:30pm
Thurs 8th Feb - Parents Forum 6:30pm
Fri 9th Feb - Break Up Half Term
Mon 19th Feb - School Re-opens
Sun 25th Feb - Film Afternoon 1:30pm
Thurs 1st March - Mother's Day Stall
Wed 7th March - Year 3 Class Assembly
Mon 12th March - PTA Meeting 7:30pm
Tues 13th March - Year 4 Bun Sale
Wed 21st March - Year 5 Class Assembly
Sat 24th March - Parents & Staff Gardening 10am-12pm
Wed 28th March - Year 4 Assembly
Thurs 29th March - School Closes
Mon 16th April - School Re-Opens
Tues 24th April - Year 1&2 Bun Sale
Mon 14th May - PTA Meeting 7:30pm
Thurs 17th May - Year 3 Herd Farm Trip
Mon 21st May - Year 6 Residential

Dyslexia Friendly School

We always strive to improve our understanding of how best to support children's learning, and to incorporate the most current best practice strategies in to our teaching and learning.

Over the last half term several members of staff have attended Dyslexia workshops run by Calverley Primary school in Leeds.

The workshops have focused on exploring what dyslexia is and its impact from a parent, child and professional's view point. During the workshops, areas of difficulty for children with dyslexia or dyslexic tendencies were identified and what these might look like in the classroom-learning situation.

Colleagues from a number of Leeds primary schools then built an understanding of how to use different approaches, organization and interventions in order to remove, or minimise common barriers children with dyslexia have to their learning.

We aim to adopt and develop a range of strategies across school in order to build a dyslexia friendly environment for all children. Many children may have dyslexic tendencies without ever being diagnosed, and by adapting some of our approaches, even subtly, it may help to remove some of the challenges children face.

Some of the key recommendations were to increase the use of multisensory approaches to teaching e.g. visual prompts, moving from concrete materials to pictorial representations then to abstract ideas, discussing processes with learning partners and 'chunking learning in to small sections. We already use many of these strategies to support learning for all children and our aim is to ensure continuity of approaches across school.

Online Safety Evening

On Tuesday evening staff at PHGS ran an E Safety information evening for their parents. They kindly invited any parents from the primary family of schools to attend if they wished.

The internet is a great tool and enhances learning, creativity and social connections for children when used responsibly. However it can also be a confusing tool and there is much that children and parents need to know about using the internet safely in order to allay fears and keep children protected.

During the evening staff from PHGS shared tips and advice on the safe use of platforms such as YouTube and Google. They also helped parents to understand how to set filters and protection on devices such as iPads and XBOX 360s. Many thanks to PHGS staff for an informative evening.



A final Note:

Please ensure children come to school with suitable coats, hats, gloves and outdoor shoes. You may want to send your child with outdoor shoes/boots for snowy days.

Julia Dickson