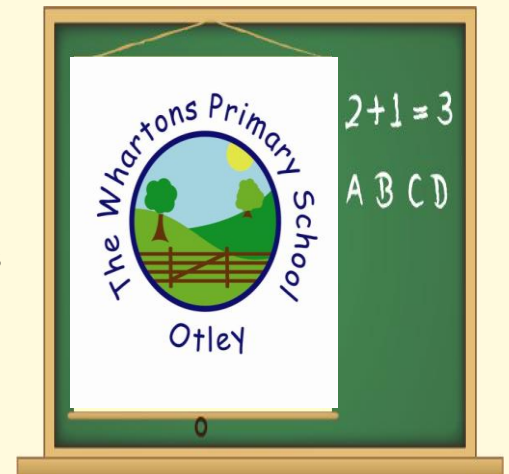


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's Mrs Gomes here, back from maternity leave for some 'Keeping in Touch' days this week and throughout November, before my full time return in December. As I anxiously left my daughter for the first time this morning, I came into school feeling very emotional. However, I was soon made to feel so much better as I was quickly swept back up into the warm, caring arms of The Whartons. With children eager to talk to me about how they've settled into their new classes this year and with so many questions about baby Jennifer, I felt so excited to be working alongside such delightful and enthusiastic young minds again. I also had the privilege of seeing the whole school art day in full swing and what a privilege it was! With all staff and children so passionately involved, it really was a joy to be a part of and makes me feel very proud to be working at a school which values children's learning and development in all areas of the curriculum. I very much look forward to seeing more of everyone over the coming weeks.



## Assembly

Well done everyone who received certificates in assembly for their fabulous work or fantastic attitudes.

Reception - All

Year 1 - All

Year 2 - All

Year 3 - Thomas & Raheema

Year 4 - Millie and Molly

Year 5- Josh & Harry

Year 6 - Freya & Millie

## *Y4 Road Safety Workshop*

On Thursday 12th October, Year 4 were lucky enough to be joined by Wendy from Leeds City Council, to learn about Pedestrian safety. It was a very busy day with the children learning all about road safety in class and then heading out into the local area to show that they could cross roads safely. The children, as always, showed super behaviour and were full of questions to deepen their understanding.



## Parents Evenings

As we approach the end of our first half term of the year, this week saw our first parent consultation evenings; an opportunity to discuss how children have settled into their new classes and how they are getting on in all different areas of their development. With such hard work and determination from children across all parts of school, it was lovely to have such positive feedback from parents. Of course, our doors are always open if you would like to discuss any worries or concerns at any time throughout the year.

- **Y2 Trip**
- **Mrs Dickson in court!**
- **Whole School art day**

### Jury Service

I have been absent from school for the most part of the last two weeks due to being requested to attend Jury Service.

The whole experience has been fascinating and it will be interesting to share with the older children about the justice process and how by working together with other jurors and discussing the best approaches we all felt we had helped people who had been the victim of wrong doing.

York Crown Court is a very old listed building so the atmosphere and grandeur was inspiring at times, this was added to by the presence of the judge and lawyers in their gowns and wigs.

I have missed all the children though and I am pleased my day job is in school and not in court.

Have a lovely half term break and I look forward to welcoming you all back.

## *Year 2 Visit Harlow Carr*

On Wednesday, the Dragonflies (Year 2) went to Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate for a school trip. We went there because we have a unit of science about plants and they have a really good workshop about plants and the children get to go out and experience different trees around the gardens.

Oriah was dressed up as a plant as we discussed different parts of the plant. We also looked at some exotic, unusual seeds and their cases.

Then we went outside on a seed hunt around different types of trees, gathering acorns, beech nuts and some sycamore seeds. After that, the children planted their own calendula seeds to take back to school.

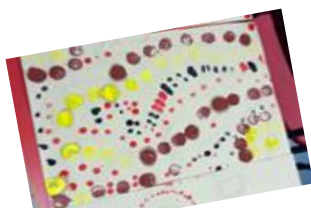
After lunch, we walked up to the outside classroom, where the children did some exploring finding different ways to identify and describe trees. Then we walked further through the woods to the Glade where we worked in groups to measure the height of the trees using our thumbs (ask a Year 2 to explain).

The children were brilliant all day and we had a lovely time. It didn't even rain until the last half hour of our visit! A big thank you to Mrs Lister and Mrs Peacock for coming with us.

Written by the Dragonflies.

## Whole School Art Day

Well WOW! What a treat we all had for a very grey and dull Monday morning this week as children turned up for a whole school Art Day at The Whartons, organised by Mrs Maderville and Mrs Matthews. The day is just one of our 'WOW' experience days planned for this year, aimed at inspiring and exciting children in their learning across all different aspects of the curriculum. Working in different classes across the school, children from all year groups were given the opportunity to create work in the style of different artists or from different cultures. From aboriginal art with Mr Fisk to graffiti art inspired by Banksy with Mr Hampson, children were able to really get their creative juices flowing. Visiting many of the classes on the day, I was greeted with so many smiles and so many children excitedly telling me all about their work. Asked if they were enjoying art day, lots agreed 'Yes' and that it had been much fun. Olivia Sutcliffe from Year 4 perhaps best summarised how many of us felt when she stated that 'art day allows us to be ourselves – we get to show who we really are.' I couldn't agree more on the importance of this creative side of the curriculum allowing a space for all children to shine. Our next whole school WOW day is planned for November so watch this space!



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- *Cross Country*
- *Diary Dates*
- *Harvest Festival*

## **Diary Dates**

20th October - Break up for half term.  
30th October - School re- opens for years 1-6 (Reception training day).  
3rd November - Yr6 trip to Eden Camp.  
3rd November - PTA 'Spooktacular' Disco.  
6th November - Open Day.  
7th November - Reception phonics open morning.  
7th November - Yr5 bun sale.  
9th November - Yr6 Class assembly.  
15th November - Open Day.  
16th November - Nasal Flu Immunisation (Years Reception to Year 4).  
16th November - KS1 SATS Evening (6pm)  
17th November - INSET day.  
22nd November - Yr5 trip to Headingley Water Works.  
15th December - School Closes for Christmas

## **Cross Country Event**

On Tuesday 10th October 2017, the Whartons Cross-Country squad took part in the inter-schools competition hosted at Wharfe Meadows Park. All children performed to their very best and represented the school magnificently. Stand out performers were the Year 5 and 6 teams who managed to finish in the top 5 for each of their respective categories. A special mention has to go to Ewan French (Yr6) who came second in his race. Well done to everyone involved.



## **Harvest Festival**

Last Friday all the children walked down to Bridge Street Church for our annual Harvest Festival and what a fabulous event it was.

The weather was kind and all the children, alongside a team of parent volunteers and staff, marched briskly all the way down to the church and back without getting wet! The children's fabulous donations took two car loads to transport so thank you so much to parents. This year the donations will be added to the church's and be distributed between Caring for Life in Otley, where the projects support vulnerable people and the homeless, and the Edge project, which supports young people in making positive changes to their lives.

The classes performed a range of songs and poems with Yr6 sharing their research of food from across the world. The service was a celebration of the harvest period which considered how fortunate we are to have enough to eat and a consideration of those less fortunate.

I want to thank all those who contributed, helped out on the day or came to join us.

Thank you too to Rev Jason McCullagh and the Bridge Church community for making us so welcome.



***A final Note:*** It really has been a pleasure to return to work for a couple of days this week and feel the warmth, enthusiasm and positivity that is so apparent here at The Whartons. I wish you all a happy half term holiday and look forward to catching up with lots of you over the coming weeks before my return on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

*Carolyn Gomes (Deputy Head)*