

The Whartons' Newsletter

17/7/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well this academic year is finally drawing to a close and I know it will be the most unusual and unforgettable period of my teaching career.

I could not be more proud of all the children, parents and staff at The Whartons for their resilience, tenacity, bravery, thoughtfulness and community spirit through a truly life changing experience.

I wish everyone a peaceful and safe summer break. I am so excited about September and seeing the whole school community together again.



Assemblies

I hope you have managed to access my 'Loom' assemblies over the last few weeks. As more people have discovered the program, unfortunately the recordings have become a little more unreliable. I therefore apologise that my assemblies have been uploaded at some random times. I hope it has given you a chance to discuss with your children some of the 'changes' that have, and will happen, over this time and how that we need to try and not to worry too much. Mindfulness and engaging in the moment is a technique we utilise at school to help children relax.

Zoom Class Meetings

Over the last two weeks it has been lovely to see and hear the Zoom whole class meetings with teachers and children, both in school and at home. Last week teachers hosted Zoom meetings with their current classes. It was a great opportunity for children who have not been able to meet at school to share stories and exchange greetings. This week to replace our usual 'class swap' days teachers have hosted transition Zoom meetings with their new classes. It has been an opportunity to meet their teacher and chat about routines for next year.

Teachers have also filmed virtual tours of the classrooms and explained where resources live, weekly timetables and changes in September.



Artistic Talent

I know that one area of the curriculum has received a fabulous boost over the lockdown period, the development and honing of children's artistic skills, both in school and at home. Teachers and children have found ways to work independently but then share work collaboratively. Miss Dickson and some Y1 children have started an art project for the outdoor space which can be built on and completed by more groups of children when they return in September.



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Diary Dates

Friday 17th July-School Closes

for the Summer Break

Monday 7th September-

Training Day

Tuesday 8th September-School

Reopens

2020-21 Training Days

23rd Oct 2020

4th Jan 2021

26th June 2021

27th June 2021

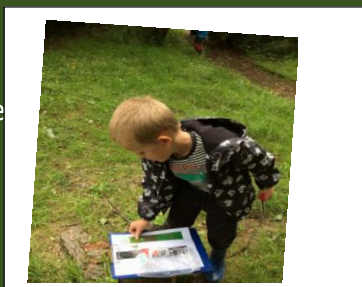
Newts find a Newt in the Wild Life Area

Outdoor learning has carried on despite the weather this week. Newts' class, in socially distanced 'bubbles' spent Tuesday afternoon up in the wildlife area.

They carried out bug hunts, made dens and used 'keys' to identify plants and animals. The children had a wonderful time exploring the area and thinking about changes that the season of Summer brings to the plants, animals and different habitats that can be found there.

As all the trees are now in full leaf they provide rich areas for animals to live and feed. The children had to be really careful not to disturb the wildlife and really quiet and still in order to see any creatures at all. They were rewarded for their patience though when they spotted an actual Newt in the under growth. The children were incredibly excited to tell me all about it when they got back in to school and show me the fabulous pictures they took.

Well done Newts!



Virtual Sports Day

Unfortunately we have missed many of the great activities and fun days which were planned for the Summer Term this year.

We had booked a whole school trip down to PHGS again this year for the 'Giant inflatables Fun Day' and of course there would have been Whartons Fest on the field as well as the leavers assembly and sports day, to name but a few.

However all has not been lost, Mr Hampson organized The Whartons' participation in a virtual sports day for all the children whether at home or at school last week. I know the children in school had a brilliant time carrying out individual timed challenges and uploading their personal best scores to the Leeds Youth Sports Trust website, alongside many other schools., Also on Friday the Y6 children will be gathering together (socially distanced of course) on the school field for a leavers picnic and sharing a leavers video through Google Classrooms. We have also already penciled in the whole school inflatables fun day for next year and Whartons Fest is in the calendar and will be bigger and better than ever.



A final Note:

I hope you manage to have a positive break and the weather is kind. Myself and the staff are excitedly looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September. Things may look a little different, there may be a few more rules and we will all have to take care of each other, but it will be fantastic to be back together again. All my best wishes. *Julia Dickson*