

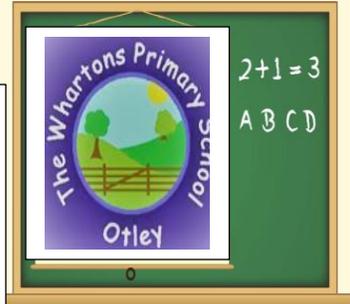
27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is very strange being in school without the vast majority of the children. We all miss them and hope everyone is coping at home.

The children and staff who have been in school each day have been a tonic; they have enjoyed their learning and playing.

Our thoughts also go out to the front line staff who are continuing to ensure that key functions and critical support mechanisms keep going through this crisis. Thanks to all of them and to my staff who are making sure we can stay open for children whose parents are working.



Planting a Woodland

Before the recent crisis I secured 50+ free woodland trees from the Carbon Footprint company, in order that we could create a new woodland habitat on our school field. The woodland copse will hopefully be a legacy moving forward, a safe haven for wildlife and a small contribution to Otley 2030's pledge for sustainability and promotion of carbon neutrality. The trees needed to be planted before the end of March and so the small team of staff and children in school this week have worked together (organised by Mr Fisk) to create our woodland area. It will be many years before the woodland is established but the children can watch it grow and welcome the new wildlife it will bring. It will be a positive symbol of community during this troubled period.

Rainbows

The children at school earlier this week wanted to send a message to their friends to 'keep smiling'. They chalked on the playground and made rainbows to stick on the windows

Rainbows are used as a symbol of peace and hope as they often appear when the sun follows a heavy rainfall. They serve to remind us that there is hope and light to follow even after dark times.



Practicing Key Skills

The children who have been attending school have spent time on their reading, spelling and key maths skills as everyone has at home. They have then been creative in the afternoons. It would be lovely to see your pictures of how you have been spending time at home. Remember to send them to Mrs Mellor at info@whartonsprimary.co.uk. so she can put them on the Home Learning Section of the website to keep everyone connected.

A final Note:

More information will come out next week about the launch of our online Google classroom and how you can set your children up to access this. Stay safe. *Julia Dickson*

