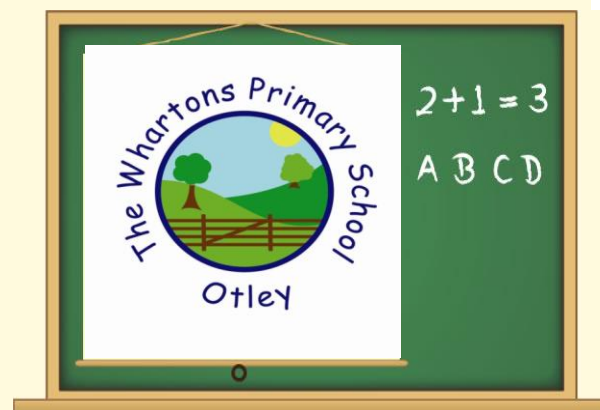


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I find it hard to believe we have been back at school for almost a month. Autumn has definitely arrived with its beautiful colours and changing landscape. There is much to look forward to in school over the coming weeks from Harvest Festival to a pumpkin disco. Please remember though that although the sun is still often shining it is getting chilly so could you please send children to school in suitable coats and shoes to deal with the changing weather.



## Assembly Themes

The theme of our assemblies over the last two weeks has been 'Being Me in My World'. We have focused on making informed choices and decisions; taking time to consider how our decisions may affect others. The following children received certificates.

Well done to : Rec- Ebony P, William H; Year 1 –Jacob P, Skye L, Thomas L, Lucas B; Year 2 – Freddie EW, Will J, Oliver D, Zak F; Year 3 – Evelyn A, Olivia C, Harry D, Michael B; Year 4 – Amber P, Ellie H, Cory H, Oluchi N; Year 5 – Katie W, Harry C, Liam R, Aysa O; Year 6 – Michael C, Lois CY, George C, Seth K.

## Parking in the school grounds

Parking inside the school gates is only permitted when visiting school for a specific appointment in the day and for those dropping off at Breakfast club before 8.30 and picking up from after school club after 3.30. Driving in to the school carpark at drop off and pick up is not permitted.

When dropping off and picking up from before and after school clubs please do not park against the wooden fence as this is for staff parking. Teachers are arriving for school and finding there are no parking places or having to wait for cars to leave.

Please also remember that this is a car park and children do need to be escorted to the door as they do not always remember the dangers of cars arriving and departing and as the evenings draw in small children walking (or darting) across the car park are very hard to see.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this matter.

## Thanks to the Parent's Association Committee

Sadly at the AGM of the Parent's Association last week we bid goodbye to some of the hard working members of the committee. Claire Peacock has worked tirelessly over the last 3 years to organise and run a plethora of events and raised an incredible £7k in the last year alone. Claire had been ably assisted by Vice Treasurer Becky Lister, Heidi Hunter and Liz Clayton. As a school we would like to thank them for all the time they have invested and the incredible advantages it has brought the children not only in the fun of attending the events but also the resources for school which we wouldn't be able to buy out of our budget. It is time however for Claire, Becky, Heidi, and Liz to hand over the gauntlet and take a well-earned break from fundraising. Thank you to Lou Etherton and El Bowman who stepped up as joint chairs and Helen Bona for continuing as treasurer assisted by Laura Cook and Richard Marshall. In order that the jobs aren't too onerous the Parent's Association need volunteers to form small groups and take on one event each eg bun sales. In this way the Parent's Association can continue and everyone shares the load. Please let the committee know if you could help and watch out for their first newsletter.

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- School Council Elections
- Afternoon Tea
- Parent Forum

## *Afternoon Tea*

I spent a very civilised break time with Y2 last week. They were the first class to land on a Chance card in our new Otleyopoly game and draw out the treat of tea with Mrs Dickson; more of a treat for me I feel.



It was a lovely event and all the children entered in to the spirit of polite conversation and relaxation in pleasant surroundings.

I want to thank Mrs Dolphin and Mrs Gibson who dressed the table for us and set out a spread of dainty mini buns and juice.

Another class to secure a Chance card treat were Y6 who enjoyed a non-uniform day.

It was a super start to our class game as all the year groups reached their 97% attendance for the week and got to role the dice on the school game board. Keep it up children!

## **School Council Elections**

Following democratic tradition we embarked on school council elections last week. The children who wished to run as representatives for their classes produced presentations and their classmates enjoyed casting their votes in a central polling box.

The new school councillors are:

Year 1: Una J-C, Jacob P  
Year 2: Lottie S, Thomas H  
Year 3: Phoebe S, Solomon B  
Year 4: Monica G, Ethan S  
Year 5: Natalie B, Katie W, Joshua K  
Year 6: Olive P, Mackenzie H

I am sure they will have lots of great ideas for improvements to the school which they will canvas their classes about and bring to our fortnightly meetings. I look forward to working with them on their preferred projects.



## **Parent Forum**

Many thanks to all those parents who managed to join us for our first Parent Forum of the year. Parent forums are an opportunity to share with you aspects of some of the work we have undertaken at school and explain any new initiatives.

This term we wanted to share with parents the work we have undertaken to secure improvements in the areas Ofsted highlighted in their recommendations, on our journey towards securing a 'Good' judgement. We have been fortunate to have worked with many different partners over the last year and adopt many new approaches and strategies to support teaching and learning.

I also want to thank our Head and Deputy Head Girls and Boys who brilliantly explained some of the changes and share their opinion of the impact they have had on the quality of learning. If you were unable to make it to the meeting, we have posted the powerpoint presentation on the website.

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- *Cross Country*
- *Learning Focus Groups*
- *Diary dates*

## Diary Dates

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Sept**–Macmillan Coffee Morning  
**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Parents Association meeting 7.15pm  
**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Oct**–Yr 6 SATS & Residential meeting–6pm  
**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Oct**–Harvest Festival 1.30pm @ Bridge Church  
**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** –Parents Evening  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Oct** –Yr 2 visit Harlow Carr  
**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Oct** – EYFS Training Day (reception children only)  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Yr 6 assembly  
**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** – OPEN DAY  
**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Oct** – School closes for half term.

## Cross Country Competition

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September the KS2 Cross Country team took part in a city wide competition at Wharfe Meadows.

The weather was kind and the children fully enjoyed the whole experience. All the pupils tried incredibly hard and represented the school exceptionally well as usual. Thanks to the whole team including parents who helped escort the children. A special mention goes to Ethan (Y4), Olive (Y6), Bethany (Y5) and Sam (Y5) who all finished in the top 10 in their categories. Well done everyone.



## Focus Learning Groups

We are focusing on improving our approaches to interventions this year; reconsidering how we most effectively support and challenge children to move learning forwards in specific areas.

All children have been assigned to a 'Focused Learning Group' appropriate to their area of need, whether that be to encourage a love of reading, build expertise in analysing texts, hone their skills as writers or develop the ability to think deeply and reason about a particular subject area.

The Focused Learning Groups are timetabled for the same session each week with all children assigned to a group. This was an approach we observed working well at Bramhope Primary during our work with them last year.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first few Focused Learning Group sessions.



***A final Note:*** As I write this I am looking forward to our coffee morning and hope to see many of you there to share a sweet treat with.

*Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)*