

17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has the autumn term gone? I can't quite believe what we have faced and conquered as a school community this term.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to you as parents for your patience and support in the face of many changes. Although we are getting used to being flexible and adaptable.

The children of course have been super resilient as always and have worked incredibly hard this term with their teachers to build their learning and close any gaps from last year. They have enjoyed learning across the curriculum and through their various topics from studying the life of the Ancient Egyptians to how Britons coped in World War I and II; from finding out about life near the seaside and changes in toys over the recent past.



Assembly Themes

Our assemblies for this term are all about Celebrating Differences. We celebrated People with Disabilities Day, the theme of which this year is not all disabilities are visible. I discussed with the children how abilities and disabilities are what make everyone unique, and all people want to be treated with respect, included, and given the opportunity to achieve the very best. We discussed Rose from Strictly who has been a superb ambassador for the deaf community. I asked the children to think about how they could support, encourage and celebrate everyone.

Mrs Lambert donates oak trees

Head pupils Julia, Oliver and Eli were delighted to welcome Mrs Peggie Lambert to The Whartons Primary School Last week.

Otley resident Mrs Lambert, a former schoolteacher and very active 101-year-old, enjoys her garden and all the wildlife within it. Recently, some resident jays had taken to planting acorns, in the garden. The acorns had sprouted into small oak saplings across the garden. Not wanting good young trees go to waste, Mrs Lambert contacted Neil Griffith, from Otley Wildlife Arts Festival, to enquire if he knew of any schools who may want the saplings. Neil, who had worked with us on a rewilding project for our school field, knew school was in the process of planting trees and shrubs to create a wildlife corridor, connecting habitats at different ends of the school grounds and would welcome the trees. Thanks Peggie, we hope they like their new home.



Reception Class Christmas Card Creations

The creative provision area in the reception classroom was a riot of glitter, feathers and all things festive last week. The Reception children have shown great creativity in making their Christmas cards. They came up with their own design ideas and chose their resources carefully. Such beautiful and unique Christmas cards! I know parents will love them and they will get pride of place.



- **Y1 Authors**
- **Elf on the shelf**
- **Panto Trip**

Year 4's Naughty Elf on a Shelf

Year 4 were horrified when they arrived at school this morning to a vision of chaos in their classroom. For the last few weeks, they have had a resident elf living on their shelf at the front of the room and largely the elf has been helpful and well behaved. The Y4 Elf was sent by Santa to work alongside the children, checking their great attitudes and helpfulness, then reporting back to Santa. The children gave the elf the name 'Snowflake Steve', which he really liked. Unfortunately, Snowflake Steve can be a little mischievous, Mr Hampson and Miss Glover think that Santa wanted Steve to learn how to behave from the Y4 children. He covered the furniture in loo roll one night and on Tuesday evening he really went to town, the children were shocked. They will need to think of a suitable consequence.



Year 1s become Authors

It was wonderful to visit the year 1 classroom last week and witness a writing workshop in action.

The children have been reading stories, acting out story plots, discussing elements of a good story and developing their sentence writing.

As a culmination of all their hard work in English over the last few weeks the children became authors.

Miss Dalzell had created mini books for the children to fill with a story.

They worked together on a piece of guided writing to create and describe the characters.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their morning as authors, giving their English writing lesson a guiding purpose.

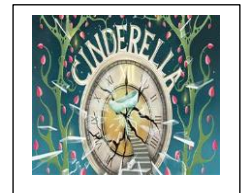
Fantastic stories children and some amazing writing. Keep up the good work.



The Whartons Take a Trip to the Pantomime.....Oh yes they did!

It is such a long time since we embarked upon a whole school trip. A couple of years ago we took the whole of KS2 to watch a pantomime at Harrogate Theatre, the children had such a fantastic time we decided that we would be brave and take the whole school the next year. Unfortunately, COVID came, and plans were shelved. In September, when things began to open up again, Mr. Fisk and Mr. Hampson got to work organizing the whole school Pantomime excursion. There were trials along the way with ever changing risk assessments and government announcements; but finally, with lots of safety measures in place, we managed to realise the plan.

It was such a magical day and an incredible experience for the children as many had never been in a theatre or watched live actors. The bus journey to the theatre was also another adventure and a first for many children. To watch the engagement, enthusiasm, awe and wonder made all the trials worthwhile. Thank you so much to all the staff and volunteers for supervising the children, Connexions bus company and Harrogate Theatre for a wonderful day.



This page >>>

- Scientific Investigations
- Christmas productions

Diary Dates

4th January – Training Day.

5th January – School Reopens for all.

10th January – School Nursing Team visiting Reception & Year 6

11th February – Training Day.

18th February – School breaks up for half term.

Scientific Investigations

This year Mr Young, our science leader, is working towards the Primary Science Quality Mark. As part of Mr Young's development plan for science teaching across the Whartons he has introduced lots of new and improved initiatives from science assessments, teacher training and many new and exciting approaches.

We have always had a 'big' focus on working scientifically, which the children adore. Mr Young, as part of his research around the continual improvements in the teaching of science, has now introduced 5 different scientific investigation types.

These areas of investigation have been introduced in all classes and the children will build their skills in working scientifically across their journey through school.

The working scientifically approaches include:

Comparative and fair testing; identifying, classifying and grouping; observing over time; pattern seeking and research using secondary sources.

Y3 had a great time carrying out comparative testing on a range of different rocks. They tested which were the most porous and least hardwearing.



Nativity and Carol Concerts

Thank you so much to all the children, staff and parents who made the KS1 nativity and KS2 carol concerts such fabulous events.

It has been such a long time since we welcomed parents into school as an audience to share in their children's talented performances. I am so grateful to parents who followed our guidance of wearing face masks and lateral flow testing to help keep us all as safe as possible.

The children were incredible, and I think the performances were even more poignant due to the hiatus in traditional festive celebrations. It is hard to believe that in the Nativity the Y2 children were the only ones who had been on stage before, they carried the narration and main parts with such confidence. Year 1 and Reception children were fabulous singers and dancers; we were so proud of them. KS2's traditional carol concert in at Bridge Street Church was magical and really did mark the beginning to the Christmas season and cheer. I hope everyone has a lovely festive break and was 'put in the mood' by our productions.



A final Note:

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New year. Also, a huge thank you to our student Miss Glover who will be moving on to Saltergate Primary next term. We wish you all the best for the future. *Julia Dickson*