

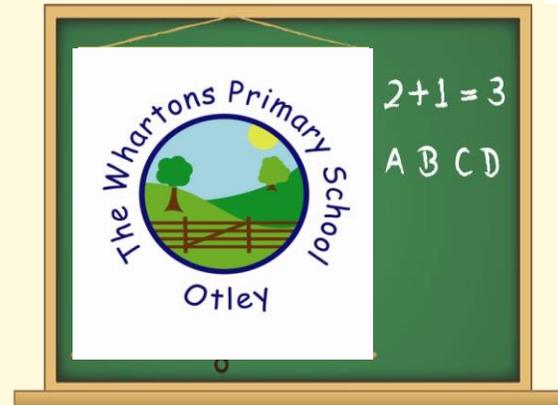
# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well we have definitely seen plenty of the legendary 'March Winds' early over the last couple of weeks; it has been challenging keeping up with the weather changes on the playground at times with four seasons in one day on many an occasion.

The half term has started well and already the children have enjoyed several themed learning days.



## Assembly Themes

We rounded off our Jigsaw theme of 'Goals and Dreams' last week in assembly by thinking about how great achievements can emerge from the smallest 'dot' or first step. We shared experiences of times when we really didn't know where to start and how a brave first step can lead, with the right encouragement and support, to great things.

Well done to the following children who have received certificates :

Rec: Samwise B, Frank C, Alice M & Gracie A

Yr1: Brodie T, Sky L, Lucy P & Oriah N

Yr2: Millie M, Lottie S, James M & Kayce-Jayne C    Yr3: Were swimming    Yr4: Evan A, Jack B, Lea E & Amber P

Yr5: Everyone in Year 5

Yr6: Gustav T, Arthur B, Seth K & Rory C-Y

## *Cluster Survey/Pupil Questionnaire*

As you are aware we work closely with all the other local schools in the Otley, Bramhope and Pool Cluster to improve outcomes for all children across a wide range of areas.

In order to enhance our provision for children in regards to extra curricular opportunities the Cluster commit to providing clubs and activities within our own schools and across the partnership, through after school and holiday clubs. We are always striving to plan opportunities which children enjoy.

Last week a member of the Cluster Planning Team visited schools to talk to the children about the provision of clubs and holiday activities. The aim was to gauge which activities the children engage with, what they particularly enjoy and how the activity programme could be improved. Representatives from each of the classes talked to Mrs Bowes-Taylor and completed questionnaires, which should help to build on the great provision already in place. Thank you to the children for their valuable contributions and remember to look out for the activity programme during the next holiday which is a super way to make new friends from across the area.

## *Parent Forum*

I would like to take this opportunity to re invite parents to our rearranged Parent Forum on 14th March at 6.30pm which will be focused on sharing the themes of our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education scheme of work. The scheme is called Jigsaw and covers areas of PSHCE in overarching themes such as Goals and Dreams, Healthy Me, Being Me in my World, Changing Me, Relationships and Celebrating Difference.

We will be sharing the content of all the themes alongside how we integrate PSHCE sessions into the curriculum. There will be a particular focus on the content of sex and relationship education and how this is developed through the Jigsaw scheme across the primary phase. There will be opportunities for parents to ask questions and share any concerns.

We hope to see many of you there, please fill in the reply slip on the invitation letter to confirm your attendance.

- World Book Day
- Teaching and Learning Review
- UK Theme day

### *World Book Day*

In celebration of World Book Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Mr Fisk, our English leader, is organising a special theme day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

A delicious book inspired menu is being created by the kitchen staff and everyone one will be wearing story related costumes. Personally I enjoy to be really cosy and relaxed when I embark on a reading session, and as a result I will be wearing a pair of PJs. I can't wait to see the array of book characters or reading related costumes on show. Let's celebrate a real love of reading!

As we continue our journey of improvement and build on the good practice which is abundant within school we requested, and engaged in a follow up Teaching and Learning Review two weeks ago.

At the end of the summer term representatives from the local authority, led by Peter Marsh, who is also an experienced Ofsted Inspector, carried out a review of progress towards our Ofsted targets. The review went extremely well and I shared the report with you, also publishing the outcomes on the website. In order to continue our good work and embed the improvements there were some recommendations from the review for us to work on.

On 8th of February I received a phone call from Peter giving notice that a follow up review would be taking place the next day. Some of you may have seen and spoken to one of the team on the playground. The review was carried out following an Ofsted style format where advisors observed lessons, scrutinized books, analysed pupil data and strategic plans and not least talked in depth with the children. I am pleased to say the review went very well and the report praises the further improvements made, calling this 'impressive'. I want to thank everyone for their support and hard work, especially the children. You can read the report on the website

## UK Day

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed an exciting UK Day. This was a full day dedicated to focusing on Geography skills; learning about the four UK countries and their capital cities. The children split into four mixed age groups and went off to 'visit' the four countries and learn about them in exciting, creative ways.

Each child was given a UK passport to take on their journey. Once there, they used maps to locate the country and capital city, discovered interesting facts and took part in a focused activity. In England, they wrote a postcard from an imagined visit to London; in Scotland they baked Scottish flapjack; in Wales, they created daffodil, dragon or castle art work and in Northern Ireland they learnt an Irish jig!

The children (and staff) came to school wearing clothes or colours associated with the UK and everyone had a fantastic day where they learnt lots. Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to organise and deliver such an exciting day.



## This page >>>

- *KS1&2 Glow Disco*
- *Library Refurbishment*

## Diary Dates

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**-World Book Day in School

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**-Reception Writing Morning 9am-10.30am

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**-Parents Evening- 3.30pm-5.30pm

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**-Yr 1 Assembly- 9.15am

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**-Parents Evening 3.30pm-7pm

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March**-Training Day

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** Parent Forum- Jigsaw/PSHCE 6.30pm

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**-Yr2 SATS Evening 6pm

## Glow Stick Disco

What a lovely evening we all had last Friday at this term's disco. The theme for this term's disco was Glow party. Some children arrived already decorated in fluorescent face and body patterns which looked amazing under the UV lights whilst the rest of the children bought fluorescent glow sticks which really added to the party atmosphere.

The discos are always a firm favourite with the children and it is always great to watch them enjoying themselves so much with their friends. The DJ kept the atmosphere upbeat and got all the children involved with lively music, group dances and the obligatory bubbles and foam machine.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to run the disco and those who came along to supervise.

## Thank You to The Parent's Association

Last week the eagerly awaited new furniture for the library refresh arrived. The school council threw themselves in to the job of rehousing our book collection in to the new bright and colourful bookcases with gusto! The task is quite large and it may take us a week or so to complete, but the children are really enjoying the challenge. Mr Reynard is in the process of adding a little colour to the walls to complement the new look and we have decided to make one of our breakout rooms into an area where children can research; we will be calling it 'The Study'.

Of course none of this would be possible without the fantastic work of the Parent's Association who have paid for the new furniture and provided the children with a budget for new books. School councillors have been gathering the children's requests for genres of books which need boosting in the library. With ever reducing budgets it is increasingly impossible to enhance the learning environment from school funds and so the work of the Parents Association really is essential.

I am concerned that this role may not continue if more volunteers don't come forward to boost the ranks of these hardworking parents, who enhance so many areas of school for **all** children. We will soon need new laptops and would like to install a covered area in the wildlife garden. These projects will not be possible without the support of the PA. Please could I ask that you consider offering your help to the PA committee in whatever small way to ensure this group is able to continue. Many thanks to those who already do.



**A final Note:** Remember we have Parents' Evenings on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, then a Training Day on 10<sup>th</sup> March, next Friday, when school will be closed. Enjoy a long weekend.

*Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)*