

The Whartons' Newsletter

29th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a super start to the new year. It has been such a lovely September it has made the task of ensuring adequate ventilation in classrooms a much easier job than I anticipated. Please be mindful however that we will still need to have good ventilation through open doors and windows, even as the weather turns colder. I therefore ask that you send children to school with 'layers' of clothes which can be added and taken off as necessary. The children always need a jumper and a coat. You may also want to think about vest tops under their uniforms too.



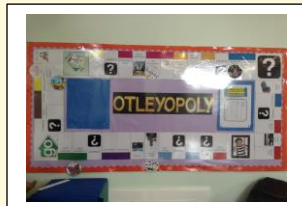
Assembly Themes

Our assemblies for this term are all about Being Me in my World, where the children are asked to think about their role within the community and how they can support each other to feel part of their school and make our school the best it can be. We have talked about school rules and routines which have changed a little this year. We have more altogether time which is fabulous, but this brings with it the need to remember how we behave around school and towards each other.

At certificate assemblies on Friday morning all the classes celebrated children's achievements and hard work with teachers awarding the certificates all together in the hall once again.

Otleyopoly

As we are all together again in the hall for assemblies on a Monday and a Friday Celebration assembly we have been able to reintroduce Otleyopoly. For those families who are new, or those who have forgotten, Classes can earn a roll of the dice and move their class counter around the Otleyopoly board if they reach collectively over 97% attendance across the week. If their class land on a chance card they have the opportunity to earn a class reward. This is a fun way to raise the profile of attendance, which will be a focus across the year. Unless really unwell (or with COVID symptoms) children need to be in school to have the best opportunity to close any gaps caused by successive lockdowns.

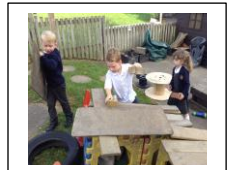


Settling In!

It has been a joy to visit the Reception classroom over the last few weeks and see just how well our youngest children are settling into school life.

The children are embracing all the new routines and making some great friends as they do so. There is so much exciting and creative learning taking place in all the different provision areas in the classroom provision

I have seen budding engineers in the construction area and potential authors in the writing corner. The children love to listen to, and talk about, stories and all sorts of books so Mrs Matthews is busy creating story sacks with activities for the children to borrow and take home.



- Year 1 investigate
- Year 2 Class Author
- Year 5 Drama

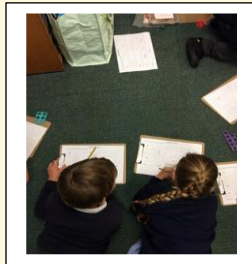
Year 1 Investigate

The Year 1 children have been thoroughly enjoying their collaborative group work over the last couple of weeks. It has been amazing to see their determination and concentration as they discover through trial and error.

It is fascinating to hear the children's learning conversations as they identify patterns and make connections in the maths and English provision areas.



These practical investigations support and challenge children. They enable them to secure their understanding of key maths and phonics concepts. Carry on the creativity Year 1!



Year 2 Class Author

Each class have been introduced to their class authors over the last couple of weeks, and it is lovely to see the children's interest in exploring their author more closely and reading some of their books.

Year 2's class author is Anthony Browne who has written a plethora of clever and engaging picture books.

The children have started by studying his books 'Mum' and 'Dad'.

The stories have inspired them to write about their own mums or dads.

They have gathered interesting facts, super photographs or descriptions and have presented them beautifully as a class display.

Well done year 2, it has been fascinating and at times funny reading all about members of your families. Fantastic writing skills too!



Drama in Year 5

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed themselves getting 'dramatic' in the hall last week.

The class had been watching some video clips of the Charlie and The Chocolate Factory film as a stimulus to fire their imaginations. In the short clip they saw some of the amazing and outlandish creating rooms within Willy Wonker's factory. They saw the nut sorting room full of squirrels and the fizzy drinks lifting room.

Mr Fisk then tasked the children with creating their own 'new and unique' room for the factory and demonstrating it through drama and in a tableaux.

The children had some inventive ideas including a chocolate snake room, sounds delicious! The groups then had to gather as many descriptive words as they could to match their room creation. Their words will build the children's vocabulary and be used to explore spelling patterns and tiered vocabulary types.



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- Year 6
Bikeability
- Year 3&4
Outdoor
Learning

Diary Dates

Friday 1st Oct-Training
Day

Monday 4th Oct-Nasal
Flu Vaccination Day

Year 4 Class Cake Sale

Tues 19th & Thurs 21st
Oct-Virtual Parents Eve

Thurs 21st Oct-
Individual School
Photos

Fri 22nd Oct-Break Up
for Half Term

Mon 1st Nov-School
Reopens

Y6 get pedaling

Y6 children had a great start to the new year, spending a couple of days last week with Leeds Bikeability Team.

As always the team of instructors were incredibly impressed with the mature, considerate and thoughtful behaviour of the children whilst riding around the local area.

It is important that children have the opportunity, to learn how to use their bikes confidently and safely as a mode of transport. In a time when we are ever more conscious of our carbon footprint and the importance of reducing our greenhouse gases, it is vital that older children are able to 'do their bit' for the environment, whilst engaging in healthy activity.

As parents though, you need to know that your child understands the potential dangers of riding on the roads, even those around the school housing estate. That they are competent in reading the road and following the safest route.

Many children enjoy riding to school here at The Whartons but even more enjoy the freedom of cycling to school when the move up to PHGS. We want to thank the Bikeability Team for providing this vital training for our children, which prepares them for next year and cycling into the future



Year 3 and 4 embrace outdoor learning

Year 3 really made the most of the lovely September weather last week as they took their English lessons outside. The class English unit of work for the beginning of the term is exploring and creating poetry. Writing creative poetry often needs a powerful stimulus and can help create a vivid picture with words about an event, place, feeling etc. With this in mind Mr Young took the children into the wildlife area on a senses 'immersion'. Children worked together to gather descriptive words and phrases to use in their own poetry. The resulting poems were fabulous.

Year 4 also embraced the opportunity to take their learning outside, this time the lesson was art, as part of the class golden time enrichment. The class studied the sculptor, Andy Goldsworthy. Goldsworthy is famous for creating beautiful but temporary sculptures using natural materials and created in outdoor spaces. The idea behind these works of art is that they are created in the outdoors and eventually the elements such as wind, rain or tides will deconstruct them again. The children had a fantastic time creating their own masterpieces in the same style as Goldsworthy.



A final Note:

The Year 6 children have been presenting their manifesto speeches to the rest of school this week as the Pupil Leader roles are up for election. They have done a marvelous job so far and I am so proud of their bravery and brilliant ideas. Well done to all of you!

Julia Dickson