

# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 28th April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all of you. I hope you managed to have a relaxing Easter holiday and enjoy some of the beautiful spring weather during the first week.

The children have settled well in to their new learning themes for this term which include: Exploring Scotland, Who Was Beatrix Potter and studying aspects of Black History and World Climate Zones.



## Assembly Themes

Our new Jigsaw theme for this half term is focused on building successful relationships. We considered in assembly what characteristics and behaviours we should try to 'bring' each day in order to make positive relationships, such as; compassion, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and humility. Well done to the following children who have tried hard to be the best they can be this week;

Reception - Tommy R and Athene F

Year 1 - Matilda W and Oriah N

Year 2 - Freddy EW and William J

Year 3 - Seren JG and Elise F

Year 4 - Whole Class

Year 5 - James W and Lily C

Year 6 - Joseph F and Isobel W

## Whartons After School Club

I know many of you use our wonderful After School Club and all the children who come thoroughly enjoy their time there.

The staff; Carly Milner, Debbie Malthouse, Anne Milner and Lucy Wilkinson work extremely hard to make sure it is a home from home where children can choose from a wide range of activities.

WASC is a committee lead, nonprofit making organization which relies on volunteers to ensure that there is continual improvement and that the club is the best it can be.

We have had a few of our long term committee members retire recently and desperately need some new and enthusiastic members if the club is to continue to run effectively. The committee doesn't meet very often and any time you could spare would be really appreciated. If you have any particular skills such as PR, finance etc. please let us know. You don't need to use the club in order to join the committee.

## Entries for Otley Show

The Otley annual show is looming once again and children from Years 1 and 5 have been busy crafting away on their entries to the Junior Handicrafts section for the show.

Reception children produced some lovely pasta pictures for Age group A Class 86 and Year 5 are still working on their pencil drawings for their entries into the Age group B class 92.

Having a guiding purpose for an art project makes the whole process meaningful for the children and is an opportunity for the children to really demonstrate their talents whilst following a set of criteria.

I hope many of you will take the time to go and see the children's work on display in the craft tents. Good luck everyone!

- Maths Groups
- Egg Decorating
- Netball Tournament

## Easter Egg Competition

I really enjoyed judging the Easter Egg decorating competition with Mrs Biller last week. All the entries were fabulous. The children and yourselves must have worked really hard over the break and, it showed. There was such an array of 'egg' inspired themes which were colourful, creative and inventive. These included 'Eggsheeran', 'Eggy the Eagle' and 'Eggs Factor' to name but a few. Some entrants were so expansive I was amazed at how they had arrived safely at school; others were so delicately decorated they must have taken hours.

Thank you to everyone for sharing their master pieces. I am only sorry we could only pick a few overall winners. Congratulations to Alice in Rec for Humpty Dumpty, Oliver in Y1 for Dinosaur eggs, Summer in Y4 with 'Eggs Factor', Nicholas in Y3 for 'Poaching Eggs' and Joshua in Y5 for Harry Potter themed eggs.



## *Maths Group at PHGS*

Over the last two term 12 pupils from the year 6 class have been attending after school sessions throughout the year hosted by specialist subject teachers at Prince Henry's Grammar School (PHGS).

These sessions have been based focused on Mathematics, English and Science. The pupils have been challenged to really extend their depth of knowledge in these areas and all expressed their enjoyment of the sessions. Mr Hampson was lucky enough to go to the final Maths sessions and was extremely proud of the way the pupils tackled the difficult Maths problems.

## High Five Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April a KS2 netball team took part in an inter school competition at PHGS.

Although the team had had very little time to practice together they were truly magnificent. The Wharton's netballers racked up a massive 15-0 score line whilst on their way to win the competition. They played 4 games in all against a range of teams.

All the children played brilliantly and with impressive sportsmanship. They were stand out performance from Leah (Y6) and the sibling partnership of Lois and Rory (Y6). Amelia (Y5) stepped in at the last minute and really added to the team's performance, well done Amelia.

As well as showing fantastic netball skills the behaviour of the pupils was exemplary.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who came out to support.

As a result of their victory the team will progress to the city finals. Good luck!



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### Diary Dates

**Monday 1st May** - School Closed  
**Tuesday 2nd May** - School Reopens  
**Wednesday 3rd May** - Yr 3 Class Assembly  
**W/C Monday 8th May** - KS2 SATS  
**Tuesday 9th May** - Yr 5 Bun Sale  
**Friday 12th May** - PTA Quiz Night-7pm  
**W/C Monday 15th May** - KS1 Test Period (2 weeks)  
**Saturday 20th May** - Otley Show  
**W/C Monday 22nd May** - Yr 6 Residential  
**Friday 26th May** - School Closes  
**Tuesday 6th June** - School Reopens  
**Monday 5th June** - Training Day  
**Thursdays 15th & 16th June** - Father's Day Stall

## Year 1 Trip

Year 1 children had a fabulous day this week when they visited Harlow Carr Gardens.

The visit was an exciting end to their animals and plants themed work and an opportunity for the children to put the skills they have been learning in class, to good use in the 'field'. The day was packed with hands on activities to hunt for and classify animals, from bugs to water creatures. The children even found a newt, which they were all delight with! Children were also tasked with collecting and classifying leaves by looking at their features such as colour, size and shape, a real test of their mathematical skills. There was also time for playing amongst the trees; what fun!

Thank you to all the parent helpers who accompanied the class.



## Developing an Exciting Curriculum

Teachers from our family of Otley schools engaged in a joint staff meeting last week kindly hosted by Prince Henry's. The opportunity to work collaboratively with our cluster colleagues from All Saints, Ashfield, Westgate, Bramhope, Pool and St Joseph's schools is always beneficial, really supporting creativity and great ideas sharing.

Subject leaders engaged in working parties to consider what elements of their subject curriculum, and teaching practices, were particularly effective in capturing children's interest and supporting learning. Each group shared themed units, approaches to teaching all elements of the curriculum and examples of high quality resources, visits and visitors which challenged and cemented understanding. Discussions around how teachers could effectively assess and track children's understanding and progress were considered, building a real wealth of good practice examples.

Each headteacher joined a different group of subject leaders and I was particularly impressed with the range of exciting themed units of work being planned to cover the National Curriculum requirements for history.

The outcomes from this collaborative process was an agreement, by all the subject leaders, to build ideas and resources banks which can be used across the family, and to plan areas for development which will feed in to our joint staff meeting in the Autumn term and training day next January.

The commitment to working together, for the good of all children's learning, is strong across the family of schools and effective subject leadership is an area we had identified on our Chevin Learning Partnership plan as a focus for this year.

**A final Note:** Remember the upcoming Parent's Association Quiz night on 12 May, it should be a great night out, start getting your teams together and tickets will be on sale from the office. I hope you all enjoy the bank holiday weekend.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)