

# The Whartons' Newsletter

## 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone had a super half term break and has been able to enjoy some autumn fun through Trick or Treating, Halloween dressing up, Diwali celebrations or Bonfire Night displays.

I chatted with the children during assembly last week about the different celebrations and festivals which take place at this time of the year and asked them why they thought that these festivals and celebrations including light happened during the autumn and winter. The children were very reflective about darker nights and days, which can be gloomy. They chatted about how lights and colourful displays can cheer us up, shine a light in the darkness and give us something to look forward to once the outdoor activities of the summer have gone. Such wise children!



## Assembly Themes

Our assemblies for this term are all about Celebrating Differences. We started the half term exploring the festival of Diwali and considered how Hindu families celebrate this important festival with food, gifts, dancing and colourful artwork and candles. It is important for children to draw parallels between their own lives and lives of others but to also appreciate and celebrate the differences there are between all of us and how those differences make the community vibrant and interesting. We will be unpicking differences of all types and helping children to build positive understandings of diversity.

### Outdoor equipment and store

As the weather turns more wet and windy the newly purposed storage and welly change shed is really coming in to its own.

Teachers are committed to the children to taking their learning outside when at all possible and relevant.

However, wellies and outdoor coats are a must.

Having a dedicated area where the children can change from school shoes into wellies and can collect the equipment, they need is a really positive resource and ensures all the children are ready to embrace their outdoor lessons. If you every have wellies that your children have grown out of, please donate them to school and we can keep our stock updated



### Celebration Assembly

It was lovely to lead the Celebration Assembly last Friday as it has been over a year since I have hosted the end of week assembly and invited the children up to receive their certificates. It was a joy to be joined at the front by the pupil senior leadership team, who added to that 'special' feeling.

As we are back in the hall for our assemblies, I have explained to the children that we will be reinstating the Writer, Mathematician and Sports person of the week displays. This is where we can celebrate the children's achievements through photos or written work, displayed in the hall for a week. This way the children and staff can see the fantastic work each day as they come into the hall for lunches and assemblies.



- **Reception celebrate Diwali**
- **Building Bonfires with Y1**
- **Y6 Dodgeball Competition**

### Reception Children Explore Diwali Traditions

Last week the children in Reception learned all about Diwali.

The children made Diwali lights out of clay, shaping a small round lump into little boat shaped lamps which would hold a tea light safely.

They painted their Divas in bright patterns and enjoyed watching the Divas light up the room.



The children also drew mehndi patterns on handprints and discovered that Hindus at Diwali eat sweet treats. They followed recipes and made coconut barfi. Delicious!



### *Year 1 children Build Bonfires*

Year 1 children combines some of their science learning, historical themes and mathematical skills last week. The children who have been learning about Guy Fawkes and the history of Bonfire Night, took to the outdoors to try and build the perfect bonfire.

They discussed the best materials for the job (dry leaves and twigs) and thought about the different materials which had been used for the fire pit in the outdoor area (fire resistant bricks to stop the fire spreading).

The children also used their design technology skills to construct the most appropriate structure with the materials that were to hand.

When I went out to find out how their 'bonfires' were coming on it was lovely to hear the learning conversations between children and the children with the adults e.g. What would happen if the structure collapsed? How could we make sure the flames didn't die down too quickly? Brilliant work Y1



## Dodgeball Competition

On Wednesday Year 6 had an exciting trip down to PHGS, taking part in a dodgeball competition against other schools in Otley.

This was the first trip of this kind in a long time and it felt wonderful to have a bit of normality back and to see the children interacting with other children their age – even if it did get a little competitive at times!

The event was great fun and all children showed super resilience and teamwork in this fast paced and challenging game.

In the end we came joint 3rd and joint 2nd but as Mrs Gomes stated – they were all winners in her eyes!

The sportsmanship shown from each and every one of the class was something to feel incredibly proud of – well done Year 6!

We look forward to more events like this as the year goes on!



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### Diary Dates

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Nov**- Year 3  
Bun Sale

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Nov**- Years  
5&6 trip to Otley  
Science Festival

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Nov**- Rec  
Class phonics session

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov**- Dress  
down day for Children  
in Need

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov**-  
Whole school trip to  
the Pantomime

## Year 3 Explore Class Author Tom Fletcher

Year 3's class author is Tom Fletcher. Over the year they will be reading some of Tom's novels as a class together.

They have started with *The Creepers* which the whole class is thoroughly enjoying. The children have been using *The Creepers* as inspiration for their own writing. Through studying the book characters they have gained an insight into how Tom shapes his characters and uses different language features to bring his characters to life.

The children worked together in groups to gather adjectives, adverbs and prepositions for the main characters in the book.

They will use these shared ideas, vocabulary and phrasing in order to write their own character descriptions and ultimately stories.

Immersing in a range of works by one author can help children to form an opinion on their preferences and perhaps help them develop their love of reading; choosing similar titles or authors for their own reading pleasure; or discovering that one genre is not to their liking. An added bonus this year; it has been exciting to see their class author dancing on *Strictly*!



## Year 2 Going on a Bug Hunt

Year 2 have been learning all about living things in their environments in science this term. The children have been finding out that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited. They have been describing how different habitats provide for different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.

The children have used the wildlife area and its various habitats e.g. log piles, grassy areas, trees and rocks to identify and name a variety of plants and animals. They have learned that some habitats are really small, for example under one stone or a rotten log and these are called microhabitats.

The children went on a 'bug hunt' in the wildlife area and used their eagle eyes, alongside a range of field work equipment, to find catch and identify some of the insects and invertebrates who live in our outdoor area.

They then put them back safely where they found them. What fantastic scientists, well done Y2.



### A final Note:

We are looking forward to the whole school pantomime trip at the end of the month. Please could you ensure you have returned the permission slips, offers of help and contributions as soon as possible so we can ensure our planning is accurate and in place. *Julia Dickson*