

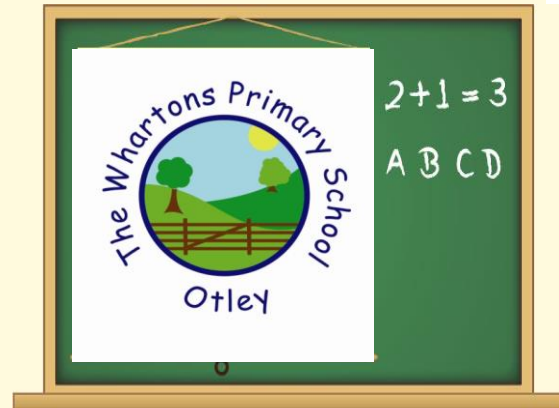
The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

17th March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to those parents who responded so positively to our plea and offered their support and practical help to the Parents' Association. I am very excited to hear about a quiz night which is being planned for May. I might spend a little time in our new library 'Study' area brushing up on my general knowledge in preparation.

I would like to send a request for spare clothes suitable for girls of all ages which we can store in school. We have plenty of spare clothes for boys but our supply for girls is lacking



Assembly Themes

Our new Jigsaw theme for this half term is focused on being Healthy. Through assemblies and classroom sessions the children have been considering how they can keep themselves healthy by adopting healthy behaviours such as washing their hands well and being careful not to spread germs.

Cluster Projects

We will be working closely with our Family of Schools again over the next few terms on a range of collaborative projects.

Firstly, Mrs Manderville has joined together with colleagues from all the other Otley, Bramhope and Pool schools to consider how we might promote equity and diversity more effectively across the cluster.

Mrs Dowell will be working with other Computing leaders to raise the profile of E-Safety, through joint policy writing and the introduction of digital leaders among other things.

Finally, the cluster has submitted an application for funding to the STEM Enthuse Project in order to enhance science provision as well as teaching and learning across the schools. Mr Young will be working with science leaders to move the proposal forwards in the autumn term if we are fortunate to secure the funding.

I will keep you all up to date with our progress in these areas as the year progresses.

NSPCC visit

Over the past two weeks, the NSPCC have visited our school to deliver their 'Speak out and Stay safe' programme, making sure that our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops the NSPCC's specially trained staff and volunteers gave children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and abuse, without using scary words or adult language. The children were all super and contributed well to all sessions.

To thank the NSPCC for coming in and also to support them in the important work they do to help protect children across the UK, children across our school took part in a fun maths fundraising event on Friday to raise money for the charity.

Any sponsorship will be greatly appreciated - the date for this being collected is Friday 24th March and children can start bringing this in next week and placing it in their classroom box.

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC 'Speak out and Stay safe' programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website - nspcc.org.uk/schools.

- Parent Forum
- Reception Open Morning
- Year 1 Assembly

Parent Forum

A huge thank you to all those parents and Grandparents who joined us for our rearrange parent forum on Thursday evening.

Mrs Gomes explained how our new PSHE scheme 'Jigsaw' works including the section covering SRE and how the principles of this comprehensive scheme fit in to legislation and guidance. We explored through discussion how setting children's learning in a context of trust, relationships and honesty the programme enables us to explore tricky concepts and emotional issues tactfully and in an environment where children feel safe and supported. The presentation is available on the website.

Open Morning in Reception

Mrs Matthews, Mrs Rockliff and the children in Reception opened their doors to parents earlier this week and invited family members to their story writing workshop morning.

The staff provided the children with a range of stimuli for writing such as small world play, puppets, dressing up clothes to name but a few.

The children told each other stories using their props, they engaged in role play and they turned their imaginative thoughts in to writing both inside and outside the classroom. Parents supported their children with their writing, and hopefully along the way got an insight in to how we engage children in the writing process at school and how they could support and encourage their children to write at home. Thank you so much to the parents for joining us and children for all their fabulous ideas and creativity



Year 1 Assembly

Last Thursday parents, pupils and staff were treated to a fabulous and informative class assembly by Year 1 children. The children used songs, creative writing, storytelling and even jokes to tell their audience all about their learning this year so far.

Year 1 class name is 'Newts class' and the children decided they would like to find out all about these little creatures. They researched some fascinating facts and explored the different types of newts. They made fact files, created songs and told jokes about their class name sake.

Another theme the children have learnt all about is different types of homes. Again they developed a range of skills in order to enhance their learning including: using design technology to create free standing bug hotels, exploring materials suitable for building robust houses and effective window coverings, writing their own stories and using drama to retell their favourite Three Little Pigs story.

By setting learning in context with a guiding purpose the children are actively engaged in the learning process, enjoying working together and of course have fun on the way. Well done to all the children and their teachers for sharing their work with us in such an engaging assembly. I hope parents enjoyed it as much as we did.



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- Music Extravaganza
- Reading Opportunities
- Dates for your diary

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st March-Yr 6

Residential Meeting 6pm

Thursday 23rd March-Stalls For

Mothers Day

Friday 24th March-Stalls For

Mothers Day

Wednesday 29th March-Yr 4 Class

Assembly

Wednesday 29th March-Yr3 Bun

Sale

Wednesday 29th March-Yr 2

SATS Evening-6pm

Friday 31st March-School Closes

For Easter Break

Tuesday 18th April-School

Musical Extravaganza

I can't believe the time for the cluster music extravaganza evening has come round again. It only seems 5 minutes since the last spectacular. Pop Choir have worked hard over this term with the expert support of Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowell. They picked songs which enthused and inspired them, adding their own twist and personality (Adel would be impressed).

All the 7 cluster primary schools including Prince Henry's joined together last night for a lovely evening of music. Each school performed their song choices and as a finale the choirs joined voices for a fun and active closing piece. The atmosphere at Yeadon Town hall was lovely and all the children enjoyed meeting up working together. Thanks to Mrs Nunn from All Saints who organized the event and ensured all ran smoothly, thanks to Mr Williamson, Mrs Dowell, the children and parents who supported us. You were amazing, there were a few tears!



Fostering a love of reading

Thanks to the Parents association, the hard work of the school council and Mr Reynard (painter and decorator extraordinaire) our library revamp is finished. The new furniture and painted walls really brighten up the space and creates cozy, zoned areas for children to explore a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. We have also created a new 'study' area where children can sit at tables and use the reference books, in a quite environment, for research work.

At school we really want to foster a love of reading; demonstrating to the children just how important books are and how they can answer all our questions; or transport us to another world. World book day on 3rd March was a great opportunity to celebrate reading. As part of this, first thing in the morning, after break and straight after lunch, the teachers appeared in different classrooms to read one of their favourite books to the children. The children really enjoyed having the different stories read to them and also having teachers from other years come in to their classrooms. Across the whole school, as part of their English lessons, the children wrote book reviews, which for the younger ones was about their class book, or for the older children it was about their own favourite book.

We even did some maths through stories: Year 3 read *Danny, Champion of the World* and found fractions of raisins; Year 1 read *Monkey Puzzle* and made arrays linked to the number of legs. Here's what some of the children said about World Book Day:

"It was good that the teachers chose their favourite book and read it to everyone."

"I liked dressing up as Horrid Henry."

The children also received book tokens at the end of day to either buy this year's special books or to get some money off another book. Well done everyone for a really fun day and some amazing costumes!

A final Note: A small allotment plot has become available at the front of school if anyone wishes to exercise their green fingers and take it over. Now the weather is improving it is a lovely way to spend some time outdoors and occupy the children too. Please see Mr Reynard if you are interested.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)