

The Whartons' Newsletter

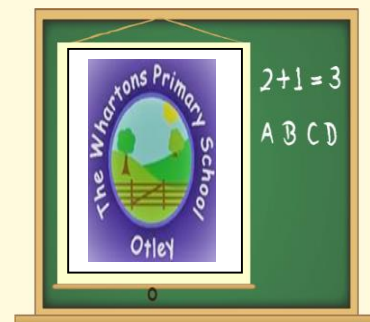
15th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed the very pleasant and quite unseasonal weather over the half term break.

We also enjoyed a week of great weather on our return to school, which was an unexpected bonus.

It was great to welcome Mr Young back from paternity leave this week. Mrs Thompson had thoroughly enjoyed her two weeks in Year 4 whilst Mr Young was away and we thank her for working closely with Mr Young to plan a seamless transition and for clearing her other commitments in order to ensure the children had continuity over the last couple of weeks.



Assembly Themes

For this half term our assembly theme will be Healthy Me. I have been exploring with the children all the elements that are needed to ensure we stay healthy and over the next few weeks we will be discussing how we can make positive decisions to support our own health and well-being, including break time snacks.

Well done to our 'Best I Can Be' certificate winners who shared their work or great learning behaviours with the school in Friday Assemblies. Their work will be displayed on our writer and mathematician of the week display boards

Reception – Francesca S, Florence T, Niamh Q **Year 1** – All of Year 1 **Year 2** – Tom M, Alice M, Libby S & Tommy R

Year 3 – Finlay S & Lucas M **Year 4** – William G, Lily C, Callum B **Year 5** – Evelyn A, Cara-Fai S, Katie C & Gracie C

Year 6 – Jack B, Summer W, Magnes B-P, Ethan S

Travel Questionnaire

Thanks you to everyone who managed to complete a travel questionnaire. I have been analysing these over the last week and it has been very helpful to understand families movements to and from school as well as what concerns you about the journeys each morning and evening. I will be sharing the main themes with the other headteachers from the Family of Schools and we will use your feedback to draft a school travel plan. I will keep you up to date with progress on the plan and will undoubtedly be asking for your help on projects to improve travel to and from school. Many thanks to those parents who have offered their help and support with initiatives such as bike/walk to school weeks or projects to tackle danger spots on school journeys and the worrying issue of 'idling' engines near where children walk.

Enterprise Day Outcomes

Following the great success of the Enterprise WOW day last half term Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Mellor have helped the classes to calculate the profits from all their hard work. Each class have paid their costs and will now discuss how they would like to spend the money they have earned.

Reception children raised £46 by making and selling recycled rainbow crayons; Year 1 made fruit kebabs with surplus fruit from the snack quotas and raised £5; Year 2 ran a series of fairground style games and raised £17; Year 3 gathered props, made frames and ran a photo booth which raised £35 profit; Year 4 made a range of smoothies and made £25 Profit; Year 5 turned their classroom into a bakery raising £84 Profit from selling their delicacies and Year 6 children made little pots of galactic slime banking £20 Profit. Well done

- **Spring Hunt**
- **Pancake Day**
- **Nell Bank**

Pancake Day

Last week was Shrove Tuesday. Year 3 and Reception children thoroughly enjoyed making pancakes together as part of their lessons in Maths and English. The smell throughout school was delicious.

Reception children also wrote step-by-step instructions to make the best pancake and we used these in assembly to make pancake batter. In true Blue Peter style they also brought 'one they made earlier' in to assembly to show the other children.



Year 1 children spent a lovely morning in the wildlife area searching for signs of spring last week.

They took advantage of the beautifully unseasonable weather to get outside and see what they could find on their checklists, which included buds on trees, emerging flowers, birds' nests & lambs.

They saw lots of daffodils and crocuses already in full flower and the tree buds were starting to appear.

Unfortunately, they didn't spot any lambs in the farmer's field despite looking really hard.



Everyone also had a good look in the pond, but despite a few clipboards being dropped into it, calmly recovered by Mrs Dowell, they didn't spot a lot of life just yet. Hopefully, there will be some frogspawn and tadpoles to see the next time they go out to have a look.



Nell Bank

Yr 2 had a fantastic day in the fresh air at the Nell Bank Centre yesterday exploring animal habitats and were really surprised at how good the weather was despite the awful forecast.

The staff at the centre explained to the children how different animals found their food and made their homes with the use of puppets and then the children spent the day investigating the different habitats.

They used all five senses to explore, such as feeling their way around a rope trail with blindfolds on and feeling how the bark on different trees felt.



They also had a great time pond dipping and sorting what they found into how many legs the animals had. There were plenty of snails but the prize find was a newt. Everything was safely returned to its watery home.

Mr Williamson was thrilled at how enthusiastic and well behaved the children were and would like to thank the parents who kindly helped with the day.

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Diary Dates

Tues 19th March-Reception

Bun Sale

Thurs 21st March-Yr 4 Multi

Skills @PHGS

Weds 27th March-Yr 4

Skipping Festival

Thurs 28th & Fri 29th March-

Mother's Day Stalls

Fri 29th March-School

Closes for Easter Break

Mon 15th April-School

Reopens

Thurs 18th April-School

Closes for Easter weekend

Tues 23rd April-School

Reopens

Tues 30th April-Yr 2 Bun

Sale

School Council

The School Councillors met last week to review progress on their projects so far this year and to make plans for the Spring and Summer terms.

This term the council will continue with their aim to improve lunchtime experiences. They have used pupil voice from across their classes alongside parent questionnaires, worked with Catering Leeds and the school cooks to adjust the new menus, which were launched after half term. The new recipes have been very successful. However, with all changes, some of the children do need to be encouraged to try new things before making a decision on whether they like them or not. Many children were unsure about the newly introduced 'pulled pork and vegetable wraps' but once tried they were a great success. Please encourage your children to try new dishes and discuss their choices with them each cycle.

The children would like to continue their focus on food and have now turned their attention to playtime snacks. Councillors are dismayed with the rubbish, crisps and snack packets collecting in the playground at break times, which is unsightly but also environmentally unsound adding to the landfill issue. They will be working with Mr Reynard to help tidy up, talking to their classes about keeping the playground tidy and discussing with the children the need to bring healthy snacks at break time, preferably not wrapped in plastic. Please could parents support their efforts and avoid chocolate covered snacks & salty or processed snacks. Fruit and vegetables, perhaps cheese, are good choices and there is our toast tuck shop.

World Book Day Activities

For World Book Day this year Mr Fisk and Mr Hampson joined forces to deliver a 'Maths through Stories' themed WOW day.

The children came to school in pyjamas and onesies, ready to relax and enjoy their stories. Each class listened to and analysed stories, which also engaged them in mathematical problem solving leading to a 'super learning day' which was great fun for everyone.

In Reception the children learnt about position and direction through their book Rosie's Walk; Year 1 enjoyed their story Monkey Puzzle and learnt all about Arrays & how many legs a monkey has; in Year 2 Mr Williamson read a story called One Was A Snail which lead to the class exploring the relationship between numbers by adding; Year 3 used their story, Varjak Paw, to investigate what is the most used letter; Year 4 shared the story The Fireworks Daughter and explored measuring the weights of fireworks, Year 5's focus story was How Much Is A Million and they measured the school library and the Year 5 classroom to work out how many times a 5cm shape would fit in; and Miss Stewart used the fabulous book, The King's Chessboard, to really stretch Year 6 children's mathematical problem solving brains exploring exponential growth.

Each of the stories sparked the children's interests and posed challenges to solve together.



A final Note:

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents Evening this week

Julia Dickson