

The Whartons' Newsletter

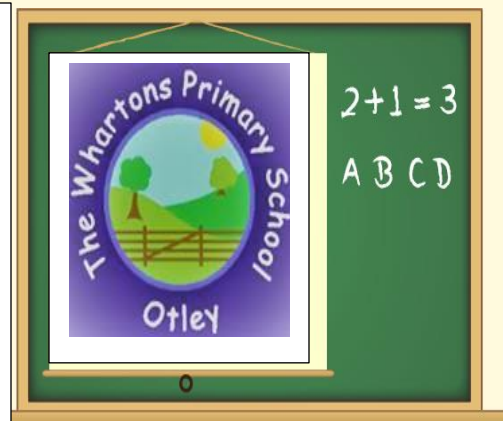
13th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has passed so quickly in a flurry of excitement.

There have been festive concerts, trips to the theatre, sporting competitions, theme class trips, explosive assemblies and important visitors who came to explore all the fabulous learning that happens at the Whartons every day of every week. We have been very busy!!

The Christmas Fayre and Santa stalls were a huge success and I want to thank all of the parents and staff who made the events wonderful and of course raised lots of money for extras in school. The grand total was well over £1,000 profit!



Assembly Themes

Over the past couple of weeks in assembly we have been considering just how unique and special we all are and celebrating the wide range of talents and personalities which make us all such an important part of the wonderful Whartons community.

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 – Emily, Will, Lewka, Isla **Year 1** – Joseph, Max, Freddy, Florence, Leo **Year 2** – Frankie, Jacob, Charlie, Logan, William, Harkin **Year 3** – **Year 4** – Charlotte M, Matilda, Lucy, Emily **Year 5** – Lenny, Ruby, Miles, William L, Darcy **Year 6** – Seren, William, Evelyn, Joe, Phoebe, Molly

Fond Farewells

As we come to the end of this term, we say farewell to some of our members of staff and governors. We wish to thank them all for their hard work and support of the school. We hope they will come back and visit us to tell us all about their new adventures and journeys.

Mrs Bishop has been a valued member of support staff at school for 12 years. She has supported children's learning and development both in school and on residential trips Mrs Bishop, is loved by all the children, and will be greatly missed. Mr Wilson is stepping down from his role of governor after 12 years to concentrate on his driving school commitments and Mrs Morrison has come to the end of her 4-year term as a parent governor. We would like to extend a huge thank you for all the tireless work they have done in order to develop and support the school alongside staff. Lastly, Miss Stewart has left to begin her maternity leave. We wish her all the best and cannot wait to see the new baby when they arrive.

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- **KS1 Nativity**
- **KS2 Carol Concert**
- **Peer Review**

KS2 Carol Concert

The KS2 Carol concert this year is shaping up to be a beautiful and atmospheric start to the Christmas celebrations.

All the children have been working hard to master the challenging carols and songs, which comprise of the traditional alongside the new. The story of Dicken's Match Girl is woven through the carol concert and encompasses elements of the Christmas story. The KS2 children narrate and act out the story, which is punctuated by the songs.

A huge thank you to Bridge Church for accommodating us again and making us feel so welcome. When the weather was too inclement to walk down for our rehearsal last week, they promptly booked another slot for us. There is nothing quite like carols and Christmas songs in a church setting. I hope many of you can join us this week at church and everyone enjoys the experience.

KS1 Nativity

Over the past couple of weeks, all of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been working incredibly hard to put on our Key Stage One Christmas Production of The Inn-spectors! The play is a comical yet challenging play with lots of speaking parts and song words to remember! We have been so impressed by the children's dedication, enthusiasm and hard work at this exciting yet tiring time of year. We are also wowed by the increasing confidence we are seeing, in each and every one of the children, with their parts and feel so incredibly proud of them all. Well done children! Thank you also to all of you who have kindly donated costumes and spent many an hour rehearsing lines at home – your support is as always greatly appreciated.

This year we have charged £2 a ticket to come and watch the KS1 show. We want to say a huge thank you for purchasing tickets - this money will not only help to cover the costs of future Christmas productions (scripts, licensing, music etc) but will also greatly help to continually build on our growing music provision here at The Whartons Primary School.



Peer Review

On Thursday last week the school was engaged in a Peer Review lead by the school improvement director of Red Kite Teaching alliance Amanada Thornton-Jones and a peer Headteacher, Helen Stout, from Meadowfield Primary school. As part of our membership of the Red Kite teaching alliance, we are entitled to a Peer Review every other year. It is great practice to invite external colleagues in to school on a busy working day and discuss with them our strengths and as always the next steps in the continual development for The Whartons. The day was thorough and very productive. Amanda and Helen accompanied the Senior Leadership team in observing lessons, talking to children, analysing the learning environment and scrutinizing books. They agreed that we were 'a hidden gem' and the children were fully engaged and enthusiastic about their learning; which is no mean feat this close to Christmas! Well done everyone. The report will feed in to our school development plan.

- **Y3 Multi-sports festival**
- **Pantomime Trip**
- **Mr Moody's Science Assembly**

Year 3 Handball Competition

Year 3 children have been learning how to play Handball during their PE sessions this half term. Mr Young has been working alongside Mrs Fenton-Green, a specialist PE teacher from PHGS, every Monday afternoon during their PE sessions.

The highlight of the half term each of the year groups spend with Mrs Fenton-Green, is the end of block inter school competition which takes place at PHGS.

All Y3 children from across our family of schools took part in a series of friendly games. Being able to use and apply skills learnt over time through low stakes competition builds enjoyment

and confidence. We also came first! Well done Y3!

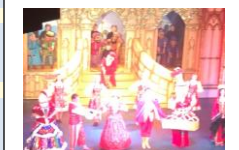


Pantomime Trip

Year 3, 4 and 5 engaged in a fabulous pre-Christmas treat when they visited the Pantomime at Harrogate Theatre, a couple of weeks ago.

The excitement of watching live performances in theatre surroundings is hard to beat and definitely something to experience before you leave Primary school. The pantomime Cinderella was fabulously funny; the children had a great time.

Another element of the trip, which added to the experience, was that all the children and staff travelled to the theatre by public transport, on a double decker bus from the bus station. A huge thank you to Connexions bus company and the drivers who were so helpful, going out of their way to accommodate the children and saving the school some money in the process.



Science 'Extravaganza' Assembly

A would like to say a huge Thank You to Charlotte, Emma and Grace's dad, Mr Moody, for the fabulously exciting science show he put on at school earlier in the half term.

Mr Moody is a science teacher at Bradford Grammar school. He is keen to spread and share his passion for science with children and show them just how exciting and creative science can be.

The event was truly inspiring. Mr Moody demonstrated a range of scientific phenomena through the careful mixing of elements and compounds, which led to an awe-inspiring range of flashes and bangs. Just to add to the excitement one of Mr Moody's demonstration experiments created such a 'puff of smoke' it set off the school's very sensitive smoke alarms. By the end of Mr Moody's Science 'show' all the children were very keen to take up science subjects in the future. Great work Mr Moody



This page >>>

- Y6 WW2 Trip
- Pop Choir Performances
- Diary Dates

Diary Dates

18th Dec- KS1 production 1.30pm and 6pm
18th Dec Xmas Dinner Day wear a Xmas jumper or tinsel etc.
19th Dec KS2 Production 6pm
Bridge Church
20th Dec – Xmas Party Day and end of term
6th Jan Training Day school closed
7th Jan School reopens
9th Jan Open Day for Reception
2020 places
21st Jan Y1 Assembly

Year 6 Visit Eden Camp

On Tuesday 26th November, Year 6 visited **Eden Camp** as part of their themed project learning about what life was like during the world wars.

They discovered the realities of wartime, the Blitz and much more. The children admired a 1940's style puppet show, REAL bayonets, guns, uniforms, bikes and bullets from the **actual time period** of WW1/WW2! There were also 1-30 huts and more to venture through.

"I personally think that some of the huts were sure scary but exiting, purely because of bellowing smoke and deafening booms." -Austin Downes

"I loved the toilet stall in hut 4, it was hilarious!" –Grace Clayborough

Year 6 had an amazing time; it was the best trip yet. Written by Austin and Grace



Pop Choir Performances

The Pop Choir this year has topped all expectations and has risen to a staggering 40+ members. Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowell are thrilled at the number of children from such a wide age range who have wanted to perform with the pop Choir over this term.

As usual, the choir took to the stage at the Otley Victorian Fayre on Sunday 1st December. The children and staff who sang were in fine voice and hearing the children project Jingle Bells, It was on a Starry Night and Rudolf with such clarity and joyful voices was a perfect start to the Christmas Season. Being part of such a traditional whole community event is a real treat for the children and I want to thank all the staff members who organised and supported the children to participate in this event. Another annual community event the children participated in was the Christmas Tree Festival. Members of the public visit Otley Parish Church during the two-day festival to look at the charity



Christmas tree displays and donate to good causes. The pop Choir entertained the visitors yesterday and added Christmas spirit. Well done children and thank you to Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowel for the organisation.

A final Note:

I hope everyone enjoys the Christmas productions and parties. It should be a very exciting end to a great term. Have a wonderful Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Julia Dickson