

## 25th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half term it has been. All the children have been working hard especially the Year 6 children in preparation for their SATs. They approached the challenge with enthusiasm and commitment. We were all so proud of how they rose to the occasion and tried their very best. Year 2 have also engaged in KS1 SATs, the Year 1 children are practicing their phonic knowledge and will engage in the phonic screening tests in a few weeks and Year 4 children will take the new Multiplication tests later this term too. If you could support your children to practice recognising their phonics blends or their times tables through 'Times tables rock stars' for homework, it will help in consolidating knowledge into long term memory, aiding progress in reading and maths in the future.



## Assembly Themes

The assembly focus for this half term has been all about positive Relationships to match into the focus of our Jigsaw lessons. We have discussed what makes positive relationships and how we can strengthen relationships with others by being respectful, kind, supportive and understanding. Treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Well done to all our certificate winners this half term. It is lovely to see the examples of your hard work on our Mathematician and Writer of the week boards

## Celebrations!!

On Monday Mr Young received confirmation that he had secured the Primary Science Quality Mark for The Whartons. This celebrates the great work that Mr Young and all the staff have done to raise the profile and standards of teaching in science across school.

Mr Young has led staff training and introduced a range of strategies and approaches based on recent research and good practice in science teaching. He has supported teachers in developing their expertise in teaching a range of investigative approaches in science lessons. In turn building a robust and comprehensive programme of knowledge and skills acquisition year on year. Well done Mr Young!

## Maths Deep Dive

This week school staff and leaders engaged in a Maths Deep Dive with Andrew Souter, a consultant colleague from the Red Kite Teaching Alliance.

Mr Souter spent the day in school observing maths teaching and learning in classes, discussing the development of the maths curriculum with Mr Hampson, our Maths leader, talking to children about their learning in maths and scrutinising work in books.

The day was very positive and helpful. It was lovely to hear the children's enthusiasm and confidence when talking about their learning and to see how they challenged themselves and worked together to solve tricky problems. As always the children were brilliantly behaved and focused.

- **learning about Birds in Rec**
- **Year 2 Pop Art**
- **Year 5 and Year 1 Topics**

### Reception children learn all about birds

The children in reception have developed into keen ornithologists over the last half term. They have used information books and the expertise of visitors to build their knowledge and understanding of their feathered friends. They built bird hides in their outdoor area to enable them to watch the birds without disturbing them.

They have had such fun using the binoculars to see different species in more detail and have also made and hung bird feeders to attract as many different birds onto the school grounds as possible



### *Year 2 children get 'arty'*

In art this half term Year 2 children have been studying the artist Andy Warhol and his pop art creations.

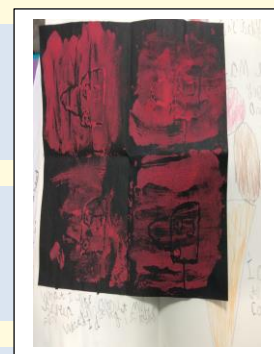
They have been fascinated with the colourful and repeating images which Warhol uses together to design striking pieces of art.

The children studied the technique of tile printing as a medium for their artwork.

Firstly, they used Warhol's designs as a stimulus, then creating their own images in their sketch books.

When the children had perfected their designs, they recreated them on polystyrene tiles in relief.

Using inks and rollers they printed their designs in a repeat onto paper to create eye catching posters.



## **Year 5 go back in time and Y1 get planting**

The Year 5 children have been studying the Vikings in history over the last half term.

They have explored what life was like in Viking times and compared this to other eras in history, which they have studied in previous years.

The children have enjoyed using a range of sources from artifacts to information books and stories to build their understanding of the tools, houses, clothes and structures of Viking settlements. They have considered the possible impacts and motivations of these invaders.

As a finale to their learning the class embarked on a trip to the Jorvik museum in York. They had an amazing time in the museum doing a workshop of Viking Battle Tactics.

In Year 1 children have been studying plants as part of their science topic. They have used their investigative skills and information books to determine what plants need to grow. They have studied different types of plants and have learned the vocabulary used to label and categorise plants.

Armed with all their new knowledge and understanding the children have planted their own sunflowers, being careful to create the perfect conditions for growth. It will be great fun to watch them grow over the next half term. Hopefully the flowers will also attract a wide range of birds and bugs for them to observe.

### ***This page >>>***

- Y3 Spain Project
- Y6 Residential
- Diary Dates

## **Diary Dates**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> –School closes for Half Term

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June-School Reopens

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June-Reception Trip to Nell Bank

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June-Jubilee Lunch

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June-Reception Writing Open Morning-8.50-10.15am

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June-Otley Carnival

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June-Yr 3 Trip to Herd Farm

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June-Yr2 & Yr6 Fire of London Day

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday

## **Year 3 Make Tapas**

As part of their geography topic this term Year 3 children have been studying Spain. They have used and developed their map reading know how to explore the human and physical features of the country and compare these to features of Britain. They have also considered the climate in Spain; how and why it differs to their own and other countries.

The children have discussed Spanish culture and linked Spanish food with their Design Technology project, to make tapas.

The children designed delicious tapas dishes using Spanish tomatoes, garlic and herbs. They learned to follow a recipe, chop, grate and mix the ingredients to produce their final product.

I was very honoured when the children came to find me in school and had made me a portion of food for my lunch. Absolutely wonderful!



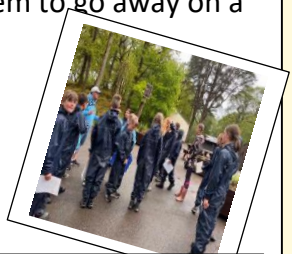
## **Y6 Residential**

After the hard work and dedication of the Y6 children in their SATs exams it was amazing for them to go away on a weeklong residential trip to the lake district last week.

I am sure many of you saw the fabulous photos on Twitter of all the adventurous activities they got up to, if not go to the school website where you will be able to find them on the first page.

The children were amazing, they conquered their fears and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones to climb trees, tackling Jacob's Ladder and take a 'leap of faith' into mid air 30 feet above the ground. They also used their collaborative skills to navigate their way around the woodland on site using OS maps and compasses and to build waterproof shelters with just the natural materials they could find around themselves.

It was an absolute honour to spend a few days with the class at Great Tower and marvel at how mature they have become; I still remember many of them as inquisitive 4 year olds.



### ***A final Note:***

It has been delightful to reinstate some extra-curricular clubs this term. I had a great fun this week with my netball club, although I am a little rusty! *Julia Dickson*