

The Whartons' Newsletter

12/2/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done for those of you have survived a half term of home learning and thank you to those of you have carried on with your critical roles to keep things going during the lock down.

Children at home and at school have all done a fabulous job in very trying circumstances and I want to say a big thank you to all of them too.

I have thoroughly enjoyed looking at the children's work on Google classrooms when I have virtually 'dropped in' to monitor as I would to actual classroom learning in school.



Assemblies

We have continued with our Assemblies theme for this half term focusing on Goals and Dreams. It is very apt as this present time that children can look beyond the immediate and focus on what is important to their growth and successes moving forwards.

It was lovely to talk to the children and remind them about developing a Growth Mindset, to make a start, to embrace 'not yet' in learning and to not get too disheartened.

Sharing the Children's Mental Health Week assembly with the children on Monday was great and there were some super ideas on how to express yourself in a positive way, supporting a healthy mind.

Writing in KS1

To ensure that children maintain their stamina for writing at length and so they can use and apply the writing features they are learning about, we have introduced a weekly extended writing session or 'Big Write' across the school.

Over the last week or so Year 1 and Year 2 have been working hard on their writing for instructions.

Last Wednesday saw the children embark upon a 'big write' on how to make chocolate crispy buns.

The children (and parents) got very excited about this and of course had to have a go at making some of these delicious treats before they could do any writing!

The cakes looked yummy and the writing the children produced was outstanding - children used time conjunctions and imperative 'bossy verbs' as well as clear description and detail in their work.

Well done children we are super impressed.



Key Stage 2 Letter Writing

Key stage 2 children have also been writing for purpose and at length this week. Year 5 children, both at home and at school, have been writing letters to 'persuade' as part of their English. The letters from Matilda and Charlotte had a focus on school uniform and a target audience of a member of the cabinet.

Well done to everyone you produced some great pieces of well presented and constructed texts.



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Diary Dates

School/home Learning break
up 12.2.21

Back to school/home learning
22.2.21

Parents Evenings- W/B 22.3.21

Exploring and Celebrating Chinese New Year

Reception and Year 1 children have been learning all about China and Chinese New Year Celebrations this week.

The teachers have really enjoyed seeing all the research that children at home have carried out around Chinese New Year.

Children from home have uploaded videos, powerpoints and posters, to name but a few, all clearly showing children's learning about this magnificent country. The children have shown examples in their work of how the celebrations, which are about to take place over the weekend, are planned and organised.

In reception the children have looked at Chinese clothes and other artifacts, they have dressed up, made Chinese Dragons and used dance to express aspects of the celebrations, whether at home or in school.

All the staff are missing the children it has made them incredibly proud to see how they are enjoying their learning at home.



End of half term 'Afternoon Tea' Party

To mark the end of a challenging half term the staff have organized a mini afternoon tea party. The children at home and at school can dress up in party clothes, have a few party treats and let their hair down a little this Friday afternoon.

During this virtual class tea party the teachers have planned a few zoom games or class quizzes which all the children can join in with.

It is hard when you can't see your friends and classmates every day. The daily zoom catch up sessions are a super way to ensure that children can visually connect with their peers. However they are time limited they can be quite focused on learning. The chance to 'socialise' with their class and key stage I am sure is going to be great fun. Maybe the children could make themselves some of those crispy cakes that Y1 tried earlier in the week!



A final Note:

I hope everyone has seen the letter from the PTA about The Whartons' first ever Scarecrow Festival. I can't wait to see some of the creations on the trail over the half term break. Let's get creative and send in photos of any you spot. *Julia Dickson*