

# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we have reached the end of the autumn term already. The recent crisp and wintery weather has been lovely and the children have enjoyed wrapping up and getting out in to the winter sunshine. Christmas decorations around school have really added to the excitement of Christmas performances and parties.

## Assembly Themes

In our assemblies for the last couple of weeks, we have been finding out about the festivals, traditions and beliefs of different religions. We have explored the story of Christmas and traditions surrounding the festival, Mrs Biller has shared with the children the festival of Hanukah; its importance to Jewish people, and how her family will be celebrating. Finally, some of our children explained to others the beliefs of their faith, Jehovah's Witnesses, including how, where and when they come together to celebrate their faith. It is beneficial for children to embrace the difference within their communities and celebrate the differences, which make us unique.

Well done to all those children who received certificates for their hard work over the last two weeks.

**Reception** - Nathaniel A & Lilly W

**Year 1** - Ebony P & Frank C

**Year 2** - Oriah N

**Year 3** - Sam C & Imogen G

**Year 4** - Alfie H

**Year 5** - Cory H & Ellie H

**Year 6** - Josh K & Millie H

## Otley Victorian Fayre

In line with tradition Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowell organized the school choir's annual performance at the Victorian fair last week.

The choir was in fine voice, and with 25 members this year they really raised the roof. The children as always really helped to put the 'Merry' in to Christmas.

Mrs Dowell and Mr Williamson have worked hard with the choir to produce a set which covered both traditional and up to date numbers. The children and the audience had a wonderful time at this great community event.

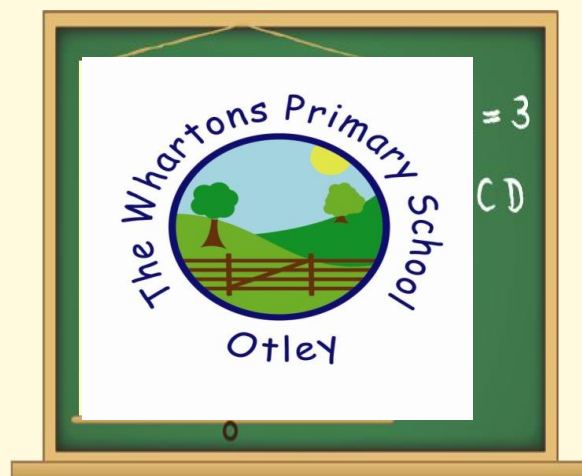


## Our Students

We have enjoyed having two Leeds Beckett students with us this half term. Children in Yr1 and Yr2 classes have had the benefit of their support and creative teaching working closely alongside class teachers.

They have really thrown themselves in to the wider school life including running Golden Time activities and supporting the Christmas fayre, where they ran stalls and helped with the setting up and tidying away.

They will soon be looking for their first teaching positions. I am sure they will be an asset to whichever school they join. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and wish them well in their future careers.



- **Otley Christmas Tree Festival**
- **Outdoor Classroom**
- **Christmas Fayre**

### **Whartons Christmas Fayre**

We all spent a lovely Saturday last week at the Parent Association Christmas Fayre.

It was fabulous to see so many of you coming through the doors and supporting the event at what I know is a very busy time of year.

Although the Parent Association team is a small one they really organised an activity packed afternoon. There were Christmas crafts, a traditional tombola, toy stalls, a very busy bouncy castle, that kept me engaged all afternoon, and of course, a café serving traditional Christmas fayre food, including mulled wine - Delicious!

Thank you to parents and staff for organising and running a great afternoon, and to all of you for attending. The money raised really does help your children in school.

## *Otley Christmas Tree Festival*

I had the pleasure last week of accompanying Mr Williamson, seven of our parent volunteers and the school choir down to Otley Parish Church to sing at the Otley Christmas Tree Festival.

The church was filled with a plethora of Christmas trees all with individual decoration themes, matching the organisation they represented. There were collection buckets for the charities who had decorated the trees. It was a real spectacle for Otley residents who were visiting the church to tour around the many trees.

The children sang beautifully for about half an hour, adding to the festive atmosphere and the general experience for everyone. Thank you to Mrs Dowell and Mr Williamson for organising the trip, the children for their fabulous festive singing, parents who escorted the children and were a very appreciative audience, and to Otley Parish Church for inviting us.

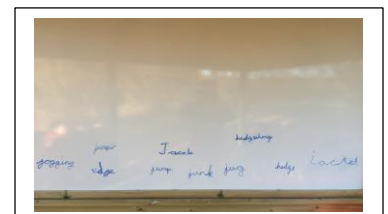
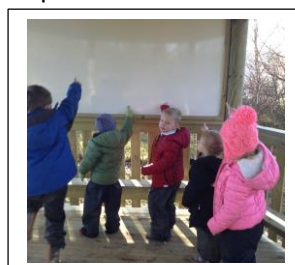


## **Outdoor Classroom**

Last week all the children had the opportunity to use the outdoor classroom for the very first time. It was an exciting time, children and staff alike could not believe how much space there was in the classroom. The large class whiteboard meant that the adults and children could discuss what they had seen, findings were recorded for all to share and the teachers could explain and model new concepts without having to return to classrooms in order to interrogate what they had discovered.

A whole school timetable ensured that every class had a dedicated slot of learning in the new classroom resource. The children wrapped up and excitedly carried equipment up to the nature area in order to explore. Teachers had planned a wide range of learning opportunities from Phonics in the outdoors to using the classroom as a time machine to travel back to the stone age.

The next step in enhancing the outdoor learning provision is to source a permanent set of equipment just for the classroom, which is gathered and ready to use. Mrs Foley has already compiled a list of resources including binoculars, microscopes, clipboards and collecting nets.



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- *Fond Farewell*
- *KS1 & KS2 Christmas Performances*

### Diary Dates

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> January** - Training Day

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - School

Reopens

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January** - PTA Meeting

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> January** - Yr 4 Class

Assembly

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> January** - Glow Disco!

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> February** - Break Up Half Term

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> February** - School Re-opens

## Fond Farewell

As we come to the end of the autumn term we have to say a fond farewell and good luck to some of our members of staff as they leave the Whartons in order to take up new challenges or make a little more time for personal pursuits.

Firstly, we will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Latchford who has worked at the Whartons for 5 years as a teacher. Mrs Latchford has worked across many classes in the school. Mrs Latchford has lead RE across school for the last few years and helped children to not only learn about different religions, but also learn from them. She is a valued member of the team and we will all miss her. However, Mrs Latchford also works at All Saints Primary and feels it is now time to reduce her teaching commitments. We hope she will come back and visit us.

Also leaving after 10 years at the Whartons will be Mrs Malthouse. Mrs Malthouse is well known by the children as she helped, guided and cared for them at lunchtimes and at After school club. She supported Carly to build the club from the beginning, in to the fabulous wrap around care it is today. Mrs Malthouse is leaving to take up a new challenge in a day nursery: we wish her good luck.

Mrs Biller will also be leaving as Mrs Gomes returns. Mrs Biller will be taking up the role of Headteacher at Carr Wood Primary School in Bradford. She has been a fabulous addition to the Whartons team and really supported me through the Ofsted experience. I know she will make a great Head and I wish her much luck; thank you Mrs Biller. Last but by no means least it is with sadness I say goodbye and many thanks to Mrs Kirsty Bryant who steps down as a governor. Mrs Bryant worked tirelessly in her role to support school on their journey to a good Ofsted judgement; I can't thank her enough for her support. It has been a pleasure to work with her, a rest now is in order.

## KS1 and KS2 Performances

My favourite part of the festive period in school are the Christmas productions and this year was no exception.

Both KS1 and KS2 children performed brilliantly. In KS1 the children told the Christmas story through the journey of 'The Little Angel'. Matilda played the little angel superbly as she helped other characters on the way to earning her first set of wings and arriving at the stable just in time. The children performed confidently and sung beautifully, we were all so proud of our youngest children. KS2 children retold the story of Scrooge and invited us all to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Again the performances of all the characters was a joy and lower KS2 children supported the story telling through their incredible singing performance.

Thanks to everyone for a lovely start to Christmas.



## A final Note:

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Julia Dickson