

The Whartons' Newsletter

29th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very mixed few weeks at school. Some of the highs have been the chance to be outside more in the lovely weather, Miss Milner has given birth to a beautiful baby girl named Poppy (congratulations Miss Milner!) and we have had some interesting visitors in school such as the fire service. On the otherhand there have been challenges especially around illnesses in school and absences. There are many children and staff members/families who have been affected by COVID and a spate of sickness bugs. I hope that everyone has the chance to recover over the holidays and school returns more to normal. Apologies for any inconvenience the staff shortages have brought, thank you for your patience.



Assembly Themes

The assembly focus for this half term has been 'Healthy Me' to match into the focus of our Jigsaw lessons. The children are incredibly knowledgeable about what helps us to stay healthy. From enough sleep to a balanced diet and regular exercise to making time in our days for relaxation and mindfulness. We also celebrated Neurodiversity week, learning about what the phrase actually means and discussing successful neurodiverse role models.

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

Congratulations

We were all very proud of Miss Dalzell last week when she attended her graduation at Leeds University.

It is so lovely that students can once more receive their degrees in person and dress in their academic gowns. It is definitely a key milestone, and I can still remember the feeling myself 34 years later!!

We hope you savored the moment, Miss Dalzell. Beautiful day for it too.

Reading Deep Dive

School welcomed our Chair of Governors Mr Alan Padden and the school improvement adviser Helen Davey to spend the day in school last week. It is good practice to invite outside agencies into school to help senior leaders scrutinise good practice in school in a focused and informative way.

The day was packed with lots of aspects of reading to share. We were able to observe children's learning in phonics and reading lessons with our visitors. We showed Mr Padden and Mrs Davey how children used their phonics knowledge and transferred this into their writing. The visitors heard some of the children from Years 1, 2 and 3 read and chatted to children from KS2 about opportunities to develop their love of reading in school through reading assemblies, daily story time and using a range of information books to reading around our topic work. All the children shared their work and thoughts brilliantly, well done to everyone.

- **Police visit Reception**
- **Out Door Maths**
- **Youth Social Action Projects**

Year 1 enjoy outdoor maths lesson

Year 1 children took to the school grounds this week as they went on a measuring hunt.



The children have been learning about length and exploring meters as a unit of measure. They had great fun developing their understanding through comparing long and short objects. They scoured the grounds to find as many objects as they could that were longer than a meter (the shelter), shorter than a meter (twigs) and about the same as a meter. Well done Y1 mathematicians.



Reception get a visit from the Police!

We were all on our best behavior last week when we had a visit from some of the local police officers.

The children in Reception have been talking about their local community and the people who help us so Mrs Matthews and Mrs Manderville decided to invite the police officers to school so they could explain to the children about their role in the community.

They talked to the children about how they keep the community safe; taught them the emergency number 999; let them explore the police van; and put the siren on.



The children were brave and asked and answered questions.

All the children had a great time and loved the whole experience.

Youth Social Action Projects

The last two years have been incredibly hard for everyone but especially children. They have spent long periods of time out of school, trying to learn remotely and missing the routines and friendships of school. Although the children are closing gaps in their learning quickly, we have still noticed that many children have lost a little of their self-belief; doubting their ability to succeed. They can also struggle at times to work collaboratively or to stay engaged when tasks are challenging.

I have been researching, as part of my Masters degree studies, into supporting children's self-efficacy, resilience and ability to engage and keep trying. There is some evidence that if children participate in community action projects where they identify a cause or issue, they wish to support e.g. food banks or climate change and work together to plan a project to help, then this can really boost their feelings of positivity about what they can achieve. There is also some evidence that this can help them to engage in other areas of school too and boost progress. I have decided to introduce a weekly assembly slot where the children work together in their classes. They will decide on a project they are all interested in and plan some actions to support their cause. The important element is that it is the children, not adults, who decide what to focus on and how to help e.g. collecting items, making posters etc. I will be introducing these sessions next term.

Watch out for more detailed information letters for children's engagement in these projects and sharing their views and ideas.

We are looking forward to getting involved with our local community

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- Celebrating Neurodiversity Week
- Diary Dates
- World Book Day

Diary Dates

Friday 1st April - School

Closes for Easter

Tuesday 19th April-

School Reopens

Tuesday 3rd May-School

Class Photos

Tuesday 17th May-Yr5

Trip to Jorvik Centre-

York

Saturday 21st May-

Otley Show

Celebrating Neurodiversity Week

Through a whole school assembly the children were introduced to celebrating neurodiversity week.

Enthusiastic volunteers demonstrated how messages could be passed from one person (representing a neuron brain cell) to another along a line. They also realised that there were many different pathways the message could take along the pathway as sometimes 'brains are wired differently' and messages can take a little longer to get to their destination. The children enjoyed watching Elijah and ?? who were in competition to complete identical but complex tasks. Elijah had to complete his task one handed which was challenging and frustrating. We discussed with the children about how this may feel similar for neurodiverse children in lessons. The children discussed how to support their classmates if they sometimes take a little longer to complete tasks. We also learnt about famous, creative and scientific role models such as Daniel Radcliff, Chris Packham, Ryan Gosling and space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock who are all neurodivergent, with conditions such as dyspraxia, dyslexia and autism and embraced their many skills to succeed and excel in their chosen occupations.

Mrs Green our new Learning Mentor is running a competition for children to create posters to explain Neurodiversity. The winning posters

will be used in the entrance hall display and win the creator an Easter egg.



World Book Day

What a fabulously packed day Mr Fisk planned for school this year's World Book Day.

This is what he says:

For our World Book Day this year, we got to bring in something we'd associate with our favourite book, like a favourite teddy or a magic wand. Our focus this year was on sharing a favourite book and having a reading buddy from another class. So, Reception and Year 3 read and shared their books together; Year 1 and Year 4 shared theirs; and Year 2 shared theirs with both Year 5 and Year 6.

We also got to do lots of other fun activities like meeting some authors online and watching live World Book Day events from a theatre in London. Some of the classes did a scavenger hunt, where they had to find certain new words in either their books, class books or books from the library. We all agreed though, that the best part was getting to share our books and our love of reading with each other!



A final Note:

It has been brought to my attention that the parking outside school at drop off and pick up is creating an obstruction again which would hinder any emergency vehicles. Please try to be considerate when collecting the children. Thank you. Have a lovely Easter Break. *Julia Dickson*