

# The Whartons' Newsletter

22/7/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to reopen the school to all year groups again after such a long time. The classrooms and outdoor spaces have been alive with enthusiastic chatter and busy activity. I have been amazed at just how quickly the children have embraced the new school routines, thrown themselves back into the joy and bustle of school days and kept each other safe. I would like to welcome all the new reception children who have settled well, also a few new children across different year groups and two new members of staff; Mrs Boyle and Mrs Smith. We have to say a fond farewell, thank you and good luck to Miss Atwood who has stepped down from her TA role to spend more time with her children.



## Assemblies

Although we are still unable to hold assemblies in the hall together, this term I have switched from prerecorded Loom assemblies to live Zoom assemblies in to the classrooms. The experience has been odd for me as the classroom desktops have no microphones or cameras. The children and staff have been able to see me and discuss the key issue together but I can't see them! A slightly unnerving experience. I have been sharing thoughts around changes to school this year and learning to embrace the positives whilst recognising when we need to share worries.

## Twitter

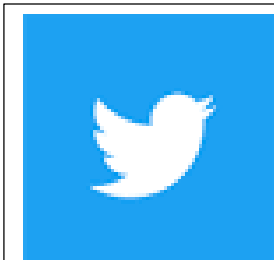
We realise that it will be very strange not having your children around at home for the majority of the time. I know everyone is pleased to see their children back at school learning with their peers. I am sure you are wondering what they are getting up to and probably missing their chatter throughout the day.

We have decided to use our twitter feed to give you a weekly glimpse into life in the classroom.

Each class will draw up a 'Twitter' rota, with weekly 'Tweeters'.

The children will select a learning activity to share each week.

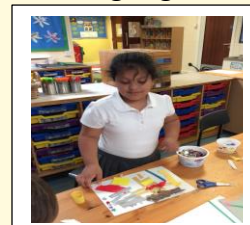
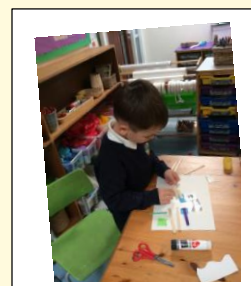
Make sure you follow us on  
#whartonsprimary



## Making Monsters

The Year 1 children used all of their creativity to produce amazing 'Monsters' at the crafting table this week.

The class had been talking about animal body parts in science and are learning about real and made up words with the help of monster characters in Phonics. This was a great task to link the two areas of learning together.



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## **Diary Dates**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct-Flu**

Immunisations

**W/C Monday 12<sup>th</sup>**

October-Bikeability

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October-**

Individual School Photos

**Autumn Parents**

**Evening**-Details to be confirmed

## **Recovery Curriculum**

The atmosphere in school has been one of calm over the first two weeks of term. Teachers have designed activities which enable and encourage children to share their experiences over the last 6 months. There has been time for daily resilience activities alongside a focus on the positive opportunities and the new experiences children have enjoyed. Teachers have also guided the children through sharing worries and identifying resilience practices. Teachers have used discussions, questioning, quizzes, games and a range of tasks/activities over the first two weeks of term, not only to ease children back into the routine of school, but also to assess children's knowledge and understanding of the key essential learning from the last academic year. We will be working together now to identify where children may have gaps in their learning and need extra intervention in order to close those gaps.

In many cases this will be for the whole class, and teachers will adjust their teaching to incorporate last year's key knowledge into their introduction of new concepts, so as to bridge the gaps. In other cases children may need to work in small intervention groups to cover specific concepts in addition to new learning. There will also be a need for 1:1 or 1:2 tutoring which could be within the school day or outside lesson times. If we feel that additional support is needed outside lessons times we will liaise with parents to explain and ask for their support.

## **Tagtiv8**

We are pleased to share with you a new initiative we have embarked upon this year.

As you may know the government is keen to encourage more physical activity for children, and to build healthy habits when it comes to exercise and active lifestyles. To this end the government provides extra 'sports funding' grants to schools which are used to raise activity levels for all children. We use some of the funding each year to secure an expert PE teacher from PHGS. Mrs Fenton-Green supports and mentors our own teachers during PE sessions, introducing a wider range of sports teaching to entice and engage the children and organises mini sports festivals. More recently the Sports Funding has been used to improve the playground facilities; with new playground markings designed to encourage active play and a new outdoor gym.

This year with some of the funding we have enlisted sports coaches from ACES to run free lunchtime and afterschool physical activities clubs. They will also be working with two classes each term on Tagtiv8, an initiative combining practicing key Maths or English skills with physical activity. This term Y1 & 2 practicing phonics skills through games out doors.



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

As always the children have taken all the changes in their stride and I am so proud of how responsible they have been. It has been lovely to see them working together and supporting each other. Well done everyone.

*Julia Dickson*