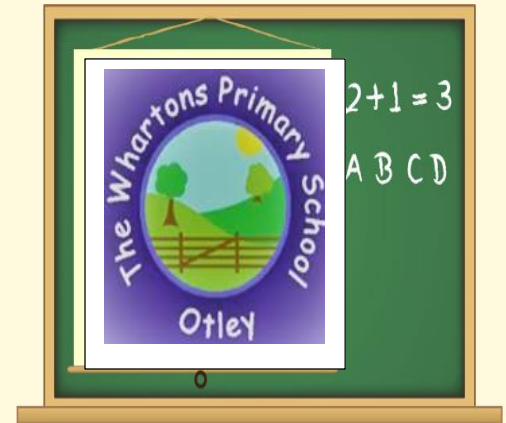


## 24th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. We are all in the swing of the new term and are looking forwards to gradually lengthening days. Last week we said goodbye, all be it temporarily, to Miss Milner who has gone on maternity leave. Miss Milner has had a great impact on school in the relatively short time she has been the Learning Mentor. She was still busy last week supporting Y6 children to lead an assembly focused on online safety and introducing her new playground mentors to the rest of the children. I know everyone will miss her but we wish her well and can't wait to meet her new baby soon.



## Assembly Themes

Our Assembly theme for this half term is to consider our Goals and Dreams; how we might plan to challenge ourselves and reach those personal and whole school goals by staying focused, collaborating and trying our best.

Due to all the activities that have been happening around school this half term, we have not had any Friday Certificates yet but these will be given out as soon as we have a normal Friday Assembly.

### Welcome New Staff

I would like to welcome two new temporary members of staff to the Whartons' team.

Firstly Mrs Burgess will be taking over as Learning Mentor from Miss Carly Milner for the duration of Miss Milner's maternity leave. Mrs Burgess is a qualified teacher and will be working with individuals, groups and families in her role. She will also be covering teacher planning time in Y3 & 4.

Miss Dickson will be joining us as a teaching assistant in Y3 & 4 until the end of the school year when she will be starting her teacher training with the Red Kite Alliance and we will be recruiting for a permanent Teaching Assistant.

### Snacks and Packed

#### Lunches

Please can I remind parents that only water is allowed during the day with the exception of juice in lunch boxes. We are also seeing an increase in sugary, salty and processed snacks. Please refrain from sending chocolate, crisps, and sweets etc as snacks. We have a tuck shop which sells toast and crackers and KS1 have free fruit.

- **Year 1 Outdoor learning**
- **Cluster Training Day**
- **Positive Identities Workshop**

### Cluster Training Day

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January teachers from across our family of schools gathered together for our annual Family of Schools Training Day.

The trainer (Alan Peat) and the training were inspiring. The focus of the day was how to support improvement in narrative writing across school.

Alan shared specific and focused strategies and approaches, backed up by research and best practice. Teachers from all schools were enthused and motivated to try out a range of Alan's approaches. The headteachers will be discussing how we can work together as a cluster of schools in planning an approach across all schools, supporting each other with resourcing and implementing the approaches of the day.

On Tuesday morning this week, parents and pupils were treated to a wonderful whole class assembly by the Newts class (Y1). The children showed and explained to their audience just how much they had learnt about houses and homes over the last few weeks. It was incredible how much the children could remember. They had made up songs to help them recall all the different types of houses; they used actions to help them remember the whole of the story of the Three little Pigs, which they recited in unison and they created art work to depict their personal fantasy houses in the style of artist Hundertwasser. The children had discussed whether large or small houses were best in their philosophy for children lessons and had used the wildlife area to test the best house making materials for science. What an incredible learning journey!



## Positive Identities Pupil Workshop

Following on from staff training earlier on in the year, where we embarked on Barnardos 'Positive Identities Initiative'; Roy Ward, trainer and representative from Barnardos, led a pupil workshop. The workshop was the first in a series of sessions which explores with older children the importance of creating a positive environment for inclusion and tolerance in school. The Year 5 children thoroughly enjoyed their first session and have written about the event below.

On Tuesday we (Year 5) had a workshop with Roy and Caroline from Barnardos, where we discussed diversity, different families, gender roles and stereotypes, and thought about people's experience in school in terms of bullying.

We learned some good ways to remember what bullying is: STOP stands for Several Times On Purpose. We also talked about how we should never insult or use labels for people, to make them feel bad.

Finally, we made posters to put down ideas about how the school can be a safer place for everyone and how Year 5 could be Equality ambassadors.

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- Whartons Learning Wall
- Playground upgrade
- Diary Dates

### Diary Dates

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Jan-Reception Phonics Morning 9-10.15am

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Jan-2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Clothes Stall in Travel Shelter 3.15pm

Weds 29<sup>th</sup> Jan- Yr 3 Class Assembly-9.15am

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb-Yr 1 Bun Sale

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Feb-Yr6 Trip to PHGS to see The Wizard of Oz

w/c 10<sup>th</sup> Feb-Yr6 Residential

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> & Weds 12 Feb-Yr1 only Parents Eve

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb-Dress Down Day

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb-School Closes for Half Term

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb-School Reopens

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb-School Silent Disco

## Creating The Whartons Learning Wall

A focus area of development in school over this year is to revisit the Whole School Curriculum, identify the important 'key knowledge' we want all children to learn/retain and clarify learning journeys across the school in each subject areas.

It is always a good idea every few years to analyse the whole curriculum to check if it is still the most appropriate for the children and the school. Therefore, across the spring and summer terms, each subject leader will support and train staff in subject knowledge and the best teaching practices within their subject. Teachers will work together to build a 'Wall of Learning' display which highlights the connection between topics, identifying prior learning which children build upon. Teachers will analyse our curriculum in order to enrich each area of learning with a line of enquiry, memorable knowledge, sophisticated vocabulary and quality literature, artifacts, visits and experiences.

Some of the topics may move year groups, or time of year, if we feel that it would support the building of knowledge in a more sequential pattern. With a more visual 'wall' of learning across school it will enable staff and children to clearly see how their learning builds.

## Playground Upgrade

There has been great excitement over the last couple of weeks as our newly designed playground has started to take shape. I wrote last term about the work which Mr Hampson and the School Council had been doing in order to design and secure a plan to upgrade our playgrounds and field areas. The children under the guidance of Mr Hampson and with the expert help of Mr Reynard researched many playground designs; they created a budget using government sports funding and donations from the PA and Thompson Groundworks playground company. The staff from Thompson Groundworks company have worked tirelessly over the last couple of weeks, in very challenging conditions, to create the exciting new outdoor spaces. As well as the children having a brighter and more engaging environment at playtimes the new playground markings have been designed to support outdoor learning in maths, drama, science and PE. Mr Hampson and Mr Fisk will work with teachers to plan in more active learning sessions outdoors using the new markings and equipment. We would like to say a huge thank you to Joseph's parents who donated the train climbing frame and phonics playground markings in the Reception area.



### A final Note:

It is Careers and Aspirations Week this week and I would like to thank all the parents who have given us their time and expertise. It has already been a fabulous week. In the next newsletter we will share lots of highlights.

Julia Dickson