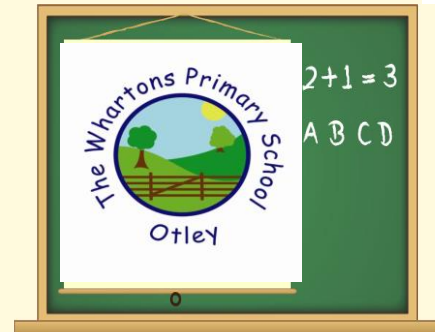


The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

29th November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we are almost in December and some of the preparations for the festive season have already begun; it is such an exciting and busy time in school. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a change in school in the New Year, and to congratulate Mrs Dolphin who has secured a post as School Business Manager at Holy Trinity Primary School in Cookridge. I have very mixed emotions as I, and the rest of school, will miss Mrs Dolphin terribly; however, I am so pleased for her that she has gained this next promotional step in her career. I know she will do a fantastic job as she has here at The Whartons over the years. Mrs Dolphin has been at The Whartons for 14 years and has supported the children and staff through many changes. We thank her for all her hard work, her generosity of spirit and her interesting sense of humour!



Assembly Themes

As part of our Celebrating Differences theme over the last couple of weeks in assemblies we have been considering how to avoid judging people on what they might enjoy, the traditions they upkeep, the way they look or choose to dress or the beliefs they have. The following children have excelled in their ability to follow our Golden Rules of respectfulness.

Well done to :

Rec: Eva M, Charley F, Samwise B & Frank C

Yr1: Charlotte B, Una J-C, Brodie T & Skye L

Yr2: Miles A, James M & Kayce-Jayne C

Yr 3: Austin D, Nicholas E, Annie C & Lucas M

Yr4: Charlie C, Ethan S, Evan A & Jack B

Yr5: Beth S, Alex G, Alice M & Jake A

Yr6: Poppy P, Sam D, Seth K & Rory C-Y

Choices Now & Then Workshop

On Tuesday 22nd November, Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a dynamic workshop which explored the concepts of peace, conflict, extremism, resilience, choices and consequences, during both WWI and here and now in the 21st century. Using a range of first hand sources and focusing on a range of individuals forced to make very different and very difficult decisions, the workshop asked us to consider what we would do in extreme situations. Children were involved in a range of activities which encouraged them to question prejudice, propaganda, and pre-conceptions, giving them tools to build personal resilience to modern day propaganda and prejudice and encourage them to welcome and support community cohesion.

'Choices Then & Now' has been identified as a model of Best Practice by the Prevent team at the Home Office and the Department for Education & is now being rolled out across the UK. Children and families can explore more by visiting the Peace Museum in Bradford or taking a look at their website:

<http://peacemuseum.org.uk/choices>.

Orienteering

Two weeks ago Mr Hampson's class enjoyed learning the art of orienteering in preparation for the whole school outdoor learning week last week. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking their maths and PE learning outdoors. They honed their skills in direction finding, sequencing, map reading and navigation using compass points; all under a time pressure. They worked collaboratively and used their reasoning and deeper thinking skills to complete their tasks.

Last week the year 6 children transferred their skills and supported younger children in completing orienteering courses around the school grounds as part of outdoor week.



- Christmas Fair
- West Leeds Activity Centre
- Outdoor Learning Week

Christmas Fair

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Fair on Saturday. There were a great array of stalls, games and opportunities to buy early Christmas gifts. Obviously we were very lucky that Father Christmas was able to spend a little of his precious time with us and I know lots of children relished the opportunity to meet him. Thank you to all the people who organized and helped to make the afternoon a buzzing and enjoyable event. Thanks too for all the generous donations to the tombola and other raffle prize.

Visit to West Leeds Activity Centre

We were very fortunate last week as we were invited to take a small group of children to Leeds run West Leeds Activity Centre. The sessions provided were taster events, designed to give school the opportunity to 'try out' the facilities and for children to try a new sport.

Mr Hampson, myself and twelve lucky children were escorted by mini bus to Kirkstall, where the Leeds authority centre of 17 acres is tucked away at the end of a quiet street.

Undeterred by the weather and failing light towards the end, we all had a fabulous time. The children were able to experience Go Karting and Archery; they threw themselves into both activities with gusto and there was a certain air of rivalry when it came to the highest score from the archery competition! It is always great to encourage children to try something new and sometimes these experiences turn in to a life long passion.



Outdoor Learning Week

Mrs Foley planned an amazing outdoor learning themed week for children and staff in school last week.

In typical Yorkshire style the weather was challenging but that didn't stop the children, or the staff, in thoroughly throwing themselves into the experience.

Mrs Foley alongside colleagues organised a plethora of learning experiences across the curriculum with a particular focus on building geographical skills. All classes took part in map reading activities searching for things around the school grounds, Den Building, Orienteering lead by Year 6 & Pond Dipping. Everyone enjoyed delicious hot chocolate to warm up after their activities. The week ended with a Geography Quiz in the hall which the whole school took part in with great enthusiasm.

It was a brilliant week and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a great success.



This page >>>

- *KS1&2 Pumpkin Disco*
- *Year 6 Assembly*
- *Date for your diary*

Diary Dates

Wednesday 30th Nov-Yr6 Trip To Eden Camp

Friday 2nd Dec-Yr 1 Trip to Ilkley Toy Museum

Sunday 4th Dec-Otley Victorian Fayre

Wednesday 14th Dec-KS1 Xmas Production-1.30pm & 6pm

Thursday 15th Dec-KS2 Xmas Production-1.30pm & 6pm

Friday 16th Dec-Party Day & Xmas Lunch

Friday 16th Dec-School Closes for Xmas

Tuesday 3rd Jan 2017-Training Day

Wednesday 4th Jan-School Reopens

Athletics Competition

KS2 PHGS Interschools Sports Hall Athletics Competition

On Monday evening, a group of 19 athletes from KS2 took place in the Interschool Sports Hall Athletics Competition at PHGS. The team won many events on the track and showed to be great sports people showing dignity and respect in victory and defeat. Well done everyone.



Pop Choir Christmas Rehearsals

This week's Pop Choir will be the last after school session. From next week we will be rehearsing on a lunch time in preparation for Christmas.

Year 2 Assembly

Parents, children and staff were treated to a fast paced and exciting assembly last Wednesday morning. The Year 2 children took their audience through a whistle stop tour of some of their learning experiences so far this term.

The children explained how their themed work on super heroes had engaged them in a whole range of learning experiences; from understanding colour mixing, in order to design the most eye catching super hero logos with complementary colours, to writing character descriptions and powerful poetry.

Y2 went on to explain how their trip to Harlow Carr and their themed unit of work on plants had supported their learning in maths and science, through measuring, classifying and identification work.

The children spoke so articulately and left us all reeling from the sheer volume of work undertaken and knowledge gained. What a super morning for us to share; well-done Y2.



Enjoy a super weekend and I hope that many of you will come and support our choir at the Victorian Fayre on Sunday.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)