

The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

31st March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy term has come to an end and everyone is looking forward to their Easter holidays. As Easter itself is at the end of the two week break we have decided to hold our traditional 'Egg Decorating' competition in the first week back to school. There is plenty of time to get creative and just in case we do have a couple of rainy, stay inside days, what a better way to get the whole family involved! It is always exciting and amazing to see what innovative projects the children conjure up, although judging is always incredibly difficult. Sadly we bid farewell to Mrs Hawkins this week as she moves house to the countryside. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well in her new venture. We will all miss her!

Assembly Themes

Our new Jigsaw theme for this half term is focused on being Healthy. We have been discussing in our assemblies the importance of exercise and trying new things.

Well done to the following children who have made positive contributions this week :

Rec: Jessica B & Esme N Yr1: Brodie T & Oliver H Yr2: Josh L & Ruby C-H Yr3: Swimming

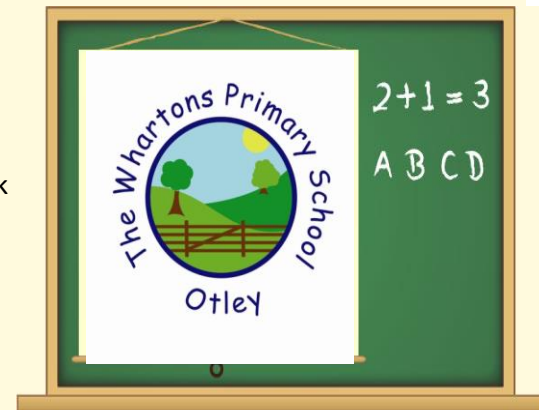
Yr4: Charlie G & Oluchi N Yr5: Natalie B & Freva R Yr 6: Olive P & Lola M-D

Mother's Day Stall

A great big thank you to Ms Cook and the team of volunteers from the parents' association who ran the annual Mother's Day stalls last week. The range of items on sale that the children could choose from was vast and there were choices from 50p to £3.00.

It is so exciting for the children to choose presents, which are truly a surprise, to give to mums, grandmas etc. on Mothering Sunday. Especially items which they can buy out of their own money and really show family members or those who care for them just how much they are appreciated.

I hope you all had a lovely day on Sunday no matter what you were doing.



Y6 Residential Preparations

Mr Hampson, Mr Reynard and Mrs Hughes met with parents of our Y6 children last week for a very exciting reason. In fact, I can't believe we have reached the point in the year when we have started preparations for the Y6 residential school trip.

During the next term all Y6 children will be working hard preparing for the SATs tests. This can be an intense time where they begin to think of moving on from primary school and up to secondary school and all the challenges that will bring. In order to make sure the children have something exciting to look forward to at the end of their tests, for the last couple of years we have organized that the residential trip immediately follows the SATs week.

This year the children will be staying at Great Tower Scout camp in the Lake District and participating in a wide range of adventurous activities. They will have the opportunity to try a range of new and exciting challenges which may spark an interest and a new focus or hobby for example climbing, archery or canoeing. We can't wait to hear all about it Y6.

- Great Maths Challenge
- Visitors to Reception
- Golden Time

Visitors from Iverson Primary School

Mrs Matthews and the children in reception class will be welcoming the Assistant Headteacher from Iverson Primary to their class after the holidays. Mrs ??? will be observing the Rainbow challenge system (which has been introduced this year) in action.

All the children and many of the reception parents are familiar with the system in the classroom provision areas. The EYFS teachers set challenges in different areas. The children listen to the challenges which are recorded on different coloured Dictaphones. The children have use their learning to solve all the challenges each week in order to complete their 'Rainbow'. This style of self-challenge where children are directed to apply their learning to a play context was identified by the recent Teaching and Learning Review team as creative, good practice. We are delighted to share this practice with colleagues from other schools.

The Great Maths Challenge

The NSPCC maths challenge event was a great success. Pupils from across the school spent the day using their mathematical problem solving skills to complete the mystery 'Guess Who?' game. Reception children had to decide which numbers were the biggest. Year 1 looked at calculations. Year 2 looked at fractions whilst Y3 and 4 looked at problem solving with time. Year 5 and 6 used their skills to solve angle problems and each year group reported back their clue. The children impressed everyone with their resilience and mathematical skills even beating Mr Hampson in the game.



The reason for the event was to raise funds for the NSPCC and we are delighted to have raised £1,173.40. Well done everybody

Golden Time Opportunities

Each new term heralds a new raft of Golden Time activities that the children can choose from. It is always good to consider new options as the weather improves and there are more opportunities for learning in the outdoors.

Golden Time is a reward for children following our Golden Rules of being: Helpful; Kind; Respectful; Hardworking and the best they can be. However, it is also an opportunity for children to work with different members of the Whartons staff team and with children from different classes and key stages. This in turn really supports the community feel of our school and promotes the ethos of children supporting each other.

Golden Time activities are designed as an extension to children's learning and an opportunity to try and develop new skills. This half term the range of Golden Time clubs the children could choose from has included gardening, Garage Band composing on the ipads, model making, a range of sports, film critiquing and lego construction.



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- Y2 events
- Dates for your diary

Diary Dates

Friday 31st March-School Closes for Easter Holidays

Tuesday 18th April-School Reopens

Tuesday 25th April-Yr 1 Trip to Harlow Carr

Monday 1st May-School Closed

Tuesday 2nd May School Reopens

Wednesday 3rd May-Yr 3 Class Assembly

W/C Monday 8th May-KS2 SATS

Friday 12th May-PTA Quiz Night- 7pm

W/C Monday 15th May KS1 Test Period (2 weeks)

Saturday 20th May-Otley Show

W/C Monday 22nd May - Yr6 Residential

Year 4 Class Assembly

Parents, children and staff all thoroughly enjoyed Year 4 class assembly this week. The children from Year 4 shared with us their wealth of writing from diary entries to character descriptions, which were inspired by their class novel 'The Demon Headmaster'. Much of the writing the children have engaged in this year has been fueled by analyzing the writing of novelists. Children then adapt the wealth of effective language features the story tellers have used to speak to their audiences, in their own creative works.

The children also shared other aspects of their learning from this year, via a whistle stop type tour around the imaginary Y4 school, headed up by 'Demon Headmaster Sam'. Personally I quite liked the strategy of hypnotizing children in to behaving and working hard that Sam employed! Although it was obvious from what the children shared with us that working hard is the norm in Y4. Some fascinating information children, well done.



Year 2 Visits and Visitors

Last week, Year 2 had some special visitors in: a millipede, stick insects, snakes, a bearded dragon, a frog, a tortoise, and even a greater haired armadillo. This was all part of our 'Deadly Animals' topic, with the children getting a hands-on experience combined with finding out more about these interesting and unusual animals.

All of the children were very brave and managed to at least touch the plastic-feeling millipede, the slimy frog, the surprisingly cold snake and scratch the hard and hairy armadillo! But it was really cool when Leafy the stick insect started to dance on our hands! We learnt and used lots of great scientific words in our session as well: segment, secrete, fangs, venom, antennae, vertebrae, invertebrate and exoskeleton. Even though most of those words are quite advanced words for Year 2 children, they all joined in the discussion. This was certainly a great experience for them to have which seemed to really stimulate their interest.

This week, as a finale to a half term of work in PE lessons, learning and developing multi-skills, Year2 visited Prince Henry's Grammar school (PHGS) on Tuesday afternoon. Year 2 children, and Mr Fisk, have been working with Ryan Davies our sports teacher from PHGS over the last half term developing a range of physical skills such as balancing, catching and dancing. As Mr Davies has been working with all Y2 classes across the cluster of schools 6 weeks on developing the same skills, he organized an end of term 'friendly' inter-schools competition. Mrs Latchford and Mrs Kellar escorted the Y2 children to PHGS and a great afternoon was had by all. It is always fun to meet up with children from other schools and enjoy taking part in a range of physical challenges. Y2's behavior earned them a class silver.



A final Note: I hope you all have a great Easter Break; lots of fresh air a few chocolate eggs and spring all around; what bliss! *Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)*