

The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

13th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to all of you.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable break over the festive period. The children came back refreshed and full of stories to share about their holidays and time with family.

I would like to share with you the lovely news that Mrs Gomes is expecting a baby in late April. We are in the process of shortlisting and interviewing for her maternity cover and I will keep you up to date with developments.

Assembly Themes

In assemblies we have been exploring the meaning of the word 'Welcome'. We have considered how we make people feel welcome and how we can welcome the New Year and all the new challenges and opportunities that a new year brings.

The following children have received certificates for their positive start to the new year:

Rec: Frank C & Erin W Year 1: Finlay S & Oliver T Year 2: Matthew T & Olivia S Year 4: Nathan M & Joshua D Year 5:

Isabella R & Amelia K Year 6: Lola M-D & Rory CY

Congratulations to all those children who received merit

badges at the end of the last term and well done to Charlotte

Chambers who was presented with the Harry Buckley award for creativity

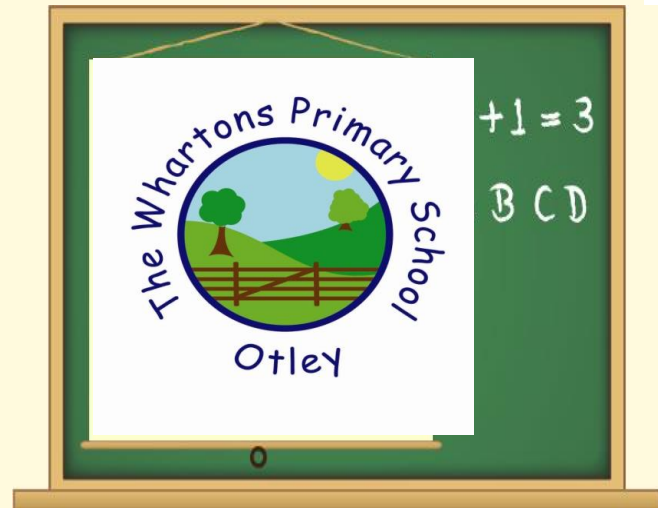


A Great Whartons' Send Off

The last day of school in December was emotional. The morning started in the playground where a group of parents pounced on Mrs Dolphin to wish her all the best in her future role and present her with a card and gifts, thanking her for all her hard work and dedication over the past 14 years at The Whartons; helping to look after their children and make their school experience a great one. We then moved on to assembly where Mrs Dolphin took her throne, centre stage, whilst the children regaled their fondest memories of their interactions with Mrs Dolphin. The children presented Mrs Dolphin with a beautiful card, illustrated by all them all along with flowers and gifts from the everyone at school. The assembly finished with the children singing 'Angels' to Mrs Dolphin and not just a few tears. Goodbye and good luck Mrs Dolphin!

Parent Forum

Our next parent forum will be taking place on Thursday 9th February at 6.30pm and will be looking at our curriculum for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), including the area of Sex and Relationships education and exploring how and why this is addressed throughout the school. Within the meeting, we will look at the new scheme bought by the school recently (Jigsaw PSHE) and will give hand-outs of useful information from this programme and its recommendations. We will explore how children develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in PSHE and how integral this learning is to our curriculum as a whole. Any hand-outs and presentation slides will be available on the website after the meeting but please look out for a letter coming home this week if you would like to attend.



- Dreams and Goals
- Growth Mindsets
- School Council

Growth Mindsets

In order to further enhance our focus on supporting children's development of learning skills; we will be introducing the concept of developing a growth mindset. We will be exploring with the children, what motivates them to learn and how we can 'grow' our intelligence by flexing and working out our brain, as we do with our muscles. This approach complements both our work on Learning to Learn skills (5Rs) and our Jigsaw theme this term of setting



and achieving goals.

Dreams and Goals

This term our whole school Jigsaw theme (personal, social, health and citizenship education; PSHCE) is 'Dreams and Goals'.

We will be working on this in class and will also have whole school assemblies to explore our dreams and goals in more detail.

This theme aims to help children think about their hopes and dreams, their goals for success, what personal strengths are, and how to overcome challenges, via team work skills and tasks. There is also a focus on enterprise and fundraising.

Children learn about experiencing and managing feelings of pride, ambition, disappointment, success; and they get to share their aspirations, the dreams and goals of others in different cultures/countries, and their dreams for the world.

School Council

The school council worked hard last term to collect ideas and opinions from their class mates. Each pair of councilors canvassed their classes to gather thoughts on school improvement related issues.

The focus of the school council is to decide on an area of school they would like to improve, an aspect of school behavior or ethos they would like to change/enhance and a fundraising idea.

This week the council met to vote on the best ideas from their pupil voice questionnaires and decide how to make plans happen.

The councilors decided they would like to finish improvements to the library by introducing comfy furnishing, goldfish, fairy lights and extra book; they would also like to improve provision on the playgrounds by incorporating work areas, more equipment, a grass maize and outdoor dressing up.

An area of improvement in relation to behaviours the council would like to tackle is a more pleasant dining experience.

They propose having school councilors modelling great behavior and monitoring their peers. Introducing a weekly 'top table' so they can invite children who are good role models. There was also thoughts of raising money through a talent show.



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- *Diary Dates*

Diary Dates

Thursday 9th Feb-Yr 5 Assembly- 9.15am

Thursday 9th Feb-Parent Forum- PSHCE/Jigsaw-6.30pm

Friday 10th Feb-School Closes for Half Term

Monday 20th Feb-School Reopens.

Tuesday 7th March-Parents Eve- 3.30pm-5.30pm

Thursday 9th March-Parents Eve-£.30pm-7pm

Friday 10th March-Training Day

New Roles in School

The new term heralds a new set of pupil leaders. It was time last week to appoint our Head boy and Girl and their deputies for the spring term. The head and deputy head student roles are decided on by the staff, who consider very carefully who would be a great ambassador for the Whartons and lead other children by setting a good example. This term's leaders are Head Boy- George Chambers, Head Girl - Leah Hinton, Deputy Head Boy –Max Gifford and Deputy Head Girl- Olive Paylor

Class captains will continue in their posts, these children have responsibility for a class of younger children in school. They are role models and good organisers who support the class teachers and mentor the children in a range of activities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new office manager Mrs Mitchell to The Whartons. Mrs Mitchell will be joining us from 20th February. She has extensive experience in leading an office team and I am sure you will make her feel at home when you meet her.

Your Walking Bus Needs You!!

It has always been a great benefit to the Whartons school community having such a successful walking bus service. As you know congestion around the streets during drop off time in the morning has been an area of concern for some time; not only with our neighbours but also in relation to children's safety when crossing the roads near the school gates. Unfortunately, numbers for the school bus have dwindled to a level where the service may not be sustainable. I cannot praise highly enough the organisers and parent walkers who make the walking bus a possibility. The children and parents on the bus enjoy a sociable and healthy trip up to school and do their bit to ease congestion.

I would like to reassure parents that children are well supervised when they arrive at school. The bus is escorted straight in to the school hall. Two teaching assistants meet the parents and children in the hall, and just before the bell rings at 8.55 the teaching assistants take the children to their teacher in the playground and hand the children over individually. All the children wear their high visibility vests until in the cloakrooms so teachers are well aware of who their walking bus children are. Reception children are taken directly through school to their teacher in the classroom. All that the organisers of the walking bus need is a few more children, and for each child to access the bus daily a parent only needs to commit to walking with the bus on one day to supervise.

Please contact school for details of how you can help/join the walking bus; let us make sure this fantastic service continues!

A final Note:

I apologise if I haven't been around much on the playground since we returned from the Christmas holidays; I managed to slip down the stairs and break a couple of toes. The moral of the tale is not to wear fluffy non grip socks to walk around in, and pay attention when navigating a flight of stairs!

Have a lovely weekend

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)