

# The Whartons' Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Unfortunately, last couple of weeks have been sad and frustrating for many families and staff members with the closing of several bubbles. However, the most important thing to remember is that we are doing the right thing to minimize the spread of the virus by staying at home for 10 days.

Well done to all the children who managed to log on to their Google Classrooms and get on with their remote learning, we are very proud of your resilience.



## Assembly Themes

Our theme this half term is Changing Me, which fits in with our Jigsaw unit of work for PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education). I talked to the children this week about looking forwards positively. We discussed the vast potential each of them have and I asked them to think about what they would like to be in the future.

Well done to our 'Best I Can Be' certificate winners who shared their work or great learning behaviours with the school in Friday Assemblies.

## *Huge Thank You to our Chair of Governors*

I would like to let you know that our Chair of Governors for the last 4 years, Sarah Morgan, has stood down from the position from the end of this year. Sarah has done a fabulous job in steering the governing body over the last few years. She has always been such a brilliant advocate of the school and visits often to talk to the children and staff. Sarah's children left The Whartons for PHGS a couple of years ago and she stayed on as Chair. I can't thank her enough for all her hard work and support. I am thrilled she has agreed to stay on as a governor for another year to facilitate a smooth transition to the new Chair.

## *Mrs Mitchell and Mr Reynard to the Rescue*

Mrs Mitchell and Mr Reynard were real wildlife heroes a couple of weeks ago when they helped a mother pheasant save her chicks.

Mrs Mitchell was leaving work and saw a mother pheasant and her 7 chicks walking across the car park. This is not an unusual sight as we are very lucky and have pheasants visit the school grounds often. To her horror Mrs Mitchell saw the babies fall one by one down a grid at the edge of the carpark. Poor mum pheasant just stood and looked down into the grid not knowing what to do. Mrs Mitchell called Mr Reynard and together they staged a successful rescue mission, reuniting mother and chicks with no harm coming to either. What a fabulous feel good story. Well done to both of them!



- Covid Audit
- Making Salads
- Trips and visitors resume

### COVID Audit

On Wednesday Mr Hewitt from Leeds Health and Safety Team visited The Whartons to conduct a comprehensive Covid audit of the premises, processes, and procedures. Mr Hewitt was impressed with the staggered start and finish times as well as separate entrances which reduce 'pinch points' in the playground at drop off and pick up times. He commented on the clear signage around the school grounds and inside the building, which reminds all our staff, children and parents of the precautions we need to take to stay safe.

Mr Hewitt was especially impressed with the plentiful handwashing facilities and cleaning regime, but I think the highlight which Mr Hewitt said he would take away and share with the other schools, was the incredibly impressive watering can and spray soap hand washing, so brilliantly demonstrated by Y5. The audit confirmed we have robust procedures in place at all levels. Well done everyone.



## *Trips and Visitors*

We have a very exciting few weeks ahead as we have been able to book trips and visitors again at school.

Obviously, we will be sticking to Covid safe visits within our class bubbles. Teachers have scrutinized the risk assessments for each venue to ensure their procedures are as safe as they can be.

Year 1 children will be engaging in a day of Forest Schools with Reception children and finishing off with a picnic on the field and Year 2 are spending the day in Farnley Woods with our partner Neil Griffith, studying the area and immersing themselves in the environment, using it as inspiration for their writing. Years 2 and 3 have a visitor who will be helping them to recreate the 'Fire of London' on the school field whilst Year 4 are off to Whitby on a geography field study trip. Year 5 will be setting off on a historic adventure, to visit Yorvik which fits with their Vikings theme this term, and last but not least Year 6 will be embarking on some adventurous activities and a sleepover as an end of year mini residential. I am sure there will be plenty of fabulous photographs for the last newsletter of the year.

## Year 1's Salads

Year 1 had a fantastic afternoon last week with Miss Wilkinson making delicious looking salads.

The work was linked to their science healthy eating theme and their work on Beatrix Potter stories.

The children have read the story of Peter Rabbit together and loved finding out how cheeky Peter Rabbit stole vegetables from Mr McGregor's garden in the story. They talked about the fantastic and colourful array of vegetables Mr McGregor grew. They discussed Peter's favorite vegetable which are of course carrots! They talked about their favorite vegetables and how good they are for us.

Miss Wilkinson brought in a fabulous array of vegetables for the children to make into tasty salads. They learned how to clean and chop the different ingredients. Then it was fun to taste test all their creations



## This page >>>

- Transition Days
- Diary dates
- Home Learning

### Diary Dates

Monday 12th July – Yr4

field trip to Whitby

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July –

Yr5 field trip to Jorvik

Viking Centre, York.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Rec &

Yr1 Outdoor Adventure

Day

Yr2 & Yr3 Fire of London

Day

Yr6 Clip n Climb in Ilkley

and school sleepover

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Yr6

Transition Day to PHGS

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July –

Sports Day

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July –

Yr6 Sailing Activity Day

## Transition Days

We have had to move transition days a couple of times this year in line with the government's changing road map.

Year 6 will unfortunately not be able to engage in the customary 3 days of transition at PHGS. However, they will be having a guided tour of the school as a Whartons bubble and will have the opportunity to ask questions of key members of staff and get a real feel for the school.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July we will be having our internal transition day where the children will be spending the day with their new teachers in their new classrooms.

This will be an exciting 'getting to know you day' for all the classes. It will be an opportunity for the new class teachers to find out all about their new class of children; what makes them happy, things they love to do and agree how everyone wants their new class to work, and write a class charter or agreement.

Our new reception children will also be visiting school in small groups and staying to play for a while. They will meet their new teachers and have a chance to find out about their classroom and each other.

It will be lovely for us all to look forward to September and an easing of restrictions should enable all children (especially those starting a new school) to interact with the whole school community.

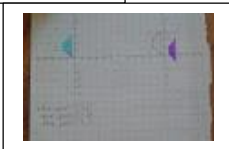
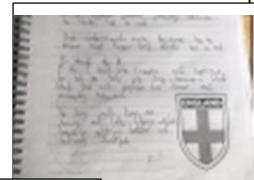
## Home Learning

We have had a return to home or remote learning over the last couple of weeks. It does seem such a long time since we had to do this on mass.

However, both the children and teachers were straight back into the routine of twice a day whole class zoom 'set up' and 'catch up' sessions followed by videoed lessons and submitted class work. I have been having a look in all the Google Classrooms and have been impressed with the standard of work from the vast majority of children. All the teachers realise how tough it is not being at school but want to say well done for sticking to your lessons each day.

I wanted to share some of the fabulous work I have seen on the remote classrooms.

Charlie from Reception has been getting hands on with floating and sinking investigations, Isobel in Y1 uploaded a fabulously interesting book video, Emma in Y6 wrote a very interesting History Of Maya, Tommy from Y4 answered all his science quiz questions neatly and correctly in a fantastic England notebook and Lilly in Y6 had cracked coordinates in different quadrants. Well done everyone.



## A final Note:

Great job England!! We are all behind you this weekend, good luck.

Julia Dickson