

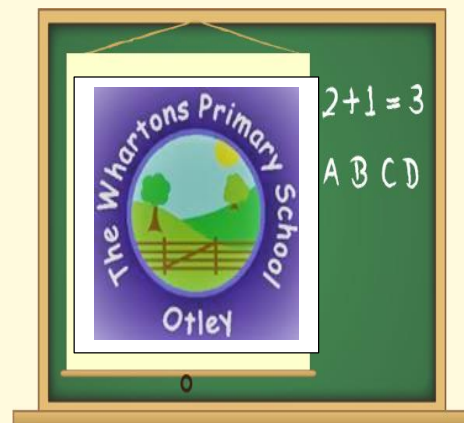
The Whartons' Newsletter

6th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a tricky return back to school after the half term with the unexpected snowfall and some stormy weather. Hopefully this winter weather is now behind us and I know we have had some beautiful sunny early spring days outdoors this week.

The children have settled back in to the school routine and after their short break are fully revived and enjoying their new learning experiences.



Assembly Themes

Our Assembly theme for this half term is 'Healthy Me' and we have started talking to the children about how they can keep both mind and body healthy. With this in mind I would like to remind parents about sending healthy snacks and packed lunches to school and to send water bottles to fill with lovely cold water from our drinking fountains for 'through the day' hydration. In this way we can support children to develop healthy lifestyle choices.

Well done to our 'Best I Can Be' certificate winners who shared their work or great learning behaviours with the school in Friday Assemblies. Their work will be displayed on our writer and mathematician of the week display boards

Reception – Avleen S & Evie B

Year 1 – Elsie B & Dougie T

Year 2 – Pearl B & Oliver B

Year 3 – The Whole Class

Year 4 – Noah R & Una J-C

Year 5 – Imogen G & Millie M

Year 6 – Elise F & Michael B

Phgs Communication

PHGS are trying to cut down the amount of paper they use and intend to send their Welcome Letters to Year 6 children when they join PHGS in September 2020 by email. They will be using the email addresses supplied by parents when they applied for their school place so please monitor your emails.

If this has changed, please contact PHGS to they can update their records.

Carnival Time

It is that time of year again when we start to think about our entry to the Otley Carnival parade. I know there are a small band of dedicated parent volunteers including Mrs Johnson, Ms Etherton and Mrs Bowman, who work hard to create the vision and organise the children in to sections for our 'masterpieces' of the last few years. Anyone who would be willing to help with costumes and ideas would be welcomed with open arms, please let the office know if you can help. We also had a visitor to assembly last week from the Carnival Committee asking for applications for Carnival Queen or Consort and Deputy Queen & Attendants. Get your applications in quickly if either role appeals to you.

- **Playground Equipment**
- **Active Learning**
- **Enhancing our Outdoor Areas**

Active Learning

Our wildlife area is a great place to explore and learn in, with teachers using the spaces for English lessons, science investigations and maths problem solving. To further enhance this area as a teaching and learning space Mr Hampson has used experiences of the wooded area on the Y6 residential trip, to plan several activity trails which will run around the area. The precise plans are a secret at present, but I have seen Mr Hampson and Mr Reynard disappearing up to the area with pallets and coils of heavy duty ropes! I am sure Mr Hampson will reveal his plans to the children soon.



Playground Equipment

The children are already thoroughly enjoying playing on the new playground markings which have had a positive impact on encouraging children to be more active during break times.

To further support active break times we will be having a children's outdoor gym station installed on some hard standing on the school field. We will teach the children how and when to use the new equipment safely when it arrives.

Mr Fisk and Mr Hampson have plans to introduce a flexible and fluid 'outdoor activity' session for KS2 children. This will serve to inject some activity into the afternoon sessions for KS2 when there is a natural break in the learning sequence for each class, and enable KS2 children to access the new equipment at the front of school.

Enhancing our Outdoor Areas

During the half term holidays Mr Fisk and I met with representatives from the Otley 2030 group and a landscape architect. The focus of the Otley 2030 group is to facilitate Otley moving towards being a sustainable place to live by 2030, in line with the United Nations sustainability goals. We as a school are working with the group and other schools in our cluster to make changes which will support this overarching goal.

One area of focus is to increase the number and diversity of habitats and areas of trees in the town. As The Whartons has beautiful and extensive grounds we are keen to enhance the wild areas we already have, create more diverse habitats and 'corridors' which encourage wildlife. This will also help reduce overall carbon footprints by planting more trees.

A landscape architect from Edinburgh, toured the school grounds with us and helped us to visualise a long term plan for the creation of habitats around the perimeter of the school field. The children love to explore the wildlife area during lessons and we want to create wild spaces to explore during break and lunchtimes. Mr Fisk has begun drawing up plans for the field and we have our first batch of trees arriving later in March which the Global Champions will be planting at the bottom of the school field to create a small 'dell'. Mr Fisk has already liaised with our grounds maintenance team who will support us in creating long grass areas with paths for children and animals to explore. We will keep you up to date with developments.

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- *Silent Disco*
- *Y6 Residential*
- *Diary Dates*

Diary Dates

Mon 9th March-Yr5 Bun Sale

Monday 9th March- PTA

Meeting-7.30pm

Tues 10th March-Parents Eve-

3.30-5.30pm

Thurs 12th March Parents Eve-

3.30-7pm

Fri 13th March-Yr5 Trip to

Westgate Planetarium

Weds 18th March-Training Day

Thurs 19th & Fri 20 March-

Mother's Day Stalls

Silent Disco

The Parents Association trailed a new venture on Friday last week...a silent disco! Sales of tickets were slow for this unusual event but it was great to see families arriving on the night to 'give it a go'.

The concept seemed a little strange but the proof of the pudding is in the eating as they say and what a fabulous evening we all had.

The children thoroughly enjoyed having their own headphones (actually the adults did too and I for one didn't want to give mine back!) and could choose and flick between two different play lists. The play lists were expertly compiled by Ms Etherton and appealed to all tastes. It was highly amusing to guess which children were listening to which playlist by the styles of dancing. Every child engaged enthusiastically in the dancing and the quiet when you removed the headphones was bliss!! I hope that the PA can put on another silent disco but they would need families to secure tickets in advance so they did not make a loss. Thank you to Ms Etherton and her partner along with the rest of the volunteers and families who made this such a great event. Please come along next time.



Year 6 Residential Visit

During the last week of the half term, the Year 6 children, travelled to Caythorpe Court in Gantham, Lincolnshire for their residential week long trip.

The weather was wintry and cold at times but beautifully bright and crisp. Everyone was well kitted out for any eventuality with several layers of clothing, waterproof overalls and mountains of woolly hats and gloves (thank you Mrs Gomes for buying a bag of spares!).

The itinerary for the week was varied and exciting. The children tried their skills at quad biking, tower climbing, buggy making and driving, archery to name but a few. I managed to visit for a day and cheer the children on in their ventures. The resilience and team support over the whole week was incredible. All the children conquered fears and were incredibly proud of their effort and achievements. Mr Hampson kept parents and school up to date with the week's highlights via twitter, including the fabulous evening socials such as campfire and disco. What a fabulous life experience for the children and some staff who had never been on a residential before; well-done everyone.



A final Note:

Have a great weekend, fingers crossed for good weather and the end to stormy weekends.

Julia Dickson