

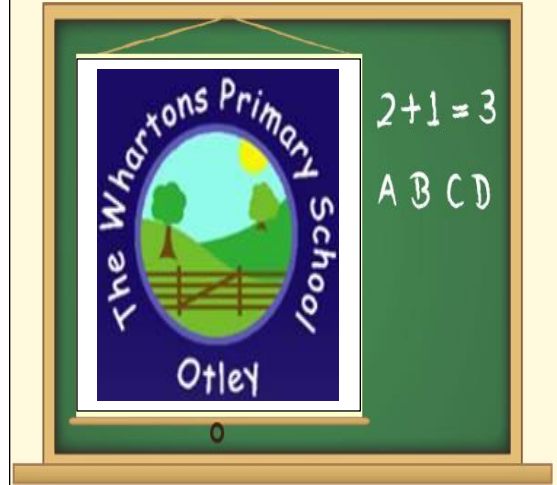
The Whartons' Newsletter

30/4/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are already now in the summer term at school. The children have returned to school after the holidays and settled comfortably back into routines with confidence.

I had the pleasure of carrying out a learning walk around classes earlier this week. I chatted to the children about their learning and how they were adapting back to learning at school instead of home learning. All the children explained how they found it much easier to learn at school with support from their teachers, support staff and learning partners. They were pleased to be back and felt confident in their achievements since full reopening.



Assemblies

Our Assembly theme for this half term will centre around Relationships and the importance of strong and positive relationships within our family, school, and communities. We explored the Islamic month of Ramadan and the important practices for Muslims of supporting those less fortunate from within the community.

At certificate assemblies on Friday morning all the classes celebrated children's achievements and hard work with teachers awarding the certificates in their classrooms

Problem Solving Maths

Y6 worked collaboratively during their maths session this week.

They were tasked with drawing a scaled plan of the front playground with play equipment. They firstly measured accurately every piece of equipment and distances between them. Then, armed with their measurements, they returned to the classroom to use the principles of ratio to scale down the

measurements and create scaled drawings

Tricky calculations Y6!



The Big Ask

On Monday assembly this week I introduced the children to a national initiative being led by the new Children's Commissionaire, Dame Rachel da Souza. Dame da Souza aims to be the children's voice, collecting children's thoughts and wants for the future, and using these to influence the government and bring about change. During the assembly we listened to the Commissionaire talk about the national survey called **The Big Ask**. All children and young people across the country are being asked to complete the survey and give their opinions. I will be sending out the link and would encourage all children to take part in this short survey, they may need your help to access and complete this.



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- *Creative Artwork*
- *Diary Dates*
- *Tennis Coaching for Y6*

Diary Dates

Monday 3rd May – May Day
Bank Holiday.

Thursday 6th May – Year 3
swimming lessons start.

Friday 28th May – School
closes for May Half Term
break.

Monday 7th June – school
reopens.

Creating Habitats

We were absolutely thrilled on the last day of term when Neil Griffin, a representative from Otley Outdoors Group, brought a fabulous array of outdoor resources to enhance the areas around school, which are home to different birds, animals, and insects.

Mr Griffin has been working with our outdoor leader, Mr Fisk, to further develop outdoor learning opportunities across Otley.

The resources which Mr Griffin donated on behalf of Otley Outdoors, and in partnership with the retailer and natural cosmetics brand 'Lush', will provide homes and food sources for lots of different creatures.

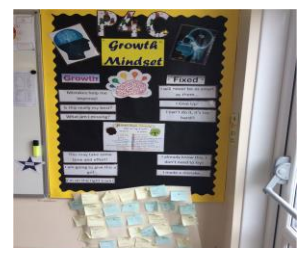
As outdoor learning is a driver in our curriculum, these resources will not only support the wildlife but provide opportunities for children to learn about conservation close up, at first hand. Mr Fisk has also planted more tree saplings on the school field which were kindly donated by Leeds City Council. Fingers crossed the extreme changes in weather recently are not too much of a challenge to the survival of these young trees.



Learning Skills and a Growth Mindset

Over the summer term we will be revisiting the concepts of Growth and Fixed Mindsets with the child. Through focused lessons and assemblies, we will encourage the children to revisit the concept of 'not yet' when it comes to learning new concepts. Supporting children to embrace their mistakes and learn from them. To recognise when their mindset is becoming fixed, when they believe they are not able to push through and reach their goals.

Hand in hand with celebrating a Growth Mindset, is to explore the skills and strategies we can learn which help us to 'get there' when work is challenging. We will be reminding children of our Learning to Learn 5Rs: Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflection, Risk Taking and Relationships. Classes will take a little time each week to focus on one of the skills and revisit, using their class or individual Learning Journals, how they utilised this skill over the last week. Well done to Tommy and Autumn who have reached Bronze for Risk Taking and Relationships.



A final Note:

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend (fine weather, fingers crossed) and we will look forward to welcoming children back on Tuesday

Julia Dickson