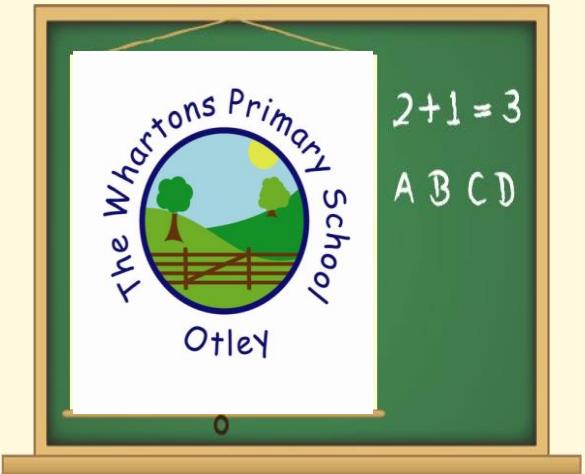


The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

28th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exciting and busy few weeks at school. Children have enjoyed learning in innovative and different ways including in the outdoors and through a whole school themed day. As December approaches we are all getting excited about the festive season; concerts, decorations, performances and plenty of singing!



Assembly Themes

Our assemblies this half term have focused on celebrating differences. The theme of National Anti-Bullying Week this year is 'All Different, All Equal' and we have explored how we should all respect the many things that are different about us and so make us unique.

During our celebration assemblies this half term we will be focusing on children's efforts and resilience in their learning. Well done to all those children who received certificates for their hard work over the last two weeks.

Reception – Levan B, Justin C & Lucas B **Year 1** – Charley F & Libby S **Year 2** – Matilda W & Oliver T

Year 3 – Halle J & Thomas H **Year 4** – Lilly T & Thomas S-G **Year 5** – Oluchi N & Jack B **Year 6** – Ewan F & Isabella R

Training Day Focus

Last Friday's training day enabled all the teachers to focus on whole school development using Growth Mindsets to improve outcomes for all children ensuring all children meet their potential. We have a whole school approach to the explicit teaching of 'Learning to Learn' skills, which we know can support children's resilience, independence and confidence. This in turn leads to improvements in children's attitudes towards challenge and progress in their learning.

To continue to develop our learning to learn philosophy, we will be delving deeper into Growth Mindsets this year exploring how through Trial and Error and learning by our mistakes we can all 'grow' our intelligence and improve our learning abilities. Growth Mindset lessons will be taught through PSHCE. Effort and progress towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards in the 5 Learning to Learn skills will be celebrated every Friday in assembly.

Safe Scootering

I have received reports, from concerned neighbours, that some children who are riding to and from school unsupervised on scooters, are engaging in dangerous road using behaviours. The pavements and roads around school are very steep and need to be navigated with care. Some children have been seen freewheeling their scooters down the pavements and the road and then not stopping at any of the road junctions, but riding at speed straight across. It is surprising there has not been a serious accident so far and some pedestrians have seen near misses. If your child scooters to school please could you ensure you have talked to them about the dangers. I will talk to the children in assembly and try to source some scooter training in the spring term.

- [Y1 Pond Dipping](#)
- [Outdoor Classroom](#)
- [Christmas Activities](#)

[Community Christmas](#)

There are lots of Christmas activities taking place around Otley that we as a school will be part of.

Our Pop Choir will be singing at The Victorian Fayre this Sunday, 3rd December at 12.45pm and also at the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church on Thursday 7th December at 2pm. We hope you will be able to go and support them.

Otley Scouts are also offering their usual Christmas post service from 2nd-18th December. A full list of all the postbox outlets can be found in the outside noticeboard.

Just as a final note our school Christmas postbox will be open from 4th -8th December, It will be situated outside the school office for the children to put their cards in. Please make sure the recipients names and classes are clearly marked on the envelopes please.

Year 1 Go Pond Dipping

Year 1 took advantage of the cold crisp winter weather last week and took their learning out in to the wildlife area.

They combined their English and Science learning to look at newts and where they live.

The wildlife area is rich with micro habitats and there are mini eco systems in every corner. In order to look at mini beasts close up the Year 1 staff took the children to the pond to do a spot of pond dipping.

The children and staff were surprised just how many different animals they found beneath the surface in the pond. They considered how to minimize disruption to the water creatures when collecting samples, they considered how to keep themselves safe near the water's edge, they used pictorial keys and identification charts to work out what they had caught and used their drawing and labelling skills to record their findings. But most of all they had great fun.



Outdoor Classroom

What an exciting couple of weeks it has been at school planning and watching the creation of a new outdoor classroom in the school grounds.

As you know, we are passionate about taking learning outside whenever we can. The children are motivated by the outdoors and there are opportunities to apply skills and give learning a real purpose. We are fortunate to have great grounds and over the years have sought to enhance the site so that children can explore.

Our wildlife area is teaming with possible learning opportunities: pond dipping, Gruffalo hunting, bug hunting, sketching, den building and measuring to name but a few. It can however be challenging sometimes to make the best use of this area with nowhere to sit and record findings, keep equipment and stay dry or out of the wind.

I want to thank you all on behalf of the children and staff for providing us with a fabulous outdoor classroom where we can really explore the surroundings, watch the wildlife and develop our skills in a purposeful, creative environment. We can't wait to get started. Later this week each class will have a taster session in the classroom. We will share our findings in the next newsletter.



This page >>>

- School Council
- Music Wow Day
- Diary Dates

Diary Dates

Tuesday 5th Dec-Secret Santa Stall

Wednesday 6th Dec-Secret Santa Stall

Wednesday 6th Dec-Nasal Flu Day-Rec-Yr4

Thursday 7th Dec-KS1 Christmas Productions

Friday 8th Dec-Christmas Dinner

Saturday 9th Dec-Xmas Fayre-2pm-4pm

Tuesday 12th Dec-KS2 Christmas Productions

Wednesday 13th Dec-KS1 Christmas Party

Thursday 14th Dec-KS2 Party Day

Friday 15th Dec-School Closes

Tuesday 2nd January 2018-Training Day

Wednesday 3rd Jan - School Reopens

School Council Elections

The annual School Council Elections were held last week. Children from all the classes were encouraged to put themselves forward to represent their classes on the new School Council for 2017-18.

Working with the School Council is a privilege and over my time at The Whartons they have implemented some great changes and worked so collaboratively together to gather the opinions of their peers and represent them so eloquently at Council Meetings.

Last year the council decided they would like to revamp the library, they gathered the childrens wants and needs for the space and planned a more cosy lay out with a designated study area. They approached the Parents Association to secure funding and oversaw the transfer of books from old furniture to new. The council also lead on improvements to the lunchtime experience.

I cannot wait to see what the new council members will have decided to improve around school over the next coming year. Congratulations to councillors:

Y1-Ebony P, Erin W & William H

Y2 – Matilda W & Noah R

Y3-Lily C & Callum B

Y4- Oliver M & Gracie C

Y5-Shahnaz W & Joe Davies

Y6-Lilly C & James W

Music WOW Day

Last week saw the second of our whole school WOW days for this year.

Mr Williamson was the teacher in charge of this WOW day, which of course had a musical theme. Each year group was assigned a decade to research. The children and staff dressed up in the appropriate attire for their chosen decade, some of the outfits really took me back to my youth and made me realise just how long ago that was! As well as exploring the music of the decade and using their genre as a vehicle to develop their year group's national curriculum music objectives, each class research the history of the decade. This included finding out about key events, constructing timelines, exploring the arts of the time and presenting the most interesting 'bits' to the rest of the school at an end of day assembly.

Everyone had a fabulous time and learning really came alive. Costumes were incredible and the whole day was a vibrant musical feast for the ears. Thank you to Mr Williamson for organizing the event and to all the children and staff for their enthusiasm.

We are already looking forward to our next WOW day in the spring term.



A final Note:

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Fayre next Saturday 9th, 2-4pm.