

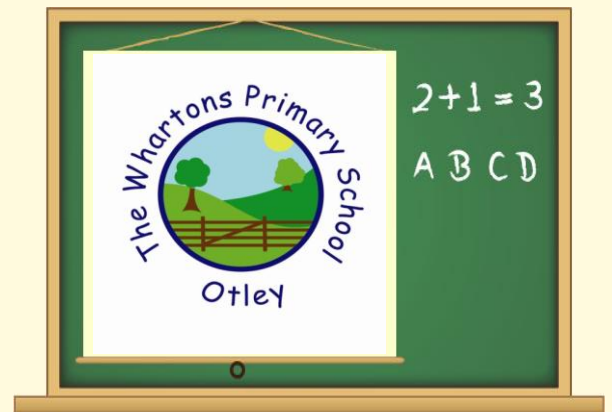
The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

15th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

It has been lovely to catch up with all the children's news over the last couple of weeks. They have settled brilliantly back in to daily school routine and when I have visited class they are a hive of hard work and enthusiasm.



Assembly Themes

Assembly theme for this half term is Being Me in My World and links to our PSHCE scheme Jigsaw. The children will be exploring their roles and responsibilities, their place within their community, how to plan effectively and challenge themselves

Well done to the following children who have received certificates this week for their great start to the new academic year:

Year 1 - Ebony & Esmee
Year 5 - Whole Class

Year 2 - Una & Charlotte B
Year 6 - Amelia & Ethan

Year 3 - Darcy & Sebi

Year 4 - Whole Class

Learning to Learn Skills and Growth Mindsets

We will be refocusing on the importance of developing our learning skills again this year, linking these skills to the concept of Growth Mindsets and creating learning charters.

Children can sometimes be reluctant to try new approaches or to engage in learning discussions for fear of being incorrect. We want to embrace the notion of learning through mistakes and trial and error; of working together to increase understanding and learning. We will explore the notion that the brain is like a muscle and if we exercise it and push it to work hard it grows along with our ability to understand.

Our celebration assemblies this year will focus on praising effort, resilience and bravery in approaches to learning as well as achievements.

Welcome

It has been a pleasure to welcome some new children to our school community this September.

In total we have ten children who have joined the Whartons this academic year across all year groups and from a range of different schools.

Some have moved from within Yorkshire, others from further afield in the UK and even as far away as Dubai.

The children at the Whartons have made our new pupils feel welcome and have really looked after them. The children have settled well and made lots of new friends. We look forward to the children sharing with us some of their experiences and knowledge of the different places they have come from.

- Parents Association
- Year 6 Responsibilities
- Whole School Trip

Your 'Parents Association' Needs You!

A new school year heralds a new chapter in the Parents' Association (PA) calendar.

The Parents' Association will be holding their annual general meeting on 18th September at 7pm. As you are all automatically members of The Whartons Primary School Parents' Association, we hope that many of you will come along to the meeting, followed by a cake and wine get together to generate ideas for the coming year.

The Whartons, as many other schools in these times of austerity, really rely on the PA to provide those extras for children's education which can really make a difference. Please come and find out how you can help, (many hands make light work so don't worry if you can't commit much time and that it may be ad hoc). It is also a great way to meet friends for yourself and your children.

Year 6 Responsibilities

As we wish all the best to our Year 6 children of 2017, we also welcome our new Year 6 children in to their roles as ambassadors for The Whartons and role models for the rest of the children in school.

They have really risen to the challenge already in school, setting an excellent example as they travel around the corridors, come in to assembly and conduct themselves in the dining room.

We encourage the year 6 children to take on extra responsibility and they have applied for a range of roles from class captains to official photographers; librarians to sound technicians; sports assistants to office juniors.

I thank them in anticipation of their support this year. The roles which our Y6 children take on in school, builds their ability to empathise and develops maturity. Supporting others and volunteering is a valuable part of development for children as they get ready to move on to their next stage in education.



Whole School Trip

Although it does seem quite a long time ago I wanted to share with you some of the highlights of our end of year whole school trip.

It has become something of a tradition over the last few years to celebrate the end of another successful school year with a whole school trip or on site adventure. Two years ago we all boarded coaches and spent an exciting day of learning at The Great Yorkshire Show ground, engaging in scientific field studies, orienteering and group challenges. Last year we spent the day on the field using design technology skills and working together to plan and build a tented village. This year we spent the day between Abbey House Museum and Kirkstall Abbey finding out about different eras in local history from Medieval times and monks in the Abbey to Victorian daily life, shops, clothes and toys in the museum. The children had a fantastic time and approached a wide range of 'hands on' tasks with enthusiasm. They engaged in role play in a Victorian school room, made Victorian toys, dressed up and turning detective to find out about the past. As always behaviour was outstanding. Thanks to all the children, parent helpers and the museum staff who made the day such a great success. We already have our thinking caps on for next year.



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Diary Dates

Mon 18th September - PTA Meeting and for new parents

Tues 19th September - Pupil Photos

Tues 3rd October - Reception Parents Meeting 6:30pm

Fri 13th October - Harvest Festival Bridge Church 10am

Fri 20th October - Half Term

Mon 30th October - School Opens

Fri 3rd November - Spooktacular Disco

Tues 7th November - Reception Phonics Open Morning 9am - 10am

Thurs 16th November - Nasal Flu Immunisation (Rec, Yr1, Y2, Y3, Y4)

Fri 17th November - TRAINING DAY

Reception Children Home Visits

The last two weeks have been an opportunity for the EYFS team to get to know their new children and for families and children to build a confidence in their new school.

During the first week of term the teachers and TAs from reception visited the new children at their homes. This was an opportunity to develop bonds with the children in an environment where they are comfortable and confident. Having an opportunity to show your new teacher your favourite toys and talk about the games you like to play builds confidence and a strong bond of understanding for both parties.

Last week the new children all had their first day at school. They explored their classroom and experienced eating their dinner with the other children in the dining hall.

All the children by the end of the week were confidently and happily working together, exploring and learning as if they had been at the Whartons for a long time already. It has been lovely getting to know them and it will be super when the older children step in to their roles as mentors and buddies for their young charges next week when the children are full time.



Head Girl and Boy Elections

Children at school engaged in the exciting democratic process of electing their pupil leaders last week. The candidates for Head and Deputy Head positions created campaign posters, which outlined their passions and ideals, these were displayed in the hall. The candidates then spoke to the children in assembly about their visions for the school over the next year and how they intended contributing to the smooth running and overall positive ethos of the school.

The election process was organized by the year 6 children who ensured classes attended the polling area in an orderly fashion and had the opportunity to cast their vote anonymously on a ballot paper, putting a cross next to their preferred candidate and finally posting their ballot papers in a secure ballot box.

Voting was very close with all candidates only separated by a few votes. All the children brave enough to stand as a candidate were praised in assembly and we are all proud of their courage and commitment to school.

Our new Head Boy for this term is Harry Sutcliffe and Deputy Head Boy Joshua Kershaw; new Head Girl is Millie Harrington and Deputy Head Marli Thompson. I know they will be great ambassadors for school. this term, well done.



A final Note:

Thank you very much to Sainsbury's Supermarket in Otley for providing fruit for our Key Stage 1 children this week.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)