

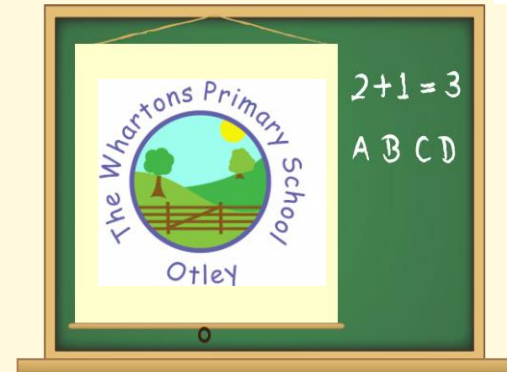
The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

15th December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of 2016 is almost upon us and I can't believe how this term has flown by. It has been a lovely couple of weeks in school with festive activities and performances alongside trips and visitors. The children have been working incredibly hard and definitely deserve a holiday.

Our Otleyopoly game has had a positive impact on raising attendance levels in classes and reducing occasional days off since its launch. The children have enjoyed winning the opportunity to move their class counters around the board. I would like to remind you that our target attendance figure is 97%, in line with all the cluster schools in Otley. The government has reclassified persistent absence as falling below 90% attendance, in recognition of the impact that absence from school can have on learning, and whilst we don't want children to come to school if they are unwell we do want to encourage a positive attitude and resilience.



Assembly Themes

The children have been finding out about Christian traditions, the story of Christmas and the fundamental values of kindness, friendship and supporting others.

Well done to :

Rec: Alex B & Abigail G Yr1: Lilly Mai T & Lucas B Yr2: Darcy C & Emma K Yr3: Lilly T & Molly B

Yr4: Emma L & Caitlin R Yr5: Harry S & Isabella R Yr6: Olive P & Isobel W

Y6 Visit Eden Camp

Year 6 had their learning brought to life earlier this half term when they visited Eden Camp in North Yorkshire. The children experienced all aspects of life from the war years; the insides of a U Boat, a blitz street, an air raid shelter to name but a few of the exhibits. The museum is spread over a large number of huts and children are immersed in the sights and sounds of the scenario they are interacting with. There was even a small theatre where the children watch a show from the 30s and sang along to Vera Lynn. I know the trip really supported children's understanding of what challenges faced ordinary people during this period of history.

Dental Workshops

On Tuesday 29th November, year 4, as part of their science topic on teeth had a visit from The Open Mouth team. University students from Leeds came to speak to the children about teeth, how many we have as children and adults, the names of all the different teeth and how we use them to eat different types of food. They brought models of teeth and huge tooth brushes to educate the children about the techniques of brushing their teeth correctly. The activity the children had the most fun with was the role play where they dressed up as different people we would expect to see in a dental practice and then attend to patients from their class. Year 4 had a wonderful morning with The Open Mouth team and we look forward to them coming again next year.

- Ilkley Toy Museum
- Otley Victorian Fayre
- Year 5 Greek Day

Victorian Fayre and Christmas tree Festival

The Whartons Pop Choir has dazzled at their Christmas events this December! The Victorian Fayre and The Christmas Tree Festival performances have both received rave reviews and all the children have really shown off their voices and all the hard work they have put into becoming excellent singers and performers.

Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowell have been extremely impressed at the children's commitment and the number of children who have taken part.

New Joiners are always welcome. Our next performance is coming.....



Y1 Visit to The Toy Museum

Year 1 took a journey back in time to visit the toys of their parents, grandparents, great grandparents and beyond. The children were fascinated by the teddy bears, dolls, dolls houses, tin plate toys and lead figures of the past. They enjoyed talking about the similarities and differences between their own toys and those in the museum. Jacob even spotted a toy bus the same as his Dad's at home. The oldest toy we found was a doll that was over 2000 years old! We all enjoyed a demonstration of a Zoetrope and some beautiful mechanical and clockwork toys. Highlights of the trip included watching a 1940's working model fairground and



a clockwork train.

Year 5 Greek Day

On Tuesday 29th November, children in Y5 were transported back in time to Ancient Greece! It was so much fun; we almost didn't want to come back! The day started with children arriving in their Greek costumes, which they had researched and made as part of their homework. We had a wide range of characters turn up, from Gods and Goddesses to soldiers and even a Trojan horse! After a gallery showing these off to one another, it was time to take part in some Greek learning. We put together a Greek glossary of some key words which we have learnt about over our topic and explained the meaning of some of these in our world study books. We then took a look at the philosopher and mathematician 'Pythagoras', who came from the island Samos in Greece, and did some very complex maths involving triangles and finding out how to work out the longest side of a right angled triangle when given the other two measurements. After break, it was then time for making our bread, which we had designed on Monday. We made pitta bread and were able to choose a combination of 2 common Greek ingredients of which we had made a list. We had to choose carefully to make sure our bread would be tasty and we also had to think about whether to mix our ingredients into the dough, place them on top or serve as a dip alongside the bread. We started the bread before lunch but had to leave it to prove for an hour before returning to knead it, shape it and place it in the oven. Mrs Gomes luckily had the help of Miss Wilkinson to make sure our bread did not get burnt and that we all got our bread out in time for our exhibition! At the end of the afternoon, we set up tables in the hall and gathered together all of our work from our Greek topic over the past few weeks. Thank you to those parents who came and chatted to us about our work and tasted some of our bread – we hope you enjoyed it! There are photos on the website for those who could not make it and we are putting a display up outside the class of just some of our work shown. Thank you to all parents for



your help with costumes and props – your support as always is much appreciated.



This page >>>

- *KS2 Carol Concert*
- *KS1 Nativity*
- *Diary Dates*

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd Jan-Training Day

Wednesday 4th Jan-School Reopens

Thursday 9th Feb-Yr5 Assembly-9.15am

Thursday 9th Feb-Parent Forum PSHCE/Jigsaw-6.30pm

Friday 10th Feb-School Closes for Half Term

Monday 20th Feb-School Reopens

Year 5 Basketball Tournament

This term, Year 5 have spent Monday mornings braving the cold and learning a host of new skills in basketball with Mr Ryan Davies from Prince Henry's. They have worked incredibly hard and shown real development and indeed talent for this sport as the weeks have gone on. On Monday 12th December, we then had the opportunity to put our new skills to practice in a competition against other local schools. The competition was tough (and the basket nets were incredibly high!) but the children showed such resilience to the end and did our school proud with their sportsmanship and encouragement of one another. We came joint 3rd in the end. As always, the children's behaviour was impeccable both at the tournament and whilst walking to and from the venue. Well done Team Whartons.

KS1 Nativity and KS2 Carol Concert

It was lovely to share with parents the fabulous children's Christmas productions this week.

Firstly, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children performed an upbeat nativity to a packed hall of family and friends for both afternoon and evening shows. The costumes and scenery were stunning, the singing was rousing, the story telling was clear and dramatic and the dancing was great fun. It is hard to believe that the youngest children in school all shared in the limelight on stage and delivered their performances with such confidence. What a wonderful start to the festive season.

The KS2 carol concert was beautiful and moving. The children sang a mixture of old and new carols and Christmas songs. There were some beautiful solos and dynamic dance moves which ensured everyone left with that warm festive feeling.

Thank you to all the children and staff who worked so hard to put together their concerts. And thank you to all our visitors who were very supportive and appreciative audiences.



A final Note:

As we wish a fond farewell to Mrs Dolphin and wish her the best in her new venture, I would ask for your patience in the New Year with the office staff, until we appoint an Office Manager. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)