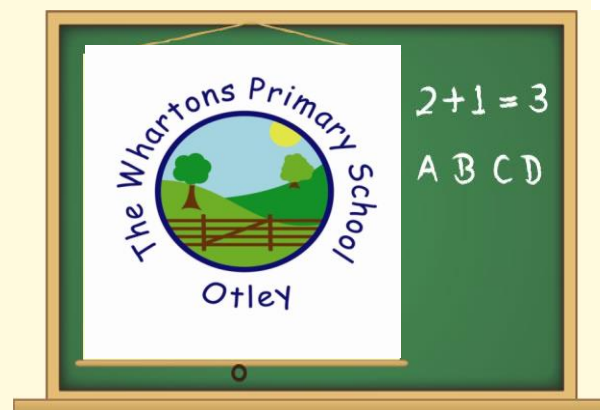


The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

15th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a lovely break, the children definitely enjoyed their holidays and have been sharing their adventures with friends and staff. We said goodbye to one of our teaching assistants over the holidays. Mrs Wilyman, who has worked at school for the last two years, decided to try a new challenge and secured a role working for BUPA. We wish her all the best in the future and thank her for all her hard work at The Whartons, we will miss her.



Assembly Themes

We have used the theme of the Paralympics to explore a 'Can Do' attitude to challenges; we have talked in assemblies about overcoming barriers of our own, in order to achieve our goals.

The following children received certificates for their positive approaches to new challenges.

Well done to :

Yr 1: Oliver T & Noah R Yr 2: William G & Joshua L Yr 3: Oliver M & Nicholas E Yr 4: Summer-Mae W & Magnus BP

Yr 5: Joshua K & Lily C Yr 6: Jack C & Lola M-D

Swimming Sessions

We are trialling a new approach to swimming lessons this year. A focus in the PE curriculum is to ensure that all children leave primary school being able to swim 25m. Although traditionally Year 3 children have attended swimming lessons all year, we have been conscious that there are children who are not confident swimmers by the time they leave the Whartons. We feel that it may be better to arrange swimming lessons over the whole of each child's KS2 journey so that they build on their skills as they mature.

Therefore, children in Year 3 will have swimming lessons in Autumn Term, Yr 5 in the Spring Term & Yr 6 in the Summer Term, thus ensuring that as the children prepare to leave primary school they have had another chance to develop their skills.



World's Biggest Coffee Morning

On 30th September we will be hosting our first Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The coffee morning will be held in the hall between 9.30 and 11.00am. Everyone is invited, please bring a donation of cake if you can but there should be plenty to go around if not. Come and spend a while catching up with friends, enjoying a coffee and delicious piece of cake then make a donation.

The Macmillan Cancer charity do a fantastic job supporting those with cancer and their families. To ensure they can carry on this vital work they rely on funding from the community. We hope many of you can join us and help us to play our part.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



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- Sharing Gifts
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New Beginnings

Last week was a week of new and exciting beginnings.

The new reception children arrived at school on their staggered first mornings all smart and eager; ready to join in and make new friends. All the children were incredible and were soon exploring their new environment.

It has been a pleasure also to welcome some new children in other year groups this September. They have embraced life at The Whartons with gusto and by Friday last week it was hard to tell at a glance, when I visited classes, which children had just arrived. I want to thank all the children for making our new arrivals feel welcome and supporting them settling in.

In order to start morning routines in classrooms promptly we have also changed procedures slightly in the playground. All teachers will be outside for 10 minutes before the bell, in order that parents can pass on any important messages. When the whistle blows parents can hand over their children to teachers as the class lines up. Breakfast Club children will be brought out by staff to join their class line and walking bus children will also be handed over to teachers in the playground. This should ensure all children are together and ready to enter the classroom and start the day. Also once the bell has rung all messages will have been dealt with and the teachers can focus on organizing their classes.

Buddy Benches

At the end of the Summer Term Mrs Gomes, myself and a small group of children got creative during Golden Time and transformed a couple of plain benches, kindly donated by the Parents Association, into a pair of cheerful and welcoming candy striped seats.

The benches have been sited in the playgrounds and are a place where children can go who might need a buddy on a particular day.

When friends are away, occupied inside or just playing a game that isn't something that interests them, children may need another buddy to join in with. I have chatted with children about looking out for each other and checking the Buddy benches regularly to see if they can stretch out the hand of friendship. It is important for children to realise everyone needs a new friendly face from time to time and it is fun making new friends. I would ask you to chat with your children about helping others in this way and using the Buddy benches if they need to.



Sharing Gifts

One of our parents, Mrs Metcalfe, is arranging a toy collection to distribute amongst the local hospitals at Christmas and we felt, as a school, that this is something we would like to be involved with.

If you feel you could help us we are starting our collection from now onwards. The toys must be new and in their original packaging but can be any shape, size and value and will help to cheer up children who are not able to be at home for Christmas. Thank you.

NEW HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Our new Head Boy & Girl have been elected for the Autumn Term. Jack C is Head Boy & Lois M-D is Head Girl. We also have a Deputy Head Boy, Mackenzie H and Deputy Head Girl, Lois C-Y. Congratulations to you all.

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- *Book Contracts*
- *School Vision*
- *Dates for your diary*

Diary Dates

Mon 19th Sept-Full Governors Meeting-6.30pm

Thurs 22nd Sept-PTA New Members Eve-7pm & AGM-8pm

Fri 23rd Sept-School Photos

Thurs 29th Sept-Parent Forum-6.30pm

Fri 30th Sept-Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thurs 6th Oct-Yr 6 SATS & Residential meeting-6pm

Thurs 6th Oct-National Poetry Day

Fri 7th Oct-Harvest Festival 1.30pm @ Bridge Church

Book Contracts

Children at The Whartons are articulate and enthusiastic learners who throw themselves in to class discussions and investigations. We have been developing our learning skills through focus on building resilience, working with peers to support and challenge understanding, reflecting on our successes and next steps, and not being afraid to make mistakes in order to more fully understand. This year we will continue to hone our learning skills and, in order to support children in raising their own expectations of the quality and quantity of their work, we have introduced book contracts.

The contracts link with our 'Yes I Can' approach and remind children to take a pride in their written work, whilst supporting the development of a clear and logical approach to recording the learning processes and outcomes.

Whartons Primary School Vision

You may remember that last year I wrote in my newsletter about formulating a new school vision for The Whartons which we all could feel ownership of.

I spent some time in assemblies discussing with the children our motto of:

Excellence, Enjoyment and Achievement for All .

We considered how we could achieve our goal and I asked the children to contribute ideas by writing out leaves for our Whartons Tree in the entrance hall. Unsurprisingly the children's clarity and simplicity of thought generated clear aims, celebrating what we already do and what we could aspire to. Governors, staff and some parents also contributed ideas for the vision of our school. As a result, working with governors, we have tried to capture all the ideas and distil it into a clear vision for our school community which we would like to share with you.

We believe that learning should be fun, purposeful, and challenging for all children.

We will achieve this by:

- *Equipping our children with a sense of well-being, empathy and belonging; through the wide range of learning experiences both within the school family and throughout our wider community*
- *Celebrating difference and enjoying the rich environment that diversity brings*
- *Nurturing and challenging all our children, meeting their individual needs thus enabling them to thrive and reach their true potential*
- *Providing a curriculum which reflects children's interests and engages children's curiosity in the world around them; regularly using the outdoor environment to enhance learning experiences*
- *Lay firm foundations for life-long learning through developing pupils' skills of relationship building, resilience, risk-taking, resourcefulness and reflection (Learning to Learn)*
- *Developing our children to be self-assured, independent thinkers with an enterprising spirit*

A final Note:

Look out for a text on Monday re: individual school photos next Friday. Full details are also on the website calendar.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)