

The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

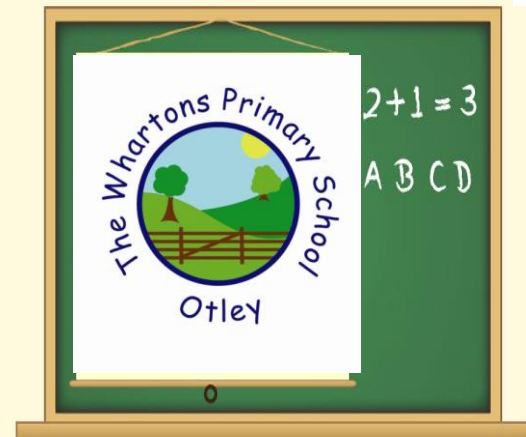
7th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we hit the coldest period of the year could I remind parents to check that children have warm enough outdoor clothing to protect them from the 'Whartons' chill at breaktimes.

Could I also remind parents not to drive in to the carpark to pick children up from after school clubs. There are many children exiting the school via the car park at these times after being picked up from the back playground exit; which presents a hazard if cars are maneuvering.

Many thanks for your help with these matters



Assembly Themes

In assembly we have been following our Jigsaw theme of Goals and Dreams and linking that to developing our learning skills of resilience, perseverance, determination and challenge. The following children have been trying their best to overcome barriers to achieving their goals.

Rec-Jessica B, Riley W, Thomas M & William H **Yr1:**Charlotte M, Lilly-Mai T, Oliver H & Oliver T **Yr 2:** Issac F, Eli K & Okezie N
Yr3: Elise F & Seren J-G **Yr4:**Sam B, Joshua R, Ben T & James S, **Yr5:**Alice M, Ben E, Marli T & Harry S
Yr6: Leah H, Sam D, Lois C-Y & Alfie T

Chevin Learning Plan

Each year the cluster of schools in Otley, Bramhope and Pool review and rewrite a learning action plan for the coming year. We are committed as a family of schools to improve outcomes for all the children across our cluster in a range of areas. Last year we spent time on raising the profile of health and wellbeing through school based and cluster initiatives; ranging from formulating a lunchbox policy, with your input, to a showcase event at PHGS celebrating healthy choices including sports and cooking.

We meet regularly through the year and work together through the plan to explore good practice in teaching and learning too. Last year I had the privilege to observe initiatives in other schools, share our own good practice and adapt our approaches to enhance outcomes for children.

The impact last year of a focus on raising attendance across the cluster had a positive impact both here at the Whartons, and across the family.

Governor Visits

It was a pleasure to welcome some of our governors to school last week. Although the governors spend lots of time in school talking to staff and analyzing data, it is always great for them to be able to talk to children about their work, what they are proud of and what helps them to learn.

A few of our governors joined Mrs Gomes last week on a learning walk where she visited classrooms to check in on children and observe successful strategies to support all the children in lessons in accessing their learning.

Governors have also been gathering evidence through pupil interviews and the children as always, were keen to share with the governors an insight into how they learn and what their next steps were.

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- Community Spirit
- Greek Day in Y5
- Maths Week

Welcoming Refugees to Otley

Children in Year 6 used their knowledge of the countries and continents of the world alongside creative skills to produce a range of fun word searches last week.

The word searches will be used during a party at the weekend organized by the Bridge church for new refugee families arriving in Otley.

The focus of the party is to share Otley's warm community spirit with the new residents and to help them to feel welcome.

Later on in the summer term our older children will be engaging in some workshops designed to encourage the children to think about how it might feel for people arriving in a new and unfamiliar place. It is important that we prepare our young people to become global citizens and to strive to embrace diversity within our community.

Year 5 prepare to share their Greek Experience

Year 5 have been learning all about Ancient Greece this half term.

They have been preparing a class assembly to share all their knowledge with parents and children across school. They are also designing exhibits for a class museum which they will run at the end of the week for invited guests. The children have been drawing together all the aspects of this period in history together in a series of interactive displays. The assembly and museum exhibits have given their learning over the last term a guiding purpose and they have really used a wide range of skills to condense their learning into a fascinating day of discovery. Well done Year 5, I can't wait to see what you have learnt.



Maths Week

Maths week has been and gone and it was a great success. As you can see from the photographs below, the children took part in many practical activities and enjoyed learning mathematical skills outdoors. A special mention goes to Y5 for their wonderful fraction work and reception class for their fantastic doubling book. During the week we held a competition to design a maths mascot. Poppy P from Y6 won the competition and her entry can be viewed below. We also held an inter-house maths quiz, testing the pupil's knowledge of the KIRFs. I'm pleased to announce that The Vikings won the quiz. We plan to hold a bigger and better Maths week next year.

Thank you to all the staff and children for the efforts making the week a success. - Mr Hampson



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- *Developing dexterity*
- *Inspector Wilson visits*
- *Diary Dates*

Diary Dates

Thursday 9th Feb-Yr 5

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.

Tuesday 7th March-Parents

Eve 3.30pm-5.30pm

Thursday 9th March-

Parents Eve-3.30pm-7pm

Friday 10th March-

Training Day

Reception children develop their dexterity and movement skills

A focus area for reception children and EYFS staff this year, is to introduce new approaches and resources which will further develop children's motor skills and dexterity. Research into this key learning area from the EYFS Development Matters Curriculum suggests that refining of motor skills will impact positively on children's ability to write, draw paint and construct.

The EYFS leader has worked with Mr Hampson, our PE leader, to source an exciting range of new movement equipment and has introduced a daily fine motor control session, including ribbon dancing which the children adore. This week Mrs Manderville arranged with James' dad Mr Wilkinson who came into school to lead a session, teaching the children Diablo and other circus skills. We really value and appreciate the expertise and support parents bring to school, many thanks Mr Wilkinson.



An Inspector Calls

There was a real buzz around school last week as one of our parents and governor Mr Wilson visited all the classes in his official role as Police Inspector working out of Otley police station.

Building on from our Careers and Aspirations week last year Mrs Foley had arranged for Inspector Wilson to share the many aspects of his role with the children. He toured school in his uniform; engaging and inspiring all the children with his stories, insights and explanations and answered all the children's varied and in many cases insightful questions.

It is fabulous for the children to be able to really explore different careers by talking to familiar people who carry out their diverse roles and responsibilities every day. Inspector Wilson really helped to add to our theme for this term of 'Goals and Dreams' as there are many children who would like to work in the community and help others.

Inspector Wilson also brought along a couple of friends to help him; thanks to PC Richard King and of course Percy the Police Car who really engaged the younger (and older) children.



A final Note:

Remember Caps for Kids day on Friday. Children can wear a hat (or any sort of head gear) to school in exchange for the contribution of a pound. We will pass on the donations to children's cancer charities in memory of our friend Harry Buckley.

Have a lovely half term break.

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)