

# The Whartons' Newsletter

## 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we made it to the end of term, I am so proud of everyone for their resilience over the last year.

The last couple of weeks have been a delight and we have managed to finish the year with some fabulous visits and visitors to school. I hope that these experiences have given the children a sense of normality to school life and some lovely memories to take with them into the holidays.

I want to say goodbye, good luck and a huge thank you to all the year 6 children. You have been fabulous this year. I am so proud of all your achievements over your time at The Whartons. It has been an honour to help you grow into exceptional young people, we will miss you.

Please take care and I wish you all a restful and uneventful break.



## Assembly Themes

During my assembly this week, I introduced the children to the Summer Reading Challenge and encouraged them to sign up online or at Otley Library. Summer is a fantastic time to lose yourself in a book or two. We will be asking children about their favourite summer reads, when we get back in September. See the website: [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk) to find out more.

The Year 6 leavers assembly this afternoon was sad and lovely all rolled into one. Thank you Y6 for being a brilliant role model for the rest of the children. Good luck for the future.

Well done to all the children for being the 'Best I Can Be' over this year.

## *Goodbye and Thank You*

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Browne who have worked so hard to make sure the Y6 children have had the best year possible despite the many changes and challenges of COVID.

They have ensured that any gaps in learning due to lock downs have been tackled and the children are in a good place to move on to PHGS. SATs results were amazing children, we are proud of you. Although Mrs Browne has not been at The Whartons long she was immediately part of the team, we wish you luck in the future and please stay in touch. Whilst Mrs Thompson, I hope will continue to be a frequent teacher at The Whartons over the years to come.

## *Sporting Activities Day*

Due to maintaining COVID restrictions until the end of term we were unable to run Sports Day as usual unfortunately.

The year 6 however, were determined to plan and organise a sporting activities day for all the school despite the restrictions. They planned a carousel of competitive throwing, catching, running, and jumping stations for the children out on the field.

We had two classes outside at a time and the classes kept in their bubbles to move around the activities, picking up points for their houses as they competed. The year 6 wiped down all the equipment between groups, encouraged and guided the children and kept meticulous scores. It was a fantastic day and the children had a wonderful time. Lollies all round to finish thanks to the Parent's Association. We are looking forward to welcoming our parent supporters to cheer the children on next year.



- **Farnley Woods Trip**
- **London's Burning Event**
- **Forest Schools Day**

### London's Burning

Year 2 and Year 3 classes doubled up last week to spend an afternoon creating Tudor houses and then burning them down!!

The day was an active summary of their learning about The Great Fire of London. Year 3 had studied the historic event last year and year 2 had studied it earlier this year.

As there were no visitors to school last year, it was a great opportunity for both classes to engage in this brilliant session with our visitor from Artforms.

The children used their historical knowledge of what Tudor houses were constructed from, and looked like, in order to recreate a Tudor Street with individual box houses. The children thoroughly enjoyed designing and creating their houses.

Under controlled conditions Annie set fire to the Tudor street of tightly packed houses and the children could witness just how quickly the fire spread when the structures were packed closely together and made from flammable materials.



## *Farnley Woods Adventure*

Year 2 were incredibly fortunate a couple of weeks ago to have been asked to be a pilot group for a new venture in the area.

Neil Griffith, who was a teacher for many years and has a passion for nature and the outdoors has been working on a potential new provision for schools in the local area. Neil and his colleague Henry are working closely with Guy Fawkes, the owner of Farnley woods, to create outdoor adventure and curriculum days in the woodland, Otley Outdoor Adventures.

Neil and Henry asked if they could trial a day with our Y2 children, free of charge. The children had an amazing day making dens, listening to stories and engaging in creative language work using the surroundings as inspiration for their writing.



The Y2 team would definitely recommend the day trip to other classes and schools. It was a fantastic example of how the woodland environment can inspire learning and engagement in the outdoors



## Forest Schools Day for Reception and Year 1 Children

The children from reception and year 1 had a wonderful day of outdoor adventure in the wildlife area and on the school field last week.

Jen Scott who is a qualified forest schools instructor led the classes in a range of outdoor activities from den building to bug hunting and hammocks to rope bridges. During the day the children learned a range of skills from across the whole curriculum. They planned and built structures, identified habitats, plants and animals and used their collaborative problem-solving skills.

We were so lucky with the weather, it meant that the children enjoyed a whole day of sunshine in the outdoors. They even had an alfresco picnic on the field at lunchtime.

I am sure we have a few budding Ray Mears or Liz Bonnins amongst our EYFS and Y1 children.



## This page >>>

- Y6 Mini Residential
- Diary dates
- Y4&Y5 Trips

### Diary Dates

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

– school for pupils

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September

– new Reception

children begin school

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September

– Yr6 bikeability training starts

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October –

Nasal Flu Vaccination

for the whole school

## Y6 Mini Residential

After many false starts the Y6 's mini residential and adventurous activities got underway last week.

The class began last Friday with a climbing session at Clip n Climb in Ilkley. Mr Hampson, Mrs Browne and Mrs Kettleborough were amazed at how brave the children were. Everyone mastered their fears and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Due to the hot weather in the afternoon, instead of a planned hike, the children spent their time down by the river skimming stones, building structures and playing team games.

When everyone arrived back at school Mr Reynard had the BBQ underway. Miss Wilkinson and I joined the party and spent a fabulous evening with all the children, toasting marshmallows on a campfire and engaging in a 'round the school' treasure hunt.

There wasn't much sleeping in the makeshift dormitories, but the children enjoyed their 'big sleep over' experience.

An alfresco breakfast of pastries, cereal and bacon sandwiches was delightful.

On Wednesday the class had a fabulous day canoeing at Yeadon Tarn. I am so please we could provide this 'right of passage' end to their primary school journey.



## Y4's field trip to Whitby and Y5's exploration of life in Viking times at Yorvik

Last week year 4 embarked on a fairly long but exciting field trip to Whitby. This work links to their Geography topic work this year, where the children have been learning all about Whitby as a contrasting location to Otley.

It was fabulous for the children to really explore the area of Whitby in depth and see some of the landmarks they have been studying. Mr Hampson had planned a circular discovery trail and walk around the town. The children had to follow instruction to locate the next landmark. They used their observational and geographical skills to identify features of the location...and of course enjoyed ice cream on the beach too.

Year 5 children have been studying the Vikings in history this term. As a culmination of all their learning Mr Fisk organized a discovery day at YORVIK museum in York. The children had a talk from a 'Viking' and travelled back through time in little 'pods' which wove their way through a typical Viking village complete with sights, sounds and smells! The class also had a history treasure hunt in the museum gardens and finished the day with a tour of the Shambles to link back to their study of Tudors times in Y2.



### A final Note:

May the summer sun continue for a least a few days into the holidays! Here's hoping. See you all safe and well in September.

Julia Dickson