

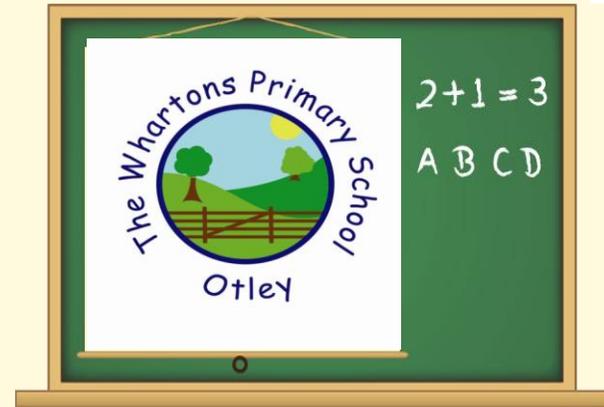
The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

5th February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy few weeks at school with lots of visitors and exciting opportunities.

I would like to thank all those who took the time to register their thoughts on Parent View and send in comments via email for our HMI visit. We really do appreciate all your support.



Assembly Themes

Through our overarching theme this term of 'Going for Goals' we have been considering how we can be SMARTies and set ourselves: **S**hort, **M**anageable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, **T**argets in order to 'climb our own mountain' and reach our goals over time. Talking to your children about they can approach a new challenge in small chunks would support them in developing this key learning.

The following children received certificates so far for the great start they have made to the New Year. Well done to :

Rec-Lucy P, Sky L, Thomas L & Oriah N **Yr 1**-Zak F, William G, Thomas H & Archie W **Yr2**-Lilly T, Evelyn A & Eve H

Yr 3-Aphra T, Edward J, Charlie G & Lea E

Yr4-James Wilk, Katie W, James L-M & Beth S

Yr 5-Joseph F, Sam D, Leah H & Isabel M

Yr6-Amie B, Jared I, Sophie R & Tayler V

Drop Off and Pick Up

Many parents use our car park when dropping off children for Breakfast Club or picking up from after school clubs.

Unfortunately, this can mean that at certain times of the day, especially as staff are arriving at work, the car park is busy with cars coming and going.

I would ask that people enter the car park with caution and at slow speeds. I would also ask that if you are walking children across the car park, all children must be accompanied; you do so carefully making sure that children can be seen by drivers and you wait for any cars to pass. Please do not park in staff places against the fence.

Many thanks for your support.

Big Write Half Termly Whole School Focus

Children thoroughly enjoy their fortnightly Big Write session where they have the opportunity to build their stamina and write at length about something they have talked about at school.

In order to further enhance the Big Write sessions we have decided to introduce a half termly whole school input where all the school experience a stimulus or 'wow' moment. These stimuli will create discussion and enthusiasm and then all the children will engage in writing in the same style or genre. This approach will create a purpose and audience for the children's writing and develop their skills in writing in different genres.

Our first stimulus was led by Mr Fisk who introduced the children to a crime scene 'Who ate all the chocolate?!' Staff were interviewed and culprits questioned. The children then went back to classes to investigate an age appropriate crime scenario of their own and all the children wrote newspaper articles. What a great whole school focus to raise the profile of writing for a purpose. I can't wait to find out what will stimulate writing next.

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Phonics Morning

Mrs Matthews hosted a phonics open morning for Reception parents earlier in the term. Parents were invited to spend the morning in class observing how the children learn their phonics and use their knowledge through their activities in the provision areas.

The children thoroughly enjoyed showing parents how they learn and play and I hope that observing strategies used by staff will help parents to support their children's learning at home through the practice and application of their skills.



Houses Relaunch

Following a re-launch assembly led by Mrs Foley the staff have been working together with their house groups to raise the profile of the houses point system and build real team spirit and a collaborative approach to house groups.

The children worked together during House assembly time to invent a house identity.

The first step has been to choreograph a house celebration dance which houses can perform in front of a whole school assembly on Friday if their house collects the most house points for the week. Each week all children can win house tokens for their behaviour, effort, kindness etc. These are added to the house 'pot' and counted up on a Thursday by the team captains. The house that collects the most points each week is celebrated in assembly on Friday. Each week the pots are emptied and every house starts from zero the next week. Houses are a great way for children to work together and gain a sense of pride in a whole team effort.

In the future Mrs Foley would like houses to design their own crests or logos and maybe a plaque for the hall.

Deadly Visitors in Y2!

As part of our Year 2 theme of 'Deadly Animals', we arranged for the *Reptile Rangers* to come and see us with some of their exotic animals. All the children had the chance to handle or look at some of these 'deadly' animals: a boa constrictor, a blue-tongued skink, a tarantula, a giant African millipede, a Madagascan hissing cockroach, a hog-nosed viper, red clawed scorpion and bearded dragon. Every one of the children was really brave – even those who felt a little worried at the start had a go and handled the animals. Hopefully, all the parents have received photos of their children with the animals via email from the Year 2 team.

"I enjoyed when the animals came in and we sketched using shading. I sketched a lion's head. When the Reptile Rangers came in, I liked holding the big snake because it felt so soft and squidgy. When they got the bearded dragon out it felt bumpy and spikey."

Phoebe 5



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Diary Dates

Sunday 7th Feb-PA Minions Film Afternoon

Wednesday 10th Feb-Yr 4 Class Assembly

Wednesday 10th Feb-Healthy Heart Dinner

Thursday 11th Feb-Parents Forum-Assessments 6.30pm-7.30pm

Friday 12th Feb- Caps For Kids Day-£1 Donation

Friday 12th Feb -School Closes for Half Term

Monday 22nd Feb-School Reopens

Thursday 25th Feb-Music workshops Yr1,2 & 3

Friday 26th Feb-Steel Pans Music Day-Yrs 4 & 5.

Weds March 2nd-Yr1 Assembly

Children's Voices Event

On Friday 29th January 2016, Oliver and Jess, from Year 6 went to represent The Whartons in a 'Young People's Voice Event' at Horsforth School. There were representatives from schools from across the city. We had the opportunity to share our thoughts and questions about where we live with Councillors from Leeds. Also we did a flipchart relay, where we wrote things we liked about where we lived and then things that we would like improved. We had to help choose what to spend £56,000 on by the end of the meeting. It was a great opportunity to help shape future plans for Leeds.

By Jess



Caps For Kids Day

Friday 12th Feb is Caps for Kids Day in aid of children battling cancer and we are asking our children to come to school in a cap or hat for a donation of £1. The Buckley family have kindly donated a prize of a Hobbycraft voucher for the best decorated cap or hat in KS1 & KS2 in memory of Harry.

Bringing Toys in to School

There has been a great increase in the number of children who are bringing toys in to school to play with at playtime.

Unfortunately this can lead to issues when toys get lost or broken and can also impact on friendship groupings when some children do not have the latest toy and cannot join in with a group game. We would therefore ask that children only bring in toys from home on special occasions which have been designated as a treat or 'Toy Day'.

Science in Year 5



In Science in Year 5 we have been learning about The Solar System. We had lots of fun with plasticine making models of the Earth on its axis. We shone a torch on the Northern Hemisphere to show what parts of The Earth were in summer when the Earth was tilted towards the sun. We found out that the opposite happens in the Southern Hemisphere. Then we made models and showed the Solar eclipse by animation. By Gustav, Arthur & Noah.

A final Note:

Have a great weekend and please remember the Parent Forum next Thursday where we will be explaining the new assessment and tracking system and how you can support your children at home. Julia Dickson (Headteacher)

Thank You!