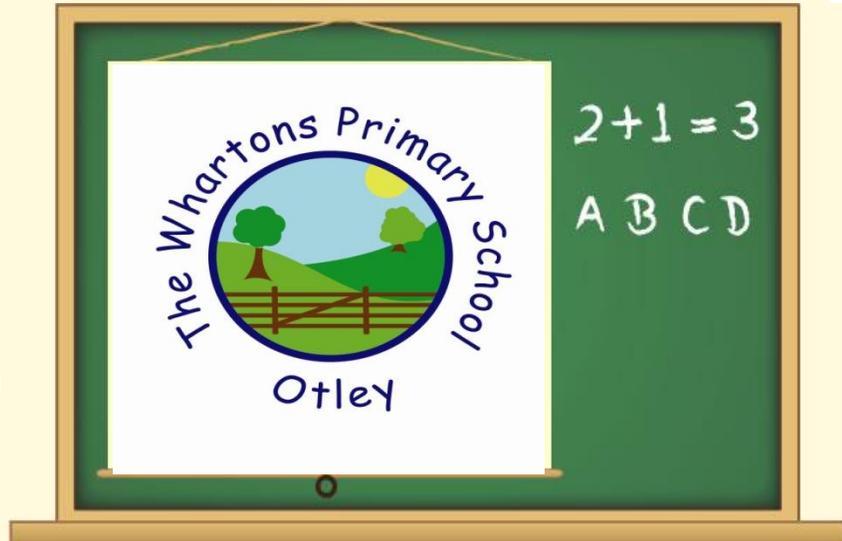


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## Greetings

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of another busy and quite intense week in school I want to congratulate Y6 on their effort and determination during this week as they have tackled their end of Y6 SATs. All the children approached their tests with maturity and positivity, you have all tried your best, so well done and good luck. Thank you to Mr Hampson who has kept energy levels and morale up this week by providing a real working breakfast treat for the children each day. I have to confess to popping in for a croissant mid week; this invigilating is hard work!



## *Assembly Themes*

Our assemblies over the last couple of weeks have focused on celebrating the uniqueness of all children at the Whartons ; understanding that we all have our own skills and strengths and that if everyone was good at the same things then The Whartons would be a duller, less vibrant place. The following children have received certificates to celebrate their inclusive approach to others and their ability to celebrate their own and others unique qualities.

Rec: Imogen G & Lily C    Year 1: Olivia C & Isaac Y    Year 2: Oluchi N & Ethan S    Year 3: Rebekah G & Alice M

Year 4: Maisy H & Louie R    Year 5: Jake G & Libby R    Year 6: Josh H & Charlotte M

## Netball Competition

Our Team A Netballers took part in the Regional Finals at St Mary's in Menston last week. They played brilliantly but were up against strong opposition and eventually finished third overall which is a fantastic result. Thank you to all parents for their support. It is greatly appreciated by everyone involved.



## *School Notices*

As a school, children's health and safety is always of paramount importance and at the heart of all that we do. We have, however, had parents report their concerns that some of our younger children appear to be unaccompanied by an adult before and after school and that many children, who are riding to school on bikes, are doing so without helmets. The beginning and end of each school day is a very busy time within our community with lots of traffic passing through The Whartons. We would therefore encourage you to ensure children are fully supervised and that appropriate safety wear is worn when cycling.

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## ***Otley Show Entries***

As is tradition, two of our classes have submitted entries in this year's Otley show. Year 1 and Year 5 children dedicated one of their art sessions last week to creating entries for two separate classes in the show. Year 1 children all submitted entries for the class in the under 8s age range to create scarecrows from wooden spoons, which they did in a boggling array of designs. Year 5's entries were in the Junk Modelling class. Thanks to Ms Stewart and Mrs Dowell for organising resources and sparking creativity. Good luck to you all.



## **Harry's Book Corner Open**

It was a pleasure to lead an assembly this week to remember our friend Harry Buckley in a very practical way. Harry's Book Corner was officially opened by Harry's mum, grandparents and younger brother Callum. It was lovely to show the children the vast array of books purchased and donated by parents and friends of the school, which will fill Harry's Book Corner. The cosy corner will be a calm and relaxing place for children to use when they are unable to play outside, or just a quiet reading corner during library times. Money donated has also been used to purchase audio books and a CD player so children can enjoy listening to stories as well as reading. Many thanks to everyone who supported the project including Laura Cook who coordinated donations and Mr Reynard who used his handiwork skills to create the area.



## **Class Assemblies**

Following the spectacular Greek extravaganza performed by Year 5 children this year, we have decided to introduce annual class assemblies for all year groups across school. Although the new class assemblies will not be as long as the Year 5's production, they will be a great opportunity for parents to share in the outcomes of children's learning across a term or theme of study. It is always positive to identify a guiding purpose for a topic or theme of work and to produce a class assembly which encapsulates a topic in just 10 or 15 minutes. It is a great way for children to really focus on the key messages and learning whilst developing creativity and confidence. We hope you are able to join us for your child's class assembly this term. Please see the attached timetable and look out for your invitation later in the term.

**Class Assembly Timetable:**      **All assemblies to start at 9:15**

Wednesday May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1
Thursday June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3
Wednesday June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Reception
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5

## **Email Correspondence**

Thank you to everyone who has requested to receive letters and newsletters from us by email in future. This has been very successful and we have reduced the number of paper copies to only 10 families, which is great both for the school and for the environment.

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## **Diary Dates**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** – Otley Show

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – Recording of Sam's Song

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 1 Multi-Sports event

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – School Closes for Half Term

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – Whole School trip to Harrogate Showground

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Class Photos

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – Ukulele Assembly

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June** – Training Day

## *Ukeleles*

In order to develop a love of music across school, and to build children's skills in playing and reading music, Mrs Thompson introduced whole class teaching of the recorder in Y3 as part of children's music sessions. Mr Williamson is keen to continue this development and build on the success and popularity of this whole class instrument approach to music teaching with the purchase of a whole class set of ukuleles! Alongside the purchase of the instruments. Jen and Richard from The Woolpack will be leading an assembly and will visit school regularly over the next year in order to teach the children to play. We are really excited about this development and look forward to hearing the first performance in an assembly soon.

## *Growing Season*

As we gallop into spring the gardening club has been kept busy planting as many different varieties of produce as possible. Alongside Monday after school gardening club, run by Mrs Thompson, Mrs Kellar and myself, there is also now a Golden Time gardening activity club led by Mrs Reynard and a lunchtime gardening team led by Mrs Thompson all working tirelessly on the various beds and containers around the school grounds. We have entered Yorkshire in Bloom again this year ensuring children are engaged in planning and nurturing the school's extensive array of containers and beds filled with all manner of flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs. Gardening is a great way for children to learn about their environment, take a pride in their school and build a love and respect of the great outdoors. Our budding gardeners, who include a group of children from reception to Y5 are keeping a diary of their vegetable crate entry to this year's Great Yorkshire Show. The children have sketched plans of their planting ideas, grown seedlings from packet seeds in the school greenhouse and then planted them into the crate.

## **Carnival Costumes**

The carnival committee of children who decided on the 'Down at the Bottom of the Garden' theme for The Whartons carnival entry this year have been busy considering how simple but effective costumes for the parade can be created. Each year group will dress as a particular section of garden life and the committee will be letting class teachers know their particular class theme. It would be fantastic if as many of the children could take part as possible but this will require a simple costume from home. Some head dresses, props or masks will be made at school but we will have to ask parents to assemble the basics of each costume themselves which largely will be a particular colour. Please look out for a letter outlining the costumes and return the slip if you child would like to take part. I am still desperate for any parents to help organise the parade.

### *A final Note:*

Please look on the website under the calendars tab to access calendars for May, June and July with key dates and events. Make sure you don't miss any activities over this busy term. I hope to see

many of you at the litter picking this Sunday

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)