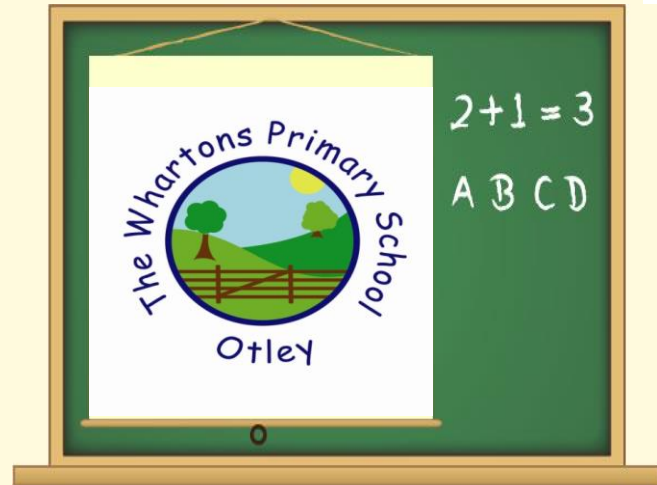


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just one more week of this half term left, where has the time gone? We have had a plethora of visits and visitors over the past couple of weeks which is always exciting for the children and gives their learning a real focus. It was good to see so many of you at parents evenings this week, I hope you gathered all the information you wanted about how your children are settling into their new classes and how we can work together to support their learning this year. On a sadder note Mrs Crossley will be retiring from her post as Senior Mid-day Supervisor after 22 Years. She has looked after several generations at The Whartons and we will all miss her caring and cheerful approach. We hope she will come back and see us from time to time.



## Assembly Themes

We have been learning about e-safety in assemblies with children considering how to keep themselves safe and enjoy their time on the internet.

The following children received certificates over the last couple of weeks for their efforts with following our Golden Rules. Well done to :

Rec: Noah R & Jacob P      Year 1: Emma K      Year 2: Annie C & Lucas M      Year 3 Joe D & Edward J

Year 4: Harry C & Katie W      Year 5 Maddison G & Jack C      Year 6: School Trip

## Lizzie's Visit

Children and staff were all really excited to welcome Lizzie Armitstead back to the Whartons last week after her triumph in the World Women's Elite Road Race in Richmond Virginia. Lizzie, who is a Whartons alumni, answered many of the children's questions which ranged from 'How much do you have to eat when training?' (4,000 calories!!) to 'What is the furthest you have ridden?' and 'How do you become a world champion?' Lizzie shared her memories of sitting in the hall at the Whartons for assembly, just like our children do today and inspired the children to follow their dreams even when the going gets tough.

Congratulations from all of us Lizzie on your world champion title.



## Planting Snow Drops

Year 1 children worked with one of our regular volunteers in school, Jackie Harvey, who is also an active member of Otley in Bloom to plant lots of snow drop bulbs on the bank of our wildlife area. Otley in Bloom are participating in the snow drops planting project in remembrance of soldiers who fought and died in the World Wars. They should make an impressive and thought provoking display this winter.



- Poetry Competition
- KS2 SATs and Residential Information Evening
- Calling for help with our website audit

## *Year 6 Parents Information Evening*

It is all change this year for Year 6 as both their end of Key Stage tests and the venue for their residential visit are new.

Due to the government's new curriculum and the scraping of levels with which to assess children's progress there will be new style end of Key Stage tests. The tests measure children's knowledge and understanding against age related expectations. As this is the first year for the new format both staff and children will be learning together!

It is all change for the end of Year 6 residential trip too as we will be trying out the new venue of the Lake District this year. The children will still have the same opportunities for their activities but without the midges which have plagued us in recent years at Kielder Forest. I can't wait to join them for at least part of the week.

## Website Audit

Last year, we took the exciting (and much needed!) step to update our website with the idea of making it more user friendly for our whole school community. Now that it has been up and running for a couple of terms, we would like to evaluate its success, ensuring that it continues to remain effective and that it fulfils all of the expectations and requirements of government.

We are therefore looking for a team of about four parents who could spend some time in school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, working together to evaluate key criteria and then afterwards meet with members of the senior leadership team to feedback on their main findings and recommendations for improvement.

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

## Poetry Competition

In order to celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, we decided to hold a whole school poetry competition in the hall. All week, classes had been practising hard, every day becoming louder and more confident. By Thursday, the excitement around school and the enthusiasm shown by children truly was incredible with each and every class putting on a show stopping performance. Mr Williamson who works in Year 4 commented, 'What a wonderful experience for our children, an opportunity to allow them to really shine and have high aspirations for the future.' The judging of the competition was an incredibly difficult task for our four judges (Mrs Dickson, Mr Fisk, Megan Bailey and Jared Inman) with every class showing strengths in all areas, but after much deliberation they came to a decision and the winners were...

From FS/KS1 – Year 1                  From KS2 – Year 3

We would like to say a huge well done to all the children who put so much time, effort and energy in to this wonderful event. We look forward to running this event again next year.



## **This page >>>**

- Teeth Workshop
- Visiting Community Police Officer
- Harvest Festival

### *PCSO Shannon Tyson visits school.*

Children in Reception and Years 1&2 had great fun last week dressing up in police officer uniforms as part of their themed work on people who help us. Our Community Police Officer Shannon Tyson visited the classes and answered the children's many questions about her job and how she helps people in our local community. It is great to support links in the community and for children to get to know their local community police officers. During her visit Shannon also engaged Year 6 in a morning of discussion and debate on a range of topics from the age of responsibility to the dangers of drugs; supporting their development as responsible citizens.



## **Learning about Teeth**

Year 3 and 4 children took part in a fascinating and informative morning on caring for their teeth, which is linked to their science themed work this term.

One of our governors Mrs Bryant brought three of her sixth form students, Zahra, Sanjeet and Zainab from Allerton Grange Secondary School who ran workshops for our lower KS2 children.

It is always great to welcome visitors but especially when it is supporting the development of others and the experience was a learning curve for both sets of students. It was the first time the sixth formers had led a teaching session and they did a fantastic job. Thanks so much to Mrs Bryant and students at Allerton Grange, we hope you will visit us again.



## **Harvest Festival**

There was a change of venue for our Harvest Festival last week as the whole school relocated their celebrations to The Bridge Church in Otley. Mrs Gomes approached Mrs Mason, who is one of our long standing governors and has strong connections with the church, to organize a super afternoon where children shared harvest poems, stories and songs. The weather was kind as the whole school walked together down to the church, with their harvest donations.

A super afternoon was had by all and I want to thank parents who made our little expedition possible by walking down with us and staying to share our thanksgiving event. Thanks too to Bridge Church who were lovely hosts and organized music and technical support. The children donated a wide and extensive range of harvest produce which will be added to church donations and distributed between Caring for Life on the Chevin and the "The Edge" project which supports inner city communities in Bradford.





**This page >>>**

- Year 6 Eden Camp Trip
- Phonics Evening
- Parent Forum
- Diary Dates

## Diary Dates

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October-**

Parents Evening

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October–**Bags To

School Collection

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October-**Pumpkin

Disco

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October-** EYFS

Only Training Day

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October-**Year

6 Assembly 9.15am

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October-** Open

Day (Appts Only)

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October-**Break Up

For Half Term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November-**School

Reopens

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November-**

School Open Day (Appts Only)

## Year 6 Trip to Eden Camp

*Year 6 travelled back in time to 1939 to experience aspects of life for British citizens during WW2. Each self contained hut depicted an aspect of life from the inside of a U Boat to a London street in the aftermath of a Blitz raid. The visit helped the children truly appreciate how it might have felt for people during this time in history; a real chance to bring learning alive. As always the children were superbly behaved, well done.*



## Phonics Evening

It was lovely to welcome so many Reception parents into school last Wednesday evening for a phonics workshop led by Mrs Matthews and Mrs Hornby. The teaching of phonics can be a complex process but it is vital that we work with parents to support children's reading and writing through their acquisition of phonics knowledge. Mrs Matthews and Mrs Hornby explained the terminology that children are taught in relation to phonics as well as the process. There were also suggestions for games and websites that parents can use with children to help them practice and consolidate key skills. If any parents would like to refresh or develop their own understanding of how children learn phonics the presentation can be found under the Children & Learning (Reception) tab on the website.

## Parent Forum

Thank you to the parents who could join us for our first Parent Forum of the year, last Tuesday evening. It was great to share with parents our many new approaches to enhancing the behaviour policy and practices at The Whartons. Children are really enjoying our 'Going for Gold' initiative where they can collect silver and gold status for outstanding good behaviours, which go above and beyond what is expected. We have seen a real positive impact around school this term and have received many compliments from visitors on our polite children and lovely atmosphere in school. We have also introduced learning journals to help children develop their learning behaviours such as resilience and resourcefulness. If you were unable to make it to the Forum the presentation is on the website under the Parent Information (Parents Meetings) tab. We want parents to drive the focus of our forums and therefore are keen to hear your suggestions for the focus of our Spring term forum.

## A final Note:

Enjoy the last week in school before a well deserved break and remember the Pumpkin Discos on Friday evening, I look forward to seeing lots of autumnal costumes. We will be dressing up as Superheroes for Children In Need this year, please see the Website News page for information.

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)