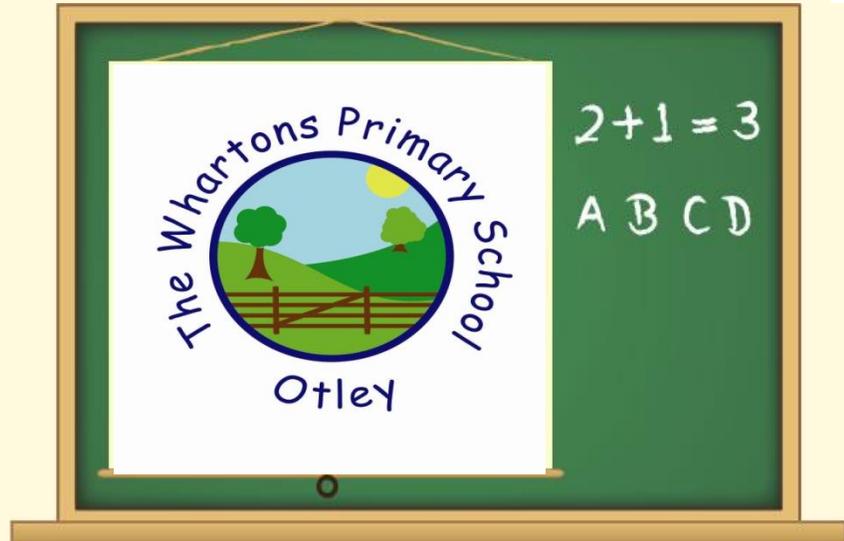


Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely start to the summer term we had last week, we would all have been forgiven for thinking it was the middle of June rather than April and the children thoroughly enjoyed being able to spread out on to the school field again. The change in weather has also had a positive impact on our range of Golden Time activities



Assembly Themes

Our assemblies this term will be focused on Relationships and how building supportive relationships in school can benefit all children. The following children have received certificates for their positive relationships with others:

Rec: Emma K & Nathanael G

Year 1: Millie F & Katie C

Year 2: Joe D and Charlie G

Year 3: Anouk B & James Winder

Year 4: Maddison G & Lois C-Y

Year 5: Anya D & Cameron A

Year 6: Henry T & Lucy G

Visiting Lamb

To really hail the arrival of good weather the whole school were treated to a visit from a lamb last Thursday. Mrs Wilyman brought the bundle from her friend's farm and the classes in turn were able to go outside on the field to get close to the baby lamb. Although we often see the fields around covered in lambs at this time of year it is a real experience to get close to and stroke a young animal. Mrs Wilyman answered lots of questions about how the lamb was looked after by its mother and how quickly it grows.



Community Partnerships

Last week I met with our new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who will be replacing Pete Andrews who has been a familiar figure at The Whartons in the past. PCSO Shannon Tyson is really enthusiastic about building strong links with our school; which will support children's understanding of their role within a positive and respectful local community and also builds trusting relationships with those in the community who help us. PCSO Tyson will be visiting school regularly over the coming months to work with the children on many projects such as safer use of the internet, being responsible citizens and of course improving safety around school at pick up and drop off times. You may even see the children dressed as junior police officers around the school gates.

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Requests

Drinking Bottles

As the weather gets warmer we need to ensure that children stay well hydrated and it has come to the attention of many teachers that there are a significant number of children in their classes who do not have water bottles in school. In order that the children have access to water throughout the day could I ask that you provide your child with their own named bottle, which is taken home and washed daily, ready to be refilled from the school's water coolers throughout the day.

Wii Game Required

Mr Williamson has changed his Golden Time activity this term from band project to karaoke! I have to say it was a joy to hear the children singing enthusiastically last week to a range of songs. However, Mr Williamson has asked if anyone may have the Wii game 'Singing Star' with or without microphones which they may be willing to donate to school.

Uniform

As the summer advances and the fine weather provides an outdoor feel, I have noticed some more flamboyant interpretations of the school uniform appearing; with elaborate headwear and psychedelic fashion trainers to name but a few. Uniform is a great leveler and supports children to feel part of the school community, whilst removing any competition to adhere to the latest fashion. I would therefore ask that you check that your children's uniform follows our guidance.



A New Book Corner

Many thanks to all those parents who donated books and made cushions for a new book corner in school to remember our friend Harry Buckley who died last year. Harry spent lots of time in the library with friends when he was too ill to go outside and therefore it is very fitting that on the anniversary of his death we have created an area in the library where children of all ages, who cannot for one reason or another play outside, have a quiet and relaxing place to enjoy a good book. Parents have donated a range of books suitable for all ages as well as money which has been used to buy more books and an attractive plaque. The reading experience has been further enhanced with a set of colourful and comfy cushions made by parents. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.



Dancing At The Maypole

The Buttercross Belles invite parents to bring their children to celebrate in the traditional way at the Maypole on Cross Green in Otley on Friday 1st May-5pm-7pm. There will be some demonstration dances followed by the chance for everyone to join in a dance with ribbons around the Maypole.

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Diary Dates

Monday 4th May- May Day
Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May – School
Reopens

W/C Monday 11th May –
SATS Week

Friday 22nd May – Break Up
for Half Term

Monday June 1st –School
Reopens

Carnival Time

I can't quite believe it has got to that time in the year when we need to start making preparations for our carnival entry. I have set up a carnival committee with the children as one of our Golden Time activities and the children have already canvassed the school and chosen the theme of At the Bottom of the Garden for this year's entry. However, now the hard work starts as we will be pressed for time. Therefore we are appealing for anyone who could spare some time to work on props or costumes, or would like to join the parade to come forward; please contact school if you can help in any way. The carnival is such an iconic part of Otley culture and the children benefit hugely from being part of such an exciting event, working together as a team. Of course we also have our standing as champions two years running to defend!!

Hi Five to The Netball Team

The Whartons entered 2 teams into the Leeds Hi-5 Mixed Netball Competition at PHGS on Tuesday 28th April.

Both teams played with enthusiasm and energy and were a credit to our school. Our A team were eventual winners and will progress to the next stage of the competition. Well done to all.



Harry's Pirate Ball

What a fantastic Saturday night was had by all last week when many parents and friends came together to remember Harry Buckley and raise money for Candlelighters and Nuzzlers charities who support children and families with cancer. The evening was a swanky affair and everyone brushed up well in their black ties and sparkles. The event, organised by Harry's family and friends was held at The Craiglands in Ilkley where guests enjoyed a lavish three course meal, purchased raffle tickets and made bids for a range of fantastic prizes all in the name of Harry and to raise money for two great organisations. The evening was a great success and raised over £5,000; thank you to for inviting us.

Remember it is only a four day week next week so I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday. Have an enjoyable Bank holiday weekend whatever you are getting up to; I think a day or so in the Dales is on the cards for The Dickson family

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)