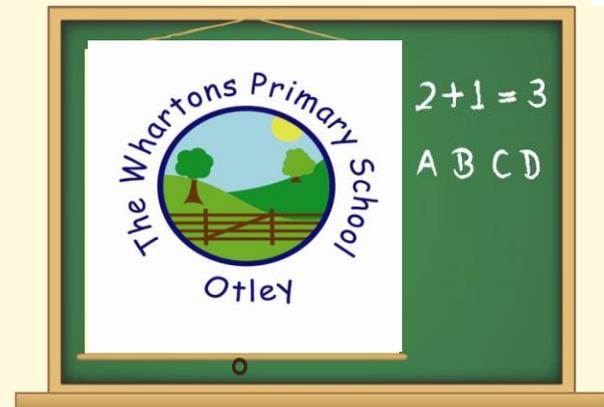


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 3rd March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last few weeks in school have definitely been lively; with the sound of storytelling and steel drums music resonating through the corridors. Our visitors have really added to the whole school diversity theme, following on from the African Voices project earlier in the term. The children have found it fascinating finding out more about the wider world; through the people and cultures.



## Assembly Themes

We have been looking at our school ethos of Excellence, Enjoyment and Achievement for All in assemblies; considering what we do in school to reach this aim and what we would change in order that all children in school achieve their potential and enjoy their learning. It was great to hear that the children enjoyed learning through visits and visitors as well as taking their learning into the outdoors. The children also said that being treated as individuals and unique, helped ensure all children could learn well. I will be taking some of their ideas, along with those of staff and governors to write a new vision statement for school that will underpin all that we do.

The following children received certificates so far for the great work and attitudes they have shown this half term. Well done to : **Rec:** Charlotte B, Matilda W, Jacob P & Noah R      **Yr1:** Teddy N-C, Matthew T, Sebi J-G & Archie W

**Yr2:** Elise F, Annie C, Ellie W & Seren J-G

**Yr3:** Evie M, Edward J, Ben T, Josh R, Sam B & Jack B

**Yr4:** Taylor Jai S, Ethan G, Harry C & Alice M

**Yr5:** Hannah P, George C

**Yr6:** Scarlett J, Sophie R, Oliver HS & Jess L-W

**Caps For Kids** Pupils at The Whartons Primary School have been using their heads recently to raise money and support charities who work with children, and their families, affected by cancer.

The children's friend and former pupil Harry Buckley, (top right) who sadly died from neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nervous system, in 2014 is the inspiration for their annual participation in National Caps 4 Kids Day who help raise money for research. Children brought a donation and came to school sporting a wide array of hats on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February; some bought and some made. Harry Buckley's family donated prizes for the best home made hat and one Y4 child Natalie B went that extra mile to grow her hair long enough so that she can donate 7 inches of her hair to the princess trust charity. The charity make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer. The money raised will go towards funding for research in to more effective treatments for neuroblastoma. We raised a fabulous £146.30.

Our Key Stage 1 winner was William P

Our Key Stage 2 winner was Cory H



- Year 1 Assembly
- A Cultural Day
- Steel Pans

### *Year 1 Assembly*

Year 1 performed a brilliant assembly on Wednesday morning based around their topic of last term, Julia Donaldson. They performed a Gruffalo song with great enthusiasm, showed the science they have been learning with sorting diagrams from the different books, did some Gruffalo related fractions and demonstrated a computing game they have devised with the Gruffalo finding the Mouse. Well Done Year 1.



## Learning About Indian Culture through Stories and Music

Last Thursday Years 1, 2 and 3 welcomed their visitor, Lorraine Cowburn into school as part of a whole school diversity and music day. She showed the children instruments and music from around the world and told a range of traditional stories from India and Africa. Year 1 and 2 explored the culture and traditions of India and Year 3 looked at Africa. They all performed a piece of music at and end of the day assembly for the rest of school.

“In Year 2 we looked at Indian instruments and had a go at playing some special drums called Tableau Drums.”

“We learned about special Indian rhythms and sat on beautiful rugs to listen to a traditional Indian tale. We really enjoyed our day”



## Y4 and Y5 Learn to Play Steel Drums

Year 4 and 5 were thrilled to welcome their visitor, Melvyn Zakers into school last Friday. He taught the children about Steel Pans and how they originate from Trinidad and Tobago. In class, we then learnt more about the Caribbean. The children all spent an hour with Melvyn and learnt a piece of music which they then performed in the afternoon to the rest of the school. It was a fantastic day and the children all went home buzzing with enthusiasm. The sound of them all playing the steel pans was beautiful - it was definitely a big success.



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## Diary Dates

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March-World Book Day  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March-Yr1 trip to Harlow Carr  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March-Parents Eve- 3.30-5.30pm  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March-Parents Eve-£.30-7.00pm  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March-Training Day  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March-Yr 3 Assembly  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March-School Closes For Easter Weekend  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March-School Reopens  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April-School Closes For Easter  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April-School Reopens

## Parent Forum

Just before the half term break we were delighted to welcome parents to our forum which focused on assessment.

We were able to share with parents our strategies for assessing children against new curriculum outcomes. We looked at how teachers track children's progress and how we intend to share end of year expectation with parents in order that they can better understand what children are learning across the year. We hope that this will be helpful to parents when used alongside the class half termly newsletters which highlight themes covered in class each term. A set of yearly objectives which are covered in class will be given out at parents evening so that you can ask your children in more detail about their learning. We hope the forum explained how within the new curriculum there will be an emphasis on depth and mastery within the teaching of a year group rather than moving children up to the next set of objectives as has happened in the past. If you were unable to attend please see the powerpoint on our website.

**Y6 – Author and Illustrator** – On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March Year 6 were visited by an author and illustrator from the Otley Courthouse Words Festival working in conjunction with The Children's University. The children took part in two workshops learning about illustrations and how to best create comic strips. All children have produced a piece of work that will be published in a book. A copy will be sent to school and will be on display.

## A Space Adventure

On Friday morning, a group of Year 6 children (Jared I, Rachel R, Rebecca J, Cameron A, Alfie R and Jake G) attended a 'STEM' Science event based around the theme of 'Space' at Ashfield Primary school along with selected children from all the local cluster schools. During the morning, children were involved in running their own stall (showcasing two science experiments set up by themselves) as well as going to visit other stalls and being given the opportunity to experience the activities offered by Eureka! The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and both Mrs Gomes and Mrs Bishop commented on how well behaved the children were throughout the event.



## A final Note:

Have a good weekend

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)