

# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 17th March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last couple of weeks have definitely seen the first signs that spring is on the way. The lighter nights are a real treat after what has been a truly awful winter in one way or the other.

Everyone in school from staff to children have a new 'spring' in their step and are making the most of all the opportunities to be outside. Let us hope it continues.



## Assembly Themes

We have been talking to the children about Online Safety as our Assembly themes recently. This may be an area you might like to chat with them about at home.

The following children received certificates so far for the great work and attitudes they have shown this half term. Well done to :

Rec: Ebony P & Ella T

Year 2: Oliver H, Michael B, Cara- Fai S

Year 4: Oluchi N, Joe D, James Win & Sam G

Year 1: Nathanael G & William L

Year 3: Anouk B & Jai B, Joshua D & Emma L

Year 5: Mackenzie H, Poppy P, Joe F & Isabel M

Year 6: Ella C, Rebecca J, Niall M & Alfie R

## Parents Evenings

Thank you to all of those who attended our parent meetings last week. Within these meetings, teachers gave out curriculum guidance relating to what is taught in classes from Y1-Y6 in English and Maths. This information was greatly received and is hugely beneficial to keeping well informed about the expectations in English and Maths within each year group at school. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have not yet received this information. In addition to this, we have added the assessment presentation from the latest Parent Forum onto the website. This can be found in 'Parent Information' - 'Parent Meetings' - 'Parent Forum Assessment'.

## Y1 Visit Harlow Carr

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Harlow Carr gardens last Tuesday. In the morning we followed maps to find different animal homes and to collect natural resources for the insect hotels we will be making in DT soon. In the afternoon, we took part in a workshop in the woods where we created amazing art work using shapes and colours from the gardens around us. The children learnt a lot and have already been busy applying their new knowledge in our topic work back in school. A big thank you to the parent (and grand parent!) helpers who came along with us.



- World Book Day
- Online Safety
- RSPB Visits

## **Online Safety**

**In an ever changing world of technology, sometimes it's hard to keep up with what your children are doing online. Whilst we all want to encourage our children to develop their skills in Information and Communication Technology, it is also crucial that we protect our children from the dangers online which, unfortunately, are all too common.**

**At The Whartons, we regularly review our policy for online safety to ensure it best fits the needs of our school community. As part of this policy, we have developed an 'Online Safety Agreement for Pupils' which outlines our expectations of children when using online technologies within our school and also highlights key safety messages that they should be encouraged to adopt at all times.**

**This agreement will be discussed with children in school but we also ask that parents spend time to read it and talk with their child about it, before signing and agreeing to it. Please look out for the agreement which will be sent out before the Easter break.**

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

The children looked amazing as their favourite book characters for World Book Day recently.

They had a special assembly led by Mr Fisk dressed as Gandolf from The Lord Of The Rings. He had asked all the teachers to bring in their favourite books and then the children had to guess who they belonged to.

It was a really enjoyable day and thank you to everyone for making such a great effort with their costumes.



## **RSPB Visits**

Years 1, 2 & 3 welcomed Miss Walker into school today from the RSPB. She ran a workshop with each class talking about identifying common birds, what they like to eat and what habitat they live in. The children then went outside to explore the school grounds, looking for insects and animals and seeing if they could identify any of the birds they had talked about.

We were so lucky with the weather, the sun even made an appearance.

We will be welcoming another member of the RSPB team on Friday who will run workshops with Years 4, 5 & 6.

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- PE equipment
- Subject Leaders

## **Diary Dates**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**-Pop Choir performance at Yeadon Town Hall-6.30pm

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**-Yr 3 Assembly

**Thursday 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 Spring Break

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April**-School Reopens

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April**-Reception Assembly

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**-Yr 3 Class Trip to Herd Farm

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**-School closes for May Day.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**-School reopens

## ***School to School Collaboration***

Since our recent visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) we have embarked on an exciting programme of best practice, professional development visits with other partner schools. The focus of these collaborations is to build and hone teaching skills, and the development of new strategies and approaches. Already several teachers, including myself, have engaged in visits to Bramhope Primary School, which is an outstanding teaching school, to share ideas and engage in coaching activities. Our Reception teachers have also begun a project with Ashleigh Dunn from St Chads Primary School to focus on developing best practice between the two schools.

The rest of the staff are looking forward to their professional development visits and to welcome Bramhope teachers to the Whartons to share their approaches and work alongside year group peers.

## ***Enhancing PE***

We have recently taken delivery of some exciting new equipment in an aim to update our PE resources which includes some basketball hoops that have been placed in the back playground. A climbing wall is on the way too which will be attached to the Year 6 classroom. These will really enhance our PE lessons and the children can't wait to use them for the first time.

## **Subject leaders**

Whilst the children were hopefully enjoying a rare day off during term time teachers were busy auditing their subject areas, organizing resources, scrutinizing children's work and developing and refining midyear action plans, in order to further improve teaching and learning within their subject.

It was hugely beneficial for subject leaders to gather evidence in order to gain a real overview of how children across school were progressing in different subjects. The teachers shared expertise and successful approaches, reviewed cross curricular themes and identified opportunities to work across year groups, Key Stages and subjects in order to enhance teaching and learning.

By the end of the day there was a great buzz of collaboration and obviously a long wish list of exciting resources and new experiences to weave through our ever evolving curriculum.

### ***A final Note:***

The school governors have produced an annual statement which explains their role in leadership and management of the school and details how they support and challenge school improvement. We have attached a copy to the newsletter and will post a copy on the website.

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)