

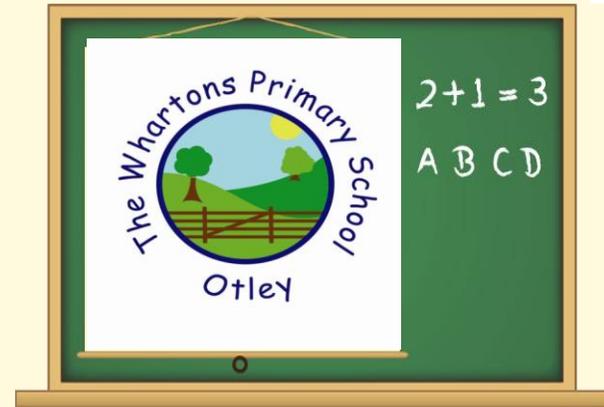
# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been strangely quiet in school this week as the Year 6s have been sitting their SATs tests. The children have been in positive spirits though, probably supported by the excellent breakfast club Mr Hampson has provided all week where children have been coming in and enjoying a motivational start to each day.

We are all proud of how maturely they have approached their exams.



## Assembly Themes

We have been talking to the children about keys to success and what keys can unlock a love of reading, success in swimming or even the secret of great friendships. The children have thought carefully about the elements and building blocks needed to succeed and be happy.

The following children received certificates for their hard work and perseverance. Well done to :

**Rec:** Lucas B, Noah R, Charlotte B & Matilda W

**Year 1:** Eli K, Freddy E-W, Oliver D & Imogen G

**Year 2:** Ellie W, Max F, Harry D & Lucas M

**Year 3:** Charlie G, Lea E, Harry A & James S

**Year 4:** Millie H, Alex G, Natalie B & Freya R

**Year 5:** Poppy P, Olive P, Max G, Isobel W & Rory C-Y

**Year 6:** Joe C, Rebecca J, Harry J & Tayler V

## School Council Update

The school council has been considering school improvements this half term.

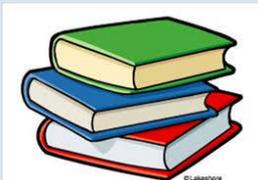
They have surveyed the school library and decided it needs a remodel in order to unlock its potential and to make it a more relaxed, conducive place for browsing and quiet reading.

The council members have been using scale plans to virtually move furniture and consider which pieces of furniture need replacing with new and vibrant modern alternatives.

Watch this space for further developments this term.

## Martha joins The Whartons

Mrs Wilyman very kindly brought in Martha, a very well behaved 6 day old Mule lamb to meet some of our children. They asked many interesting questions and learnt about the rearing of sheep. Some of the children were lucky enough to give Martha her afternoon drink of milk.



- Governor visits
- EYFS open morning
- Friends Of Otley Lido

## Friends Of Otley Lido

We are sending home today a letter from the Friends Of Otley Lido who are looking for your ideas about what you and your family would like to see at the new site and also your memories of the old Lido, if you remember it being there.

## Governor Visitors

Over the last half term our governors have been busy working in school with senior leaders; visiting classrooms, looking at children's work and gathering pupils thoughts and ideas on a range of subjects.

As part of our ongoing focus on monitoring impact and driving forward improvements, as recommended by Ofsted, Governors have engaged in training to develop their skills in gathering and analysing pupil voice. They have worked alongside senior leaders in school to gather evidence of the impact of new strategies and tighter measures; using this to evaluate action plans in relation to all areas of the Ofsted framework which include: Outcomes for Pupils, Effectiveness of Leadership and Management, Effectiveness of the EYFS, Quality of Teaching and Learning and Pupil Behaviour, Welfare and Safety.

The governors have been incredibly impressed with the children's understanding of their learning and what helps them to improve.

Working together as a team to carry out rigorous school self evaluation and scrutinize evidence of improvements is a supportive and challenging process which we are looking forward to continuing during our journey to secure a good Ofsted judgment and improve rigour in monitoring processes.

We look forward to continuing this collaborative process in our journey

## EYFS Parents' Open Morning

Children and staff in reception welcomed special visitors to their classroom last week when, parents, grandparents and a very shy but friendly 'writing monster' came to play.

The writing monster would only come out if the children wrote for him. They wrote recipes in the mud at the mud kitchen, they wrote stories in chalk on the play ground and shopping lists with twig pencils for the magic forest shop. The children even considered what the 'writing monster' would say when he came out and wrote speech bubbles.

The morning was great fun and the children loved it when the monster finally emerged and read their super writing. It was also an opportunity for parents and grandparents to observe the children writing and to gain some ideas into how to encourage their writing at home. Thank you so much to all those who could come, we hope you enjoyed the morning.



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## Diary Dates

**W/C Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May**-Yr 6 Residential Week

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May**-Yr 5 Trip to Jamie Oliver's Restaurant

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May**-PA Race Night at The Yew Tree

**W/C Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**-KS1 SATS Week

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**-Year 5 Assembly

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May**-School Closes for Half Term

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**-School Reopens

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**-Yr 1 Trip to Farnley Woods

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June**-Class Photos

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June**-Yr 5 Trip to Tropical World

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June**-School Disco

## Tour de Yorkshire

Excitement was in the air last Saturday afternoon when 14 children and 3 adult helpers from The Whartons took their positions alongside their peers from across Otley when they assembled at the starting point for the second day of the Tour de Yorkshire.

The atmosphere was incredible for the children as they rode through the town centre flanked by a crowd of cheering supporters. I was so proud of how well the children approached their task and how much enjoyment they gained from their experience. I am sure they will remember taking part in such an event for a very long time.

As the children's section of the TdY was such a success, I am sure it will be an event which is repeated in the future in order that more children may be involved.

It was so lovely to see so many of you in the crowd cheering the children on and enjoying a fabulous afternoon, especially as the weather was so kind and the sun came out for the riders.

Thank you again for all those parents who volunteered to chaperone the children.



## Sharing Good Practice

The Otley family of schools has always had a strong commitment to working collaboratively in order to improve outcomes for the children across the whole of Otley, Bramhope and Pool. The schools work together as members of The Chevin Learning Partnership; creating an annual plan which identifies common themes for improvement and actions/projects to drive forward improvements in these areas.

One focus area for this year is to research and share good practice from members of the partnership in relation to improving outcomes for identified groups of children who may be vulnerable. As a group we have decided that the best way to support children is through developing their skills in resilience, a key learning to learn skill which supports children becoming lifelong learners.

Last week I visited Ashfield Primary and worked with Mrs Warren, the Headteacher, and Mrs Lawson, our school improvement adviser, to assess children's resilience and approaches the school uses to support this. We also looked at areas for developing practice; later this term we will host a return visit at The Whartons. The whole group will draw on the collaborations of all the 7 schools, analysis effective practice and create an action plan to make improvements.

## A final Note:

I hope you all have a great week next week, I am looking forwards to mine as I am joining Y6 in the Lake District for their residential, let's hope the sun returns!

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)