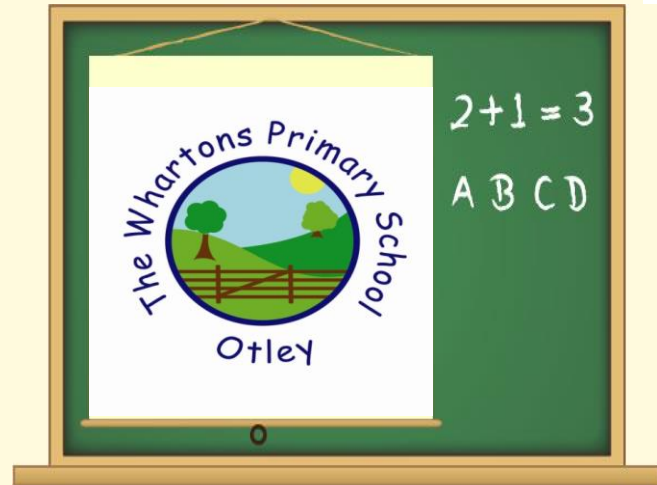


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

## 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is so good to be back at school, after my slightly longer than expected break, feeling fighting fit again. I was sad to miss the last week of half term and all the exciting things that were going on around school. I hope you all had a lovely half term holiday. The children have returned to school full of energy and enthusiasm for their new topics and some of the creative homework they brought in from their half term endeavours was truly impressive. One of our youngest children Una proudly showed me her beautifully displayed collection of autumn leaves of different shapes and sizes in their entire splendid autumnal colour.



## Assembly Themes

This half term's assembly theme is 'Say NO to Bullying' and we have been considering what constitutes bullying behaviour and what to do about it if you come across it. National Anti Bullying Week is next week and the theme this year is 'Make A Noise About Bullying'. Classes will be considering their role in ensuring The Whartons is a bullying free zone. We will be revisiting the Otley cluster of school's Anti Bullying Charter and reiterating what children can and should do if they are concerned for themselves or others. The following children received certificates over the last couple of weeks for their efforts with following our Golden Rules. Well done to :

**Rec-Charlotte B & Ebony P    Year 1-Eli K & Sam M    Year 2-Gracie C & Cara-Fai S    Year 3-Charlotte C & Jack B**  
**Year 4-Oscar C & Isabella R    Year 5-Mackenzie H & Noah D    Year 6-Jake G & Oliver H S**

## Red Kite Teaching Alliance

Over this calendar year we have embarked on a new venture, becoming a member of the Red Kite Teaching Alliance. Teaching Alliances are an initiative which encourages the sharing of good practice and expertise across a wide number of member schools. The Red Kite Alliance is made up of a range of secondary schools including PHGS, Higher Education providers such as Leeds University and a team of primary schools from across Leeds and North Yorkshire. I sit as the representative for Otley on the Primary Headteacher's Committee. We have already benefitted from a range of professional development opportunities for staff; one example being Mr Hampson enrolling on the National Professional Qualification for Leaders in Maths. He will work alongside other maths leaders in the alliance to enhance maths teaching and learning in school, through action research projects. I will keep you up to date with other exciting Red Kite projects throughout the year.

## Open Days

It was lovely to welcome prospective new parents into our school over the last few weeks through our open days and guided tours. The children, as always, wowed our visitors with their courteous behaviour and hardworking attitude. We are always so proud to show visitors around and share the wonderful learning which takes place in all our classrooms. Y3 are learning about Spain and had a day of tapas making and sampling using maths skills such as measuring, ratio and proportion as well as recording preferences and analysing the data in order to find the most popular choice.

- Music Project
- Ilkley Toy Museum Trip
- Pumpkin Disco

## [Year 1 Visit to Ilkley Toy Museum](#)

This half term, the topic in Year 1 is 'Toys' and on Tuesday morning the class travelled to the Toy Museum in Ilkley to learn about toys throughout the ages. The children enjoyed discovering different toys throughout the ages. The children enjoyed discovering different toys on their treasure hunt. Some of these included an 8 foot soldier teddy bear called Sergeant Ted; an old fashioned zoetrope and a collection of James Bond memorabilia. They were also treated to demonstrations of some of the old moving toys such as the tin fairground with real lights and moving carousels and a clockwork train which ran around a huge track surrounding dolls houses and miniature shops. The children were really well behaved and learnt a lot during the morning. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Sarah Buckley, Samantha Sutton and Vivian Walker for coming with us and helping out during the trip.

*"My favourite toy was Darcy the bear because she had pink clothes and she had light brown fluff. I liked Thomas the teddy because he had a sad story.*

*" Ruby"*

## *Y4's Musical Project*

To enhance the music curriculum, Y4 has embarked upon an exciting new project; learning how to play the ukulele! Following the successful introduction last year by Mrs Thompson, of whole class instrumental tuition with the introduction of recorder lessons in Y3; Mr Williamson has introduced a second instrument to the whole class approach. Developing musical skill through nurturing a love of music and providing opportunities to compose and read music is a real focus in school. In order to support this development Mr Williamson has introduced an exciting new scheme of work alongside the expansion of whole class instrumental tuition. Year 4's first session was enjoyed by all and we look forward to hearing fruits of their labours in assemblies soon.



## Pumpkin Walk & Disco

The Parents Association organized another brilliant Disco for everyone before half term. They asked the children to line the path into school with carved pumpkins. We had a tremendous response with over 30 exhibits and what works of art they were. These were then lit on the night of the Disco to guide the way in: They looked amazing.

The children enjoyed the night dancing to spooky music and made a great effort with some fantastic costumes. Thank you to everyone who came and the Parents Association for organising the event.



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## Diary Dates

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov**-Children In Need Day

**9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Nov**- Otley Science Festival @ The Courthouse

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov**-Yr 4 Bun Sale

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov**-Yr 2 Assembly

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov**-Wear a Xmas Item to school & bring a bottle

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov**-Xmas Fayre 2-4pm

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec** -Otley Victorian Fayre

**Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> & Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**-Secret Santa Stalls

**Weds 16<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Xmas Productions

## Year 6 Assembly

Year 6 kicked off this year's class assemblies with a brilliant summary of their learning, through their history theme "World Wars". The children shared a plethora of information about all aspects of life during World War 1 and World War 2. The audience thoroughly enjoyed renditions of WW2 songs and were captivated by the dramatisation of what it would have been like for young evacuees at the time. This assembly will be a hard act to follow....well done Year 6.

## PHGS Students

During the autumn term we have welcomed two Social Care sixth form students who as part of their studies are volunteering one morning a week in Y1 until Christmas. The students support children's learning and work alongside staff to enhance provision within the classroom. We have a very strong partnership with PHGS and it is always lovely to welcome older students helping them develop through this collaborative approach. Well done Ella and Georgina you are doing a great job and the children really benefit from your work.

### Morning Parking

Please could I remind parents when dropping off children in the car park in a morning, please do not park against the fence as these are our staff parking bays. Thank you.

## School Council

Last half term school council sought the opinions of their classes in identifying the focus of their work over the next term. All the councillors, even our youngest children, gathered pupil's thoughts and suggestions for an aspect of school life that they would like changing, an area of the school they would like improving and a means of raising money for their projects. There was much debate to narrow down such a wide and varied list of ideas, which ranged from playground markings to zipwires! Eventually the councillors decided to focus their efforts on improving the library and increasing the use and variety of equipment to support physical development and sport; both in lessons and out in the playground. In order to raise funds for their projects they intend to ask the Parents Association if they can loan their bouncy castle and organize a sponsored bounce in the school hall.

Well done to all our dedicated councillors for their hard work and the rest of the children for their suggestions.

Councillors will report on progress towards their objective throughout the term.

### A final Note:

Why not visit the Otley Science Festival event this Saturday at the Court House where our Y6 children, supported by Mr Young, have a stall. You can try your hand at a range of scientific investigations; hope to see some of you there.

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)