

The Whartons' Fortnightly Newsletter

7th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have all been getting in to the festive spirit this week and it is lovely to hear the children practicing their Christmas performances. School has been buzzing with visitors over the last couple of weeks, which have helped bring children's learning to life and spark curiosity.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the Christmas present appeal. I am sure it will bring festive cheer to children having to stay in hospital or hospices over the Christmas period.



Assembly Themes

Congratulations to those children who have shared their fabulous work and attitudes and received certificates for 'Being the Best they can be'. Some of the children have also received certificates for being 'Writer' or 'Mathematician' of the week and their work will be displayed on our wall of fame displays in the hall.

Reception – Leo S, Francesca S, Emma M & Hope E-W

Year 1 – Minnie J, Jacob C-H, Mia D & Ethan M

Year 2 – All of Year 2

Year 3 – Jacob P, Lucas M & Keyon W

Year 4 – Freddy E-W, Lenny G, Emma K & Joshua L

Year 5 – Elise F, Ellie W, Lilly T & Phoebe S

Year 6 – Ben T, Ethan S, Emma L & Joshua R

Year 3 Become Romans

Year 3 were transported back to Roman Times last week, without leaving the school hall.

As a finale to their project work this term the children spent the morning finding out all about day to day life in Roman Times from visiting historians.

Mr Young dressed up as a Roman Centurion, much to the delight of the children.

A great day was had by all.



Bikeability

The Leeds Bikeability team visited school last week to train the Year 6 children in road safety and key skills needed to ride their bikes legally and expertly on the roads.

As Y6 children prepare to move on to secondary school, learning how to ride safely on the roads is a lifelong skill which will support them to keep active and healthy on busier roads nearer to PHGS as they move on to adolescence. The trainers taught children in

groups; firstly on the playground, then onto side roads and finally on to more main roads. The children were model students and the team were full of praise for the

sensible behaviour and the children's focus and progress. The weather was not kind but actually challenged the children to understand the need for real care in tricky conditions.



- **Glow Disco**
- **School Council**
- **WOW Day**

James Enjoys a Day at the Football

Last year James in year 4 had a difficult time when he had to spend a significant time in hospital recovering from a serious illness. James has been back at school for the last half term and working incredibly hard to regain his health.

To mark James' bravery and resilience the team from LGI organized an exciting day out to Old Trafford to enjoy the football. James had a fabulous time and met the mascot for Man United. James and the medical team at LGI also wanted to thank his classmates for their encouragement and support during his rehabilitation. With the support of and a generous donation from Child Brain Injury Trust he presented every class member with an advent calendar in assembly on Friday.

His mum has asked if we, as a school, could support the medical team on Ward 52 to continue their great collaborative work donating £1 to wear a Christmas Jumper on 14th December. Please help us by wearing a Christmas jumper and bringing a donation on 14th.



Planetarium Visit

On Tuesday last week, Year 1 and Year 5 were treated to an 'out of this world' experience as a visiting planetarium came to The Whartons. The children were so excited as they arrived in the hall and saw the enormous dome in front of them but nothing could have prepared them for the magical experience ahead. In the space of just under an hour, each class travelled to the moon and back before heading on a journey across the whole solar system. We saw many different constellations of stars and learnt about some of the different names these have been given over time. Mrs Gomes and Mr Fisk were so proud of the children for their great learning behaviours and their questioning during and after the session. Richard, who ran the show, commented that they were one of the best Year 1 classes he has ever worked with. Well done Year 1 & Year 5!



Victorian Fair Choir Performance

Last weekend our biggest choir to date joined together to perform at The annual Otley Victorian Fair.

Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowell have been running their choir club as a Golden Time choice every Friday this half term. Having the choir group singing during school time has encouraged even more children to join the group this year. Children from both KS1 and KS2 have chosen to sing in the school choir and the choir has grown to an impressive 42 children.

The atmosphere at the Victorian Fair is always so special and full of Christmas excitement. Performing on the stage to such a large crowd is a fabulous experience for the children and spectators alike.

Well done to all the children and staff who supported them on stage.



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Diary Dates

Wednesday 12th and 13th Dec - Secret Santa Stalls

Thursday 13th Dec-Pop Choir singing at The Christmas Tree Festival-Otley Parish Church

Friday 14th Dec-Nasal Flu Immunisation

Friday 14th Dec - Xmas Dinner Day.

Friday 14th Dec – Xmas Jumpers for Ward 52 for £1 Donation

Tuesday 18th Dec- Christmas Productions Dress Rehearsals

Wednesday 19th Dec- KS1 Xmas Production 1pm & 6pm

Thursday 20th Dec- KS2 Production- 6pm Otley Bridge Church

Friday 21st Dec-Xmas Party Day

Friday 21st Dec-School Closes

Tuesday 8th Jan 2019-School Re-opens

Artist and Alumni James Thomas Visits The Whartons

Seven years ago James was a year 6 pupil at The Whartons Primary School in Mr Hampson's class.

Over his teenage years James realised he had quite a talent for art and teaming this with his interest in recycling rubbish which others throw away, lead to James creating the most beautiful and intricate artwork using shredded scratch cards.

James and his mum visited The Whartons a couple of weeks ago and set the children a challenge to use any artistic medium or materials to create a piece of artwork.

The art work the children produced was fabulous and varied. James and his mum returned to lead an assembly last week and present the competition winners with 'art material' prizes.

James thanked all the children for their hard work and talked to them about exploring their passions, which may lead to careers in the future. James has travelled across the country displaying his artwork and his work will be exhibited at The Courthouse for the next month.

If you can try to visit the exhibition, James' work is truly breathtaking.



Author Visit

To support our focus of developing a 'Love of Reading', the children were excited to meet author Andy Seed who visited school last week.

Andy has written a plethora of humorous children's books ranging from Joke Books and Wacky Words to Wild Facts. Andy ran workshops for the KS2 children in the hall where he talked with the children about being an author, some of the intriguing stories from his own life that have inspired his writing and the children had lots of questions about his life and work – there were even some pencil moustaches handed out!

To round off his afternoon visit Andy lead a whole school assembly when he chatted to the children about his life as an author and the joy he finds in writing for children. Alongside the class novels and focus author book corners, meeting and talking to an author of a very different genre of books will help encourage the children to explore their preferred reading styles and encourage them to seek out their favourites. To expose children to the idea of reading for fun will support a lifelong love of reading and help them consider why authors choose the style and language they do to engage their readers.



A final Note:

Remember that this weekend on Saturday between 2pm and 4pm is our Christmas Fair, I hope to see lots of you there picking up some Christmas bargains. It is a lovely start to the festive season.

Julia Dickson