

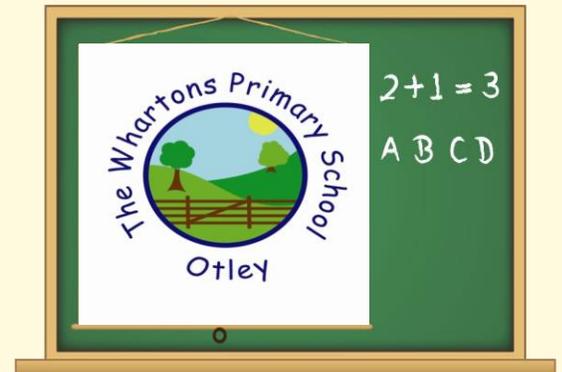
The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

18th December 2015



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely week or two we have all had in the run up to the Christmas break. The children have enjoyed the festive build up both inside school and out in the community. As always children's behaviour and attitudes have been fabulous, there has been a real Christmas spirit around, well done to everyone.



Assembly Themes

We have been considering the messages of the Christmas story and the preparations Christians make for the festive season in assembly times over the last couple of weeks.

The following children received certificates for their efforts with following our Golden Rules and be the best they can be. Well done to :

Rec: Una, Lucy, Ella & Noah Yr 1: Will, Callum, Lily & Lottie Yr2: Pheobe, Harry, Oliver, Olivia S & Molly

Yr3: Cory, Willow, Joe D, Ben & Evie Yr4: Emily, Ben, Ewan & Lily Yr5: Lois, Joseph, Hannah & Alfie

Yr6: Evan, Lily, Mia & Grace

Basketball Competition

Raising the profile of sports in school, improving children's enjoyment and teachers' expertise is an important initiative we have been embracing over the last two years at The Whartons. As a result we are committed to raising standards through collaboration with PHGS and the rest of the Otley and Bramhope cluster of schools. We have used government funding to finance the interschool collaboration through employing an expert teacher from PHGS, Ryan Davies, who teaches our children PE every Monday morning, alongside our teachers, on rotation through the year groups over the year. Mr Davis then organizes inter-school competitions at the end of each half term. Last week Y5 visited PHGS to compete in a Basketball tournament. A fantastic time was had by all; congratulations to Y5 who achieved joint second place.

Department for Education League Tables

Last week the DfE released their league tables which compare end of Key Stage SATs results across the country and within areas.

I want to congratulate the children, staff and parents for the fantastic results. The Whartons results were among some of the highest in the region for the percentage of children reaching expected standard of level 4+ in reading, writing and maths combined, at 93%. This is especially pleasing as it means The Whartons children were well prepared to start the next stage of their learning journey at secondary school.

These results are only possible through the hard work and dedication of children, teachers and supportive parents so thank you and well done!

- Christmas Tree Festival
- Otley Christmas Lights & Victorian Fair
- KS1 Christmas Performance

KS1 Christmas Performance

KS 1 and Reception children wowed their audience with a brilliant retelling of the Babushka story. The show had everything, confident narration, accomplished acting, super songs, the odd comic moment and even some dancing and musical accompaniment. It was a nativity story which focused on kindness, preparation and the wonder of the birth of Jesus; what a magical reminder of the important meaning of Christmas. Well done to all of our youngest children who all looked wonderful.



Christmas Tree Festival

A magical morning was had by all when, last week, the Pop Choir took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Otley Parish Church. Mr Williamson, Mrs Bishop, Mrs Hughes and a team of parents braved the elements to escort the children down to the church to sing at the festival. The array of beautifully decorated trees was awe inspiring and really helped the children to immerse themselves in the wonder of the season.

They sang beautifully for the gathered community and really helped to add to the Christmas atmosphere in the church. Thank you so much to the parents who kindly walked the children down, to the staff for organizing and of course the children for representing school so well.

The Wharfedale Observers' photographer was on hand to take photos so look out for us in the next addition.



Guest Appearances at Otley Christmas Lights & Victorian Fayre

The choir has been in high demand this year and their first appearance was as guests of honour at the Otley Christmas Light switch on. Each year one of the primary schools is invited to perform at the grand switch on alongside other local entertainers.

This year it was The Whartons' Pop Choir's turn to kick off proceedings with a 20 minute set. The weather all day had been dreadful and we were a little concerned that the event may get cancelled or have a poor turnout. We needn't have worried as at about 4pm the clouds parted and the wind dropped. In fact it was a perfect evening for the grand switch on and the children did the school proud with their fantastic singing. The choir was not even fazed when a technical hitch led to the lights and music failing; they carried on acapella, with a beautiful performance of Silent Night.

Thank you to Mr Williamson and Mrs Dowell for their expert coaching over the term and well done choir; you were fabulous.

The weather was kind again for the Otley Victorian Fair this year and as always the atmosphere was incredible. The choir performed as part of the festivities and it was lovely to be part of this community event.

So many parents and friends of the school turned up to lend their support and were rewarded with the children's beautiful singing. What a fabulous way to get into the Christmas spirit.

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- Opening of a Time Capsule
- Diary Dates

Diary Dates

Friday 18th Dec-Xmas

Party Day

Friday 18th Dec-School

Breaks up for Xmas Hols

Monday 4th January 2016

Training Day

Tuesday 5th January-

School Reopens

Tuesday 12th January-

Reception Parents Phonics

Open Morning-8.55-

10.30am

Friday 15th January-Glow

Party Disco

KS2 Christmas Performance

Key Stage 2 also told the Christmas story through carols and Christmas songs in their 'Bells Ring Out' production. They created a real atmosphere with their brilliant singing, harmonies and skillful narration and energy. Sharing these performances with parents is definitely a highlight of the year and this year was no exception.



The Whartons Christmas Fair

What a superb event the Christmas Fair was again this year. With record numbers of visitors it was the perfect way to spend a truly dreadful afternoon of winter weather. Santa was run off his feet as was the poor Mrs Claus! Eventually all the children who wanted to talk to the main man himself managed to see him and chat through last minute present ideas, before he sped off back to the North Pole. There was an amazing array of stalls, activities and games and everyone went home laden with gifts of all shapes and sizes. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it happen; to Mrs Peacock for her skills of organization and all of you who came and made it such a success. The fair raised just over £1000 which is £200 more than last year. All of the proceeds go to enhancing provisions for your children in school.

Opening a Time Capsule

Six School Councilors, myself and Mrs Dolphin were fortunate enough to be invited to the opening of a time capsule this week. The glass jar had been buried in 1905 on the site of the old Wharfedale Infirmary. Joining children from Ashfield school, representatives of the construction company who found the capsule whilst building new houses on the site, and local historians the children helped to remove items from the capsule. There were newspapers, coins and the remains of a diary. Unfortunately many of the items were damaged by time and water but it was still exciting to look at, and handle artifacts from the past, considering what it tells us about how people used to live. The children also took items for a new capsule which depicts life at the Whartons in 2015. The council chose to include Christmas lists to show what children play with, there was a school uniform to show what we wear, a school prospectus and aerial photograph to show what our school looks like and how children learn in 2015. It is incredible to think of people in the future opening our capsule. What a fantastic opportunity for the children to participate in such an historical event.



A final Note:

Have a fantastic break. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)