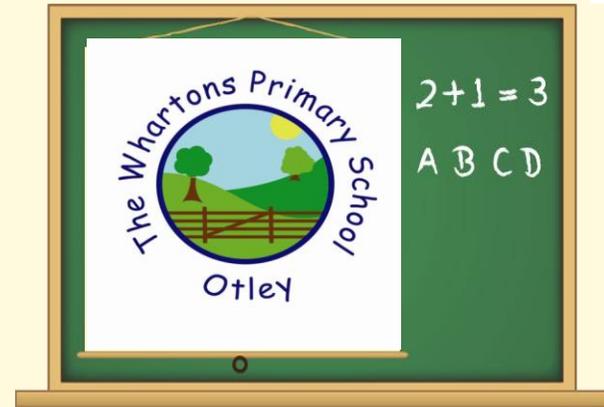


# The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting week to finish off the term; school has been buzzing with visitors as all the children have had the opportunity to gain a window onto the world of work in one way or another. Thank you to all the parents who invested their precious time in supporting our children's enjoyment of Careers and Aspirations Week; it has been a pleasure to welcome you all during our working day.



## Assembly Themes

Our assemblies have focused on recognizing and nurturing our own talents and aspirations. We have discussed the importance of identifying our strengths and focusing on building on those strengths by grasping opportunities and being the best we can be.

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

Rec: Lucas B & Charlotte M Year 1: Myles A & Teddy N-C Year 2: Elise F Year 3: Ethan S & Theo P

Mr Williamson: All of Pop choir Year 5: Lois C-Y & Maddie H Year 6: Rebecca J & Nathan H

## *Faster Egg Decorating Competition*

Our annual egg decorating competition was yet again a very close fought affair with the standard of entries as high as ever. Children's creativity and individuality never ceases to amaze me. The entries included topical settings, humorous tableaux and intricately detailed pieces of artwork. I asked two of our school volunteers to take on the difficult task of judging: the KS1 winner was Seren (Y2) and runners up Lucy (Rec) & Millie (Y1); Lower KS2 winner James L-M (Y4) & Runner up James ST (Y3); Upper KS2 winner Jess L-W (Y6) & runner up Maisy H (Y5).

Many thanks to all of you for your hard work; we thoroughly enjoyed looking at all of your fabulous art works.

## **Year 5 Learn About Fire Safety**

Year 5 were very excited to be visited by Fire Fighter Richard Konecki from Otley Fire Station on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

The class learnt all about fire safety in and around the home and the importance of the installation and regular maintenance of smoke alarms and the safe actions children can perform in the event of a house fire. Children also watched a short film explaining how a family can create a fire plan at home to ensure everyone knows what to do.

Mr Konecki encouraged the children and their families to contact Otley Fire Station for a home safety check or if they needed smoke alarms fitting by calling Otley 462222. Alternatively you can book online by visiting <http://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk/stations/otley/>.

The visit was hugely informative and delivered in a fun and engaging way and we are extremely grateful for Otley Fire Station for giving their time to come and visit us.



- Take Over Day
- Careers & Aspirations Week
- Preparing for the cluster music concert

### *Music Cluster Event at Yeadon Town Hall*

Our Pop Choir were delighted to take part in the Family of Schools Music Concert at Yeadon Town Hall on 17th March.

All the local schools were involved and our children didn't let us down singing "I'm a Believer" by the Monkeys and a touching version of "Space Oddity" by David Bowie. It was a great evening and we'd like to thank all the children who took part. Thank you also to all the adults who accompanied them, Mrs Dowell, Mr Williamson, Mrs Gomes and the parent helpers who helped at the rehearsals.



The school day flew by with extra efficiency on Thursday due to the additional skills and support from pupils across the school. The children worked alongside all staff members during the school's first ever 'Take Over Day'.

Mrs Foley organized for children to apply to shadow different members of staff for a day. The initiative engaged children in the life skill of writing formal letters of application, identify their strengths and helped them to gain a greater appreciation of the roles and responsibilities each and every member of the school team have, which support the smooth running of our organization. I had the great fortune to have the help and support of Jess from Y6. We carried out book scrutinizes, learning walks, pupil interviews and some paperwork together. I hope she enjoyed her day as much as I did!

Thank you to all the children who wrote letters of application, your efforts were fabulous, staff who made the day a great success and to Mrs Foley whose hard work and vision made it possible.

### **RSPB Visitor**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March, years 1 to 6 were lucky enough to have a visit from an RSPB representative. Years 1 and 2 had a bioblitz wildlife hunt which included pond dipping, creepy crawly hunting and bird watching. Years 3 to 6 had a habitat map challenge where we put our map skills to the test and plotted habitats for different animals on our school map. It was a really fantastic experience for all classes and gave us some fantastic ideas to improve our already spectacular outside/wildlife areas.



## Careers and Aspirations Week

Thanks to Mrs Foley, Mrs Gomes and a group of supportive parents, we have hosted our first ever Careers and Aspirations week this week.

We really appreciated the response from parents, who could spare the time to talk to the children about their chosen career. As a result every class in school has had the opportunity to listen to, and question, several different parents with wide ranging careers.

The children were fascinated to hear about jobs that ranged from business to medical, community to environmental, artistic to logistic. The opportunity for children to be introduced to the vast range of job possibilities which span such divergent sets of talents and skills really helped them to appreciate that everyone is different and whatever your skills, interests and passions there is a possible career out there which could appeal to you. It also highlighted the importance of hard work and determination in developing skills and realizing dreams.

Thank you so much to all those who took part.

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## **Diary Dates**

**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**-Year 3 Trip to Herd Farm

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**- School Closes for May Day Bank Holiday

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

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May**- Year 3 Assembly

**W/C Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May**-KS2 SATS Week

**W/C Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May**-Yr6 Residential Week

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

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

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

## *Awards and Congratulations*

As we draw to the end of another term it was time to celebrate children's achievement over the last few months. Many children have received silver and gold awards for consistently positive behaviour and dedication to their work this term, well done to all of you.

The triumphant house team this term was Vikings who managed to top the points leader board most times this half term and have amassed 3 stars on our House point display board. Well done for all their hard work and determination both in class and outside the classroom.

The Harry Buckley Award for Creativity this term was awarded to Matilda from Reception. Matilda has shown a real determination in creative projects and a love of design over this year. Harry's brother Callum and last term's winner Jess from Y6 awarded the plaque which is designed to celebrate children's achievements and to remember the creativity and determination of Harry who was an inspiration to us all. Matilda will be taking the award home for the Easter holidays.



## **Reception Receive a Visit From The Police**

Our Reception children had a brilliant visit from PC Copeland & PCSO Simpson from Otley Police Station last Tuesday afternoon. The children wrote a letter to ask them to come and visit because they enjoy playing Police and Robbers, which they then went to post in the local post box. Before they arrived everyone wrote questions down to ask them. When PC Copeland and PCSO Simpson arrived they brought a remote control police car which chased the children around the yard and showed them all the equipment they use and the uniform they wear, letting some try on their helmets. The children even got to sit in the back of the real Police van and press the siren which was really exciting. They enjoyed it so much that they are now planning on inviting the Fire Brigade to come and visit!!



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

Congratulations to Lily Jopson whose Egg design managed to catch the eye of Tim Peaks no less! When Lily tweeted her design he favoured it from space. Julia Dickson (Headteacher)

