

# The Whartons' Fortnightly Newsletter

## 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a super half term with lots of opportunities for learning outdoors, exploring new topic areas, engaging in trips and welcoming a range of visitors. We are definitely all ready for a break and to recharge the batteries.

I would just like to tell you about the basket which has appeared in the entrance hall this week. Once again Mel Metcalf is collecting donations for the Yorkshire Children's Hospital Gift Appeal to distribute to children who will have to stay in hospital this Christmas. We had some lovely donations last year. Please if you are shopping for Christmas presents next week consider buying an extra small gift to drop in the box.



## Assembly Themes

As part of our assemblies theme 'Being Me in My World' we have been exploring the theme of Democracy with the children. Considering what are and what are not democratic situations and discussing why it is important for people to have the opportunity to have their say in decision making. The voting of the new school council will provide each class with a voice to suggest changes and improvements in school. Congratulations to those children who have shared their fabulous work and attitudes and received certificates for 'Being the Best they can be'.

**Reception** - Florence T & Oscar B

**Year 1** - All

**Year 2** - All

**Year 3** - Oriah N & Lucy P

**Year 4** - Oliver D & Charlotte S

**Year 5** - Alfie H & Katie C

**Year 6** - Monica G & Lea E

## Parent Association New Ideas Evening

Last week the Parents' Association hosted a welcome evening for any new members and used the gathering to generate new ideas for fundraising and social events for the year ahead. It was an informal event with drinks and nibbles and an opportunity to review last years' many events and bring any new ideas to the table.

It was agreed by everyone that the funds raised by the PA were invaluable for providing much needed 'extra' resources to school, which have benefitted all the children. I would like to thank the committee and all the volunteers for their hard work. I am looking forward to being part of the many new ventures suggested over the coming year.

## Cross Country Competition

This year 28 competitive athletes took part in the Leeds Wharfedale and Craven cross country event at Wharfe Meadows, Otley. All runners performed incredibly well and some teams managed to qualify for the next round in February at Temple Newsam. The teams and individual qualifiers were the Y4 team, who won, Year 6 teams and Year 5 teams. The people who finished in the top 10 were: Charlotte in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Zack in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Annie in 5<sup>th</sup> place, Joe in 8<sup>th</sup> place, Ethan in 7<sup>th</sup> place, Joe in 8<sup>th</sup> place, James in 4<sup>th</sup> place, Ellie in 10<sup>th</sup> place. Thank you to all competitors and Mr Hampson and Mrs Hughes who accompanied the teams. Good luck in the finals.



- Taekwondo
- Living Books
- Harvest Festival

### Taekwondo

Amelia who runs a Taekwondo Club after school at the Whartons came to work with all the classes last week.

Amelia ran half hour taster Taekwondo sessions for each class throughout the day in the hall. The children had a fabulous time trying their hand at this new sport.

The sport takes concentration, focus, balance and agility and the children surprised themselves at how well they did mastering some of the moves.

It is always good to introduce children to new and less mainstream sports whenever possible as they build an understanding of what activities they would enjoy and would suit their characters, whilst keeping fit and healthy.

I know a few of the children have decided to take up the sport as a hobby.

## *Living Books Event*

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 Year 5 walked down in to Otley centre to attend the Cluster Schools Diversity and Equality event called 'Talking Books' where people from Otley told us stories about their lives and the lives of their families. The class split in to two groups. One group went to the Library and the other group visited the 'Core' near Pet Wise. The first group met a retired teacher called Christine. She talked to us about her life story which was upsetting in places. Afterwards we got to ask her lots of questions about what she had told us and find out all sorts of fascinating facts about her life. After that we met a man whose Great Grandfather shot someone by accident a long time ago. It was very interesting finding out all about him. After that we found out about a man called Ray who grew up in Africa. We had an amazing time and would love to go back to find out about more stories of the residents of Otley and their families lives.

Written by Evie and Katie



## Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival at Bridge Street Church was a lovely end to last week and a great opportunity to gather as a community and children to think of helping others.

I was super that so many parents and grandparents were able to join us at the church to celebrate the season. The children enjoyed entertaining the audience with their songs, poetry and stories linked to harvest. There were links to how harvest was celebrated and marked across some of the periods in history that the children have been learning about, such as the foods which Romans communities ate and Greek mythology to explain the seasons.

A huge thank you to everyone who sent a donation of food which will be passed on to our local Caring for Life charity.

Also thank you to everyone at Bridge Street Church who made us so welcome and helped out with the organization and running.



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## Diary Dates

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Oct** - School Closes (Half Term)

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Nov** - School Reopens

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Nov** - School Disco KS1 (6:15pm - 7:15pm)

KS2 (7:30pm - 8:30pm)

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** - New Parents Open Day

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Year 6 Eden Camp Trip

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Year 4 Bun Sale

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas Fayre

**Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Pop Choir Christmas Tree Festival

@ Otley Parish Church 2pm

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec** - School Closes for Christmas

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** - School Closed (Teacher Training Day)

**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Jan** - School Reopens

## Top Table

Last week I had the pleasure of hosting our first ever Friday Top Table at lunchtime in the dining hall.

The new initiative was introduced by last year's school council who decided it would be a good idea to congratulate children who showed super manners in the lunch hall.

The mid-day supervisors suggest a candidate from each class who had showed particular exemplary behavior at lunchtimes over the week, Mrs Lister created super invitations for the children which were issued at celebration assembly to invite the chosen children plus a guest to join myself at the top table on Friday for their lunch.

Mrs Roberts decorated the table with a lovely table cloth, juice, napkins and special cups. The invited guests were first in the lunch queue and felt very important taking up their place at the front of the dining hall. The conversation flowed and everyone had a fabulous time.

I can't wait to see who comes to join me on Top Table this week.



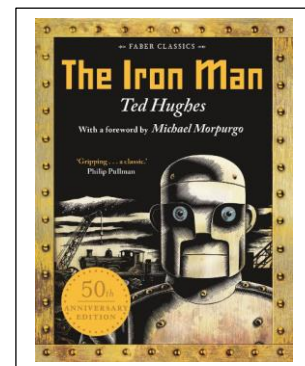
## **Year 4 Assembly**

Year 4 children really entertained and informed their audience last week with their fabulous assembly.

It was remarkable to hear all about the learning journey that the children have made in the first half term of the year. They have obviously really embraced their class novel and used it to create some super pieces of writing about the characters and settings in the book. They explained how they have learnt to use models in Maths to help them solve complex calculations and even tested the audience!

The children all enjoyed sharing their hard work with their families and the other children, it is a highlight of the year and they really set the bar high as the first class assembly of the year.

I am always so proud of the children when they take to the stage and as always they were confident, articulate and all worked together to take us on a whistle stop tour of their learning so far this year. Thank you Year 4!



## **A final Note:**

Have a lovely, restful holiday everyone.

Julia Dickson