

Whartons Primary School

Fortnightly Newsletter

Wednesday 28th January 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting couple of weeks in school with plenty of visitors as well as opportunities for children across the whole school to work together considering their rights and responsibilities

Assembly Themes/Learning to Learn Skills

Building upon our learning to learn skills and 'Going for Goals' theme, our assemblies over the last two weeks have focused on working together to support learning (relationships) and developing resilience when faced with tricky work or distractions. The children have been talking about learning skills in class and are developing learning to learn displays in their classrooms. Well done to the following children who have received certificates over the last couple of weeks for their positive attitudes towards their learning:

Rec - Teddy N-C & Sam C Year 1 -Evie C & Solomon B Year 2 - Emma L & Monica G
Year 3 - Everyone!
Year 4 -Michael C & Isobel W Year 5 -Everyone! Year 6 - Aidan B & Julia G

Mobile Phones

May I remind parents that mobile phones are not allowed in school. If you wish your child to carry a mobile phone to and from school then it must be handed in to their class teacher in the morning and will be locked away in the office until the end of the day.

Holidays in term Time

In line with all other cluster schools in Otley I wish to make clear to parents that any holidays taken in term time will be unauthorised unless in exceptional circumstances; these will be considered on an individual case by case basis. Also if more than four days across a whole school year of unauthorised absences are accumulated then school will refer cases on to Leeds City Council who will consider fining families.

Behaviour Week

Last week the whole school engaged in a Behaviour Week where classes considered how their behaviour, and that of others in school, has an impact on the whole school community. Classes explored the Golden Rules and how these are both a right and a responsibility e.g. all children have a right to be treated kindly and the responsibility to treat others kindly. Some of the older children looked at charters of children's rights and wrote their own class charters/agreements, younger children acted out scenarios and illustrated positive behaviours. At the end of the week the Year 6 children lead a session in each of the other classes in school to develop a school behaviour tree which will be displayed in the hall as a visual agreement of how we treat each other at the Whartons; and our commitment to creating a hardworking and happy school where we all support one another



Gardening Club

A new and wide range of after school clubs are in full swing now this half term. I am learning some new skills alongside the children and have realised, I must admit to my surprise, that gardening is very satisfying. Although, as we are at the stage of clearing out last year's plants and digging over the soil in readiness for new crops of vegetables, fruit and herb plants; it is, at the moment fairly straight forward. I will be relying heavily on the expertise of Mrs Kellar and the rest of gardening club when it comes to tending for our new plants. I have submitted an entry to the Harrogate Flower Show in the 'Grow a Crate of Vegetables' class. Our crate will arrive soon and the children will keep a diary of their vegetable growing progress to submit alongside our box of edible produce.



Keep Sam Smiling

Last Thursday we were awash with camera crews and reporters as the BBC, ITV and the Yorkshire Evening Post descended on school and spent the morning talking with the children about how they were supporting Sam and his family. Sam travelled to 10 Downing Street this week with his family and other Morquio Syndrome sufferers to highlight the need for funding to the Prime Minister.

KS1 children had worked with Mrs Paylor to produce a banner for Sam to take to London as well as designing collages of their smiling faces as pictorial signatures. KS2 children wrote letters to Mr Cameron explaining that Sam's medicine helps Sam to be an active and happy member of our school community and asking that he help 'Keep Sam Smiling'.

I was so proud of all the children in their enthusiastic support of Sam. Let us hope that Sam and his family receive positive news



A Scaly Visitor

Solomon, Anouk and their mum brought an unusual family pet in to school for a visit last week. Captain Lime is a Corn snake who behaved exceptionally well when he visited Year 1 and Year 3 classes. The children were fascinated when Solomon and Anouk explained how they look after Captain Lime and how big he will grow eventually. We were all amazed to find out that he only eats once per week.



Dates For Your Diary

Friday 30th January - School Disco

Friday 30th January - Yr2 multisports at PHGS in the afternoon

Monday 2nd February - Heather Sharpe Storyteller in school

Tuesday 3rd February - Yr 6 visit PHGS to watch *Grease*

Friday 13th February - Break-Up for Half Term

Monday 23rd February - School Re-opens

Hope to see lots of you at the disco on Friday night; remember your dancing outfits and glow sticks will be available on the night.

Regards

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)