

The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

22nd July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the summer term has arrived and we have really enjoyed our last few weeks in school. There have been sporting events galore (including our annual Bikeability course for Y6 children to learn cycling safety ahead of their move to PHGS), picnics, trips and class assemblies. We have also had a fair share of hellos and goodbyes and even new names for our classes.

Assembly Themes

We had a visit from Leeds Library Service last week in assembly, when they talked to the children about the holiday reading challenge taking place in libraries across Leeds. Six weeks is quite a long time for children to be out of school, especially if the weather keeps everyone inside. Taking part in the library challenge, where children challenge themselves to read 6 or more books is an excellent way to stave off boredom and to maintain reading and comprehension skills over the summer break. We would love to hear about children's favourite reads from over the holidays and their recommendations to peers.

The following children received certificates for their hard work and great attitudes. Well done to :

Rec: Thomas L, Ebony P & Charlotte B

Yr1: Sam M, Miles A, Zak F & Millie M

Yr2: Michael B, Thomas S-G, Annie C & Joe W

Yr 3: James S, Caitlin R, Josh R & Cory H

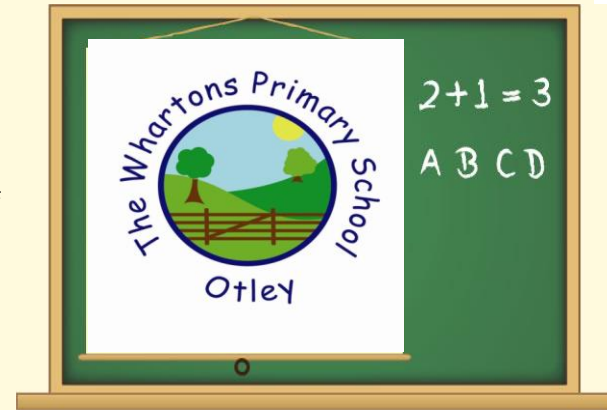
Yr 4: Isabella R & Sam G

Yr 5: Maddie H, Michael C, Maddison G, Isobel W & Gustav T

Yr 6: Oliver HS, Jared I, Rebecca J & Joe C

Parking

I had a visit last week from Alison Barraclough who works for the Traffic Safety Team at Leeds City Council, in relation to concerns expressed by members of the public about congestion and parking issues around school at pick up and drop off time. Whilst I realise it is tricky to find parking places at these busy times we need to remember safety of pedestrians and other road users is paramount. Ms Barraclough noticed that only cars would be able to drive along The Whartons due to parking on both sides of the road and that if an emergency vehicle were to need access this would be impossible. There is also the issue of reduced pavement width which could cause accidents if children moved on to the road to navigate parked cars. I have concerns for next year as we will be walking a class of children back from swimming along The Whartons at 3.15pm. We will be focusing on traffic calming initiatives in the Autumn Term.



Transition Days

On the 7th and 8th of July our Y6 children were engaged in two days of transition to PHGS. They all had a great time with their new classes for September.

Whilst the Y6 children were at their new school we welcomed all our reception children for September, with their parents, to a lovely roast dinner followed by a stay and play. Starting a new school can be very daunting and it is always beneficial to carry out a few ice breaking, 'getting to know you' visits before the start of a new year.

All our other children also spent the day with their new teachers and teaching assistants in their new classrooms on Thursday 7th. During the day all the classes spent time agreeing a new class charter, writing all about themselves for their new teachers to read over the summer holidays and impressing them with their best mathematical problem solving skills and their best pieces of writing; the standard was set for the new term!

- New Class Games
- Parent Helper Thank You
- Sporting Events

Parent Helpers Tea Party

A lovely afternoon was had by all last Tuesday when we invited all our parent helpers to join us for afternoon tea and some light entertainment.

Mrs Dolphin and Mrs Gibson kindly organized the whole event complete with cakes.

Some of our musicians entertained guests with their lovely playing and Y6 shared a sneak preview of some of the songs from their end of year production 'Rocky Monster Show'.

Our parents and helpers time is invaluable to school and many events would not take place if it wasn't for their support. We really appreciate all that they do.



New Class Initiatives

We have decided that we will be introducing a new class game in the autumn term which is based on the board game of Monopoly but with a local twist; 'Otleypoly'. The game will be a whole school focus and a fun approach to promoting good attendance. In order that classes can easily track their progress, and collect class rewards, on our giant board each class will have an emblem. The emblems are drawn from creatures we could find in our wildlife area or school grounds. We have decided that these emblems will become our new class names.

Reception class will be Butterflies, Y1- Newts, Y2- Dragonflies, Y3- Rabbits, Y4- Foxes, Y5- Owls and Y6 will be Red Kites soaring above.

The children researched their class animal and designed a class emblem during transition day.

Sports Day and Race for Life

The whole school has had great fun getting active over the last couple of weeks out on the school field.

Firstly the children engaged in a 'Race for Life' fund raising event for Cancer Research which was organised by one of our parents, Miss Reyner and Mr Hampson. All the children paid a £1 to enter and ran, jogged or walked as many laps of the field as they could in 30 minutes whilst collecting a stamp for each lap. It was quite incredible how full some of the children's stamp cards became. Every child received a medal for taking part and the event raised £ for the charity. I would like to thank Miss Reyner for registering school to participate and sourcing all the resources including medals to enable us to enjoy the event.

On Monday this week it was Sports Day and what a glorious day it was. The children competed in their house teams and everyone had a fabulous time. After the opening ceremony led by Y6 children and including a warm up 'Wake and Shake' session, the teams engaged in a carousel of events including javelin, hurdles, and shotputt to name but a few. After a lunch break it was down to the more competitive element of the day with traditional running, obstacle and egg and spoon races. Each house entered a representative into each category, individual winners received certificates and the overall house winners with a combined score of 31 amassed during the whole day of events was Vikings. Thank you Mr Hampson and Y6 for your brilliant organization and visitors for joining us on the day and cheering the children on.



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- Goodbye & Thank You
- Leavers

Goodbye and Thank You

Assembly last Friday morning was tinged with sadness as we had to say goodbye to two of our long standing governors.

Mrs Mason has been a governor at school for 10 years, some of that time as Chair of the Governing Body and has been a real support through many changes and challenges. Mrs Mason has not only worked tirelessly with staff to bring positive impacts on school development but she has also supported children with their learning in reading when she visits every Friday.

Mrs Tallontire has also been a governor for 8 years and has really supported school to move forward by sharing her knowledge and expertise. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her in school. Her sound advice and hard work as Deputy Chair is much appreciated.

We wish them all the best for the future and hope they will visit us again. Many thanks for all your dedication and hard work.

Reception Pirates Picnic

The reception children have been busy this half term, organising a family picnic. They have written invitations, gathered data about their favourite sandwiches, baked tiffin and packed up all the equipment they needed. They have also harvested the vegetables that they grew and practised performing pirate songs and poems. On the afternoon of the picnic we all went up to the nature garden and had wonderful time eating, chatting, singing and playing games. The children and their families also had a chance to read through their learning journey folders. Thank you to everyone who came, and well done reception!



Year 6 Leavers

Year 6's grand production of 'The Rocky Monster Show' to end their time at The Whartons was a farfetched yarn that made us laugh, jump, tap our feet and sing along.

The children worked so well as a team to make the show such a great success. There were talented and confident narrators whose wit and charm really enhanced the story. The actors and soloists were confident and brave and the dancing and singing set pieces were brilliantly executed. Of course there were also technically minded team of children who made sure all the sound and vision effects were perfectly queued in and ensured smooth transitions.

I was so proud of all the children as I have been all year. What a fantastic group of young people who have been great role models this year across school, taking on roles as class captains and play leaders to name but a few. Although we will miss them, they are ready for their next step and we all wish them the best for the future. Come back and tell us all about it!

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Diary Dates

Friday 22nd July-
School Closes for
Summer

Monday 5th Sept-
Training Day

Tuesday 6th Sept-
School Reopens

Friday 23rd Sept-
School Photos

Monday 17th Oct-
EYFS Training Day

Friday 21st Oct-
School Closes for Half
Term

Y4 Trip to Nell Bank

On Monday 11th July Year 4 went on a trip to Nell Bank in Ilkley. They went as part of their science curriculum, studying habitats.

It was a wet and gloomy morning when they set off and on arrival at Nell Bank we made sure everyone who wanted them had wellies as there was a lot of muddy paths in the woods. We spent most of the morning in the woods looking at different trees and learning how important they were as habitats for different creatures. We built twig towers (Amelia and Marli had the tallest one). We hunted for mini beasts and found lots of different ones.

Just before lunch we got chance to have some fun (and get wet!), in the water activity area.

After lunch we did some team building and took part in an orienteering activity. There were lots of cunning tactics employed to put groups off the scent as we ran around Nell Bank looking for clues.

Finally as the sun came out we went pond dipping and found lots of different water beasts which we identified and tallied ready for some follow up maths activities.

All too soon it was home time. We had had such a wonderful and energetic day that some of the children actually fell asleep on the way home! Many thanks to the fantastic staff at Nell Bank and the parent helpers who made the trip possible. We will return next year!



Year 3 and Year 5 Assemblies

On Wednesday 29th June Y5 took to the stage as they put on their class assembly; and what an assembly it was! Taking us on a tour of their learning through their class trip to Jamie Oliver's as well as guiding us through a debate on deforestation, the Year 5 children showed such confidence and skill in delivering some key messages. To top it off we were treated to some wonderful singing, with a lively performance of 'Food Glorious Food' and an emotional performance of 'Earth Song.' Along with Mr Gath, Year 5 had also decided to develop an enterprise project in which they would create an information booklet all about the Rainforest to be sold after the assembly with all proceeds going to the WWF charity. We are pleased to announce that this fundraising initiative managed to raise £75 – well done Year 5!



This Wednesday Y3 engaged their audience with a whistle stop tour of their learning, a 'Top ten' of year 3 highlights. The children shared African singing, their memories of Spanish Day and their fondness of making and eating tapas, and their learning secrets; such as how they created rhymes and songs to remember geographical features. What a learning packed year they have had. Well done Y3.

A final Note:

All that is left for me to do is wish everyone a fantastic summer break and our Year 6 children all the best for their new adventure on to secondary school. See you all again in September and I look forward to sharing some of your summer adventure stories.

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)