

# Whartons Primary School

## Fortnightly Newsletter

Thursday 12th February 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Where has this half term gone? I think after such a long autumn term the spring term seems to be racing. Although I have to say I am hoping for some more spring type weather in the second half of the term so we can get on with planting tubs and containers and dispense with the thick over coats and woolly hats.

### Assembly Themes/Learning to Learn Skills

We have looked at two more of our learning to learn skills over the last two weeks and have now identified 5 key attitudes we will be trying to adopt when approaching new learning situations. The skills we have been focusing on over the last fortnight have been 'being resourceful' when faced with a challenge and using all the information, resources and people around you to help solve a tricky problem; also developing a 'risk taking' attitude to our work where we are not afraid of being wrong and in fact realising that we learn from our mistakes and through challenging ourselves even if that is uncomfortable sometimes.

The following children have shown great resourcefulness, resilience and have challenged themselves to try something difficult:

Reception - The Whole Class

Year 2 - The Whole Class

Year 4 - Noah D, Maddison G, Louie R & Seth K

Year 6 Robbie B, Lucy G, Julia G & Olivia D

Year 1 - Ellie W & Aidan P

Year 3 - Marli T, Natalie B & Ewan F

Year 5 - Evan T, Rebecca J, Amie B,  
Rachel R & Finnley R

### Switched on Computing.

We have been very fortunate to have invested in a computing scheme of work for Years 1 to 6. The scheme is brand new and supports both our teachers and learners with recent changes to the Primary National Curriculum.

We thought long and hard about buying into a scheme before we took the plunge and now we have, we're not disappointed. Switched on Computing covers every aspect of the Computing Curriculum in a very clear and cohesive way, ensures progression in all skills whilst embedding E-Safety.

Since deciding to purchase the scheme it has been awarded best Primary Digital Content at this year's BETT awards. These highly-regarded awards, judged by practicing teachers, celebrate creativity and innovation throughout the use of technology in education so we know we have definitely picked a winner!

## Parking

Parking again is becoming an issue around the school gates and surrounding streets. If cars are parked on both sides of the road and mounted onto the pavement they present a real safety hazard to our children and the neighbours. I have had reports that parents and children have to walk into the road to get round parked vehicles which block or narrow the pavement making them impassable, especially if parents have prams or buggies, which is extremely dangerous. Also if cars are parked along the street in two tight rows then when children cross the road they cannot see, or be seen by, cars driving down the road. Finally if an emergency vehicle were needed then it would not be able to get through the narrow gaps left by parking on two sides of the road. I will be contacting our local police officer to see if he has any suggestions to ease the problem but in the meantime I appeal to your sense of responsibility and urge you to park a little further away from school and walk the last few hundred yards to avoid dangerous parking practices.

## Glow Stick Disco

I want to thank the Parent's Association for their hard work in organising the Glow Stick Disco last Friday; everyone had a marvellous time. The children's outfits were brilliant and very creative in many cases (Mrs Dowell and Isabella even had matching glow in the dark nail varnish, awesome and Jessica's furry psychedelic leg warmers were a vision to behold!!). Children danced with great vigour; many drinks were needed in order to rehydrate after their considerable efforts, can't wait for the next one.

## Multisports

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Year 2 went to Prince Henry's to compete against other Year 2 classes in a multi skills tournament. We all worked incredibly hard on the 8 stations that were set up. We did activities like running, speed bounce, long jump, balancing and hurdles. The best result of the day was... we WON!



## Year 6 Visit To See Grease

Year 6 had a brilliant time down at Prince Henrys Grammar School last Tuesday morning watching the last dress Rehearsal of their school production of *Grease*. The story of Danny and Sandy had many familiar songs but also managed to surprise as well. The children really enjoyed their trip to the "theatre".

## Taekwondo Taster Sessions

All the children have been having a fantastic time today learning perseverance, co-ordination and stamina skills from a Taekwondo taster session. This was run by a Taekwondo Instructor for the Great Britain Taekwondo Federation with a view to running an after school Taekwondo club at The Whartons. Look out for further details.



## New Houses

The 30<sup>th</sup> of January was a very exciting day at school as children took part in a whole school vote to decide the names of the new house teams. School Council had worked hard to whittle it down to 8 choices of Famous Houses, Historical Groups, The Solar System, Sea Creatures, Animals, Famous Medallists, Famous people of Otley and Sweets, but now it was the turn of classes to have their say. A polling station was set up and there was a real buzz of excitement across school. The votes were counted up that evening ready for School Council to announce to classes the following week. It was a close competition indeed, but overall the winner was ... Historical Groups! We are now all very excited to find out after half term which group we shall be in - Saxons, Vikings, Aztecs, Romans, Greeks or Egyptians. Look out in the next school news where we shall announce an exciting house event happening next term to introduce us into our new teams.

## Staffing news

I would like to take the opportunity to wish Mrs Matthews all the best as she begins her maternity leave after half term. We are all very excited about her imminent new arrival and can't wait to welcome new baby Matthews when he is ready to visit, sometime before Easter we hope. Mrs Hornby, who will be taking over from Mrs Matthews whilst she is on maternity leave, has been working with the children and alongside Mrs Matthews on several visits this half term and the children already know her well, so this should ensure a smooth transition after half term.

I also want to thank Mrs Hudson who has been working in Year 1, covering the class whilst they wait for their new teacher Mrs Foley to join the Whartons after the February holiday. Miss Stewart, Mrs Hudson and Mrs Foley have all been working closely together this half term to ensure continuity for the children and have made some exciting changes to the classroom environment, incorporating challenge areas. We will also be welcoming Mr Fisk to the staff after Easter as he takes over from Miss Ind. Mr Fisk is an experienced teacher who will be joining the team as KS1 leader and English subject leader as well as being a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Mr Fisk is joining us from my old school Rossett Acre in Harrogate and I know he will fit into the community here at The Whartons very well.

## Dates For Your Diary

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Break-Up for Half Term

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - School Re-opens

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief-Make Your Face Funny

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Break Up For Easter Break

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Training Day

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - School Reopens

Have a fantastic break over half term and I look forward to welcoming everyone back, rested and raring to go after the holidays.

Regards

Julia Dickson (Head Teacher)