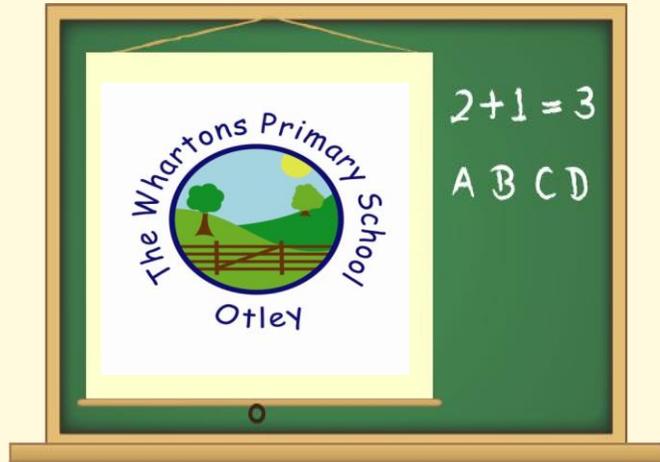


The Whartons Fortnightly Newsletter

June 19th 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous couple of weeks we have had in school, the weather has been great and I have been pleased to see such a lot of learning taking place outside the classroom. We are now into class assemblies season in earnest and children, parents and staff are all thoroughly enjoying sharing each other's learning.



Assembly Themes

We have been continuing through our assembly themes and PSHCE sessions to consider changes and how we prepare for, and make the most of, new opportunities and situations. The following children received certificates this half term for their positive approaches to dealing with changes, well done!

Rec – Sam C & Lottie S

Year 1 – Seren J-G & Harry D

Year 2 – Sam B

Year 3 – Marli T & Rebekah G

Year 4 – Noah D & Maisy H

Year 5 – Nathan H & Libby R

Year 6 – Jessica R & Maizie G

Year 1 Dragon Hunting Field Trip

On Monday the 8th of June Year 1 met two new visitors called Professor Pine and Pearl. They took us to Farnley Woods. We found lots of evidence of the wood dragon. We found an egg and some long pinecones and some gold. My favourite bit of the day was going to Dr D's Dragon Laboratory. He taught us about dragons and told us a song - Michael Bowman.



Ukulele Assembly

The children enjoyed a musical treat last week when visitors Jen and Richard from the Woolpack Studios led an assembly all about ukuleles. They talked to the children about the origins of the ukulele, played traditional tunes as well as modern pop songs. The children were really engaged and enthusiastic. Jen and Richard will be returning later in the term to work with Mr Williamson and the new Y4 class for September as they will be taking up the ukulele as their class instrument next year.



- New Parents Evening
- Parent Questionnaire
- Disco Evening
- Reception Class Assembly

New Parents Evening

Last Wednesday evening we welcomed a new group of children and their parents in to the Whartons' school community when we held our new starters evening for the reception intake in September.

Mrs Glover, who runs the school kitchen, provided a selection of items from the school meals menu as nibbles, Mrs Peacock explained to the parents about joining our wonderful walking bus and becoming involved in the many Parent Association events and Mrs Reynard and Miss Milner showed parents and children around Breakfast and After School Club.

I am always so proud to be able to show new people around our fabulous school and talk to them about the children's learning.

Disco Evening

The Parent's Association discos on Friday night was the place to be seen and both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children had a fabulous time throwing shapes to the latest sounds and just generally enjoying the evening with friends. School discos are always a favourite in the termly calendar and I would like to thank parents and staff as always for their hard work and for supervising these events.

Reception Class Assembly

What an absolute delight it was last week to share with children parents and staff Reception Class' assembly. I was so proud of the children who all stood up in front of a packed hall to share their work from over the last term. The children explained through artwork, songs, rhymes and story telling how plants and animals grow and change over time. We were treated to an amazing gigantic sunflower which grew in a matter of minutes up to the ceiling; after obviously receiving the correct attention from the children in the form of water, sunlight and fresh air.

We were given an insight into how the children have used the outdoors to inspire their writing and develop their gardening skills among many other things.

Thank you to all the parents who came to support their children and to the staff who helped the children perform and share their experiences.



Parent Questionnaire

Thank you so much to those parents who filled in our questionnaire last half term, it was our first attempt at an online format, and as with all changes there were some areas which highlighted issues to consider for future questionnaires; such as not being able to match comments with year groups, clarification of one vote per person/child and in order to increase the response level (21%) provide more paper copies too.

Having considered all these areas however it was still really pleasing that over 86% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with their child's overall experience at The Whartons and over 80% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that their child enjoys school, is encouraged to work hard and that school keeps their child safe. The benefits of asking stakeholder's for their ideas is that it gives us areas for development which will only build on our successes. We will be working on areas such as; improving our lines of communication still further and developing our behaviour policy further so that clarity is improved for children and parents in defined steps and that it further promotes, rewards and embeds positive behaviours across all areas of school.

We would also like to thank you for some of your lovely positive comments which we will make into a wordel to display in the entrance hall.

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- Class and Team Photographs
- Dates for the Diary
- Road Safety Quiz
- Roller Racing Event

Diary Dates

Thursday 18th & Friday 19th
June-Father's Day stall

Friday 19th June-Year 1 Bun
Stall

Saturday 20th June-Otley
Carnival

W/C Monday 22nd June-Health
Week

Wednesday 24th June-Year 6
Mini Olympics at PHGS

Thursday 25th June-Year 5
Transition Day at PHGS

Friday 26th June-Roller Racing
Event

W/C Monday 29th June-Year 6
Northumberland Residential
week

Class and Team Photographs

Tempest photographers spent a morning in school last week taking whole class photos and this year, as a new idea, we asked the photographer to take a couple of group and team photographs that we can keep as a memento of the children who have been involved in out of school events. As this is the first time we have taken team shots, and in order to gauge how many parents would be interested in purchasing a team/group photo, we just photographed the netballers, footballers and Pop Choir who have represented our school. If it proves popular we will increase the range of groups and teams for next year. For the second year running we have opted for a more relaxed ensemble type photograph as a special format for Reception and Y6. Classes 1-5 have a more traditional group shot, but again with a slightly less rigid feel. We hope you like them and enjoy looking back on them.

Road Safety Quiz

Last Thursday Miss Donnelly and Mrs Hughes took a group of children, Anouk, Yr 3, Jack Yr 4, Jake, Yr 5, Jess Yr 5 and Rebekah, Yr 6, to take part in the annual Otley Road Safety Quiz at The Methodist Church. The team did incredibly well with some questions that really did challenge all of us. The children's behaviour was exemplary and we really were impressed with how they took on this challenge. For their efforts, they each received a £10 book voucher for Waterstones and a surprise goody bag. Well done for taking part and representing the school so well.



Sponsored Roller Racing Event

We are holding a sponsored "Roller Racing Event" again this year courtesy of Otley Cycle Club and are looking for 8 volunteers per class for their half hour slots. The times are as follows:

Year 2- 9am-9.30am	Year 5-10.30am-11am	Year 3-1.15pm-1.45pm
Year 1-9.30am-10am	Year 6 -11am-11.30am	Rec 1.45pm-2.15pm
Year 4-10am-10.30am	Break For Lunch	

If you are able to help please could you leave your details in the yellow PA box in the porch, speak to your class rep or contact Claire Peacock via the Whartons facebook page.

A final Note:

Thank you to the Parents Association for running the Father's Day stall which had a wide range of lovely gifts for the children to purchase. Also looking forwards to seeing lots of you at the Carnival tomorrow, can we make it three triumphant years in a row to pick up first prize?

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)