

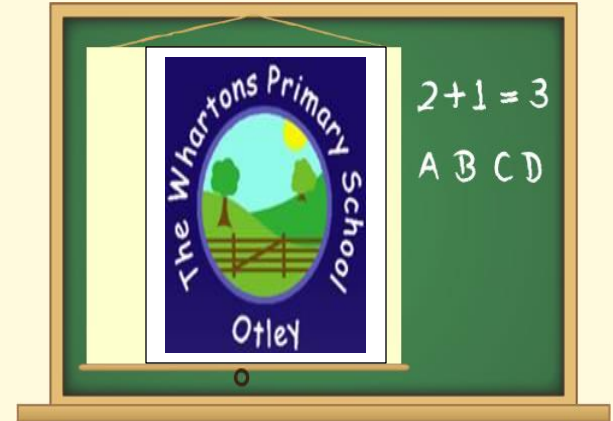
The Whartons' Newsletter

27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an interesting start to the new year which in no small part applied to the weather too; swinging from bitterly cold to unseasonably mild with wet and windy thrown in for good measure. Useful though for Y1 children who study the seasons in their geography. As most days we seem to have all four seasons across a day!

The children have been outside as much as possible without being subject to the substantial downpours which have arrived with force at times. We are looking forward to the spring arriving.



Assembly Themes

Our assemblies for this half term are focused on considering our Goals and Dreams, in line with the children's studies in Jigsaw (our personal and social education scheme).

So far we have talked about what we would love to achieve over the next year. We have started to revisit our 5Rs Learning to Learn skills and unpick how these can help us reach our goals. We have discussed how we can reflect on our work through Target Time and identify improvements we can make. We have also explored how relationships with peers and others, alongside resourcefulness can support us in finding the answer to a problem.

Booster Groups and Enrichment clubs

It is an important and exciting year for our oldest children in school as they start to consider moving on from Primary school to step up to secondary school at the end of the summer. They will also be taking their end of year SATs tests which will ready them for the annual exams they will take at secondary school. In order to support some of the children through these changes and to familiarize them with the challenges, we have planned weekly booster groups in maths and English. In addition PHGS are running English, maths and science enrichment sessions for Y6 children across our family of schools. These opportunities will help children in building confidence, achieving their best outcomes and supporting the transition from Primary to secondary school.

Parking Patrol

You may have noticed last week that our local Police Constable visited school at the end of the day. Unfortunately, we are experiencing some very challenging and dangerous parking outside school at pick up time.

This is a constant issue which upsets and worries both our neighbours and many of our parents

I fear that the possibility of a



serious accident involving a child is very real. I am hoping that our local PCSO will come in to work with the children to persuade everyone to park safely and with care.

- Assistant HT Networks
- Parent Association Fund Raising
- Positive Choices Workshop

Parent Association Events

The parent Association have started the new round of bun sales already this year with Y5 class hosting last week.

I would like to thank the Parent's Association for organizing and of course parents for baking (or buying) lovely cakes for the children and PA volunteers to sell. Every little contribution really does help. We have plans to create a computer suite in the library and this will be a focus of fundraising this year (and maybe next). The PA have also organized a book sale. I will keep everyone up to date with progress on this exciting new scheme.

Last week Mr Hampson and Mr Fisk attended a networking meeting for Deputy and Assistant Headteachers from across the Red Kite Teaching Alliance (RKA), of which we are a member.

It is always helpful to share good practice with colleagues from different school across this collaborative organization.

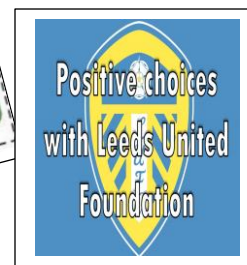
Mr Hampson and Mr Fisk visited Ireland Wood Primary school which is a mainstream school who are renowned across the Alliance for their inclusive approaches. The senior leaders observed inclusive practices, chatted to staff and compared different approaches across the wide range of schools to which they belong. Mr Fisk and Mr Hampson returned with some new ideas and approaches to share with colleagues in school.

Y6 consider the choices they make

Once again this year we were grateful to welcome the community team from Leeds United Football club into school at the beginning of term.

The team came to deliver a 'Primary Choices' workshop to our Y6 children with an aim to support the children with sometimes difficult decisions about their actions and behaviours when faced with tricky options.

Honor explains: A few weeks ago, a nice lady from The Leeds United Foundation came to talk to us about making the right choices. First, she let us play a game where we would run to the middle, select a card and then sort either into a positive or negative pile. We discussed anti-social behaviour to make sure we didn't make people around us feel excluded or worried. Afterwards we talked about age limits on different things and why they are in place. We played another game which was to quiz us on our age limit knowledge. Our visitor would ask our class a question like "What is the age limit to buy beer in the UK?" then you would run to the corner of the hall with that age on the wall. After, we talked about different phone numbers for the police 999 (for serious things), 101 and 102 (for less serious things). To test our knowledge we got given scenarios to act out and at the end you have to say what phone number you would ring. Finally we watched a video filmed by many famous British athletes from York. Before she left our visitor handed out 2 scarves to 2 chosen children who had engaged most. Overall it was really fun learning whilst doing P.E, physical education. Honor Y6



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Diary Dates

[Tues 7th Feb](#) – Parents Evening for Reception to Year 5

[Thurs 9th Feb](#)-Parents Evening for Reception to Year 5

[Fri 10th Feb](#)-School Closes for Half Term

[Mon 20th Feb](#)-School Reopens.

[Tues 21st Feb](#)- Parents Evening for Year 6

[Thurs 23rd Feb](#) – Parents Evening for Year 6

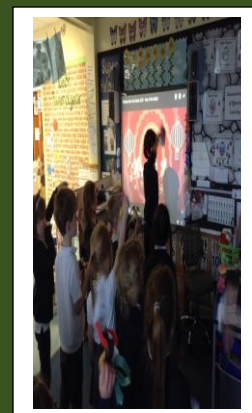
[Thurs 2nd March](#) –World Book Day, PTA Book Sale and Year 2 Bun Sale.

Chinese New Year

Reception children have been learning about Chinese New Year this week.

The children read books and watched films about Chinese New year stories and celebrations.

They were challenged to make a paper chain dragon and used these in a dragon dance, listening to Chinese music. The children also made healthy Chinese noodles and learnt that it is traditional to keep the noodles long as this symbolises a long life. They also decorated lanterns using the lucky colour red. It's the year of the rabbit.



Phonics Evening and Wearing Red Day

Mrs Dowell and Miss Dalzell held a phonics information evening for parents earlier this half term. Last year we changed our approach to teaching Phonics and followed government guidance in adopting a scheme of work which had been validated by the Department for Education (DfE). The children and teachers enjoy using the Bug Club scheme and books, which reinforce the phonics focus from their learning in class. The Y1 teachers demonstrated to parents teaching approaches used in school and those for home to introduce and consolidate new sounds. Parents enthusiastically engaged in an interactive learning session which was enjoyed by all! Teachers also explained the national phonics screening tests at Y1 which the children will engage in but which are planned and carried out in a supportive process.



On Friday the children across school wore red to raise awareness and money, to support the fantastic work of Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Fund. The fund supports children with congenital heart disease, and their families, through worrying and difficult times. Thank you for your donations today and if you forgot to bring a donation, we will continue to collect all of next week.



A final Note:

Remember that next Friday is Break the Rules Day. Nothing too outlandish obviously.

Julia Dickson