

## 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks in school since half term. We have welcomed parents who have come to share in their children's learning. We have welcomed adults who have come to work with the children and their teachers to explore and discuss new ideas and perspectives, and we have welcomed Ofsted inspectors who spent two days finding out all about the Whartons; the ethos, values and of course children's learning.

The next few weeks will be exciting as we prepare for Christmas performances, a whole school trip, a Christmas fayre and lots of festive fun.



## Assembly Themes

Our assembly theme for this half term is 'Celebrating Differences' which fits with our Jigsaw PSHE scheme.

We also focused on Anti Bullying Week through our assemblies this week. Teachers discussed with the children this year's theme of Reaching Out and taking care of each other, by looking out for potential signs of bullying behavior and including everyone.

Class assemblies have also returned this week.

Well done to the children who received certificates in Friday Celebration assembly for their great efforts.

## Reception Phonics Open Morning

It was lovely to welcome reception parents into school this week to participate in a phonics open morning.

The children thoroughly enjoyed demonstrating how they learnt and practiced reading and recognizing new sounds, through activities in the provision areas around the classroom.

As a school we adopted a new phonics scheme at the end of last year called 'Bug Club'. The scheme uses interactive visuals and sounds to support the teaching of new graphemes and phonemes. Then the children explore and consolidate new learning through play



## Armistice Day

It was very moving to see all the children gathered together on the playground on Friday last week for Armistice Day.

Each of the children held one of our painted Poppy Pebbles during the minute's silence to remember.

Mr Fisk led the remembrance one minute silence, explaining to the children about remembering all those who give so much for the benefit of others.

The children joined in respectfully with the one minute of quiet reflection, then placed their Poppies on the wall next to the display areas where they will be secured permanently.



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### New SENCo

Our new leader of Special Educational Needs, Mrs Manderville, has been busy since the beginning of the school year. She has visited classes, chatting to and getting to know all the children a little better. Mrs Manderville has taught virtually all the children during their time in Reception, so it has been lovely to catch up with them and check up on how they are doing. Mrs Manderville found the 3 day course for New SENCOs, through Leeds SENIT team, extremely helpful and has worked collaboratively with other new SENCOs across our Otley family of schools. They have considered best practice and introduce new processes to further support children with additional needs.

What a total delight for children, parents and staff on Wednesday this week. The Year 4 children kicked off our class assemblies for the year.

It has been three years since we have invited parents in to see their children's class assembly at school. It was so motivating for the children and I know parents were very proud. The children did an amazing job of taking us through a whistle stop tour of some of their learning since September. There was a class ukulele band, some amazing facts and figures from History, Geography and science alongside a quick times tables lesson with the support of a dancing Manchester United Mascot (of course!) How have they fitted so much in? Well done Y4, you set the bar high for all other classes to follow.

## Parents Association Events

As always the Parents Association have been incredibly busy over the first half term of the new year.

They have already timetabled year group bun sales over the year which are always extremely popular and raise much needed money to support the school with those extras to enhance children's experiences. Well done Y6 and PA volunteers for providing the delicious buns and running the first bun stall.

The annual Quiz night organized by the team was great fun and a huge success. A lovely way to spend a Friday night with family and friends. I roped in all of my family to ensure we managed to finish with a fairly respectable middle of the table result!

For the children there was the first disco of the year. Mr Hampson and Mr Fisk let their hair down after a tiring week and had a superb time with the children. The dancing was impressive, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their Friday evening with friends. Thanks so much to the organizing team and the parents who ran the music.

The work of the Parent's Association is so vital for enhancing the experiences of both children and parents alike. They provide the opportunity to meet other families and feel part of our school community, alongside raising essential funds for equipment and opportunities for the children. **Thank you so much all for your support of these events and activities.**

**Please consider signing up for the Parent Association 100 club.** There are several chances to win a cash prize and a good proportion of the takings go towards resources for the school and children. Ask at the office

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### Diary Dates

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov** – Year 5

Class Assembly 9.15am.

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Nov** – EYFS

Training Day, school

closed to Reception pupils only.

**Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Open Day

for prospective Reception parents

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** – PTA

Christmas Fair

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Dec** – School Choir

performing at Victorian

Christmas Fair

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Dec** – KS1

Christmas Performances

at 1.30pm & 6.00pm

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** – KS2

Christmas Performance

6.00pm at Bridge Church

## Science Club

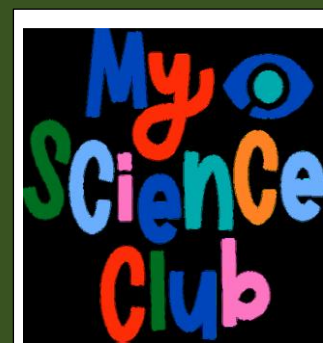
I had a great time on Tuesday after school with the children at our new science club.

I chatted to the children about the different aspects of science – Biology, Physics and Chemistry, and explained that each area was the study of a different aspect of the world around them.

We will be focusing on Biology through studying plants this half term. For the first science club session we planted seeds in different conditions and will be observing them over the next 4 or 5 weeks to see how well they flourish, or not.

Next week will be venturing out into the wildlife area to study the trees there. We will be using field guides, leaves and bark patterns to identify each species.

In the weeks to come we will explore hydroponics, dissect flowers and investigate the mechanics of spinning and exploding seeds.



## Cultural Experiences Visitor

Ms Matthews who is our Religious Education leader booked a special visitor for the children across school last week.

Ms Winburn visited class across KS1 and KS2 to talk to the children about being Jewish and some customs. The children learn about different religions through a range of topics in RE so they can better understand the differences and similarities between different people.

Ms Winburn made special bread called challah with the children and the children in Y4 remembered and explained to me that the bread is plaited so there are no sharp corners. The children also learned about Shabbat as a day of rest with no technology or homework, and a day perhaps to reflect on key issues in life. Our visitor commented on how well the children listened and engaged during the sessions and how much they already knew and could share. I would like to thank Ms Winburn for sharing her knowledge with the children and showing them how to make Challah bread. Everyone had a fascinating time.



## A final Note:

We have begun the preparations for Christmas performances, and I am sure your children will be bringing home words and songs to practice. I apologise in advance for bringing Christmas in November, but we would appreciate all your help in learning words. Have a lovely weekend.

*Julia Dickson*