

The Whartons' Newsletter

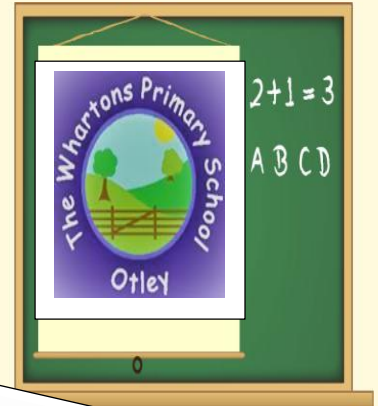
21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring term has certainly lived up to the name as we have seen some fabulous spring sunshine over the last couple of weeks. The children are full of spring enthusiasm and energy too which is lovely to see.

The cross-country team attended the Yorkshire finals, and all received a T-shirt to celebrate their achievement in getting to the regional finals. We are so proud of all of them.

This week Neil and River from Wildlife Friendly Otley returned to check on the progress of the pond area. They were pleased with how the pond is beginning to develop and made a few improvements such as a toad access ramp. We have purchase new decking with the donation from the Sarah Jackson Trust and will be staring work to remove and refit soon with help from CLT Facilities



Assemblies

In our assemblies over this half term, we have been focusing on the theme of Healthy Me. The children have been sharing their ideas on what helps them feel healthy such as sleep, exercise, a balanced diet and of course good friendships which support our mental health. It is fascinating to hear the vast range of exercise and pastimes that the children enjoy.

Well done to the certificate winners over the last few weeks who have worked particularly hard both inside and outside school: Rec – Isabella, Sephy, Hugo H, Ella-R, Rory, Ginny and Fenn; Y1- Ren, Ava, Mila, Hugo D, Harriet, Xander, Seb and Mallory; Y2- Luca, Blake, Oscar, Martha, Orla, Grace RC, Millie, Ewan and Ralf; Y3- Vinnie, Isla, Wren, Monty, Grayson, Reggie, Nikolas and Martha; Y4- Charlie, Florence, Nina, Leyla, Jacob F, Edith, Jake and Teddy; Y5- Jackson, Evie, Humail, Edward, and George; Y6- Sian, Marty, Oliver, Max, Grace and Lilly-Mai.

Family Bingo Night

At the end of February, the Parents' Association hosted a Family Bingo Night at school

The event was a huge success with over 100 people attending.

It was a treat for children to stay up late and play Bingo in family groups.

The atmosphere was cheerfully competitive with all participants poised and ready, listening keenly for that all important number for a full house!

Not only do events such as this raise money for school enhancements or luxury extras, but they are such a great place for socializing within our school community.



SATs and Residential Information Evening

Earlier in the half term myself and Mrs McCaul ran an information evening to share details with the Y6 parents and children around the upcoming end of KS2 SATs tests and the subsequent residential trip to the Lake District. The year 6 children are working hard to prepare for their SATs and by discussing what the format and arrangements are it can help to dispel any worries about the process. If children feel well prepared, they can rise to the challenge and show their best. Then of course there will be a fabulous residential outdoor adventure trip to Great Tower on the edge of Lake Windermere towards the end of Y6. The children are already looking forward to this trip and the chance for some independence and to spend time together as they near transition to the new adventure of high school.

- **Break the Rules Day**
- **Ukulele Assembly**
- **IT Suite and Library update**
- **Y2 Bun Sale**

[Break the Rules Day](#)

The children always love the end of term days when they get to break the rules for a small donation to the Parent Association funds.

On the last Friday of the half term there were a colourful array of non-uniforms, dyed hair and some outlandish accessories around school.

All within the permitted parameters of school rules that could be broken of course!

It is a great way to raise much needed funds for projects and events which the Parents Association generously support. Also, great fun!



Y2 Bun Sale

A huge thanks to the parents of Y2 children who baked or bought a delicious range of buns and cakes for the Y2 Bun Sale a couple of weeks ago.

As the weather was kind and due to the fact there were so many buns, Mrs Bray and a team of volunteers set up two bun stalls; one in each of the playgrounds.

Queues for the sweet treats were obviously long but everyone waited patiently to be served and weren't disappointed.

Thank you to all the volunteers both adults and children who facilitated the sale and raised money for the PA.

Ukulele Performance

Mr Williamson again secured some exciting live music for our assembly last week.

A member of the Front Row Music band who recently visited The Whartons is an expert ukulele player. As our children learn the basics of ukulele playing in Y4, Mr Williamson thought an assembly master class in the ukulele would be a great treat for the children.



The atmosphere in the assembly was wonderful and the children all thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Following on from the assembly there will be an opportunity for children to sign up for more individualised and focused ukulele lessons. We felt that this would add to the offer of peripatetic music lessons at school which parents can purchase as an extra if they would like. Of course, our whole class ukulele lessons will still continue in year 4, so everyone will have the chance to learn the basics.

NEW COMPUTERS FOR THE IT SUITE AND RATIONALIZING THE LIBRARY

Our Library and IT suite have become a great information hub in the middle of school (or athenium as the Greeks would call it) and we are still working on enhancing the provision.

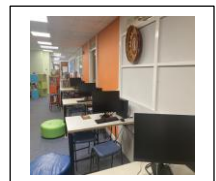
We have been saving hard this year in order to further enhance our computers.

When we first installed the new suite, we purchased some desktop PCs and used the school Laptops to make up the class set of devices for computing lessons in the suite.

We have managed to purchase seven more PCs this term to complete the suite and release the laptops to be used in classes.

In the library we have been working with the Schools' Library Service to audit and remove obsolete and/or damaged books so we can ascertain what we need to replace to refresh the library. We ran book stalls to rehome some

of the removed books, used some to create book-based artwork and the rest were donated to The Oxfam Book Store.



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Year 5 Class Assembly

World Book Day

Diary Dates

Diary Dates

[Monday 24th - 26th March](#)

Mothers' Day Stalls

[Wednesday 26th March](#)

Y6 Sports Leader Event

3.15-4pm

[Thursday 27th March](#)

Y4 Class Assembly

[Monday 31st March](#)

Y3 Swimming week begins

[Friday 4th April](#)

School breaks up for

Easter 3.15pm

[Tuesday 22nd April](#)

School opens 9.55am

[Tuesday 22nd March](#)

Y3 Swimming week

[Wednesday 30th April](#)

School class photos

[Thursday 1st May](#)

Y2 Class Assembly

[Friday 9th May](#)

School Disco

[Monday 12th May](#)

Y6 SATs Week

Year 5 Class Assembly

Parents, children and staff were treated to another amazing class assembly in early March.

Year 5 children took over the planning, writing, organizing and performing of their class assembly. What a fabulous job they did.

Every child in the class was involved in the process and had their roles to play.

The children used a TV show format with key presenters to introduce a range of separate 'studio' scenes. In each scene a different area of the curriculum and learning in Y5 was showcased. Amongst these there was a Mathematical Bake Off to explain and explore fractions, Super Sports to demonstrate Rocket Ball (a new age curling), Jumping Geography team explained Biomes. Other areas covered were Terrific Histories, Awesome Art, Phenomenal Physics and Science Crystals. The children were so creative and confident. What an entertaining morning!



World Book Day

On 6th March, Whartons Primary School celebrated World Book Day with lots of fun and creativity!

Each class brought in an item from home, that they associate with enjoying reading, with many students showing off their cuddly toys, making the day extra cosy. The children got busy crafting throughout the day, using old books to create amazing art pieces. Year groups worked hard on writing book reviews, sharing their thoughts on their favourite stories and characters.



The KS2 classes also had the chance to join in a live World Book Day lesson, where they discussed everything from their top book picks to the importance of reading. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as everyone got involved in the activities, celebrating the joy of reading in their own unique way. It was a fantastic day, full of creativity and imagination; a huge success with children having loads of fun! Thank you to Mr Fisk for organizing such an immersive day to celebrate all things books and reading.

A Final Note: Thank you to all the children who shared their jokes for Red Nose Day and Mr Williamson for organizing a day with the an opportunity to say something funny for money! Many Thanks *Julia Dickson*