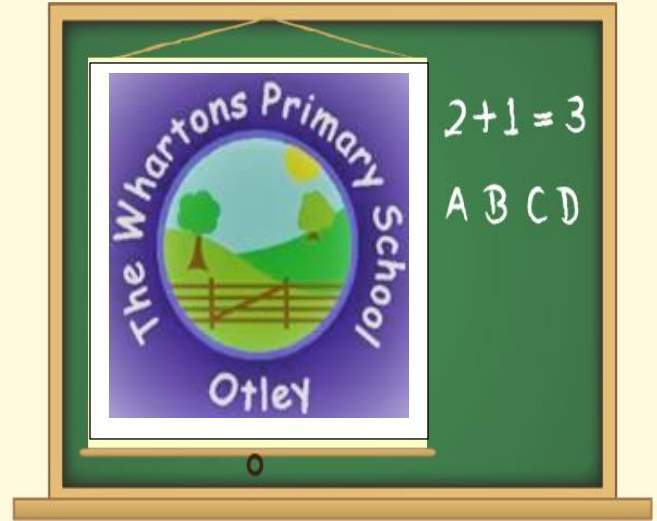


17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope everyone had a break after a long, hard working and full half term.
We have an exciting half term of events ahead of us over the next several weeks and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our school productions and performances; both in school and out in the community. It will also be great to see families at the Christmas fayre, school disco and the Otley light switch on, where our choir will be performing.
We have decided this year, due to costings, that instead of going to the pantomime, the pantomime will come to us. Oh yes it will!!



Assemblies and Productions

Our assembly theme for this half term is Celebrating Differences. This will include a focus around anti bullying week

We have been exploring different customs and cultures, including festivals, at this time as year. We have shared and celebrated the stories, beliefs and customs that surround them.

Well done to the certificate winners over the last two weeks who have worked particularly hard in their lessons.

Rec – Nora & Felix, Yr1 – Martha & Logan, Yr2- Leela & Logan, Yr3 - Charlie & Toby CH, Yr4 - Evie & Rowan, Yr5 - Hope & Oscar, Yr6 – Jasper & Oliver

Diwali and Bandi Chhor Diva

During the autumn and winter months there are several festivals and traditions which incorporate light and colour into their celebrations, banishing the darkness and celebrating the triumph of good over evil. The Hindu festival of Diwali and the Sikh festival of Bandi Chhor Divas are celebrated at a similar time in the autumn. Both celebrate and remember stories of good over evil through kindness, courage and clever approaches.

Through assemblies we discovered that when celebrating these festivals people will visit Gurdwaras or temples to give thanks, light lamps and spend time with friends and family and use patterns and colours to decorate houses and themselves. It was fun to hear from some of the children who shared their family traditions eg Mendi patterns painted on their hands



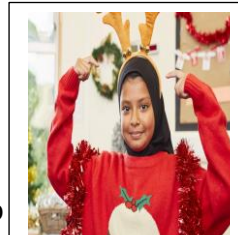
Christmas Jumper Day

This year instead of having a Children in Need Dress Up and donate day in school we will be taking part in the national Christmas Jumper Day instead.

The event supports Save the Children Charity, an annual event which raises money for the children who need it most across the United Kingdom

(and beyond!).

Children can put on a festive jumper in school with friends and make a donation to give children the future they deserve.



- Anti Bullying Week
- Open Days
- Quiz Night
- Handball Festival

Open Days

It is an important time of the year for parents of children due to start primary school in September. Finding a school which 'fits' for your child is crucial.

Open days are an ideal opportunity for parents to see schools during a normal working day and get a real feel for the atmosphere of a school. We have already opened our doors to prospective parents in October and we have two more open days coming up. The children are always brilliant, and it is lovely to welcome visitors. **Please direct parents to our website for open day details if they are looking for a school place.**

Parents Association Quiz Night

What a great time was had by all teams just before half term at the Parents Association's annual Quiz Night.

As usual Mr. Moody stretched minds and memories with his eclectic range of focus rounds.

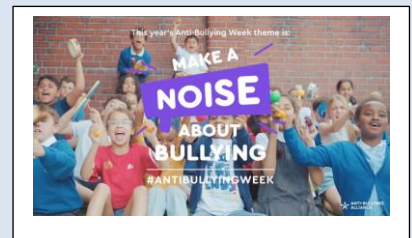
The rest of the team manned the bar and kept energy levels up and brain power fueled with a range of table snacks.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend, compete or organize. We all had a fabulous time. The 'steal an item' raffle was hilarious.

Children and staff 'kicked off' Anti-Bullying week by wearing odd socks this week in school in recognition of this national focus and to celebrate what makes us all unique.

This year's focus for the week is Make a noise about Bullying. Mr. Hampson led a whole school approach, beginning with an assembly to share thoughts, ideas and approaches to tackle any bullying issues in school and our community. Mr. Hampson shared with the children ideas on what they could do and who they could go to on the staff to help make sure any bullying behaviours can be tackled.

During the week in classes, the children carried on the discussions, wrote poetry to support their ideas and designed barometres to gauge when banter can become bullying.



NETBALL FESTIVAL

Last half term Y4 children had enjoyed their weekly lesson with Mrs. Fenton-Green from PHGS. The focus of their half term of expert tuition was learning the fundamentals and skills of netball.

Mrs. Fenton-Green always challenges the children while making learning fun. The children built their skills over the series of sessions. They learnt how to pass the netball and how to choose the most appropriate method of passing dependent on the proximity of both teammate and opponents; quick chest passes to cover short distances with no close opponents or longer shoulder passes to arch over an opponent and cover distance. The children learned to shoot and defend too. Ready for the inter school tournament. At PHGS several teams played others e.g., Westgate, St Josephs and Ashfield. The children thoroughly enjoyed the competition. Well done everyone for brilliant sportsmanship and commitment.

This page >>>

- Cross Country
- Harvest Festival
- Diary Dates

Diary Dates

[Friday 17th Nov](#) – PTA Glow disco

[Mon 20th Nov](#) - Open Day for prospective Reception 2024 parents

[Mon 27th Nov](#) - Whartons Choir singing at Otley Christmas Lights switch on

[Mon 27th Nov](#) – Birthday of Guru Nanak

[Sat 2nd Dec](#) – PTA School Christmas Fair

[Sun 3rd Dec](#) – Whartons Choir singing at Otley Victorian Fayre

[Thurs 7th Dec](#) - Hannukah

[Thurs 7th Dec](#) – Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

Cross Country Competition

Last half term Mr Hampson took a whole Key stage 2 Cross Country Team down to Wharf meadows to compete in a first round inter school competition.

Each school from the local area was allowed to take a team of 10 from each year group across KS2, evenly split between girls and boys.

There were so many children who wanted to take part that Mr Hampson had to arrange running heats in school in order to select 5 fastest girls and boys from each class.

We are so grateful to the parents who helped with walking the 40+ children to the event. All of the children ran brilliantly around the course which circled sporting pitches, hills and some rough ground. Fortunately, the weather was fair, sunny

and dry, with minimal mud.... very unlike most cross-country races! All of the children did their best and we are so proud of their representation of school.

However, some of the teams did so well, coming in the top 10 of their races and so earning a place for their team in the next rounds. Well done Y3 girls and Y5 girls teams who both qualified for the area finals competition. Also Freddie C Y5 and Maurice Y6 who qualified as individuals to compete in the area finals too..



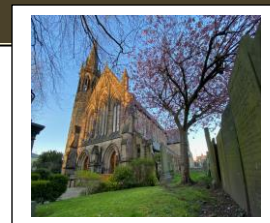
Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest Festival was kindly hosted again this year by Bridge Street Church just before the half term holiday.

I want to thank everyone who helped to walk the children down to church and back again that afternoon and everyone else who joined us at the church. Having such a large proportion of the school community in the audience always makes the event so special. It is a time we all stop; consider how much we have to be thankful for and celebrate this.

Thank you as always for your kind donations which we contribute to the church's charity. The food will go to help others in need within our own Otley community.

The children's songs, dances, reflections, and teachings made for a fabulous afternoon.



A Final Note:

We are looking forward to the start of Christmas celebrations and welcoming you all to share the experiences such as productions, Christmas lights and stalls. We hope you can make it!

Julia Dickson