

The Whartons' Newsletter

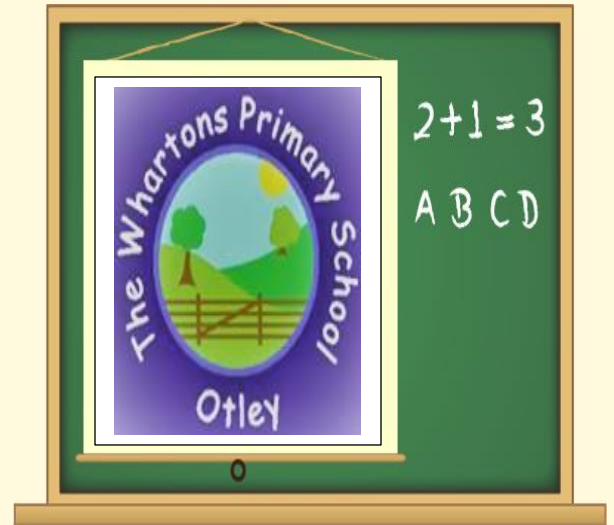
6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,
The school is beginning to feel a little bit like Christmas this week.

The Christmas Tree has arrived and Mr Reynard has dusted off the decorations so that staff and children can start the transformation of the hall into a festive space.

Classes have been making decorations for the windows and walls and play rehearsals are well underway as we approach the final couple of weeks of preparations.

We are looking forward to welcoming family and friends to join us in celebration whether at school or at Bridge Street Church.



Assemblies

In our assemblies over the last few weeks we have focused on the theme of Celebrating Differences linked to our Jigsaw PSHE lessons. We explored Anti Bullying week which this year is focused on respect, this is of course one of our Golden Rules and the children shared their ideas around being respectful and what that looks like in different situations. Well done to the certificate winners over the last few weeks who have worked particularly hard both inside and outside school: Rec – Louis, George, Fenn, Isabelle, Orlo. Summer; Y1- Lucas, Ava, River, Noah, Adam, Declan; Y2- Poppy, Finley, Ruby, Emma, Luca, Rory; Y3- Logan, Ralf, Suleyman, Vinney; Y4- Jacob, Lola-rose, Edith, Charlie, Elijah, Iris; Y5- Stevie, Evie, Evelyn, Woody, Rowan, Emily; Y6- Oscar, Annabel, Astra, Florence, Finn, Oliver

FFFS Training Day

Each year the Otley Family of Schools organizes a Early Years training day for staff from the schools and nurseries in Otley as well as an open invitation for the childminders in our community. For many years Mrs Carpenter, the Head at Westgate has sourced visiting key note speakers to share good practice amongst the delegates.

This year Mrs Manderville and Miss Duncum attended on behalf of the Whartons team. The focus of the day was developing speech, language and communication in early years settings and through provision. There was shared research and practical applications to take back to school and cascade with other staff, such as using 'loose bits' in the provision to spark discussion.

Otley Community Larder

We would like to bring your attention to the fabulous provision that the Otley 2030 community group has established on our doorstep.

With a two-pronged focus the Otley Community Food Larder is open for business at The Otley Social Club on Hollin Gate every Tuesday/ Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning. The Community Larder aims to reduce food waste going to landfill whilst supporting families in these expensive times by supplementing the weekly grocery shop.

Anyone can access the larder for free or pay as you feel take any food there that they can make use of. We hope that families will find the larder helpful whilst doing their bit for the environment too.



- **Otley Victorian Fayre**
- **Children in Need**
- **Open Days**
- **Cygnets Training**

Children in Needs

Last Friday was a dress down day in school in return for a donation to the Xmas Fair bottle stall.

As the day was also Children in Need Day Mr Williamson suggested we combine the two events and introduce some fun activities for the day.

All the teachers had access to Dance Mode and periodically through the day would call Dance Mode and hit the music.

It was a lovely day, the children enjoyed themselves being children and money raised on the Just Giving page set up by the office will support other children. Many thanks we raised £165



Open Days

We have been running open days in school during October, November and December for prospective parents for Reception places in September 2025.

It is always a pleasure to show visitors around school on a normal working day, while the children are busy enjoying their learning.

As always there were many compliments from the families about the calm atmosphere, the engagement of the children with each other and their learning plus their polite behaviour. I was so proud of them.

Thank you to those of you who had recommended the Whartons to friends and suggested they book onto a tour.



Otley Victorian Fayre

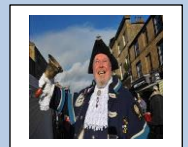
Mr Williamson and a 45 children strong choir joined in with the Christmas festivities at the Otley Victorian Fayre last Sunday afternoon.

The market square was packed with families and stall holders selling a vast array of goods. There was even a couple of Father Christmas's reindeer who had popped in to visit and I even saw a glimpse of the big man himself.



After a little hiccup with the backing track due to the centralized equipment and a quick-thinking alternative by

Mr Williamson the children took to the stage and rolled in the Christmas feeling with some fabulous festive singing.



CLUSTER CYGNET TRAINING

As you may be aware The Whartons invests in, and works collaboratively with, the Otley Pool and Bramhope Cluster to support children's health and well being across all the schools.

Through our membership of the cluster we are fortunate to have access to and contacts with counsellors, therapists, Speech and Language services, the Otley Children's Centre and a great Parent Support Adviser and assistant. As part of the recent addition to the cluster offer for parents and children is Cygnet training. The training is designed to support parents with children who are neurodiverse.

Our Learning Mentor Miss Milner has been trained in this programme and has been running the parent workshops alongside the cluster PSA over this term at The Whartons. They have been hugely successful, giving advice, strategies and opportunities to share ideas.



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School Disco

First Aid Training

Diary Dates

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[Friday 6th December](#)

Christmas Tree Festival

[Tuesday 10th December](#)

Final Tag Rugby

[Thursday 12th December](#)

Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

[Saturday 14th December](#)

Christmas Fair 2 – 4.30pm

[Monday 16th-Wednesday 18th](#)

[December](#)

Secret Santa Stalls

[Monday 16th December](#) KS2

Dress rehearsal- Bridge Church

[Tuesday 17th December](#)

KS1 Performances @ 1pm & 6pm

[Wednesday 18th December](#)

Last LUFC session

[Thursday 19th December](#)

Christmas Parties. KS2

Performance 6pm Church

[Thursday 19th December](#)

Whole school Panto trip

School closes 3.15pm

School Disco

There was the opportunity for children to dress in their best outfits and in some cases sparkles for the winter disco earlier in the term.

The Parents' Association organized another fabulous evening of dancing and fun for the children. Mr McGregor was a fabulous DJ and really got the children to their feet boogying to their favourite tunes.

The queue for the glitter face painting area was constant and the volunteer parents did a great job of creating sparkly, eye catching glow in the dark designs.

The winter disco is always extra exciting for the children as coming back to school in the dark feels so special. Having time to dance, sing and socialize with friends is such a lovely way for the children to spend an evening .

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made the evening possible from the organization to manning the refreshment stall and supervising the children.

A big thank you also to Mr Dixon who, after the disco, realized that the path from school to the pavement was quite dark. He has bought and fitted some solar lights to the fence to light the way. They work brilliantly Mr Dixon. Thank you so much.



Whole School First Aid Training

This half term we were delighted to welcome trainers from Paco First Aid who spent the day in school with the children.

It is incredibly important for children to learn key life skills at school as well as academic knowledge. Having external trainers in school to support the children with acquiring specialised skills is incredibly powerful. We have been so fortunate that this year the Sarah Jackson Community Wish have financially supported all the schools in Otley by organizing whole school child centered First Aid training.

Each class had a training session in the hall with the instructors where they learned interventions which may save lives: from how to ring the emergency services to CPR resuscitation techniques using CPR dummies. The children were so enthused and motivated by the training that many parents were enlisted as 'willing volunteers' at home to practice bandaging and recovery position techniques. Thank you so much to the foundation for their incredible support.



A Final Note: As we are officially in now in winter please remember to send children with waterproof and warm coats, gloves and hats so they can enjoy the outdoors Many Thanks *Julia Dickson*