

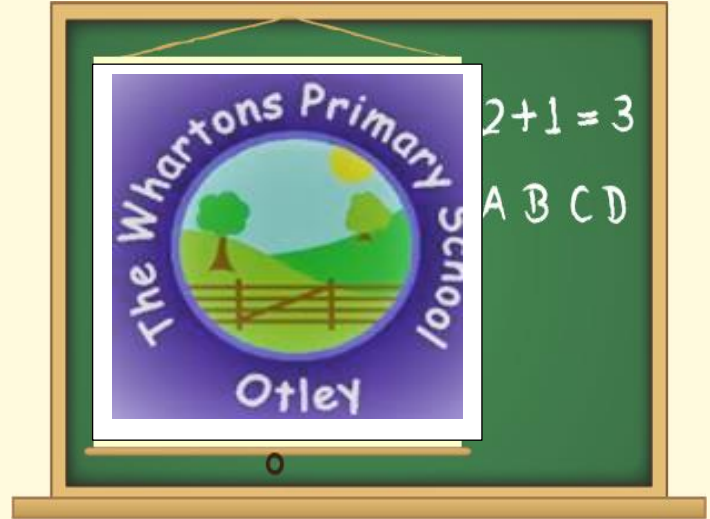
The Whartons' Newsletter

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,
What a magical end to the term it has been over the last two weeks.

We have enjoyed KS1 and KS2's amazing Christmas productions, joined together for a delicious Christmas Dinner; thanks to the wonderful catering team, enjoyed phase Christmas parties (super dancing Mr Hampson!) I want to take this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will welcome the children back on 9th January 2024



Assemblies and Productions

Our assembly for the last couple of weeks have focused on the traditions of Christmas such as the symbolism of each candle in an advent crown and sharing more personal wishes from the children for Christmas. These became wished for the world such as more plentiful water and food across the globe as well as peace and friendship. So proud of our children's empathy and compassion.

Well done to the certificate winners over the last two weeks who have worked particularly hard. Rec – Betsy & Lucas, Yr1 – Scarlett & Isaac, Yr2 – Grayson & Rory, Yr3 – Nina & Jacob F, Yr4 – Astrid & Magnus, Yr5 – Leo & Xaden, Yr6 – Logan & Jasper

Keeping Well

As you know we have had a wide range of illnesses in school over the last few weeks from Chicken Pox to Flu like coughs and colds and even tummy upsets. We have been being more vigilant about ventilation in classrooms and using the CO2 meters in rooms to warn us when circulating fresh air is needed.

I hope you all have an illness free Christmas break. On our return in January could I ask you send children with layers of clothing they can put on as we will be ventilating classrooms so they may be a little more chilly.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas jumpers and accessories were on show again on Monday for our Christmas dinner. Thank you so much to Helen and her team in the kitchen for such a lovely Christmas roast.

Everyone felt the festive spirit and Leah from the kitchen even dressed as a jolly Father Christmas. Mr Hampson and some of the other staff were on hand to help serve.



Christmas Parties and Secret Santa Stalls

It has been a lovely last week in school this week with a real holiday feel. The classes have had their Christmas Parties with games, dancing and general fun. Children wore party clothes and enjoyed celebrating together.

The parents' association have also facilitated and hosted secret Santa stalls this week where the children are able to buy presents for their loved ones at pocket money prices which are secret until the big day. Thank you so much to volunteers who sourced affordable gifts and manned the stalls. The children loved them.

- **Gymnastics Tournament**
- **Presents from Father Christmas**
- **Musical Assembly**

Presents from Father Christmas

Whilst the children were partying with their year group friends this week Father Christmas made a pre-Christmas pit stop at The Whartons.

Apart from the slight jingle of bells coming from the carpark not of the staff saw or heard anything as they busily went about their work.

Hiding the reindeer out of sight around the side of the building Santa must have quietly slipped into the school porch, leaving a bag of presents for each child in a labelled class bag.

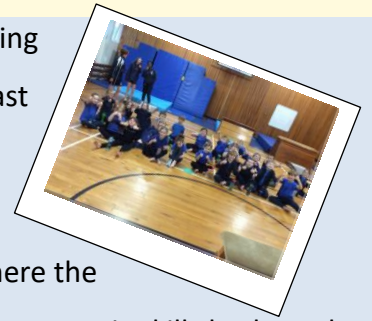
A big thank you to Father Christmas for his generosity, I am sure the children will be thrilled with their early Christmas gifts.

Visit from Guy Fawkes

Year 1 children spent a fascinating day with Guy Fawkes from Farnley Hall last week. They children were encouraged and supported to use drama to recall and depict the key events of the Gun Powder Plot, which they have been studying in their history lessons. Guy Fawkes also worked with the children to draw maps of the cellars and surrounding areas of the parliament buildings. They then drew alternative routes which the original Guy Fawkes and plotters may have taken.



Year 3 children have been learning gymnastic skills in PE over the last half term. Mrs Fenton-Green, a teacher from PHGS, has led 6 weeks of gymnastics lessons where the children and teacher learnt key gymnastic skills both on the floor and with the apparatus.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed building their strength, fluidity, flexibility and balance through the gymnastic lessons. They have practiced working alone and in groups to create routines and execute these with precision and flair.

The class then took part in a gymnastics tournament at PHGS alongside other primary school teams from the Otley, Pool and Bramhope cluster. They did an amazing job and had a great time.



FLUTE AND CLARINET ENSEMBLE

It was delightful for all the children in assembly last week as William Y6, Anya and Niamh Y5 treated the school to an impromptu recital of flute and clarinet pieces they have been learning over the last term.

Mrs Kenwood-Herriot from PHGS supported the children as they proudly shared their talents and hard work.

Having an audience to play for is a huge part of the learning process as it encourages the children to practice, hone their skills and challenge themselves to be the best they can be.

Thank you to parents who support their children's practice in between lessons, which also takes dedication, especially in the early stages!



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- *KS2 Carol Concert*
- *KS1 Production*
- *Diary Dates*

Diary Dates

[Friday 22nd Dec- School](#)

[closes @3.15pm](#)

[Tues 9th Jan- School](#)

[reopens @8.50am](#)

[Tues 9th Jan- Yr3](#)

[swimming lessons Tues- Fri.](#)

[Mon 15th Jan- Blue](#)

[Monday multi coloured coffee morning for MIND.](#)

[PTA: AGM Horse &](#)

[Farrier 7.30pm](#)

[Mon 29th Jan- Yr3 Bun](#)

[Sale](#)

[Tues 30th Jan- Reception](#)

[& Yr6 NHS Height and weight screening](#)

KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

What a magical, uplifting and joyful evening KS2 created last Thursday at Bridge Church in Otley.

They told the Christmas story through a fabulous range of songs and actions.

Each year group lead on narrating the Christmas story from the Bible. The confidence and feeling they injected into the story telling was perfect and children either presented their section alone or, with the younger children, in small groups.

There was also audience immersion as the characters from the story travelled to see the baby around the church and amongst the congregation.

The camel and star costumes were particularly impressive and eye catching.

There was a lovely sentiment of community, kindness and support running through the production. It was lovely that the children distributed some chocolate coins and lovely tokens of affirmation to some of the audience. Sorry, there were not enough for everyone in the packed church. Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas.



KS1 Christmas Production

The KS1 production of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel was an absolute delight this week.

The school hall was packed out for the two performances; family and friends thoroughly enjoyed the production, which really started that Christmas feeling in all our hearts.

It never ceases to amaze me just how much our youngest children can remember and perform. They rose to the occasion and wowed the audiences with their singing, expert dancing (some of the children have a definite future career there I feel) and amazingly confident narrating.

The children conquered their nerves and performed with confidence and enthusiasm.

The costumes were stunning. At many points the only children on stage were our reception children dressed as stars, snowflakes, angels, and animals. They all sang and danced in time. Our year 1 actors; wise men, shepherds, animals, plus Mary and Joseph met their cues perfectly. Last but not least the Y2 children held the whole production together with their expert narration and Pippa was a fabulous, if slightly ditsy, angel hero of the story.



A Final Note:

Have a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Julia Dickson