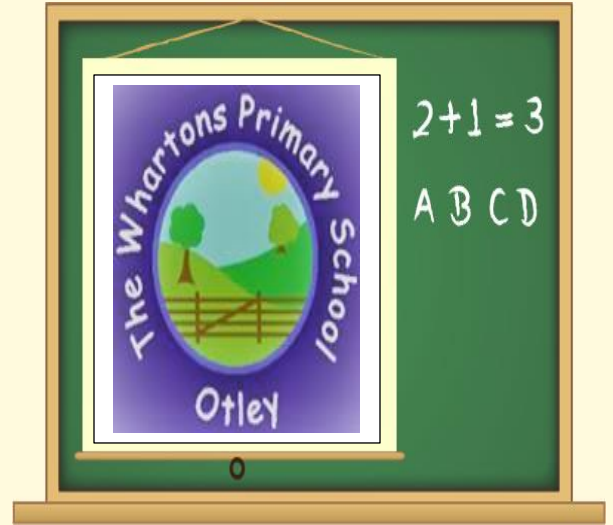


14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,
This half term has flown by and it is nice to feel we are heading towards spring with lighter mornings and evenings. After school club have been able to use the playground more recently too.
The last couple of weeks have been busy as usual with some super highlights such as visiting musicians, performances and sporting competitions.
Hopefully the weather will be kind next week, and you can enjoy some family time or engaging in some of the half term activities on offer locally from 'In Gear' and 'Inspiration Tree' that we shared earlier in the term.



Assemblies

In our assemblies over this half term we have been focusing on the theme of Goals and Dreams linked to our Jigsaw PSHE lessons. We are thinking about past and future achievements. The children have considered how they can identify which goals they want to set and achieve over the next year.

Well done to the certificate winners over the last few weeks who have worked particularly hard both inside and outside school: Rec – Ivy-Rose, Sephy, Martha and Pippa; Y1- Etti, Mabel and Kit; Y2- Lyra, Arthur, Georgia and Ralf; Y3- Andrew, Poppy, Wilf and May; Y4- Toby G, Harvey, Hyde and Teddy; Y5- Magnus, Evelyn, Astrid and Fateh M; Y6- Daniel, Leo, Astra and Elsie.

Otley Carnival Stars

It's that time of year again when the Otley Carnival Committee are delighted to be bringing the 'Otley Carnival Stars' programme to schools across our community. Anyone in KS2 can nominate themselves to become an Otley Star by championing one of these four themes: Equality & Diversity, Health & Wellbeing, Environment, Community. We are looking for pupils who are passionate about one or more of these themes and are willing to help raise awareness and contribute to their local community to champion this through voluntary events during the year.

The successful nominees will also have the opportunity to be on the Otley Stars float during the carnival procession and be involved in some of the events at the show ground after the procession has taken place, which is due to be hosted on Saturday 21st June 2025.

To apply, please complete the online application form, <https://forms.gle/AZFYuFZv9fQFVEyJ8> or paper copies are available in school by Friday 7th March 2025. The committee look forward to receiving your applications.



- **Les Misérables Show**
- **Y6 Class Assembly**
- **Visiting Band**
- **Parent Forum**

Les Misérables Performance

Year 6 children were once again invited to attend a preview performance of PHGS' annual 'show'.

This year the pupils from PHGS are tackling the epic Les Misérables.

It is always exciting to watch live productions and again we were not disappointed. The young actors, from across all year groups were incredible.

The performance was exciting for our students and gave them a taste of what they could be involved in next year. Thank you to PHGS for a brilliant experience and opportunity.



Parents Association AGM

On Monday evening this week the Parent's Association (PA) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at school.

It is incredible to look back on the many ways in which the PA members and volunteers have enriched school life over the past year, and in doing so have also raised much needed funds to enhance the school environment, resources and support for children.

Thank you so much to all the parents who have given up their time this year to organize or support the efforts of the PA. The school stage bought by the PA is absolutely invaluable and already well used. There has been support for school trips such as the panto and Y6 residential. The events have been amazing from Quiz night to Christmas Fair!!

Visiting Band

Live musical performances are exciting and can be inspiring and our visiting band last week were definitely no exception.

Mr Williamson has secured some great musical experiences for our children over the last year, from a school band and folk band to participation in ensemble groups.

The opportunity to be immersed in a live show is a great way to build cultural capital for children, it is also great fun.

The band who performed for all the children last week was Front Row Music

The musicians performed some real high octane popular hits such as We Will Rock You and Happy.

The children became fully involved in the experience. They sang along, danced in the aisles and expressed themselves fully.

The engagement and excitement of this gig approach was incredible, and it will leave a lasting impression for all the children.



PARENT FORUM

Last Thursday morning it was great to welcome a group of our parents to our first Parent Forum for quite a while.

Previously we have held Parent Forums in the evening but often parents could struggle to get back to school during the bedtime routine. Therefore Mr. Hampson and Miss Milner have decided to run Parent's Forums as a mixture of during the day and one evening meeting per year.

Our first Parent Forum ran from 9-10am in the school hall. Mr Hampson explained to parents our work towards the RED Award focused on increasing understanding of diversity and inclusion across school. Parents were interested and asked lots of pertinent questions. With some parents offering their time to come and talk to the children about different cultures and customs.

Miss Milner then talked to parents about volunteering in school and trying to resurrect the walking bus. We were thrilled at the many offers of help and look forward to welcoming more parents into school. Please join us in the summer term for the next Forum.

This page >>>

Ogden Trust Science

teaching

Snow Excitement

Diary Dates

Monday 10th February

Parents' Association AGM

7.30 School Hall

Wednesday 12th February

Leeds Schools Cross

Country Finals Temple

Newsam 12.15-3pm

Friday 14th February

Break the Rules day

School closes for half term

Monday 24th February

School reopens 8.55am

Tuesday 25th February

Y6 SATs information

evening 3.30pm

Friday 28th February

Family Bingo Night 6.30

Monday 3rd March

Y2 Bun Sale at school pick

up both playgrounds

Tuesday 11th March

Y1 Hearing Screening

Tuesday 18th and

Thursday 20th March

Parents Evenings

Year 6 Class Assembly

In January the Y6 assembly wowed everyone as they did something nobody had ever done before... they included the parents in their 'show'.

The Y6s decided to do a competition where they were split into specialist teams (including Science, Maths, Spelling, English, History, Geography and Miscellaneous) when they were then tested on their knowledge of their chosen subjects.

The parents were chosen from the audience to be included in the competition which spanned all the areas of learning that the Y6 children have covered so far this year. There was a lot to be tested on.

After a hard fought few rounds of questions the Y6 children were triumphant winning over the parents by a large margin of 11:7.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who volunteered to take the Y6 teams on.

Better luck next time parents! By Grace M Y6



Cross Country Finals

Mr Hampson and Miss Dalzell took a great team of cross-country finalists to Temple Newsam House on Friday this week to compete with children from around the whole of the Leeds City area in the 'pathway cross country competition final'.

We were so proud of all the children who had competed in the competition from the regional heats here in Otley to those who qualified for the finals. Taking part in such a taxing (and muddy!) event takes dedication and determination and all the children should be very proud of themselves.

Thank you too to all the parents who helped transporting the children to and from the event, we couldn't have done it without you.

The children were amazing and gave their all. Mr Hampson and Miss Dalzell were so proud of our Whartons team. Watch this space as some of our children may well have qualified for the next stages, we will keep you informed.



A Final Note: I hope everyone has a lovely half term break.

Many Thanks

Julia Dickson