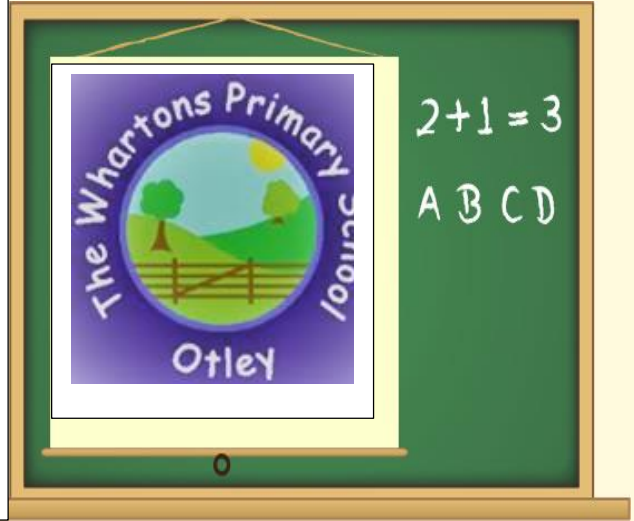


# The Whartons' Newsletter

## 30th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Welcome back and a Happy New Year.  
It has definitely not been a quiet new year weather wise so far and we have had our fair share of wind and rain since we returned. Although there have also been some lovely clear and frosty mornings too.  
Last week's gusty winds gave us the perfect opportunity to carry out an 'invacuation' practice. I had discussed 'invacuation' procedures with the children in assembly at the beginning of the year. Explaining that just like a fire 'evacuation' practice there may be times when we need to get all children safely and quickly into school. The children remembered perfectly the drill and were all inside within minutes.



## Assemblies and Productions

Our assembly for the last couple of weeks have focused on our new Jigsaw theme Dreams and Goals. We have discussed how learning anything successfully is based on building expertise one step at a time. The children also worked together to find 'treasure'. They realise that in order to achieve they needed to know where they wanted to be and work with resilience to conquer milestones on the way. Well done to the certificate winners over the last two weeks who have worked particularly hard:

EYFS-Declan, Oliver Kit & Julien, Yr1-Georgia, Luca, Scarlett & Issac, Yr2-Nimrat, Ralph, Jacob & Suleyman, Yr3-Aoife, Annabelle, Jonah & Molly, Yr4-Isla, Will, Edward & Emily, Yr5-Joseph, Elsie, Sophia & Florence  
Yr 6 –Abby & William (Miss Gaywood was absent one week.

## STARs Training

We endeavor to continually improve outcomes for all groups of children through developing our own knowledge and understanding of current research and best practice.

Supporting children in their learning, especially those who may have additional needs or are neurodiverse is a focus of continual improvement this year.

The whole school staff teams have refreshed level 1 training from STARs (Autism Team in Leeds) this half term; improving understanding and approaches to supporting learning for children.



## Parents Association AGM

The parents Association held their Annual General Meeting earlier in the half term, changing venues from school to The Farrier in the centre of Otley. The committee rounded up all the great activities and events that have been planned and carried out over the last year.

The committee as always, although small, have packed in a wide range of events to raise money and create opportunities for the school community to gather. We are so grateful to the committee members and parents who volunteer and help supervise at events. The resources these fundraisers provide enhance experiences for all the children. Also events such as the quiz night are opportunities to gather and enjoy. YOU ARE ALL STARS

- **Enrichment Groups**
- **Swimming lessons**
- **Curling**
- **Changes to the Office**

## PHGS Enrichment Groups

This year, once again, the Y6 children have had the opportunity to enjoy enrichment after school clubs for Y6 children across the cluster at PHGS. The groups support children in either English, Maths or Science; providing enrichment experiences which build on the children's knowledge and interests. The sessions also provide opportunities to meet with Y6 children from other local schools, experience teaching environments at PHGS and meet some teachers. It is a superb addition to the transition process to Y7 after the summer.

## Office Changes

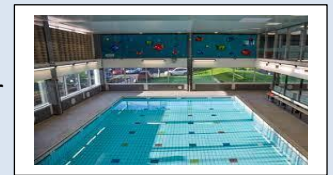
Sadly, Mrs Mitchell will be leaving us at the end of this half term as she has secured a year-round, rather than term time only, finance officer job with the Council. Mrs Mitchell has been a great friend, colleague and asset to school for seven years; we will all miss her greatly. I know you will join with me in thanking her and wishing her all the best for the future. Mrs Mellor will also be leaving us at the end of this term as she has decided to retire to spend more time with family. Again, Mrs Mellor has been a brilliant member of our school team for the last 11 years and we will miss her greatly. We wish her great new adventures! We have already secured new admin assistants; and are in the process of recruiting for The Office and Finance Manager role, more information will follow when roles are finalised. We hope you will bear with us over the next couple of months which will be a transition period.

## Y3 Swimming Block

We have taken a different approach to swimming lessons this year at school; following the lead of some other schools in the cluster and scheduling intensive blocks of swimming instead of a weekly trip.



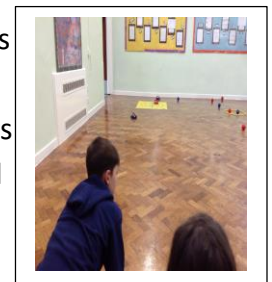
Since we had to move swimming lessons from Chippendale Pool to Aireborough, a bus ride away, concerns built about the weekly amount of time swimming lessons were taking out of the children's learning days. Travelling time alongside changing time meant time in the water was short. Other schools had found that daily swimming sessions-built confidence quickly and shortened the time taken for children to learn. We will assess at the end of the year whether longer sessions are more effective



## Y5 LEARN THE SKILLS OF CURLING

In the Y5 PE sessions with Mrs Fenton-Green from PHGS the children have been learning games from the Paralympics. The games come from all over the world. One game was called Boccia, which is really crown green bowls, adapted for wheelchair users. There is a small white ball called a 'jack'. Team members take it in turn to roll their balls towards the Jack. The aim is to get your team balls closest to the Jack. The game took patience and precision.

Another game we learnt to play was New-Age Curling. In the game players have a weight on wheels instead of on ice as in traditional curling. Players from each team 'push' their wheeled weights and try to get closest to the target, knocking other weights away.



By Sam, Anya and Francesca

## This page >>>

- Otley Carnival Stars
- Coffee Morning
- Diary Dates

## Diary Dates

[Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb-Yr5 Class](#)

Assembly - 9.15am

[Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb-Yr1-6](#)

Parents Eve 3.30-5.30pm

[Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb-EYFS only](#)

Parents Eve 3.30-5.30pm

[Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb- All Years](#)

Parents Eve-3.30-7pm

[Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb](#) -PTA Break the rules non uniform day.

[Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb-Yr3 Bun Sale](#)- 3.15am

[Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb- School closes](#) 3.15pm for Half Term

[Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb- School](#) reopens 8.55am

[Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb-Yr6 Class](#) Assembly -9.15am

[Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March](#) - World Book Day

[Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March-EYFS](#) Book & Bun Sale-3.15pm

# Otley Carnival Stars

We recently had a visit from a member of the Otley Carnival organising committee (Nicola Horner), who talked to the children about the 'Otley Carnival Stars'.

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.

To apply, please complete the online application form, <https://forms.gle/DUeAC3ycNINCPiKi9> or paper copies are available in school by Friday 16th February 2024. The committee look forward to receiving your applications.



## Blue Monday Coffee Morning fundraiser for MIND

Miss Milner organized her 2<sup>nd</sup> coffee morning of the year last week. It was a great opportunity for parents to stay for a 'cuppa' and a cake or biscuit, before carrying on with their hectic days.

Miss Milner aims to host a coffee morning once a term. The coffee mornings are designed as an opportunity just to stop for a few minutes, share triumphs or concerns with staff or fellow parents. A space to meet up with friends or make some new friends.

Sometimes Miss Milner will grasp chance to raise a little money for a special day or charity like MIND's special Blue Monday campaign.

However, mostly it will be an informal meeting place. But feel free to bring cakes or biscuits to share!

Thank you to everyone who came to support Mind Coffee Morning Monday 15th February which aimed to raise awareness of mental health illnesses while also raising £35. something which is close to Miss Milner's heart who is the mental health first aider in school.

### A Final Note:

Remember to book your in-person slot for parents evening next week

Julia Dickson

