

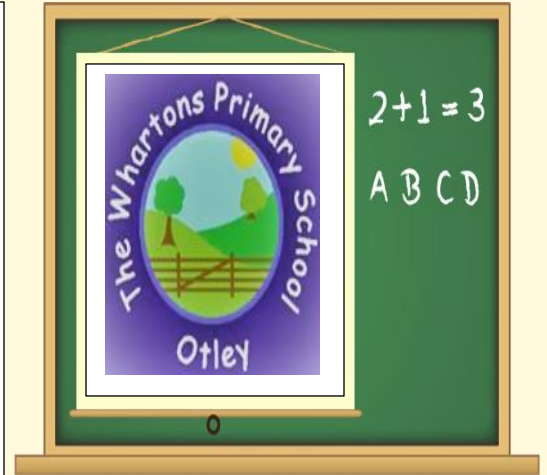
# The Whartons' Newsletter

## 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term of the year it is always nice to reflect on the many events, visits and visitors we have had over the last few weeks.

The autumn term is always quite long, and the children have worked hard and settled well into their new year groups. They are however ready for a break, and I hope the weather is kind so they can enjoy some time outdoors. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Green at the end of the half term as she moves on to work with our cluster of schools and the Parent Support Adviser. I am sure we and many of you will still see Miss Green in her new role. We wish her well and thank her for all the great work she has done in supporting children across school over the last three years. Miss Green will be missed by staff and children alike. Good luck!



## Assemblies

In our assemblies over the last few weeks we have focused on the theme of Being Me in My World linked to our Jigsaw PSHE lessons. We have considered how we are the same but different and how we can be proud of all our characteristics and celebrate our uniqueness.

Well done to the certificate winners over the last few weeks who have worked particularly hard both inside and outside school: Pippa, Ginny, Bella, Hugo, Bella-Rose and Alice Rec; Bobby, Ollie, Jack Felix, Harriet and Zander Y1; Georgia, Arthur, Toby, Grace, Ewan and Alicia Y2; Lenny, Rory, May, Wren, Zoe and Suleyman Y3; Isabelle, Layla, Annabelle, Heidi and Jacob Y4; Barnaby, Astrid, George, Humail, Stevie and Will Y5; Anya, Rocky, Frannie, Jessie, Tamsin and Xaden Y6

## Quiz Night

The Parents' Association hosted the annual Quiz Night in the school hall last Friday night.

Extra chairs and tables were needed as we had a great turn out of teams this year.

The competition was fierce at times and thanks to Mr Moody; the questions were as varied but challenging as ever.

The half time 'backwards raffle' was hilarious when parents, carers and staff unashamedly relieved raffle winners of their prizes when their own tickets were called. The jar of Aldi gherkins was hotly contested and were claimed and reclaimed several times!!

In the end there were barely 10 points between the top and bottom of the team leader board.

Thanks so much to Mrs Walters, Mrs Cheshire and Mrs Muccio for the refreshments and Mr Moody for being quiz master. Thanks to all those who joined us. A great night!!

## Drumming Session

As part of the Y6's music lessons each week Mr Wooley from Junior Jam comes to teach the class.

He leads the children in singing lessons, supporting them in using their voice as a musical instrument.

Mr Wooley also brings a great range of percussion instruments for the children to master. They are taught to follow rhythms and melodies, to compose their own pieces and to play in harmony.

Last week it was a joy to see the children mastering the

electronic drums, wearing head phones of



course!

- Netball Tournament
- Information Evening
- Art Trip
- Cross Country

### Y4 Netball Tournament

As part of their learning in PE this term, the Y4 children took part in a Netball festival against other Y4 teams from across our cluster of schools. The festival was hosted at PHGS.

The children put into practice all the skills they had learned during the half term's worth of weekly lessons led by Mrs Fenton-Green, PE teacher from PHGS.

They proved once again to be fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Thank you Mrs Fenton-Green (PHGS) for teaching the year 4 children this term and for organizing the festival.

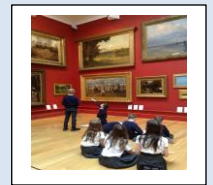


The year 6 children engaged in a cultural experience last week when they went to visit Leeds Art Gallery. Having the time to wander around the gallery and listen to the gallery staff talk about the wide-ranging artistic exhibits was fascinating for the children.

The exhibits ranged from sculptures to paintings and from modern to antique. It was super to see the children's engagement and enjoyment as they considered the different pieces, and some super discussions



and opinions were shared between them and the adults. The children travelled into Leeds via public transport which they thoroughly enjoyed.



### Reception Parents' Information Evening

Now that our youngest children have settled into school and completed their first half term, Mrs Manderville and Mrs Parkinson invited parents and carers into school for a next steps parents information evening.

The class have really taken to the routines and learning at The Whartons. It is special to see their creativity, determination and teamwork whilst playing in the provision areas. When I was working with the children last week they had constructed a ping pong run outside and were experimenting with raising the drainpipes to accelerate the run.

Teachers shared approaches to learning used in school and outlined how parents could support the children's learning at home. Many thanks to all the parents who came.



### CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

Mr Hampson and a small team of volunteers escorted a cross section of our children to the local cross-country heats at Wharf Meadows earlier in the term.

We had a team of children from across Y3/4/5&6 who took part in their age-appropriate group.

A huge well done to all those children in KS2 who took part in the Leeds Cross Country Event on Tuesday 15th October.

All competitors were fantastic role models for the school, and we are very proud of them. A special event has to go to the go to the Year 3 boys, Year 4 and 6 girls' teams who have qualified for the next round as has Zoe (Y3) who made the final on her own merit. The event will take place in the spring. Well done everyone and good luck for the next round.



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## Diary Dates

[Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October](#)

Dress Down Day and bring a bottle for the Xmas Fair

[Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October](#)

Break up for half term

[Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November](#)

School reopens

[Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November](#)

Individual school Photos (uniform please)

[Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October](#)

Y6 Art gallery trip

[Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November](#)

Whole school First Aid training

[Tues 12<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> November](#)

Parents Evenings

[Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November](#)

School Open Day

[Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November](#)

Dress Down Day (bring a bottle)

School Disco

# Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us at Bridge Street Church to celebrate Harvest.

It was a fantastic whole school event and such a pleasure to share time as a community just appreciating each other.

The children enjoyed walking down to the church together and it was a pleasure to see how well our Y6 children took care of the youngest children in school in such a mature and nurturing way.

The afternoon passed quickly with the children's uplifting performances of songs, poems and actions. They were proud of themselves taking to the stage and contributing to their class's section of the festival and it is so lovely for them to see familiar faces in the audience, if a little daunting at times.

We want to thank the church and volunteers for their generosity in hosting our Harvest Festival. They always make us feel so welcome and are so helpful with music and organization. It is good for the children to be part of the wider Otley community.

Thank you for your donations to charity which will be added to the church collections and go to support Otley residents.



## Balance and bikeability

Ian from Bike Futures spent the day with our Y1 children earlier in the term

They brought balance bikes and small bicycles, commandeering the front playground for the day. The children had a fabulous time navigating their way around the playground and each other in the process.

Many of the children started on balance bikes and progressed to bicycles as they became more confident and honed their skills. The instructor was super impressed with the children's confidence and skill set when keeping themselves safe whilst travelling at some speed around the playground track.

A third of the class who started the session not being able to peddle a bicycle had, by the end of the day, mastered this important life skill.

The children had such a fantastic time in the autumn sunshine and approached the whole training session with maturity, enthusiasm and determination. Well done to all of them.



**A Final Note:** I hope everyone has a lovely half term and has some time to recharge batteries.

Many Thanks

Julia Dickson