

15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back everyone!

It was lovely to see all the children back in school last week and what an incredible week it was. The sun was shining, and the children got to play out on the field for the whole week. It definitely eased the transition from holiday time, to back to school.

I hope everyone managed some family time over the summer break or some exciting days whether at home or away on holiday.



Assemblies and Productions

Our assembly theme for this half term is Being Me in My World.

We have been exploring how we can make our school a welcoming place to be for everyone, by thinking about the way we greet each other, our gestures, body language and support we give to each other.

Well done to the certificate winners over the last two weeks who have worked particularly hard.

Year 1- Georgia C & Kavan, Year 2- Nimrat & Lenny, Year 3- Toby G & Lucy, Year 4- Emily & Will, Year 5- Elsie & Arvin, Year 6- Ida & Justin

Art Camp

Over the summer holiday an 'art camp' ran for four weeks, Mon-Thurs at Westgate Primary School.

It was a great activity provision for the children and hopefully helpful to parents who needed to work for some of the holidays. There were lots of creative activities for examples painting with feet, magic shows, hoola hooping, sketching and lots of games outdoors.

The children got to meet new friends and thoroughly enjoyed the lunches!



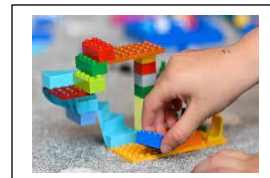
Inspiration Tree

Some of our children also enjoyed the holiday activities provided by Inspiration Tree this year.

Nicki Wilce and his team, who run our after-school dodge ball club, ran their usual range of themed days which kept the children entertained.

There were choices of activity days so children could sign up for something that appealed to them. Amongst these days, for the construction enthusiast, there were Lego workshops where children could really challenge their design and spatial awareness skills.

For the those who love role play there were Star Wars themed sessions. Children who attended had great fun.



- Summer Swim
- After School Sports
- Welcome

Summer Swim Sessions

Leeds City Council sports department offered swimming sessions over the holidays for a small group of pupils from each of the local primary schools.

The sessions were great fun but also hard work and were designed support the acquisition of swimming skills.

The children practiced different strokes and skills such as diving.



Our Friday Dodgeball Club starts up again this week with the coaches from Inspirations Tree. It is a great way for the children to let off a little steam at the end of the week, have fun and be active.

We also started with our ACES coach this week too. Paul will be training up a new team of sports/play leaders to run lunchtime activities. Paul will supervise the play leaders on Wednesdays, introducing them to new games/activities each week and then the children will set up and run these activities over the next week. Paul from ACES will then work with classes in the afternoons and each half term will run a free after school sports club for each of the classes in turn. This half term the gymnastics club will be for Y5 children. Please sign your child up for this free after school opportunity each Wednesday from 3.15-4pm.

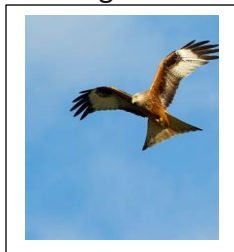
Welcome Miss Gaywood

It has been a great pleasure to welcome our new Y6 teacher Miss Gaywood to join the Whartons' team.

The children have helped their new teacher to settle in and feel at home in the Red Kite Class at school.

Miss Gaywood joined us from Richmond House School in Headingley where she has been a teacher for the last couple of years. It was lovely that Miss Gaywood was able to join us for the transition day last term and get to know her class a little.

Miss Gaywood was also in school over the summer getting her classroom prepared to welcome the children back.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our Learning Mentor Miss Milner has organized a MacMillan Coffee Morning event on 29th September, just after morning drop off time in the school hall.

We would love to see as many of you as possible at the event. Drop in for a coffee, cake and a natter, we will also be involving children in proceedings to help and entertain. Please feel free to donate a cake to the event but also we will be raising money for Macmillan nurses by asking for a donation for cakes eaten.

Miss Milner is planning then to hold a termly coffee morning for the school community to get together, take time to relax, meet and ask questions. Future coffee morning won't be fundraisers though; refreshments will be free.

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- *New Reception Children*
- *Diary Dates*

Diary Dates

[Mon 25th Sept-](#) Year 6 begin

three days of Bikeability

[Fri 29th Sept-](#) Macmillan

Coffee morning from

9.00am

[Wed 4th Oct-](#) Year 5 & Year 3

Pedestrian and Scooter

training

[Fri 6th Oct-](#) School training

day, closed to pupils

[Mon 9th Oct-](#) Individual

school photos

Our New Athenaeum

Our new Library and Computer Suite are finally all organized, with books neatly catalogued and housed in new bright furniture to match the original library bookcases.

As the Library and Computing suite are now combined in the same space it has become more of an area of knowledge and learning rather than just a library.

Therefore, a new name for this space was sought. After a little research into Ancient Greek culture the name 'Athenaeum' was discovered which is a place of knowledge and learning. This seems apt for our new area in school. Obviously if the children struggle to remember the name the library and computer suite will also serve perfectly well!!

Another huge thank you for your kind donations for our fundraising event the money has supported the creation of our new area and we are awaiting some new desktop computers to supplement the more aging laptop stock. We also have a great new team of volunteer librarians who have learnt how to organize the fiction books alphabetically and the non-fiction by subject using the Dewy System. They will ensure our Athenaeum remains organized.



New Reception Children

It has been an exciting couple of weeks for our youngest children in school, our new reception 'Butterflies' class. Welcome Butterflies.

Last week Mrs Manderville, Miss Dalzell, Mrs Rockcliff and Miss Wilkinson visited the children at home. It is always great for the EYFS staff to meet the children in their own, familiar surroundings. It often helps the children with their confidence to talk to their new teachers and also share some of their favourite toys or show them around areas of their house. This can help later on for teachers to refer to, which can help children settle in to school eg 'Would you like to play with the trains? I know you like trains because you showed me your amazing train set at home'.

All the children have settled in so well this week attending school in the mornings and for lunches. It has been super to see them playing confidently with their new peers.



A Final Note:

I have been talking to the children about accessories for school this week in assemblies and explaining the thinking behind none branded products and clothing in school; for example water bottles (AIR-UPS) and premium branded hoodies. Often children feel left out if their peers have the latest branded product and therefore pressure parents to buy these expensive items, which not every parent can. I would ask parents to please send children with non-branded water bottles and save these for home use. As with uniforms we want all children to feel level/equal at school.

Julia Dickson