

Head teacher's Newsletter



September 2023 | Issue 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I welcome you back to school on behalf of all the staff and Governors. I have enjoyed greeting all our families and it has been lovely getting to know our new to school families.

One of our continued priorities for the coming year is to promote wellbeing amongst our school community. The children have settled well in all our classes across the school.

As we start this new school year we are supporting children's transition back into school. You have done a fantastic job in preparing your child for their schooling and we can see your hard work.



Most of you will already be aware that Mrs Bringan took a leave of absence before the summer holidays due to medical reasons. This leave of absence will continue for the rest of this term whilst she recovers and continues further treatment. The Governing Board are working closely with the Local Authority and myself to ensure there is no disruption to your child's learning. Whilst Mrs Bringan is away, I will be covering the role of headteacher.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm at the start of the new academic year.

Mrs Kennedy

Attendance and Welfare

It is very important that your child **attends school every day and is on time**. We currently have almost **20 children a day arriving late**.

The gates to the school will open at **8:30am**. They close at **8:45am**. After 8:45am your child is late. If your child will not be in, please remember to call the absence line by 8:30am on **01895 590112 option 1 every day** that your child is absent.

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or nursery when they are unwell.

We follow the government guidelines to determine how long a child should stay at home. The most common queries are in the table below

Vomiting and / or Diarrhoea	Your child should stay at home for 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped.
Sore Throat	Your child can still come to school however if they have a high temperature they should remain at home
Head Lice / Nits	Your child should attend school but their hair should be treated.
Coughs and Colds	It is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. If they have a high temperature they should remain at home.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest next week.



Harvest festival is a Christian celebration which reminds us to be thankful for the food that we have. At school, we show gratitude as a community and collect food to share. Rev. Andrew from St Andrew's Church will be visiting the school to share this important message.

We ask for donations of non-perishable food items which will be donated to the local Hillingdon Foodbank.

The foodbank urgently need the following items:

Potatoes	Noodles	Jam
Sugar	Juice	Soup and pasta sauces
Tinned meat or fish	Rice	Cereal
Toilet Roll	Fruit (canned)	Puddings of all kinds

Each class (including Nursery) will make up a harvest box for our festival celebration.



Please send in your donations between
Tuesday 26th September and Friday 29th September 2023.



MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 29th September 2023



Come and join us on Friday 29th September at 9am for coffee/tea and some cake in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Having a Coffee Morning is the perfect chance to catch up over a cuppa and a slice of something delicious for a great cause.

One in two of us will face cancer, and the money we raise at our coffee morning will help everyone with cancer to live life as fully as they can.

We will have lots of cake and tea/coffee available however if you would like to donate any cake or refreshments please provide a list of ingredients (if not already written on the packaging) and drop off to the office on Thursday 28th September after school or Friday morning.

We hope to see lots of you there!



How do we share news and communicate information?

- **Phone & email.** Make sure we have the most up to date contact details.
- **Website and School Jotter App.** Download the app now from the Play Store or App Store.
- Regularly **Speak** to parents on the playground or in the office. If you have a query or want to share information **please do speak to us.**
- If you would like to speak to a member of staff please **book an appointment.** This can be done through our school office.

Uniform and Equipment

Thank you to everyone for ensuring their child is wearing the correct uniform. The children all look so smart. Please ensure all your child's clothing is labelled with their full name.

Plain or Whitehall logo red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan	
White shirt / blouse, red or white plain or Whitehall logo polo shirt	
Grey or black trousers. No leggings	
Grey or black skirt or pinafore dress (Leggings should not be worn under dresses)	
Red, white or grey socks / tights	
Footwear – Sensible black shoes with no laces . Plain black trainers are acceptable - no logos.	
Hair that is shoulder length or longer to be tied up	
Wellies (only to walk to and from school. School shoes must be brought to school)	
Waterproof coat	
A named water bottle – please ensure your child’s name is written in permanent marker and is clearly visible	
Book bag	
Any books they have borrowed from the school	
A small packet of tissues	
PE kit in a named bag—PE kit – plain black /grey shorts and plain white or red t-shirt. Plimsolls or trainers with no laces .. If the weather is cold, they can bring in plain black jogging bottoms.	



Summer Reading Challenge

At this time of year we would celebrate children who took part in the library's Summer Reading challenge with a special assembly with parents.

Due to the current situation, we will not be able to invite parents to celebrate with us. However, we would still like to celebrate the children's success!

If your child took part in the library's Summer Reading challenge, please bring a copy of their certificate into school.



Cotswold Close - Parking

Our neighbours in Cotswold Close have shared that parents of children at Whitehall Infant and Junior Schools are parking in front of their driveways. This is preventing access to their homes.

Cotswold Close is a private street and parking is not permitted to anyone other than to residents. Please be courteous of our neighbours and park in alternative streets around the school if you require.



Safeguarding reminders

- Please keep your child with you during drop off and pick up. It can become very busy and we would not want your child to become separated from you.
- Ensure your child is dropped and collected by an adult.
- If you have **changed your phone number, address or email address** please let us know as soon as possible by emailing office@mail.whitehallinf.org
- Over time family circumstances can change. If there is any legal reason for someone not to collect your child (such as a court order or injunction) please provide this information to the school office.
- Remember to regularly check our website or app for important information.
- Tell us if your child is hurt or has any injuries or is upset.

Please return the following no later than Thursday 28th September 2023

We will shortly be sending out your child's data collection forms and pupil premium eligibility form.

- Please check that all the information we have is correct and up to date.
- If there are inaccuracies please correct them on the form.
- Please complete the pupil premium form again so we can double check if your child is eligible. The school receives additional funding for all children who are eligible for pupil premium.
- Return the forms even if there are no changes.

Curriculum Overviews

Each half term, the Curriculum Overviews show the learning that will take place that half term for your information.

Please go to your child's year group pages to view.

<https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/year-group-pages>



Jeans for Genes Day

Jeans for Genes Day is the annual fundraising campaign for Genetic Disorders UK, a national charity that supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder.

On Friday 22nd September, children can come into school in non uniform to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

We ask for a voluntary donation of 50p.



Lunches

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a **free school lunch**.

We are very fortunate to have caterers who provide a wide range of nutritious meals for children. **Please do encourage your child to have a hot lunch at school.**

Please remember that we are a **water only** school in line with the London Schools Healthy Lives programme.

If your child brings in a packed lunch then please ensure it is a healthy option.

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes#lunchbox-tips> for some great hints and tips on how to keep your child's lunchbox healthy and interesting.

Please no nuts, chocolate spread, chocolate, sweets, juice or fizzy sugary drinks.



Welcomes, Farewells and Congratulations

Mrs. Khurana, one of our midday supervisory assistants will be leaving Whitehall to work with younger children in October. We wish her the best of luck in her new role and good luck for the future.



We would like to welcome Miss Chopping, our new classroom learning support assistant, to our Whitehall family. Miss Chopping will be working mostly in year 2 and then carrying out learning interventions across the school.

Congratulations to Miss Keary, one of our SEN keyworkers, who has welcomed a baby boy! Mother and baby are doing well.

Congratulations to Mrs Aqbarawi, who has successfully been promoted to Assistant Headteacher here at Whitehall.



Diary Dates

Individual events information will be communicated with you where appropriate. All dates are subject to change.

Day	Date	Month	Event
Friday	22nd	September	Jeans for Genes Day—Non-Uniform 50p voluntary donation
Friday	22nd	September	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am Hall
Tuesday - Friday	26th—29th	September	Donations to the Hillingdon Foodbank will be accepted. Please give any items to your child’s class teacher
Wednesday	27th	September	Reception Reading Workshop. Please sign up if you are able to attend. If there is enough interest we will organise another. 8:45am—Main Hall
Thursday	28th	September	Return Data collection sheets and pupil premium sheets
Thursday	28th	September	Vicar visit—Harvest assembly in school for children
Friday	29th	September	MacMillan Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am school hall.
Monday	2nd	October	Black History Month begins
Wednesday	4th	October	Year 1 Reading Workshop—Main Hall 8:45am. Please sign up More information will follow
Thursday	5th	October	Year 2 Reading Workshop—Main Hall 8:45am . Please sign up. More information will follow
Thursday	5th	October	National School Census Day. More information will follow
Friday	6th	October	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am school hall.
Friday	13th	October	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am school hall.
Tuesday	17th	October	Parents Evening—3:15 - 5pm
Thursday	19th	October	Parents Evening 3:15—7pm
Friday	20th	October	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am school hall.
Monday—Friday	23rd—27th	October	Half Term. School is closed to children
Monday	30th	October	Children return to school
Wednesday	1st	November	Reception Maths Workshop 8:45am Hall
Thursday	2nd	November	Year 1 Maths Workshop 8:45am Hall
Friday	3rd	November	Year 2 Maths Workshop 8:45am Hall
Friday	3rd	November	No parent coffee morning
Monday to Friday	6th—10th	November	Year 1 and Year 2 trips to Uxbridge war memorial to lay wreaths
Thursday	9th	November	Kingfisher Class Assembly 8:55am Hall
Friday	10th	November	Diwali Celebration Day—Children can wear traditional clothing or party clothes on this day
Friday	10th	November	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am Main Hall

Diary Dates Continued

Individual events information will be communicated with you where appropriate. All dates are subject to change.

Day	Date	Month	Event
Thursday	16th	November	Peacock Class Assembly—8:55am Main Hall
Friday	17th	November	Children in Need—Spotacular dress up day/Own clothes —50p donation.
Friday	17th	November	Parent Coffee Morning—8:45—9:45am Main Hall
Monday to Friday	20th—24th	November	Friendship Week /Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday	23rd	November	Flamingo class assembly 8:55am Hall
Friday	24th	November	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am Main Hall
Tuesday	28th	November	Toucan class assembly—8:55am Hall
Friday	1st	December	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am Main Hall

More dates will follow in the next newsletter



School Terms and Holidays September 2023 - July 2024 Whitehall Infant School

AUTUMN TERM - 2023

<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 4th September 2023
Term starts for the children	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Half Term Holiday	Mon 23rd - Fri 27th October 2023
Term starts for the children	Monday 30th October 2023
Term Ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Thursday 21st December 2023

SPRING TERM - 2024

Term starts for the children	Monday 8th January 2024
Term Ends	Friday 9th February 2024
Half Term Holiday	Mon 12th - Fri 16th February 2024
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 19th February 2024
Term starts for the children	Tuesday 20th February 2024
Term Ends	Thursday 28th March 2024

SUMMER TERM - 2024

Term starts for the children	Monday 15th April 2024
May Day (Public Holiday - school closed)	Monday 6th May 2024
Term ends for the children	Friday 24th May 2024
Half Term Holiday	Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May 2024
Term starts for the children	Monday 3rd June 2024
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 1st July 2024
Term Ends	Tuesday 23rd July 2024
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Wednesday 24th July 2024