

# Headteacher's Newsletter



October 2023 | Issue 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has certainly flown by! We started with glorious sunny days and are now enjoying the autumnal sunshine and occasional showers. The children and staff have worked hard to establish routines and settle into new year groups. You have supported your child/ren by making sure they are ready for school and on time for learning to begin.

As always we want to thank our parent community for your feedback and support.


One of our main aims is to make every child a reader and love reading for life. If you and your child/ren are not already a member of the library please pop into the library and join.

Have a restful half term,

Mrs Kennedy

## Reminders

Please ensure that no holidays are booked during term time.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Half Term   | 23rd –27th October 2023   |
| Clocks go back by 1 hour                          | Sunday 29th October 2023<br> |
| Children back in school                           | Monday 30th October 2023  |
| Please sign up to our year group maths workshops! | Sign up sheets will be available on Monday 30th October 2023  |
| Term Ends   | Wednesday 20th December 2023<br>Finish time 12:00pm - Gates will close at 12:20pm                               |

## After School Clubs—Autumn 2 2023

Please find information below regarding after school clubs for after half term.

|           | Club (3:15—4:15pm)   | Who can attend?                            | How do I sign my child up?  |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| Monday    | Ball Skills Discovery Club—Learn new skills across a range of sports | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2               | <a href="#">Click here to book</a>  |
| Tuesday   | Football<br><br>Gymnastics   | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2<br><br>Year 2 | <a href="#">Click here to book</a><br><br>Email: <a href="mailto:queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk">queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk</a> |
| Wednesday | Multisport Club—Come and try a number of different sports            | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2               | <a href="#">Click here to book</a>  |
| Thursday  | Gymnastics   | Reception                                  | Email: <a href="mailto:queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk">queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk</a>   |
| Friday    | Gymnastics   | Year 1                                     | Email: <a href="mailto:queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk">queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk</a>   |

Ball Skills/Football/Multisports Club - When booking, the link may say a particular year group however the company have assured us that each club is open to reception, year 1 and year 2 children.

## Harvest Celebrations

Thank you for all your kind and generous donations of non perishable food, toiletries and baby essentials.

The Hillingdon Foodbank came to collect our donations and thanked the school community for their kind offers. Below is the link for the foodbank should you be able to donate further.



### [Foodbank Link](http://www.hillingdon.foodbank.org.uk)



Reverend Andrew also visited the school and shared with the children the importance of sharing and being appreciative of everything we have as some people have nothing. Thank you Reverend Andrew for your kind words and visit.



## Safeguarding Reminders

If you are worried about a child or are concerned about an on-going issue involving a child please contact

**Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub on**

**01895 556006**

or alternatively if you feel a child is in immediate danger then call the Police emergency number 999.

**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

### Data Collection and Pupil Premium Forms

Thank you to those who have returned the completed and signed data collection and pupil premium forms. If you have not done so could you please **return the form to your child's class teacher as soon as possible**. If you have misplaced any forms, please visit the main school office who will be able to provide you with new ones.

Whitehall Infant School has a no smoking policy for the whole of the school grounds. This includes vaping and the use of any other e-cigarettes. Please follow this rule.



### Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years.

The month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations.

Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just African and Caribbean people but black people in general.

Black History Month was first launched in London in the 1980s, where the aim was for the local community to challenge racism and educate themselves and others about the British history that was not taught in schools.

As a school, each year group will be learning about the contributions black people have made to the UK.



### Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our Jeans for Genes day campaign. We raised a fantastic



**£193.49**

Our school car park is busy during the school day. Please do not wait for your child in the car park.

Unfortunately we have had to speak to a number of parents who are **leaning against cars** and allowing younger **children to play** within the car park. **This is not allowed.**

Please be **respectful of school and staff property** and ensure the **safety of your children** at all times.



### Baby Wipes

We are in need of packs of baby wipes that we can use across the school. If you are able to donate a pack of **fragrance free baby wipes** to school we would greatly appreciate it.



### School Value — Respect

Children have recently had an assembly on our school value of respect.

Children discussed how we treat other people and what ways we can show that we are respecting each other.

The following are promoted in school

- Being kind to others
- Saying 'please' and 'thank you'
- Greeting people with a smile
- Talking through problems to solve them
- Not raising our voices
- Our school community modelling respect to each other
- Respecting property
- Respecting ourselves including saying 'no I don't like it' if someone is being unkind





## ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2023

### Applying for Nursery School

For children due to start Nursery in September 2024, you must apply direct to the school. If your child's date of birth falls between **1st September and 31st August and they turn 3**, then you can apply for entry in September 2024. Please email the school office directly with any questions : [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org)

### Applying for Primary School

For children due to start Reception in September 2024 you must apply for a Primary School place by **15th January 2024**. Applications should be made online at :

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary>

ADMISSIONS

### Applying for Junior School

For children due to start Junior School in September 2024 you must apply for a Junior School place by **15th January 2024**. Applications should be made online at:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/8497/Applying-for-a-junior-school>

### New Admissions September 2024 — Open Mornings.

We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer open days to those parents or carers who have children due to start nursery or school in September 2024.

We will be offering a number of open mornings in November 2023 .

You only need to attend one session.

#### Dates

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Tuesday 7th November<br>2023   |
| Wednesday 8th November<br>2023 |

#### Times

**09:45am : Headteacher welcome and introduction**

**10:10am : Accompanied tour of the school**

If you or someone you know has a child due to start school in September 2023 then we would love to see them at one of our open mornings. In order to secure a space then please complete the attached Google Form

[Open morning form](#)

#### Open Evening

We will be holding an opening evening on Wednesday 8th November 2023 from 6 -7pm.

In order to secure a space please complete the attached form. You can find the link here:

[Open evening form](#)

If the google forms for some reasons do not work on your web browser please email the school using [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org) expressing your interest to attend.

## PSHE Learning

After half term, during our PSHE lessons, we will be teaching children the NSPCC's PANTS rules. These rules help children to understand that their body belongs to them and that they should talk to someone they trust if anything upsets or worries them. The rules are taught in an age appropriate way using child friendly stories.

Further information for parents can be found on the NSPCC website

at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

The Pantosaurus song has been made available on YouTube by the

NSPCC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lL07JOGU5o>



## 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.**



## Parent Meetings

Thank you to everyone who has attended their child's parent meetings this week.

The parent meetings are very important as they are an opportunity to talk about how your child has settled, what they will be working on in their learning, their targets and to share an attendance update.

Thank you for sharing your views on the first half term and how you have felt your child has settled at Whitehall so far this year. We value your feedback and welcome both positive and constructive responses. We will share results in the next newsletter.



## Letter requests

If you require a letter from the school, please visit the main school office to complete a request form and provide supporting documentation. Please note that there is a **charge of £10** for letter requests.

# Attendance

We have a new email address for parents to use to report absence or appointments.

**absence@whitehallinf.org**

Please email the above address from now on.

Every school day counts.

Young children will be more likely to get minor illnesses as their immunity is building up. Attendance in schools is tracked daily and has to be reported to the local authority. Children whose attendance falls below 90% are categorised as being **Persistent Absentees**. Absence includes all days off school for illness or other reasons.



Please try and book appointments where possible out of school hours. Avoid having any term time holidays. The school's Attendance policy is attached with this newsletter. It has all the information you need.

We celebrate weekly attendance heroes in our Friday Gold Book assemblies. All children who have been at school that week have their names in a draw and each year group has winners.

## Punctuality

You will agree that poor punctuality is not to be ignored. At Whitehall the children have a lovely welcome into school and then go onto their phonics lessons. These lessons are grouped according to reading ability therefore most children will not be with their own teacher but in smaller groups across school.

Each morning myself, Mrs Malik, Mrs Woolley, Ms Fabri, Mrs Cluett and other staff take children who are late to their class. This is not a good use of our time.

We have already sent punctuality concern letters to parents of children who are persistently late. After half term, if there is not an improvement, we will ask parents to come into school for a meeting.

**Punctuality**



Please come and speak to one of the staff on duty if you would like some support with getting your child to school on time.

We have reward charts ready and will support you with ideas about morning routines.

# Diary Dates

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

| Day                 | Date          | Month    | Event  |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|--|
| Monday—<br>Friday   | 23rd—<br>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 | <b>No parent coffee morning</b>  |
| Monday to<br>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  |
| 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<br>Friday | 20th—<br>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  |
| Friday              | 1st           | December | <b>Christmas Fair 3:15—4:30pm Playground</b>   |
| Wednesday           | 6th           | December | Year 1 Christmas Performance tbc (afternoon)   |
| Thursday            | 7th           | December | Year 1 Christmas Performance tbc (morning)   |
| Friday              | 8th           | December | Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Day   |
| Friday              | 8th           | December | Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am Main Hall  |
| Wednesday           | 13th          | December | Year 2 Christmas Performance tbc (morning)<br>Reception Christmas Performance tbc (afternoon)    |
| Thursday            | 14th          | December | Reception Christmas Performance tbc (morning)<br>Year 2 Christmas Performance tbc (afternoon)    |
| Friday              | 15th          | December | Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am Main Hall  |
| Monday              | 18th          | December | <b>Pantomime visit—Morning</b>   |
| Monday              | 18th          | December | Nursery class parties  |
| Tuesday             | 19th          | December | Class Parties—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Wear party clothes)                                  |
| Tuesday             | 19th          | December | Last Day of Nursery before the holidays. Nursery sing along                                      |
| Wednesday           | 20th          | December | Term ends for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.<br>Finish time 12:00pm - Gates will close at 12:20pm |






## SEND Family Support

### Saturday Club

On the second  
Saturday of the month  
12pm-130pm




Venue - MENCAP Hillingdon South Hall, Harlington Road, Uxbridge, UB8 3HD (opposite Hillingdon Manor Senior School, Barwick Drive and Lady Craig Court Bus Stops) Free Parking.

For all families caring for children/young adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their siblings

To book go to: [www.sendfs.co.uk/saturday-clubs](http://www.sendfs.co.uk/saturday-clubs)



Entry details – Pay What You Can (Suggested donation £3 per child/ young adult)



Lots of SEND fun, sensory play, sensory dark dens, advice for carers, along with creative and basic skills activities and more...







Please note – The Saturday Club will normally take place on the second Saturday of the month (during school term times), unless we have an event instead – We are all responsible for our own children on the day – Refreshments and stuff available to purchase at the Kiosk

– For more info email us [clubs@sendfs.co.uk](mailto:clubs@sendfs.co.uk) call 07752 169849 (What's App available)



Support for families caring for individuals with SEND  
(Special educational needs & disabilities)  
[www.sendfs.co.uk](http://www.sendfs.co.uk)  
Email : [info@sendfs.co.uk](mailto:info@sendfs.co.uk)  
Charity Registration Number : 1105113



Facebook : @SENDFamilySupport  
Instagram : @SENDFSi

THE CHIMES

# HAUNTED HOUSE

JOIN US IF YOU DARE FOR A GHASTLY AFFAIR AND EXPERIENCE THE CHIMES HAUNTED HOUSE THIS HALLOWEEN.

30TH SEPTEMBER – 31ST OCTOBER  
MONDAY – SATURDAY 12PM-5:30PM | SUNDAY 12PM – 4:30PM



Remember all proceeds from your payment goes to charity at Halo Children's Foundation



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday 28th October & Tuesday 31st October  
3:30-5pm  
£10 Per Child  
Adults Join Free!!

FACE PAINTING  
CRAFT TABLE  
APPLE BOBBING  
TRICK OR TREAT  
LUCKY DIP

FANCY DRESS COMPETITION!

Choose your suitable date and book now to avoid disappointment

[www.haloplaycafe.co.uk](http://www.haloplaycafe.co.uk)

LIMITED SPACES DUE TO CAPACITY

SOFT PLAY  
DISCO MUSIC  
CRAFT TABLE  
BISCUIT DECORATING

Supporting children and their families with bereavement  
Charity Registration Number: 1166863



# HALLOWEEN PARTY 2023

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
1pm-3pm




At MENCAP Hillingdon South, Harlington Rd, Uxbridge UB8 3HD  
Plenty of FREE Parking Available

For children with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) to enjoy a Halloween party along with their families, while their carers can meet other carers and get information of support available



## Visually Impaired Reading Group at Uxbridge Library

A fun and friendly group for people who are visually impaired, where we discuss a new audio book every month. Open to all ages.



When

Price

Where

[Tuesday 24 October, 10.30am to 12pm](#)

Free

[Uxbridge Library](#)

View



## Reading Sparks Exploring Static Electricity



Uxbridge Library  
Monday 23 October  
2.30pm-3.30pm  
Ages 4 to 7

Join us for some fantastic science experiments using materials to test the power of static electricity

To book this free event please visit: [hillington.gov.uk](http://hillington.gov.uk) and search: 'Reading Sparks Event' or call 01895 250714

You only need to book tickets for children taking part who are aged 4-7

Parents/carers are asked to stay with their children to ensure their safety and enjoyment



© The Reading Agency. Registered charity number 108443 (England & Wales)

What's  
on...

at Uxbridge Library



## Children's Book Sale

20 October to  
3 November



20p per book



[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries)



What's On  
October  
Half Term





# School Terms and Holidays

## September 2023 - July 2024

### Whitehall Infant School

#### AUTUMN TERM - 2023

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

#### SPRING TERM - 2024

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

#### SUMMER TERM - 2024

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