



# January Newsletter

I would like to extend a warm welcome back and wish all of our families a happy New Year. I trust you all had an enjoyable break.

## **Spring Term Dates**

Staff Development day (Holiday for Children)

## **Half-Term Holiday**

Term Ends at 2:30pm

- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Week 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

## **School Applications**

If you have a child in our **Nursery** or **Year 2**, you should by now have applied for a school place for your child to commence in Reception or Junior School at the start of the next academic year, in September. The closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January**. Applications should be made online via [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk). Please speak to a member of the nursery team or call into our main reception if you need any help with the application process.

## **School Reception**

We are open for enquiries and calls from **8.30am until 4.00pm** when our main reception is covered (at present it is covered by a temporary Receptionist). We often receive calls and queries regarding information that has already been published and we encourage you to check our website ([www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk](http://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk)), calendar and newsletters where diary dates, events etc. are available. Our Absence Line (01895 590112, option 1) is available to take messages regarding sickness throughout the day.

## **Home Life & Safeguarding**

We understand that family circumstances change and it would be appreciated if you could let us know of any changes which may affect who is permitted to collect your child (e.g. court orders, new partners) or any issues which may affect your child's mood or behaviour at school. Any such information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

## **Punctuality**

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am and children should be in class at this time. Children arriving between 8.50 and 9am should be taken by their parents/carers to the KS1 playground or reception entrance where they will be signed in by a member of staff. They will also be asked for their lunch choice so it would be helpful if this has been chosen in advance. Please do your best to arrive before 8.50am to ensure a positive start to the day.

### Parking

Parents are parking across driveways, garages and driving without care. **Please do not** park your car in Cotswold Close or in front of the garages and respect our neighbours. It is the greener and healthier option to walk to school but if you do have to drive, try parking a little further away and walking for the remainder of the journey. Alternatively, you can apply for a 'School Parking Permit' from the Council. This costs £20 per year and application forms are available from our main reception.

### School Comms

Don't forget that you can receive your newsletters directly by email (if you don't already). Please send us an email ([office@mail.whitehall.org.uk](mailto:office@mail.whitehall.org.uk)) with your email address and your child's name and class and confirm that you wish to be added to our e-distribution list.

### Contact Details

Did you get a new mobile 'phone for Christmas? If you changed your mobile phone or internet provider over the Christmas break, please let us have your new details so we can update our records. It is important that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

### Health

This time of year there are lots of coughs, colds and bugs around. If you do have any concerns about your child's health, the NHS have compiled a guide for Parents on Treating Common Childhood Conditions. This booklet has been developed with a view to reducing unnecessary visits to Accident & Emergency Department or GPs. There is a link on our website (under 'Parents tab'). We would also like to remind parents, that encouraging your children to wash their hands is the best way to prevent colds and bugs from spreading.

### Weather Reminder

An email/letter was sent out on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January regarding school procedures, should we suffer any adverse weather conditions such as snow. Please do ensure your child is appropriately clothed for the prevailing conditions, including sensible footwear and keep a waterproof coat at school. In the coming weeks if we do experience any snow, I can assure you that I will do my best to keep the school open. If we are forced to close, a message will be posted on the front page of the school website. A decision will not be made before 7.30am.

### A Few Reminders

- ❖ Please label lunch boxes **clearly** so that the children can easily recognise their own lunch bag. Many lunch bags look the same and it is easy for children to pick up the wrong one.
- ❖ Please label all of your children's items of clothing **clearly**. If something is left behind or lost we can return it you or your child if it is labelled.
- ❖ PE kits should be kept at school for the entire half term and only collected at the end of each half term for washing.

- ❖ Please name all belongings. Please check the blue lost property box outside Elm class if you are missing any items.
- ❖ The safety of children is very important. Please make sure that children are accompanied by an adult **until they reach the classroom**.
- ❖ Any changes to normal collection arrangements must be notified **in advance**.

### **Shanghai-UK Maths Exchange**

Following on from Mrs Reed's trip to Shanghai in November, two teachers from the schools she visited have now arrived in the UK. They are going to be based at a nearby school over the next two weeks and several of our teachers will have a chance to go and watch these experts teach maths to Year 1 children.

The Chinese teachers have also spent an afternoon visiting Whitehall to meet our children.



### **Diary Dates**

Please find list of diary dates attached which includes class assemblies.

### **Security**

We would like to say a big thank you to parents who remind their children to push their scooters rather than ride them.

If you have any concerns regarding any aspect of school life please don't hesitate to contact me. You are welcome to email any queries on [office@mail.whitehall.org.uk](mailto:office@mail.whitehall.org.uk).

**Manjit Bringan**  
Headteacher



# SPRING TERM 2017 DIARY DATES

Please note dates below for your reference.

Dates may be subject to change so please check notice boards, website and book bags for updated information.

Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	January	Spring Term Starts	
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	January	Reception Local Trip to the shops	Spruce & Larch
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	January	Reception Local Trip to the shops	Birch & Cedar
Tuesday	31 <sup>st</sup>	January	Parent's Evening	
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	February	E-Safety Day	
Friday	10 <sup>th</sup>	February	Staff Development Day	SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon-Fri	13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	February	HALF TERM	
Thu/Fri	23 <sup>rd</sup> / 24 <sup>th</sup>	February	Parents into Maths Lessons (Year 1)	
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	March	World Book Day Dress Up Day	Non Uniform Day
Mon-Fri	6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	March	One World Week	
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	March	Parents into Maths Lessons (Year 2)	
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	March	Parents into Maths Lessons (Year 2)	
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	International Performances Y1 / 2	
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	March	International Performances (Reception)	
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	March	International Evening	
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	March	Red Nose Day	Details to be confirmed
Wednesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	March	Easter Assembly for the children	
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup>	March	Nursery Term Ends	Sessions end normal time
Friday	31 <sup>st</sup>	March	<b>Easter Hat Parade</b>	TERM ENDS 2.00pm
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	April	<b>SUMMER TERM STARTS</b>	School starts normal time