



Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2020 ISSUE 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that it is already February and the half term holiday is almost upon us. I hope you all have an enjoyable break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 24th February.



One of our School Values is EXCELLENCE.

We all have the right to be the best we can be. We have the responsibility to try our best and support others to be their best.

Spring Term Dates

17th - 21st February: Half Term

Monday 24th February: Return to school

Friday 3rd April: Term Ends at 12:30pm

Year 2 End of year assessment meeting

Tuesday 25th February 5-6pm or Wednesday

26th February 9-10am in the school hall.

This is a great opportunity for you to find out about the assessments, how we carry them out and to ask any questions that you may have regarding them.

Read Write Inc Workshops



We are holding workshops for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to tell you more about our Read Write Inc scheme. These will take place in the school hall on:

Thursday 27th February at 9am and 2:30pm.

You only need to attend one of these workshops.

Book week



We will be celebrating book week from Monday 2nd March with various activities to celebrate our love of reading. As part of book week, we will be celebrating **World Book Day** on **Thursday 5th March**. On this day, children can come to school dressed as a book character. A letter will be sent home after half term with some ideas for some easy book character outfits.

We will also be holding a sponsored readathon during book week to raise money for more books. This will enable us to buy phonic books that the children can take home and support them with their home learning. More information regarding this will be sent home soon.



IN THE BIG
PLAYGROUND
OUTSIDE ELM CLASS

WHITEHALL INFANT SCHOOL
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

CAKE SALE
THIS FRIDAY 14TH FEB
3PM

Please meet at Infant School
Main Reception at 1.30pm on
Friday if you can help with the
sale.

WHY NOT GET BAKING WITH
THE CHILDREN? DROP OFF
CAKE DONATIONS FOR THE
SALE ON THE DAY TO MAIN
RECEPTION.
All baked or bought donations
are gratefully received.

If you would like to know more
about the Parents' Association
pop into the main school
reception.

For those who enjoy an occasional sweet treat.....

CUP CAKES, DOUGHNUTS AND DRINKS 50p
POPCORN AND SWEET CONES £1
PLATES OF CAKES £1

And for those who prefer....

FOIL HELIUM BALLOONS £3
MAKE A CRAFT AT HOME 50p

Parentkind
Member Association

Coffee Mornings

Every Friday 9am until 10am.

Coffee mornings will continue after half term. If there is anything you would like to talk about please do come along.

This is a great opportunity to ask for advice and meet other parents.

To attend, please wait outside Elm class, which is off the big playground, once you have dropped your child to their class.



Reception school trips

Letters have been sent home regarding the Reception school trips. The first trip takes place on Tuesday 3rd March going to the Beck theatre to see Zog. Please ensure you return your child's slip and payment no later than **Friday 28th February**.

'Family' homework

We have recently sent out 'Family' homework to design artwork based on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar square as part of the Mayor of London's competition. Miss Cheshire recently promoted this is an assembly talking about the importance of working together as a family.

All entries should be brought in to school by **Friday 28th February**. For a reminder of the details of this competition, please visit <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/parents/noticeboard>



Applying for Nursery



Children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 are eligible to start our school Nursery in September 2020. If you or someone you know would like to apply for a Nursery place, please collect an application form from the main school office as soon as possible.

Parent Workshops

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent workshops this half term. Information from all workshops can be found on our website: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/parents/noticeboard>



Safeguarding Reminders

- Please notify us if someone else is collecting your child.
- If you change your contact number please remember to update the school. For safeguarding, we require at least two up to date contact numbers for your child.
- All children must be dropped off to their classroom door or the main school office at the start of the school day.
- At times we might need to contact you to collect your child from school as they are unwell. It is in the child's interest to be at home as soon as possible to ensure they recover quickly.
- We do ask that you make arrangements for your child to be collected within 30 minutes of us calling where possible.
- We understand we may not be able to contact you directly which is why we do ask that you provide details of other contacts who will be able to collect your child from school.

Attendance

One of our school values is **excellence** and we want to ensure that we have excellent attendance and meet the school attendance target of **96%**. We need your help to achieve this by bringing your child to school on time, every day.

Punctuality

Thank you for supporting us by arriving at school on time. The number of children arriving late has decreased and we hope that this continues going forward. Please remember that all classroom doors will be locked when the bell rings at 8:50am. If you arrive after this time please take your child to the main school office to sign in.

Winter clothing

It is still very cold outside so please do ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. All children should come to school with a winter coat.



Uniform Reminder

Leggings may be worn underneath a skirt or pinafore - not on their own. During the winter months, children are able to wear plain, black jogging bottoms.

Coronavirus Advice

Advice for parents/guardians from the Government:

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via these links.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

Dogs Trust Workshops

I've noticed some children say they are scared of dogs so we arranged a visit from the Dogs Trust to teach the children how to be safe around dogs and that there is no need to be scared of them. They learnt when not to approach dogs and how to safely approach them.



Year 2 River Walk

Year 2 children recently walked to the local river to look at the impact plastic has on our environment. They were shocked at the amount of plastic waste found along their journey. Please remember to respect our environment.



Year 1 Library Trip

We are very lucky to have Uxbridge library close to our school which the Year 1 children recently visited. They looked at books related to the topic of boats. Uxbridge library have some great free events during this half term.



School Council Update by Amelia

We met as a school council to talk about our school priorities and what they meant to us. The school's first priority is to look at the curriculum. The word 'curriculum' was quite hard to understand for some of our members. It basically means what we are taught and why. We are going to hear about each subject as it is reviewed and let the teachers know our thoughts.



The school priority was about what families and children might find difficult. We talked about how it might be hard for children to get to school, home routines and homework might be difficult. As a school council we are going to look at organising a homework club for everyone to use. Watch this space.

Our final priority was to look at English and what we think we should spend more time on. Reception school council members said that they are learning to hold pencils and pens properly. We thought this was great as it will help us write in year 1 and year 2. We also thought it would be good to explore how we could help each other in lessons.

The take away question that we are going to ask our classes is 'What will help us to learn at home?' Maybe you can talk to your child about it as well.

Thank you for reading our school council update. Look out for more next half term.

Lunch Menu

Week of 24th February (Week 1 of menu):

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Jacket potato with beef chilli	Chicken curry with rice	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes	Lamb Pie with New Potatoes	Fish Fingers and Chips
Crusted fish with new potatoes	Jacket potato with baked beans & cheese	Quorn Roast with Roast Potatoes	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese and Onion Slice with Chips
Tortilla stacks with wedges	Halal chicken curry with rice	Butternut Squash and Courgette Pinwheel	Halal Lamb Pie with New Potatoes	Fruity Friday:
Berry Sponge with Custard	Strawberry Ice Cream with Fruit Wedges	Carrot & Pineapple Cake with Custard	Banana & Chocolate Mousse	Selection of Fresh Fruit with Greek Yoghurt

Ideas for Half Term

Why not visit your local park for some outdoor fun? Larger parks such as Langley Park and Black Park are running various activities during half term. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bucks-country-parks-17063955366> for more information.

Intu Uxbridge

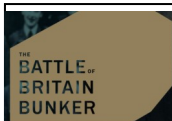


Visit Intu Uxbridge from Monday 17 February- Friday 21 February, 11am-4pm on the Lower Mall outside Debenhams for some ball pit fun. Are you up for the challenge of finding the golden ball in record breaking time? They will be picking daily winners who could win a £50 intu gift card.

Uxbridge Library

Uxbridge Rock Show (13-28 February 2020) - A hands on experience for all the family including a special feature on global climate change run by Harrow and Hillingdon Geological Society. This is a drop in event and does not need booking.

Rock Show Treasure Hunt (15-23 February 2020) - Ask for a worksheet at the counter. Find the hidden letters in the Children's Library and unscramble them to reveal the missing word. Hand in the completed worksheet to receive a goodie. This is a drop in event and does not need booking.



Battle of Britain Bunker

Monday 17 February to Saturday 22 February

Visit the Battle of Britain Bunker for February Half Term! You can learn about how families used their back gardens during wartime. This activity explores War Gardens and Anderson shelters by using papercrafts; use crepe paper to create a delicious vegetable patch, and use cardboard tubes and camouflage material to create an Anderson shelter! This craft workshop is open to all families, with a recommended age of 5+. You can drop in to our free workshop anytime, from 11am - 2pm. **They are also having daily family tours at 12 noon.**

Wellcome Trust 'Play Well' - <https://wellcomecollection.org/exhibitions/XSg-7xEAACcAGVXc>

'Play Well' explores how play transforms both childhood and society. Using displays of historic toys and games, artworks and design, this exhibition investigates how play develops social bonds, emotional resilience and physical wellbeing. The exhibition includes: images of children at play in the street, in playgrounds and beyond; makeshift and commercially produced toys; digital games and a larp (live-action role play) space by artist Adam James.



Safer Internet Day

2020 | Tuesday
11 February

Together for a better internet


Safer Internet Day

This week, we have celebrated Safer Internet Day in school. Ask your child what they have learnt! Safer Internet Day provides a fantastic opportunity to discuss and explore online safety.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents> has some great advice for keeping your children safe online.

Visit their website or read through their [Share-Aware booklet](#).

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/hopesandstreams> has a useful report to get a sense of the dangers and current trends for young people online.

 **YouTube** Youtube is a very popular video sharing website that many children use. However, there is a lot of content on Youtube which is inappropriate and upsetting for children. The website Internet Matters has some great guidelines and tips on how to ensure your child enjoys YouTube content in the safest way possible.

To see these tips and guidelines, visit:

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/youtube-tips-and-tricks-to-keep-your-children-entertained-and-safe/?utm_source=bt&utm_medium=gen&utm_campaign=bau

Online Gaming Advice

Online gaming means you can play in real time with people across the world through a computer, games console, tablet or smartphone connected to the internet. Games can offer children a world of adventure to immerse themselves in, but it's important to understand how children can stay safe and what games are appropriate for their age. [https://](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/)

www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/ has some valuable advice for parents on online gaming and the importance of keeping children safe.



5 SMART Rules for primary aged children:

S Safe: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

M Meet: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

A Accepting: Accepting emails, messages, or opening files, images or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R Reliable: Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information by looking at other websites, in books, or with someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real world friends and family.

T Tell: Tell a parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone, or something, makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Age Ratings

Films, Games and some online videos have Age Ratings which tell you the minimum age children should be before watching the film or playing the game. It is very important to follow these age ratings as they will ensure that your child does not see content that is inappropriate for their age. For more information on ratings and why they are given, visit <https://bbfc.co.uk/about-classification/classification-guidelines>