



Headteacher's Newsletter

March 2020 ISSUE 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my first newsletter written during the school closure period.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the staff at Whitehall Infant School who have adapted to new ways of working. The school is temporarily closed and we are providing a joint provision with Whitehall Junior School. We will continue in this reduced capacity until the government tells us to.

To support Government guidance of social distancing, all staff are currently on a rota to work at school and from home.

Parents / carers must keep their children at home, wherever possible, and allow schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend during lockdown. Schools have been asked to provide places for children of critical key workers and those children who may be vulnerable.

I know this is a difficult time but I am trying to see the positive in each day and I hope you are too. I have been working from home as I am self-isolating (please rest assured that I am not showing any symptoms of Covid-19) and that means I have been able to enjoy the sunshine of the past week. It has been lovely to enjoy some Spring weather and I hope you have been able to spend some time outside enjoying it.

Remember to make the most of having this time off with your family and to keep following the Government guidelines on social distancing.

Stay Safe!



Thank you to our key workers for the work you are doing in various industries for the benefit of us all.

Easter Holidays

Our school will remain open for children of key workers during the Easter break. I am overwhelmed at the response from staff in volunteering to help so that we can do this. However, we will be closed on the Bank holidays - Friday 10th April and Monday 13th April.

Mental Wellbeing

During this difficult time, it is important that we look after our mental wellbeing. Take some time every day to do something that makes you happy or relaxed such as read a book, take a bath or do some exercise in the garden. We all need to remember that this is an unsettling time which none of us have faced before. It is ok to feel anxious during this time but if you find you are not coping, please seek help - <https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/coronanxiety-support-resources/> are running online support groups specifically dealing with anxiety in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Safeguarding

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of all children. If you have any concerns about a child or you are finding it hard to cope at home, please contact us - we are here to help! Alternatively, you can contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or Family Lives on 0808 800 2222.

Do not hesitate to email office@mail.whitehallinf.org if you have any concerns or queries

Online Safety

Remember the importance of keeping your child safe online. Try to be in the same room as your child when they are online and check the parental controls on all devices. Visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/> or <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> for tips to keep your child safe online.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-parents-and-families/> provides advice for parents on managing the impact of Covid-19 on their child's learning and family life.

Home Learning

Many of you will have just finished your first week of home learning. We hope that the packs prepared by teachers for your child have proven beneficial so far. It is pleasing to see that some children have already read lots of books within Reading Eggs and have accessed the Mathseeds website.

If you did not get your child's home learning pack, these can be collected from school between 8:30am and 3:30pm next week. Please email office@mail.whitehallinf.org with your child's name, class and what day and time you would like to collect the pack.

Over the coming weeks, teachers will be updating the website with additional activities to support home learning. Please keep checking the website - <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1> along with Reading Eggs and Mathseeds for updates.

Remember to pace all learning and screen time. There are lots of ideas that staff have provided that do not involve any screen time - these are available on our website and attached to this newsletter.

As mentioned in one of my previous letters, a consistent routine is often beneficial to children. I have attached a sample home learning timetable to this newsletter; you might find this helpful.

Whilst it is important that your child continues with their learning, please do not put pressure on yourself. This is a difficult time with many parents working from home so we understand that you may not have the time to do a lot of home learning with your child. Be kind to yourself!





As a minimum, I would like all children to:



- Read, be read to or listen to an audiobook
- Write, draw or colour - this is good for their fine motor skills
- Talk to you to improve their speaking and listening skills
- Numeracy work such as counting or a maths game
- Physical exercise - Joe Wicks is doing daily PE workouts for children on his youtube channel
- Imaginative play
- Some art or music - this could be painting, drawing, singing

Try to promote independence in your child by letting them get dressed by themselves and work independently.

Enjoy having more time with your child. Do things such as baking, craft making, playing games, building lego. Your child will learn from lots of different activities - reading the list of ingredients while baking, counting the pieces of lego needed to make a model, colouring, drawing. You can also teach them key values such as kindness and patience.

<p>Self-care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Put on their coat and learn to do up the zip or buttons - Learn to put on and take off socks and shoes. - Practice going to the toilet and wiping themselves, flushing the toilet and - Teach good hygiene by washing hands before eating food, after going to the toilet as well as and after play. - Teach your child how to wipe their nose. - Teach them how to use a knife and fork when eating. 	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read a story daily. - Practice the picture names in RWI eg snake, tower, mountain - Read or listen to stories on the computer and with your family - Read ingredients out loud to your child - Talk to your child about what you are doing around the house. - Role play is a great way for children to remember stories. Get your child to act out a story with you. 	<p>Creative play to support learning (Knowledge of the world and creative development).</p> <p>One of the best things to do at home with your child is to carry out creative play.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify colours by carrying out a colour hunt around the home. - Create a paper chain by drawing on strips of paper and joining them together. They can be used to decorate the home. - Create flower or plant pictures with forks. Using the forks, dip into the paint and press onto paper. - Spend time playing small world games with your child. You will have great fun creating stories with toys. - Make a friendship token. Lots of children will be away from their friends in nursery. Can they make something to share with their friends when they return to nursery? It might be a painting of all their friends, painting a rock that they have found etc.
<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice writing their name using the name cards that have been sent home, only use a Capital letter for the first letter of their name. - Practice colouring in pictures and holding the pencil in a tripod grip. - Practice letter formation for each sound 	<div data-bbox="762 1003 944 1326" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><u>Home Learning for Nursery Children</u></p> <p><u>SPRING TERM 2 2020</u></p>	
<p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Count objects around the house and garden. - Sing number rhymes eg 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed. - Sort objects in the house by shape, or colour eg socks, knives and forks - Learn the names of 2d shapes - Put numbers in order from 1-10 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If possible, go for a walk and look at the plants and birds that are outside. What colours are they? - Dancing is a great way to stay active. Find your favourite, appropriate song and dance with your child. - Cook with your child. Could they help you make something simple? Rolling dough? 	

<p>Self-care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Put on their coat and learn to do up the zip or buttons - Learn to put on and take off socks and shoes. - Teach good hygiene by washing hands before eating food, after going to the toilet as well as and after play. - Teach your child how to wipe their nose. - Teach them how to use a knife and fork when eating. 	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read a story daily. - Practice the picture names in RWI eg snake, tower, mountain - Read or listen to stories on the computer and with your family - Read ingredients out loud to your child - Talk to your child about what you are doing around the house. - Role play is a great way for children to remember stories. Get your child to act out a story with you. 	<p>Creative project</p> <p>Children to create their own character either from a story or make a character of their own using a potato or another home item. For example you could paint it (which will help to preserve it), dress it and add features such as arms and legs. Here are some examples:</p> <div data-bbox="438 616 625 779">  </div> <div data-bbox="408 421 667 566">  </div> <div data-bbox="402 181 627 380">  </div>
<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write shopping lists - Practice colouring in pictures and holding the pencil in a tripod grip. - Practice letter formation for each sound that they know. - See some of the creative project for more ideas. 	<div data-bbox="643 974 818 1283">  </div> <p><u>Home Learning for Reception Children</u></p> <p><u>SPRING TERM 2 2020</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a list of words which describe your character • Can you create a story using your character? • You can use voice recorder on a smart phone or tablet to record. • As a challenge you may want to write your story. How about becoming an author again and make your own story book. • Can you create a story map to retell the story? • Put a potato on a plate on a window sill and see what happens. Make a diary of the changes you see. • Ask a grown up to help you make mash potato. See the potato change from a solid to a smooth mash when boiled. Did you like the taste? • Sing the counting potato song – 1 potato, 2 potato, 3 potato, 4! See the song on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efMHLkybTho • Make a potato stamp by cutting a potato in half, cut out a shape in the potato, dip it in paint and print on paper.
<p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Count objects around the house and garden up to 10 then up to 20. - Sing number rhymes eg 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed. - Learn the three bears story. It will help your child use positional words e.g. on top, underneath. - Look for repeating patterns in the home. Talk about the pattern - Recipes are great to develop number skills. 2 bananas, 1 cup of flour ... 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If possible, go for a walk and look at the plants and birds that are outside. What do they look like? Can you describe them? - Dancing is a great way to stay active. Find your favourite, appropriate song and dance with your child. - Cook with your child. Could they help you make something such as cupcakes? Decorate them? 	

<p>Speaking and Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you think that planes are a good idea? Why? Why not? - Could Grace Darling have done anything differently to save the people in the sinking ship? - What has been your favourite part of school so far? Why? <p>Discuss these questions with your child. We will ask the children about them when they return to school</p>	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read a story daily. - Practise phonics daily. - Read or listen to stories on the computer and with your family - Read ingredients out loud to your child - Talk to your child about what you are doing around the house. - Role play is a great way for children to remember stories. Get your child to act out a story with you. 	<p>Design Technology Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make a recipe book - Create a healthy family meal and discuss food groups - Create a healthy plate collage using materials of your choice. - Junk modelling (landmarks of the UK, boats, lighthouses) - Family challenges (build a bridge with limited resources, build a balloon powered car)
<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep a journal of what you have done at home. - Write your own story that includes one of our characters from our stories. Mr Grinling perhaps. - Write a book or movie review - favourite characters, parts etc. 	<p>Home Learning for Year 1 Children <u>SPRING TERM 2 2020</u></p> 	<p>Plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore plants around the home and outside where possible. - Can you name them? - Can you describe them? - Grow a plant from a seed and keep a diary, measuring growth. - Draw pictures of different plants.
<p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cook with your child. Talk about weight and measure with your child. - Practice making groups of a number and sharing them between a different amount. This will help with multiplication and division - Practise telling the time. When do you go to bed? When do you wake up in the morning? When do you have lunch? - Count to 30 daily starting from different numbers. - Order things based on weight, size, age, sell by date. 	<p>Staying Active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If possible, go for a walk and look at the plants and birds that are outside. What do they look like? Can you describe them? Can you name them? - Dancing is a great way to stay active. Find your favourite, appropriate song and dance with your child. - Book workout is a great way to read to your child and keep them active. Pick a word that you know will feature in the story and every time it is mentioned your child has to do a jumping jack! - Hoovering and helping with chores is a great way to get children to learn about what happens around the house. 	<p>Seasonal Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make a weather diary - discuss changes - Measure rainfall - Make a pin wheel to detect wind - Measure temperature 

<p>Speaking and Listening If you were the King or Queen of England, what changes would you make to improve the country?</p> <p>If you could compete in the Olympics, what sport would like to do and why?</p> <p>What are your favourite memories of your life so far? What made them so much fun?</p> <p>Discuss these questions with your child. We will ask the children about them when they return to school</p>	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read a story daily. - Read or listen to stories on the computer and with your family - Read ingredients out loud to your child - Talk to your child about what you are doing around the house. - Role play is a great way for children to remember stories. Get your child to act out a story with you. 	<p>Design Technology Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Levers</u> - Make a see-saw launcher to launch a bottle rocket. - You can use everyday items at home to make your launcher. - Keep it safe as we would like you to bring it into school to test it against others. - Here are some examples
<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep a journal of what you have done at home. - Write your own story that includes your teacher! - Write a poem about your favourite story character. 	<div data-bbox="576 994 756 1308" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Home Learning for Year 2 Children <u>SPRING TERM 2 2020</u></p>	<div data-bbox="724 517 932 786" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="868 188 1048 495" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write how you made it!
<p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cook with your child. Talk about weight and measure with your child. - Could you measure their height, foot size and keep a diary. - Practise telling the time. When do you go to bed? When do you wake up in the morning? When do you have lunch? - Learn the 2, 5 and 10 times tables out of order - Find 2D shapes on 3D objects around the home. Can you describe how you know that that object is a particular shape. Keep a record of this. 	<p>Staying Active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If possible, go for a walk and look at the plants and birds that are outside. What do they look like? Can you describe them? - Dancing is a great way to stay active. Find your favourite, appropriate song and dance with your child. - Book workout is a great way to read to your child and keep them active. Pick a word that you know will feature in the story and every time it is mentioned your child has to do a jumping jack! - Hoovering and helping with chores is a great way to get children to learn about what happens around the house. 	

Example of a Home Learning timetable

Before 9.00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, get dressed, make bed etc. (A small healthy snack and water available throughout the day will support your child's learning)
Morning activities (Short playtimes throughout the day will benefit your child's concentration).	Go for a walk or do indoor exercising/yoga	We have provided some activities both on the website and in children's packs
	Learning time	Dependent on your child's concentration level and age. This could be online, using activities you have at home or have been provided by the school
	Creative time	Lego or construction, drawing, singing, music, cooking
	Chore time	Help parents with chores which are age appropriate
Lunch time		
Afternoon Activities	Chore time	Clear away lunch, wipe down surfaces, wash hands etc.
	Learning time	Reading Using flash cards Phonic practice Maths games
	Story time	Telling/reading stories/ acting them out
End of home 'school' day		