



# Headteacher's Newsletter

July 2020 ISSUE 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that there are less than 2 weeks left of this school year. We have been really missing our Whitehall families. I would like to thank our parents and families for their support and resilience during this time.

We recently received guidance from the Government regarding children returning to school in September and will contact you with further information as soon as we can. It will take some time to plan a full re-opening so we may not be able to provide you with further information until later on in the Summer holidays.

## Wider opening of the school



Over recent weeks we have made the following decisions regarding the wider opening of the school:

- In May, we undertook extensive risk assessments and, on advice from our Health and Safety advisor and guidance from numerous Government documents, we made the decision not to invite Nursery back to school this term. This is in part due to the fact that, as they are young, Nursery children require a higher level of care from adults that we were not able to safely offer.
- Reception children have all had the chance to return to school from 8th June. In order for us to invite other year groups back to school, **the last day at school for Reception children is Friday 10th July**. We have loved having our Reception children back.
- To assist Year 1 and Year 2 children with preparing for September, we have decided to invite them back to school for in-school sessions during the last week of term.
- Towards the end of June, we sent out a survey to Year 1 and 2 parents to see if they intended to send their child back to school this term and shared the results with them in a letter sent on 1st July.
- Parents were able to respond to the letter in case they didn't complete the survey or changed their mind.
- Parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 who are returning to school next week have been sent letters informing of the arrangements for their child returning to school.

We hope you understand these decisions and our reasons for making them. The safety and happiness of all the children at Whitehall Infant School are of utmost importance.

## Transition

As I am sure you are aware, the transition process for your child will be very different to previous years. Our staff have worked very hard to ensure that your child has the best possible transition into their next school year. I am pleased that we have been able to offer children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 the following:

- A presentation about their next year group
- A class information leaflet to show your child their classroom and teachers
- A phone call from your child's new class teacher
- A video message from your child's new class teacher introducing themselves
- Transition projects to complete over the Summer holidays. Nursery and Reception children have also been given 'All about me' projects to complete.

Careful thought has gone into how best to support our children's wellbeing and to build on previous learning and relationships. We have kept classes the same as this year so your child will be able to keep the friendship groups they have formed.

Children in Year 2 who are attending Whitehall Junior School in September will receive transition information directly from them. As in previous years, we are continuing to work closely with the Junior school to ensure a smooth transition for your child.

I understand that moving to a new class can be a worrying and stressful time for some children. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact us on [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org). We want to ensure that every child has the best possible transition to their next year group.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and suggestions to make transition successful.

## End of year reports

You have been emailed a letter with the date and time your child's report will be available for collection.

Please ensure you only attend the school during your allocated time to collect your child's report to allow us to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Please see the below table for further information:



What if I cannot make this time?	Please email us on <a href="mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org">office@mail.whitehallinf.org</a> as soon as possible.
Can another family collect my child's report?	No, you must collect your child's report as it contains important and personal information regarding your child.
What will the report show?	The report will reflect your child's learning when they were physically in school. We hope you find the report to be informative and that it gives you a good insight into your child's achievements. We also hope that it offers a clear indication of how your child could progress in the future.
Why doesn't the report have information on assessments?	This year, your child will not have any statutory assessment information on their report. This is because they were cancelled due to the pandemic. Please do not worry as staff will know the children, will have spoken to their previous teacher to build a picture of your child and will be assessing children when they return to school.

## Communication



We are continuing to communicate important information with you via email and the website.

We are coming across more and more families who have not informed us of a change of contact details. It is very important that we have the correct contact details for your child. Some teachers have been unable to speak to families due to incorrect telephone numbers. If you have changed your telephone number or email address, please contact us urgently on 01895 590112 to update us.

## Travelling Abroad

It is very important that you keep us updated with where your child is during school term time, especially if you and your family are travelling outside of the UK. We still have a duty of care to every child during this time and need to ensure we follow the correct safeguarding procedures. If your child is abroad or you are planning to take your child abroad soon, please ensure they are back in the UK in time for school to return in September (please remember to allow extra time to quarantine if needed).

## If you would like to speak to us

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please do let us know! Email us on [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org) and we will arrange for you to be contacted.

## Leaving Whitehall Infant School

If your child is not returning to Whitehall Infant School in September (or Whitehall Junior school for children in Year 2), please inform us so we can ensure their new school receives the relevant information about them.

**Please email [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org) by Wednesday 15th July if your child will be leaving our school.**

## Reception Odds Farm Refund

Thank you to all Reception parents who have collected their refund for the cancelled trip to Odds Farm. If you have not yet done so, please collect by **3pm on Thursday 9th July**. If you would prefer to donate your refund to school funds, please email [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org)

## Year 1 and Year 2 project

We have an exciting project for children in Year 1 and Year 2 to complete over the summer holidays.

We would like them to:

- write a letter about themselves (their likes, hobbies, family, etc) to their new class teacher
- Draw, paint or make a collage of their family

I'm sure the children will have lots of fun completing these and it will help their new class teachers get to know them!



# Home Learning

It has been lovely to see the photos of the home learning your child has been completing - keep up the good work! Remember to upload your photos to your class blog.

For a reminder of how to access your child's class blog, visit <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1> and see the Purple mash letter and quick guide.

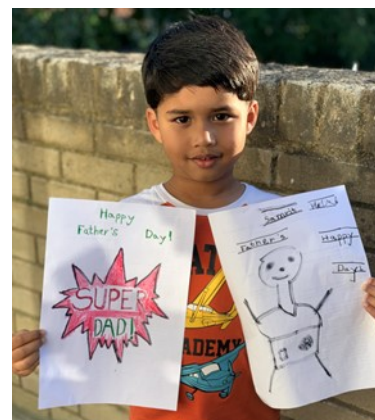
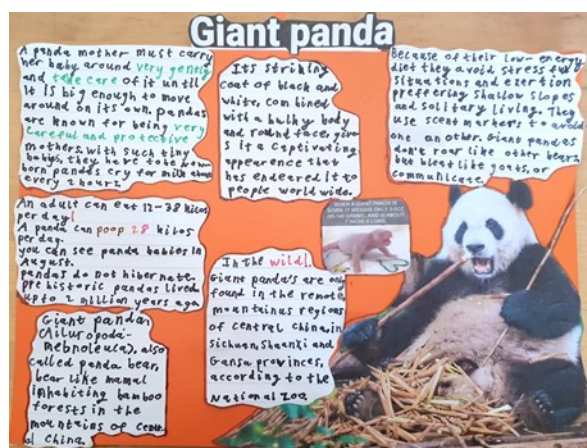
We are continuing to upload the weekly timetables for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to the year group pages on our website. Remember to check your child's year group page regularly for updates.

## Summer Reading Challenge

There's still time to sign your child up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge. It is important that your child is read with regularly, even during the summer holidays.

Visit <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/summerreading> for more information.

**SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE**



# Virtual Sports Week

I hope you all enjoyed taking part in our Virtual Sports Week.

