



Headteacher's Newsletter

December 2020 ISSUE 1

Whitehall Infant School is a five star school with a FRESH approach. We provide five star learning for all, with family at the heart of everything we do. We teach our children to have respect at all times. We want our children to achieve excellence, whilst being safe and happy.



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of a successful term where staff and families have managed to maintain a sense of normality in an otherwise turbulent world.

I am thrilled to be back in time for the Christmas celebrations planned for the rest of this term. I look forward to catching up with parents and families over the coming days.

Mrs Bringan

Communications sent out recently

25/11/20	Communication Survey Results
27/11/20	Transition Questionnaire Results
27/11/20	Reception Home Activities
01/12/20	After school clubs for Spring Term
07/12/20	Message from Mrs Bringan
08/12/20	Reception lunch choice for last day of term

What is Christmas?

In school, children learn about and celebrate a variety of different festivals from many religions and cultures.



Currently, they are learning about Christmas which is the biggest celebration of the year for Christians. Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God.

Class Parties

Wednesday 16th December: Nursery

Thursday 17th December: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Children can come to school in party clothes on their class party day. Please ensure they wear sensible clothing and school shoes or trainers only. Thank you to the Parents' Association who are providing food for the class parties.

Important Dates

Thursday 17th December - Last day for Nursery.

Friday 18th December - School finishes. Please see below for details of the time your child will finish school on this day:

Reception - Larch & Spruce	12:00pm
Reception - Birch & Cedar	12:10pm
Year 1	12:20pm
Year 2	12:25pm

If your child's finish time clashes with the Junior school, please collect your infant child first and then walk through to the field.

Monday 4th January - Children return to school

Wearing of Face Coverings

Thank you to everyone who wears a face covering when dropping off and collecting their child from school.



Please remember, to keep children, parents and staff safe, we are asking all parents / carers to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting their child, unless they are exempt. We ask that face coverings are worn whilst queueing to enter the school and once inside the school grounds.

Christmas Jumper Day



On **Friday 11th December**, children can come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper or Festive Clothing to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and wearing school shoes or trainers only. Due to the current situation, **we cannot accept cash in school** so we are asking parents to make donations via our justgiving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whitehall-infant-school2>.



Christmas Productions



As we cannot have parents into school at the moment, each class will record a Christmas song or poem. This will then be uploaded to Google Classroom for parents to watch. We will inform parents once the videos have been uploaded.

Virtual Open Day

As we are unable to invite prospective parents into school at the moment, we have created a 'Virtual Open Day' on our website including a virtual school tour and presentation about the school.

If you or anyone you know has a child that is due to start nursery or reception next year this page will provide them with useful information about our school.

Visit <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/key-information/admissions/virtual-open-day>

Christmas Cards and Gifts

We recently advised you that children were not allowed to bring cards or gifts into school this year. However, after careful consideration, we are delighted to tell you that we can allow children to bring cards and gifts into school for their classmates and teachers. We will quarantine items for a minimum of 48 hours before they are given out. For this reason, if your child wishes to bring in cards and/or gifts, please ensure they are brought into school **by Tuesday 15th December**. Items brought in after this date unfortunately, will be unable to be sent home until January.



Clothing

We understand that your child may wear extra layers during the winter months but please remember that inside the school is warm.

Your child only needs to wear a vest in addition to their normal school uniform (if required).

They should also be coming to school with a winter coat and hats, scarf and gloves.



Appeal for Spare Clothing

When a child has an accident in school, we need spare clothing available to change them. Unfortunately, this clothing doesn't always get returned to us and we are in need of the following:

Boy's trousers and jumpers - Age 5 to 7

If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them to the main school gate.

School admissions

September 2021

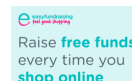
For children due to start Reception in September 2021, you **must** apply for Primary School by **15th January 2021** by visiting <https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary>

Applying for Junior School

For children due to start Junior School in September 2021, you **must** apply for Junior School by **15th January 2021** by visiting <https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/junior-school>

Whitehall Infant School Parents' Association

Support the PA every time you shops online by using Easyfundraising. It's a great site where you can raise money for the school when you shop online at no extra cost to you! To create an account just visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitehallinfantschoolpa>



Attendance

Thank you to everyone who ensures their child is in school at their designated time.

It is very important that your child arrives at school at the correct time. Late arrivals disrupt the classes and the other children's learning.

Attendance since half term:

Whole School	95%
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Nursery AM	96%
Nursery PM	87%
Birch	97%
Cedar	94%

Larch	94%
Spruce	96%
Beech	94%
Elm	94%

Maple	98%
Pine	96%
Flamingo	96%
Kingfisher	92%
Toucan	95%



After School Clubs for Spring Term

We have recently emailed you information regarding our After School clubs for the Spring Term. This information can also be found on our website - <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/parents/breakfast-afterschool>

Emergency procedures

It is important that we ensure all children and staff are familiar with our procedures in case of an emergency (fire, lockdown, etc). Throughout the school year, we regularly practice these procedures.

Foodbank Christmas Appeal

We were overwhelmed with the amount of donations we received for the Hillingdon Foodbank Christmas Appeal. I am so proud of how generous our school community is. This photo is just a small example of the donations received. Hillingdon Foodbank were very grateful for all the donations received,



Christmas Tree Assembly

One of the highlights of the Autumn Term is the Christmas Tree Assembly. The children made decorations for our school Christmas tree. This year, the children had a special virtual assembly where Miss Cheshire read them a Christmas story. The children then all wished for the Christmas tree lights to turn on and they magically did!



Whitehall Value of Happiness

At Whitehall Infant School we embrace the 'Power of Positivity'. Therefore, we would like to celebrate all the positive things our Whitehall community takes part in.

This week, we are celebrating one of our Year 1 children who has decided to donate some of his toys to other children. He has wrapped them up and given them to Hillingdon Foodbank to be given to other children.

Well done Cass for such a lovely, kind gesture!



Walk to School Competition

The London Borough of Hillingdon have now chosen the winners of their Walk to School competition. Although the winners weren't from our school, they were so impressed with all of our entries. Two of our children made it to the shortlist and their work is now displayed on a special page on the Hillingdon website - <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/shoesday>. Well done to everyone who entered!

Hillingdon Autumn Show

I would like to say a huge well done to James Diggins for winning the Hillingdon Under 9's Autumn Show. We are very proud of you!



HomeStart

Are you a parent or grandparent? With 3 - 4 hours per week to spare? Are you looking for a new challenge? Do you know someone else who might be interested?

Our volunteers have such a huge impact in helping families cope when they are finding things really difficult. Professionals like Health Visitors and Children's Centres refer families to us, recognising the difference we can make to issues including post-natal depression, isolation and managing difficult personal circumstances. Full training, support and out of pocket expenses are provided.

Our next (Covid-19 safe) volunteer preparation course will start on the 2nd February 2021. The 9-session course takes place over five weeks, running on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.45am to 14.30pm, with a break over the February half term holiday.

If you would like to find out more, please call 01895 252804
Or Email: office@homestart-hillingdon.org.uk
Find out more about us - www.homestart-hillingdon.org.uk



British Red Cross Kindness Calendar

This year we've seen the power of small acts of kindness. What better way to bring 2020 to a close than to celebrate kindness and friendship with the British Red Cross kindness calendar featuring The Snowman and The Snowdog in partnership with Snowdog Enterprises Ltd. For more details, visit https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/the-snowman-and-snowdog-kindness-calendar?dm_i=6O59.4BB3.1EPNSA.IOH3.1###



Online ordering still available throughout this period!

Monday 7th
Wednesday 9th
Saturday 12th*
Monday 14th
Wednesday 16th
Saturday 19th*

*Faringdon and Uxbridge open 9am-1pm

CHRISTMAS
STORE OPENING

ALL SHOPS CLOSED
20TH DECEMBER - 1ST JANUARY

pmg

TIER 2

HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Open.</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Open.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower)</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

gov.uk/coronavirus

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus



COVID SYMPTOMS AT HOME FLOW CHART

