



Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2021 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,

I would like to say well done to all of you for your hard work. The significant majority of parents are engaging with the remote learning,

Please remember not to be too hard on yourself. It is important that you are looking after your wellbeing and mental health along with your child's.

The days are becoming brighter, we have to remain hopeful that we can all be together in the not so distant future.



Manjit Bringan

Communications sent out recently

22/01/21	Virtual class get together information
02/02/21	Dress to express day
02/02/21	Virtual meetings with our Learning Mentor

Reminder

Monday 15th-Friday 19th February: Half Term

Monday 22nd February: School open for critical worker and vulnerable children.

Dress To Express Day - Friday 5th February

As part of Children's Mental Health week we would like children to take part in 'Dress to express' day by wearing clothing in colours that express how they are feeling. We would like for everyone to get involved in this - either in school or at home and would love for you to share photos of your child's outfit on Google Classroom.

Applying for Nursery

Children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 are eligible to start our school Nursery in September 2021.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for a Nursery place for your child, please visit: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/key-information/admissions/nursery-1>.

We have also created a [Virtual Open Day](#) on our website containing useful information regarding our school along with a video tour.

School Reopening update

I am sure you have all heard the recent update from the Government advising that schools will not reopen before 8th March.

We will update you further as soon as we have more information.

Homework from the Governors

I hope you all enjoyed watching the assembly video from our Chair of Governors, Yona Heyward.

The Governors would love to hear the thoughts of the children at our school. Please remember to complete the work on Google Classroom giving your child's views on our school by **Friday 5th February**.



Request for letters

If you require a letter from the school, please email office@mail.whitehallinf.org asking for a letter request form. Please complete and return the form, providing evidence for the request such as a letter or email from the official body. Responses will be sent within 10 working days. Please note that there is a £10 admin fee for these requests which is used to support welfare.



School values

This half term, we will be focusing on our school values. It is important that, even though we are not all together, we are still upholding the values of our school.

At the moment, we are focusing on the values of **Family** and **Respect**

We would love to see examples of how you and your children are upholding these values (such as respecting the environment, helping to maintain a sense of community, showing kindness to their family). Please email your ideas and photos to office@mail.whitehallinf.org for us to showcase on our website and in our newsletters.



A parent in Spruce class has kindly donated craft packs which have been distributed to some children.

School Defibrillator

We have recently purchased a defibrillator for our school. Hopefully we won't have a need to use this but, as a school, we should be prepared by having one just in case.



Stationary packs and additional mobile data

We have recently given out some stationary packs and SIM cards with additional mobile data to assist children with remote learning.

If you are in need of a stationary pack or SIM card with additional mobile data, please let us know by emailing office@mail.whitehallinf.org.

Attendance Reminders

- ◆ Please remember to let us know if there is a positive Covid-19 case within your household, even if your child has not been attending school. This is so that we can keep an accurate record of any children that would be absent from school for reasons related to Coronavirus,
- ◆ Travelling abroad during the current lockdown is against the law except for work that cannot be done from home, medical appointments or educational reasons. If you are abroad or will be travelling abroad, please ensure you let us know.

Lockdown Reminders

- * Do not meet with friends or family outside of your household or support bubble.
- * You can exercise outdoors but only with 1 person not from your household.
- * Please do not share a car with anyone outside of your household.
- * Wear a mask in all required places (shops, school, etc) unless you are exempt.
- * Regularly wash and sanitise your hands.
- * Book a test if you are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus.



New Community Lateral Flow Testing Centre Harlington Young People's Centre

From 25th January, Hillingdon residents can book a Lateral flow test at Harlington Young People's Centre, Pinkwell Lane, Hayes, UB31PE.

This testing is supplied by NHS Test and Trace and is available to all Hillingdon residents who are not showing any COVID-19 symptoms but may be asymptomatic and, inadvertently, passing the virus on to others.

You can only get an asymptomatic test if you book an appointment in advance. Lateral Flow testing is also available at other sites across the borough.

More information, check availability and book a test:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/community-testing>



Perform are running online drama, dance and singing classes during the lockdown via Zoom.



All children are welcome to try a Free Trial Session. For more information, visit <https://www.perform.org.uk/free-drama-class>.

We will be sharing information about our Whitehall Infant School Family in our newsletters.

Staff Profile - Mrs Mayo, Finance & Communications Officer



How long have you worked at Whitehall Infant School?

I have worked here for 3 and a half years.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and our dog. I also enjoy reading.

What is your favourite meal?

I love enchiladas and other Mexican meals.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?

I really enjoyed history and photography.

What is your favourite school value and why?

My favourite school value is 'Family'. This is because family is the most important thing to me and I feel it is important to look after our families.

Remote Learning

It has been lovely to see some of our children on our **Virtual class get togethers**. Please accept our apologies for the technical issues we have had with these which have now been sorted. We hope your child is enjoying being able to see their class teacher and classmates. Remember that we will be holding these every **Monday and Friday at 9:30am**. Links to the get togethers will be posted on Google Classroom.

Remember to regularly check the year group pages on our website using the links below. We will continue to add relevant year group information, links and home learning photos to these pages:

Nursery: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/nursery>

Reception: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/reception>

Year 1: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/year-1>

Year 2: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/year-2>

Online Safety

It is important to keep your child safe when they are using the internet. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> has some really useful information to help you do this.



There is also lots of information on the Esafety page of our website: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/curriculum/e-safety>

Google Classroom device instructions

We have recently put together some instructions for accessing google classroom on different devices. These can be found on our website:

<https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/home-and-remote-education>



Google Classroom

Home Learning Activities

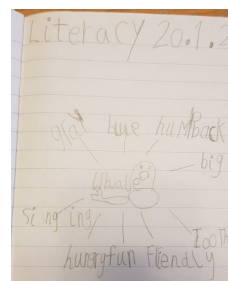
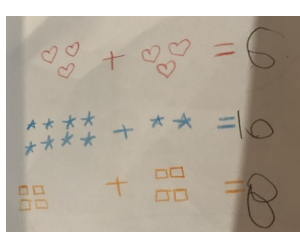
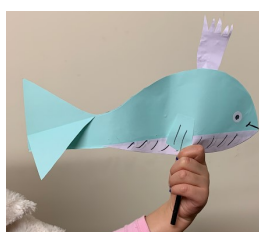
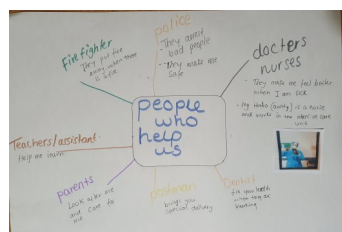
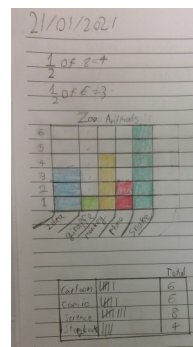
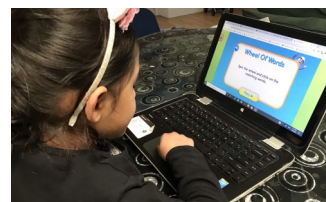
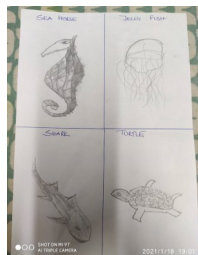
There are a range of free home learning activities that are currently available from other companies. For information on some of the activities that we have found, please visit <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/home-learning-activities-from-other-sources>. We will regularly update this page.

If you have details of a home learning activity that is not on our website, please email it to us on office@mail.whitehallinf.org.

Free online resources for library members

Hillingdon libraries are offering access to many free online resources such as BorrowBox (borrow ebooks), KidSpeak (a language learning programme for children), Transparent Language (more than 100 language courses), Ziptales (interactive stories for children) and many others! Visit <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/online-resources>

Below are some home learning photos. For more photos, please visit your child's year group page.



Mental Wellbeing

This week is children's mental health week. There is a lot of free resources available on <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> to help you to look after your child's mental wellbeing. Click on the images below to access some great videos.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

BAFTA Kids Oak National Academy

Free virtual assembly

Watch our virtual assembly with BAFTA Kids and Oak National Academy, featuring pupils and some famous faces.

A message from our Royal Patron

Watch our Royal Patron HRH The Duchess of Cambridge's video message to mark the start of the Children's Mental Health Week.

Draw Your Feelings

Try this simple Draw Your Feelings activity with your children. Created by Place2Be's Art Room team.

Squiggle Game

Have a go at this 1 minute Squiggle game with your children. Created by Place2Be's Art Room team.

relax Kids

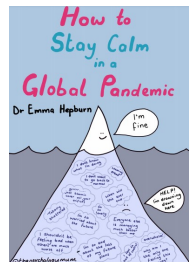
SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK FEB 1-7

PACK INCLUDES: SET OF CARDS, CHECKLIST OF CREATIVITY, SQUIGGLE DRAWING, MAGIC STORY WORKSHEET

Download your FREE **Express Yourself** activity pack including a set of cards.

www.relaxkids.com

<https://www.hachette.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/How-to-Stay-Calm-in-a-Global-Pandemic-Free-ebook.pdf>



Supporting your child during the coronavirus pandemic

Tips, advice and where to get support for your child's mental health during the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Parenting support

We are offering zoom meetings with our Learning mentor for any parents who need some guidance or help with parenting or issues they are having at home.

The role of our learning mentor is to support parents and children to ensure that all children are able to engage with their learning.

To request one of these meetings, please complete the below form by **9am on Friday 5th February**:

<https://forms.gle/aTJuMB4nVVa5pDgE6>

#TimeToTalk

Let's start talking

Together we will end mental health stigma

time to change time to talk day 04/02/21

The power of small

- Ask questions and listen
Show you want to know how someone is really doing
- Don't try and fix it
Often just listening is enough
- Keep it simple
Chat over a cuppa, send a text or go for a walk
- You don't have to be an expert
Just being there means a lot
- A small conversation about mental health has the power to make a big difference

Funded by: Department of Health & Social Care, COMIC RELIEF, COMMUNITY FUND

Run by: mind, Rethink Mental Illness

FEBRUARY HALF TERM



5-18
YEARS

BOOK
NOW



Come and join our club this Valentines

These activities are available to children and young people with a disability and or additional needs who require support to access social, play and leisure opportunities.

3 Jardine House Harrowian Business Village Bessborough Rd Harrow HA1 3EX
Tel: 020 8423 7382 E-mail: cyp@harrowmencap.org.uk



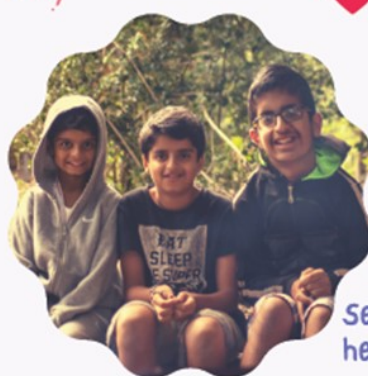
Come and enjoy our wide
range of Community and centre
based activities in Hillingdon

Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb
10:30am-3:30pm

Contact us on

0203 948 0544

cyp@harrowmencap.org.uk



Sending you
hedgehugs!



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What's
on...

February Fun Quiz

Virtual event via Zoom

Monday 08 February

2.30pm to 3.15pm

Stay in the warm and keep your mind
active with our fun quiz

Suitable for all the family
To book your place, please email
westdrayton-library@hillington.gov.uk
with the following details:

- Your name
- Names and ages of your child(ren) if applicable
- Your phone number

For more information please speak to a member of staff
or visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries.

Healthy Heart Month



Create your own Bird Feeder

Calling all 6 to 10 year old children and their families to join
staff from Botwell Green Library on Microsoft Teams for a
special online workshop to make a DIY bird feeder

Saturday 13 February

2pm to 2.45pm

For this event you will need to following resources:
Kitchen/toilet roll (cardboard tube-recycled material), bird food
(seeds), Butter/peanut butter, string, popsicle stick (optional)

To book your place, please email
botwellgreen-library@hillington.gov.uk with the following information:

Parent/ Guardian name
Names and ages of your child(ren)
Your phone number
Your email address



ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW STRAIN OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
gov.uk/coronavirus