



Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2021 ISSUE 2

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,

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the Spring Term.

I want to thank everyone for all of their hard work during this half term.

You as parents have done an amazing job with helping your child with their remote learning whilst looking after their mental wellbeing.

The staff have worked hard teaching the children in school and providing remote education for those at home. We are grateful for having such a supportive school community.

I hope you all have a well deserved rest during half term.

Manjit Bringan



Communications sent out recently

09/02/21	Mayor's Photography Competition
10/02/21	Road Safety Competition
12/02/21	Media consent form
12/02/21	Parent Survey

Reminder

Monday 15th-Friday 19th February: Half Term (school closed)

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

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

The Prime Minister is due to provide a plan on the 22nd February for England to come out of the National Lockdown.

We hope to know more after this date of the plan for schools reopening. We will update you as soon as we have further information.

Today is Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. In school children have been learning about this celebration. Children in Reception have been making streamers and learning a dance. Happy Chinese New Year to everyone celebrating! 春节快乐!



Media Consent Form

We have recently emailed you requesting that you complete a media consent form. We really value using photos and videos of our pupils, to be able to showcase what pupils do in school and show what life at our school is like to others and require your consent to enable us to do this. **Please complete and email the form to office@mail.whitehallinf.org by Wednesday 24th January.** A copy of the form can also be accessed here: [Media Consent Form](#)

Parent Survey

At Whitehall Infant School we value feedback from our parents and carers. We recently sent you a link to a survey which will help us to support your child's learning during the partial school closure.

Please complete the survey by **Wednesday 24th January:**

<https://forms.gle/3vbbnmCJNpGSGdtE9>

Pancake Day and Lent



Pancake day (Tuesday 16th February), also known as Shrove Tuesday, marks the start of the Christian festival of Lent.

Lent is the time of year when Christians prepare for Easter. It lasts for 40 days and ends the day before Easter Sunday.

During **Lent**, many Christians give up something they enjoy such as chocolate or sweets in memory of Jesus Christ, who is said to have fasted for 40 days in the desert.

Children in school have been learning about these celebrations.





Thank you to Freddie & Theo Ferrell for donating puzzles and books for families in need.

New Zebra Crossing on Whitehall Road

We are pleased to inform you that the London Borough of Hillingdon will shortly be installing a zebra crossing on Whitehall Road. This will help keep our school families safe when using this road to come to school. They are hoping to complete this work during half term to minimise disruption to the school. Thank you to Mr Coleshill for his work on this project.



School values

This half term, we have been 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. We have been focusing on the values of  **Family** and  **Respect**

Our value of FAMILY is key to remote education. Without family support, remote education could not happen. Our class virtual get togethers also promote our Whitehall Family.

Children in school have been working on our value of RESPECT by developing their understanding and knowledge of respect for themselves and others. Nursery are being kind to one another, Reception are showing each other respect by sharing, Year 1 have been listening to others share stories that they have written, Year 2 have been learning about respecting our environment along with how to communicate online with respect as part of safer internet day.

Travelling abroad

I am sure you are aware that travelling abroad during lockdown is against the law except for certain reasons. If you do have to travel abroad during half term, please ensure you follow the procedures in place for quarantining. Please inform us if you or your child will be travelling abroad. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Road Safety Competition

KS1 Road Safety Story Book
Drawing Competition:
'Captain Safety!'

The Hillingdon School Travel and Road Safety Team are running a Road Safety Competition for children in Year 1 and 2. For details of the competition and how to enter, please read the attached document: [KS1 Road Safety Story Book Competition](#)

Mayor's 'Feel Good' photography competition

We recently sent you information regarding the Mayor of Hillingdon's 'Feel Good' photography competition. To take part and for more information, visit <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/6670/Mayors-Feel-Good-Photography-Competition>

Ideas for Half Term

With many places not open at the moment, you may be looking to find ways to keep your child entertained this half term. We have created a new page on our website providing links to some fun, free activities that your child could do - <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/home-learning-activities-from-other-sources>

You could also try spending some time in nature and take a Spring walk - you could use our checklist to see what you can spot: [Spring Hunt Checklist](#)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/go-birdwatching/> has a great downloadable tick sheet and tips for bird watching.

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

Staff Profile - Mr Coleshill, School Business Manager



How long have you worked at Whitehall Infant School?

I have worked for Whitehall Infant School for just over 4 years.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I play the occasional round of golf and am the Chair of Governors at another school in Hillingdon.

What is your favourite meal?

Donner kebab!

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?

I enjoyed Maths and Music (I played a brass instrument in the school band).

What is your favourite school value and why?

I believe everyone who comes to Whitehall Infant School should feel safe. A big part of my role in the school is to ensure the building and grounds are as safe as they can be for everyone.

Remote Learning

I would like to say a huge well done to you for supporting your child's learning during this half term! You have done an amazing job. On the last page of this newsletter there is a printable certificate that you can print and your child can colour in.

Teachers will not be setting any daily work over half term - take this time to relax and have some fun!

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>

Safer Internet Day

This week we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Children learnt about how to keep themselves safe when using the internet. We have some useful information for parents on the ESafety page of our website: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/curriculum/e-safety>. Below are some links to information to help you keep your child safe online (click on the image to access the document or website).

What parents need to know about YouTube

SPENDING A PREMIUM
YouTube Premium (formerly YouTube Red) is a new paid subscription service to the UK, offering ad-free videos, background play, and offline viewing. It costs £10.99 a month. The service is available to users aged 18 and over. It is not available in some countries.

SHARING VIDEOS
As well as watching videos, many children are keen to share their own. YouTube has a feature called 'Share' which allows children to share videos with friends. However, it is important to remember that sharing videos can be dangerous. Children should never share videos of themselves or others without permission. They should also be careful not to share videos that are inappropriate or harmful.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE VIDEOS
YouTube is the largest video sharing website in the world. It has a vast range of videos, many of which are not suitable for children. Parents should be aware that children can find videos that are inappropriate or harmful. They should be encouraged to report such videos to YouTube.

DANGEROUS CHALLENGE
On YouTube, children can see a range of videos, some of which are dangerous. These are often called 'challenges'. Children should be encouraged to report such videos to YouTube.

IN-APP MESSAGING
YouTube has a feature called 'In-App Messaging' which allows children to message each other. Parents should be aware that this can be dangerous. Children should never message strangers.

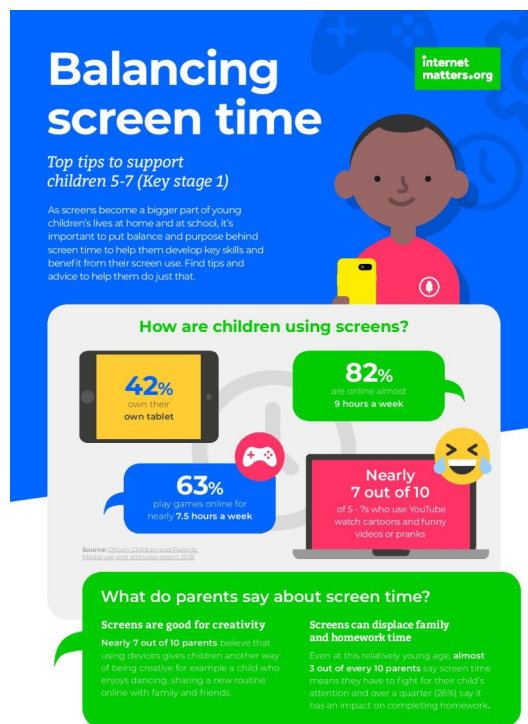
BLOCKING ACCOUNTS
YouTube has a feature called 'Blocking Accounts' which allows parents to block accounts that are inappropriate or harmful. Parents should be encouraged to use this feature.

MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS WATCHING
Parents should be encouraged to monitor what their child is watching on YouTube. They should be encouraged to report any inappropriate or harmful videos to YouTube.

POPULAR YOUTUBE GAMERS
YouTube has a large number of popular gamers. Parents should be aware that these gamers can be dangerous. Children should never play games with strangers.

DIGITAL WELLBEING
YouTube has a feature called 'Digital Wellbeing' which allows parents to monitor their child's screen time. Parents should be encouraged to use this feature.

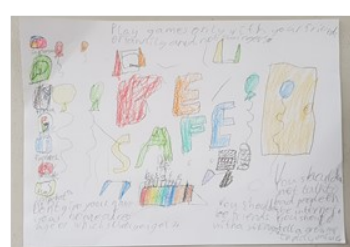
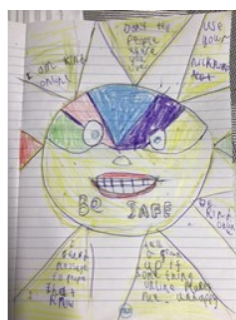
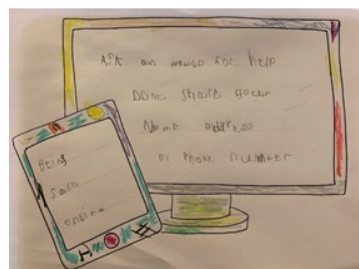
National Online Safety
For more information, visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com



More pre-schoolers are getting their own tablets or borrowing their parents' devices to play games, use apps, and watch their favourite TV shows. See advice on simple things you can do to make sure they're using the internet safely at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

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



Mental Wellbeing

Take time over half term to look after your and your child's mental wellbeing.

We have created a new page on our website containing useful tips and information for supporting mental wellbeing: <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/parents/mental-wellbeing>

Parenting support

Our Learning Mentor held meeting this week with parents who had requested our support. We hope these parents found the meeting to be useful.

If you would like support with behaviour, routines or anything that is affecting your child in engaging with their learning, please email office@mail.whitehallinf.org

Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds)

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different direction and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual.

A mixture of concern about covid, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

Find the help finder here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

When emotions explode (Young Minds)

Young Minds have also created a useful poster highlighting ways to give support to children when they have angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.

Download the poster here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4291/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf>

Screen Savers: Looking after your eyes, body and mind when using screens (Beacon House)

We are spending more time online than ever before, possibly sitting and working with poor posture as we use makeshift desks and chairs. There is a tendency to take fewer breaks and less exercise and this is affecting our physical well-being.

Beacon House the specialist, therapeutic service for young people, families and adults has produced a series of six posters outlining ways to keep safe and alert when working at home, whether children or adults.

Download the posters here: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Screen-Savers-1.pdf>

Further Beacon House resources can be found on their website here: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/resources/>

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

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Well done to:

For your hard work this half
term!

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Thank you

for helping me with my
home learning.