



Friday 22nd October

Headteacher's Newsletter

October 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 at the end of the first half term for this academic year. It has been great to see all our children enjoying being back at school and the excellent relationships that are being formed between staff, families and the children.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to Mr Brooks (Colin) our Premises Assistant who is retiring on Friday 22nd October and therefore leaving us. To all our parents new to the school or those who maybe don't know Colin, he has been with us for 4 years as premises assistant, however he has been involved with our school for much longer, in the past sharing his love of gardening with our pupils. Colin has worked as part of a team to keep our school safe and clean, we will miss him very much but we wish him all the very best for his future.

I would like to wish everybody a wonderful half term and to thank everybody, especially our pupils who have made a fantastic start to the school year.

Wishing you all a lovely half term, I hope you get time to rest and recharge.

Mrs Bringan

Headteacher

Diwal— Non school uniform day!

To celebrate Diwali the children can come to school in traditional or their own clothes on **Friday November 4th 2021**. Diwali is the Hindu and Sikh festival of light and celebrates the victory of good over evil. The children will be learning about this more in class.



Parent Teachers Association

We urgently need parent volunteers to join our Parents Association. Unfortunately we have had to cancel our planned coffee morning due to COVID. Our next upcoming event which we would appreciate help with is our Christmas Fair on 11th December 2021

If you are interested helping or would just like to understand more about the role please call the school office on **01895590112** and ask to speak to

Mrs St Flour.

Half Term	Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October Staff training day Monday 1st November 2021
Back to school	Tuesday 2nd November 2021



Remember that the clocks go back by 1 hour on Sunday 31st October 2021

Reminder

Please ensure that no holidays are booked during term time. If you are planning to travel abroad in half term, please ensure you are aware of all quarantine requirements in place and know that these are subject to change. Please visit the below website for up to date information.

[COVID travel guidance](#)

If you require any special leave requests then they must be made in writing to our Head Teacher Mrs Bringan

Summer Reading Challenge



A very big well done to all our pupils who took part in the summer reading challenge.

Reading is such a vital part of a child's education. It helps increase both their vocabulary and comprehension skills. It also helps children to recognise sounds, words and language and early literacy skills.

Well done to everybody - Keep reading !

BREAKFAST CLUB

Available every day during term time from 07.30am with breakfast provided. Spaces are limited so if you would like a place for your child please email the school office. office@mail.whitehallinf.org

ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2022

Applying for Nursery School

For children due to start Nursery in September 2022, you must apply direct to the school.

If your child's date of birth falls between **01st September 2017 and 31st August 2018**, then you can apply for entry in September 2022. Please email the school office directly with any questions : office@mail.whitehallinf.org

Applying for Primary School

For children due to start Reception in September 2022 you must apply for a Primary School place by **Saturday 15th January 2022**. Applications should be made online at :

<https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary>

Applying for Junior School—for Year 2 onwards

For children due to start Junior School in September 2022, you must apply for a Junior School place by **Saturday 15th January 2022**. Applications should be made online at:

<https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/junior-school>



New Admissions September 2022 Open Mornings - Change to our original communication

Due to the recent news on the current COVID numbers we have decided that in order to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff members , we won't be offering any face to face open mornings as originally planned for the week commencing November 8th 2021.

After half term we will be inviting you to join our virtual tour and talk which will be available from **November 8th 2021**.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Bringan

Online Safety

At Whitehall Infant School we take the online safety of our pupils very seriously. As a school we ensure that only sites appropriate to your child's learning can be accessed whilst at school. During our school day we do overhear our pupils speaking about things they have seen either on television , internet or computer games and sometimes hear them say that is makes them feel scared. In these instances the school would speak directly to the parents to make them aware. We appreciate that as a parent it is becoming increasingly difficult to know what your child is doing all the time especially when accessing the internet.

We hope the tips and links below help you to both speak to your children about the internet and to know how you can manage what they see.

1. **Your in control** - Make sure you use the parental controls for any internet enabled devices. Your broadband providers website should be able to help you on how to do this. Also try to limit screen time to set times in the day.
2. **Search safely** - Use safe search engines such as kids—search.com or you can also activate safe search settings on Google, YouTube etc. More information can be found at [Google](https://www.google.com/safesearch/)
3. **Check if it's appropriate** - age ratings shown on games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram. Don't forget what you or older siblings are watching or searching online whilst younger children are around.
4. **Talk to your children** - Talk to your child about the boundaries of what they can and can't look at. Ask them what they are searching online and take a look to see if they are using an appropriate site.
5. **Finally visibility** - Where possible have any internet enabled devices in the family space so that you can see and share in what they are looking at.

Great website for help and resources is [Internet Matters.Org](https://www.internetmatters.org/)

School Uniform and Book bags

Please ensure that all school uniform including book bags have your child's name written on the label inside the clothing, for the book bag you can write their name on the front.

Example



If you have any Whitehall owned school uniform at home can you please return. We are running very low on spare uniform, knickers and tights, which we use when children have accidents or have been unwell. If you have any spare uniform that your child has out-grow or would be able to make a

Welfare Reminders

Attendance

- A number of parents are not calling when their child is absent. The welfare officer is spending a great deal of their day calling home to find out why pupils are not at school.
- If your child is unwell, please ensure you call the school on 01895 590112 by **08.30am**. Select Option 1 and leave an absence voicemail, stating your child's full name and class.
- Please leave a voicemail for each school day that your child is absent.
- If your child is suffering from Diarrhoea or Vomiting then please ensure that you allow 48hrs before returning them to school.
- Further information can be found on the Hillingdon Borough website - [Attendance at School](#)

Late arrival procedure

The school gates will be locked each day at 08.50am. If you arrive late you should report to reception and let us know that you have arrived. A member of staff will then come and collect your child and take them to class. Please do your best to arrive on time as this allows for your child to have a better start to their school day. Late arrivals cause disruption to a pupils learning and can also cause them to feel stressed.

COVID 19 - INFORMATION AND UPDATES

The Covid Guidance has changed. Please find details below by clicking on the link:

[What Parents and Carers Need to know](#)

We are still asking you to keep your child at home if they have any symptoms (a new continuous cough or a high temperature or loss/change to your sense of smell or taste), and to get a PCR test.

A pupil cannot return to school until they have had a negative PCR test, which you can book on the below site:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

or you can call 119.

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.

The Government target is for pupils to have at least **95%** attendance rate. Below are our attendance number for the first half term.

Nursery AM	86%
Nursery PM	75%
Birch	88%
Cedar	92%
Larch	88%
Spruce	93%

Beech	85%
Elm	92%
Maple	93%
Pine	80%
Flamingo	93%
Kingfisher	93%
Toucan	90%
Peacock	96%

Are you an Attendance HERO?

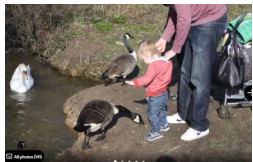
Here
Every day
Ready
On Time

Half Term Ideas

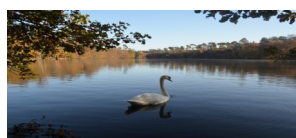
[Denham Country Park](#) - Denham Country Park is a 69-acre public park and Local Nature Reserve in Buckinghamshire and the London Borough of Hillingdon. It spans 42 acres , has woodland trails, a play area and a café.



[Aquadrome Rickmansworth](#) - This popular area has a number of attractive walks around the lakes or along the River Colne and Grand Union Canal. It also has a child's play area and a café. Parking is free.



[Black Park](#) - Black Park covers over 500 acres of woodland, heathland and open space in South Buckinghamshire. With family friendly attractions, such as the adventure playground and [Go Ape](#), (which is chargeable) , miles of beautiful woodland tracks and trails, and opportunities for wildlife spotting.



[Swakeleys Park](#) - Based in Ickenham , it has a pond, exercise area and a large play zone for children.



[Fassnidge Park](#)— Fassnidge Park is a popular open space situated in the heart of Uxbridge. Fassnidge Park offers a bowling green, tennis courts, playground and skate park.



Nursery Parents Message - Half Term Activity

We recently sent home an email to all Nursery Parents with some pointers on how you can develop your child's independence . We also put some links on the past weeks newsletters.

It would be great if you would work on these during the half term.

Join the Library for a world of fun

Our libraries are a lot more than just somewhere to borrow a book!

Please ensure your child is a member of the library.

Take a look and see what they have on offer using the Libraries link below.

[Libraries](#)

Design a Christmas Card Competition - Hillingdon - Deadline Friday October 29th.

Hillingdon Borough are inviting residents of all ages to submit a festive image related to the borough for this years Hillingdon corporate Christmas card. We would love to encourage our pupils to take part.

The Winning entry will be selected by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards.

Email corporatecommunications@hillington.gov.uk with your name, age and home town, plus your entry,

ensuring your image is in the format of either a jpeg or a pdf attachment. Closing date for all entries direct is Friday October 29th.

Good Luck!

Exciting News!

Dear Parents,

We are excited to once again provide access to **Reading Eggs**, **Reading Eggspress** and **MathSeeds**.

These award winning programmes will support your child to develop their reading and maths skills on a computer or tablet device. Children can learn at their own pace in a personalised, interactive and safe way. Use Reading Eggs and MathSeeds at home at any time to support their learning and boost their confidence.

Through **Reading Eggspress**, children can also access a huge online library of 2500+ e-books!

Simply log in at app.readingeggs.com/login

Your children's username and password can be found inside their yellow reading record! It looks like this:



Reading Eggs

Login: aally Year: Rec

Password: pick

www.readingeggs.com

Please visit our school website's [remote learning page](#) to see more helpful guidance for using both Reading Eggs and MathSeeds!ews!



Parent Meetings

Thank you to everyone who has attended their parent meeting with their child's class teacher this week. It has been wonderful to hear how positive the meetings have been and how we are working together as a team to support the learning and development of all our children.

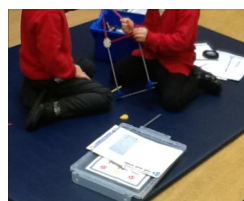
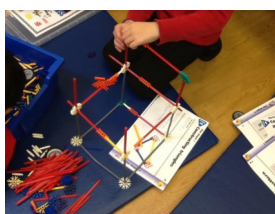
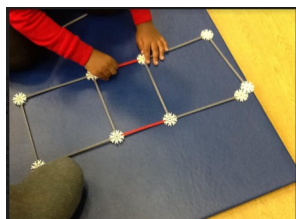
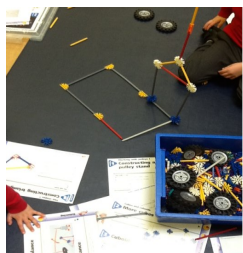
If you haven't been able to attend your session then please arrange a new appointment direct with your class teacher.

Spruce, Elm and Cedar class will be sent new Parent Meeting invites after half term as we had to postpone due to staff sickness. Thank you for your understanding.

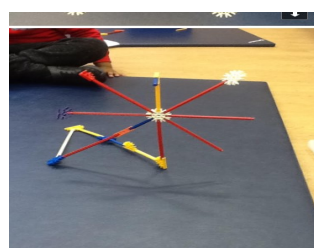
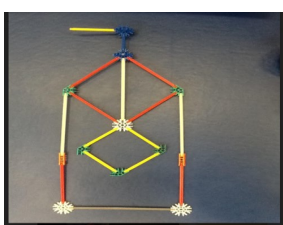
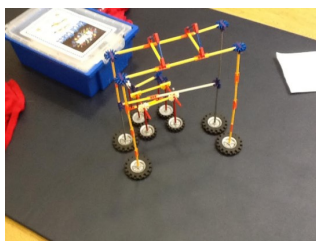
Class Activities

This week all children took part in the K'nex Challenge as part of the Engineer' Week . During the challenge, the children were asked to construct a familiar landmark. Year One created models of landmarks in Uxbridge, while Year Two created models of London Landmarks. The children really enjoy the challenge and all were able to work as part of a team. All succeeded in constructing some fantastic landmark models.

K'nex Year One - Uxbridge / Local Landmarks




K'nex pictures - London Landmarks Year Two



Nursery Autumn Walk

Nursery have been finding out what do leaves change colours? We took the class on an autumn walk , we talked about all the different colours that they could see , understanding why leaves change colour as the seasons change.

Updated Lunch Menu

<div>  <h1>WEEKLY MENU</h1> <p>Please note Dishes may vary due to local choice at your school</p> <p>(v) = vegetarian</p> </div>					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1 w/c 30th August 20th September 11 th October 08 th November 29 th November	Chicken Madras with Rice Halal Chicken Madras with Rice Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Jelly with Fruit Wedges	Beef Burger with Baked Wedges Halal Beef Burger with Baked Wedges Macaroni Cheese (v) Chocolate Cake with Custard	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Halal Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Tomato & Basil Pasta (v) Apple Flapjack with Fruit Wedges	Chicken Stir Fried Noodles Halal Chicken Stir Fried Noodles Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans (v) Oat & Raisin Cookie with Orange Wedges	Breaded Fish with Chips Cheesy Tortilla Stack with Chips (v) Mixed Fruit Salad
Week 2 w/c 6th September 27th September 18 th October 15 th November 06 th December	Lamb Shepherd's Pie Halal Lamb Shepherd's Pie Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (v) or with tuna mayonnaise Chocolate Mousse with Orange Wedges	Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice Halal Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice Macaroni Cheese (v) Lemon Sponge with Custard	Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Halal Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Quorn Roast with Roast Potatoes & Gravy (v) Vanilla Ice Cream with Fruit Wedges	Chicken Sausages with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Halal Chicken Sausages with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Veggie Sausages with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (v) Chocolate Marble Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Breaded Fish Fingers with Chips Homemade Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chips (v) Strawberry Jelly with Watermelon Wedges
Week 3 w/c 13th September 4th October 01 st November 22 nd November 13 th December	Beef Spaghetti Bolognese Halal Beef Spaghetti Bolognese Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans (v) Apple Sponge with Custard	Piri Piri Chicken with Rice Halal Piri Piri Chicken with Rice Macaroni Cheese (v) Lemon Shortbread Biscuit with Fruit Wedges	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Halal Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Vegetable Pinwheel with Roast Potatoes & Gravy (v) Strawberry Ice Cream with Fruit Wedges	Lamb curry with rice Halal lamb curry with rice Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans (v) Carrot & Pineapple Cake with Custard	Breaded Fish with Chips Cheesy Tortilla Stack with Chips (v) Fresh Fruit Salad Topped with Natural Yoghurt



KEY DATES

Applications for Nursery / Primary and Junior school are open	Wednesday 1st September 2021 - Saturday 15th January 2022
Half Term - School Closed	Monday 25th - Friday 29th October 2021 School re opens Tuesday 2nd November 2021
Staff Training Day	Monday 1st November 2021 - School Closed
Christmas Card Competition	Friday 29th October 2021 (Deadline) Thursday 21st October if sending via school office
Clocks go back 1 hour	Sunday 31st October 2021
Non School Uniform Day for Diwali	Friday 5th November 2021