



# Headteacher's Newsletter

December 2021

*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,



Here we are nearly at the end of our first term. I want to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment. The beginning of an academic year brings much challenge and I am impressed with how well children are settled and how much progress has been made. With the pandemic still very relevant in our lives I am especially proud of how we have worked together as a family to ensure that our children's wellbeing and learning continues.

We are all ready for a rest and ready to enjoy family time over the holidays. Our thoughts are also with families who are going to be missing loved ones this year. It is an uncertain time again this Christmas with the government responding to the impact of the new variant. All we can do is keep ourselves and our families safe.

Thank you to everyone for making this term so successful. We have worked well as a family to support the children in their learning. On behalf of the staff and governors I want to wish you a happy holiday and joyous start to the New Year!

Mrs Bringan

## **End of term timings—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

Term ends on Friday 17th December 2021 for reception, year 1 and year 2.

We will continue with a staggered finish time even though we are finishing earlier. Please see below for timings.

Year Group	Class	Time
Reception	Larch & Spruce	12:00pm
Reception	Cedar & Birch	12:10pm
Year 1	All classes	12:15pm
Year 2	All classes	12:20pm

Children will be provided with a packed lunch at school on the last day of term.

## **Nursery**

Nursery term ends on Thursday 16th December at the usual time for each session.

## **Start of Spring Term**

All children will be back to school on **Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

We look forward to welcoming you back.

## **Christmas Party Day Thursday 16th December**

On Thursday it is a school party day for all year groups! Your child can come to school dressed in party clothes which are appropriate for the weather. Please ensure sensible shoes- school shoes/trainers are worn.



# Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch 2021

A big thank you to our catering company staff and who provided a delicious Christmas lunch. The lunch was enjoyed by everyone.

It was lovely to see so many children and staff wearing their Christmas jumpers in support of Save the Children- thank you for your generous donations. The total amount collected was £220. This total does not include any online donations.




## Christmas Productions

Each year group has worked together to put on a show for Christmas. These have been filmed by classes and have then been edited and put together to make up a Christmas show. Thank you to Mrs Caba and Mr Ball for all the ICT work. Productions will be put on Google Classroom on Wednesday 15th December for you to enjoy.

There are instructions on how to access Google classroom attached to the end of this newsletter and can be found on our website <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/home-and-remote-education>

Here you will find a range of instructions about how to access Google Classroom on different devices. Please be aware if you try and access Google Classroom via your own email address you will not gain entry. You must access Google Classroom through your child's log in information.

Where are my child's log in details?	Your child's log in details will be <b>inside</b> their reading record and will look like this:  If you cannot locate this, please email <a href="mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org">office@mail.whitehallinf.org</a> and we will send it to you.
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I am so proud of the children and staff who have worked within our covid restrictions to practice their singing and acting. It is clear how much confidence the children have gained in the way they perform.

## Reading at Home

The holidays are a time for children to relax and have time with their families.

I am looking forward to catching up with my reading and would like the children to have a chance to try and make time for reading.



## Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds

You will have seen in a previous newsletter that we have purchased the license for Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds again this year.

Feedback from children and parents over the last year was positive and children really enjoyed the games and additional practice in these crucial areas.

Reading Eggs also has a large online library of books that children can read.

Your child has their log in information in their reading records. Please ensure that you do log on with your child so that they can access these resources. Teachers have introduced these resources to children in the classrooms.

For further instructions on how to access Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds please visit:

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

Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the instructions. Please email the school if you have any difficulties or speak to the class teacher.



## Learning at Whitehall—Last Week of Term

The countdown to Christmas started last week and it is always a very special time of the year for all. Our Christmas tree in the hall was beautifully decorated with hand crafted decorations by the children in all year groups and each child was able to hang up their own decoration on the tree during our Christmas Tree Assembly.

Whilst Christmas is a very busy time with lots of creative activities, it is important to remember why Christmas is celebrated. Christmas is an important celebration for all Christians and Non-Christians too around the world.

In Nursery we have read the 'Christmas Story' which is about the birth of baby Jesus and talked about key vocabulary. We also talked about how it is celebrated as well as comparing similarities to other festivals that we have celebrated so far eg Diwali.

In Reception children have been learning about how and why Christmas is celebrated, retelling the nativity story and using songs and crafts to understand the cultural side of Christmas as part of the Early Years 'Understanding of the World' area of learning.

In Year One the children also learnt about how Christmas is celebrated by Christians all over the world and how they celebrate with different traditions depending on their culture.

Year Two have been learning about the different ways Christmas is celebrated from one family to the next including which aspects of Christmas are most important to different people e.g. for some it is about Jesus whilst for others it's about family time and togetherness. Their Christmas performance also links to this. Year Two are also focusing on our school value of Respect and respecting the practises of others. Children have also discussed the reasons for the giving of gifts at Christmas - linking it to gift giving in other faith celebrations.

As a school, we understand that this time of year can be very busy with lots of activities happening for children to enjoy. We try to keep to our usual routine as much as possible to support children to self regulate and support them in advance with any changes that may occur.

## **Attendance and Term Dates**

Please ensure that you bring your child to school on time. Each day we see the same children brought in late. The late arrival has an impact on many levels. Please consider this when you plan your departure time allowing for traffic etc. Punctuality is an important trait which we want our children to value as they develop habits which will remain in the future.

Governors have approved the dates for the following academic year which begins in **September 2022**. Please find these dates at the end of the newsletter. I would urge parents to consider these dates before booking any holidays. Term time leave is unauthorised in line with our published Attendance Policy. I have also attached this academic year's term dates as a reminder.

## **Spring Term Menu**

The Spring Term menu will be emailed to parents later this week and be updated on notice boards and the website for your information.

## **Covid Updates**

We are currently updating the Covid risk assessment with the latest information which came into effect today. This will be available on the school website in due course.

### **Christmas Car Competition**

Over the holidays children can create a Christmas card to be entered into a competition to choose the school's official Christmas card.

More information will be sent later in the week.



## **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 **1st 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](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org)

### **Applying for Primary School**

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

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

### **Applying for Junior School**

For children due to start Junior School in September 2022, you must apply for a Year 3 School place by **Saturday 15th January 2022**. Applications should be made online at:

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



## School Terms and Holidays September 2021 - July 2022 Whitehall Infant School

<b>AUTUMN TERM - 2021</b>	
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Wednesday 1st September
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Thursday 2nd September</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	Mon 25th - Fri 29th October
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 1st November
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Tuesday 2nd November</b>
<b>Term Ends at 12:30pm</b>	Friday 17th December
<b>SPRING TERM - 2022</b>	
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Tuesday 4th January</b>
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Friday 11th February
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	Mon 14th - Fri 18th February
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 21st February</b>
<b>Term Ends at 12:30pm</b>	Friday 1st April
<b>SUMMER TERM - 2022</b>	
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Tuesday 19th April</b>
May Day (Public Holiday - school closed)	Monday 2nd May
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	Fri 27th May - Fri 3rd June
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 6th June</b>
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 4th July
<b>Term Ends at 12:30pm</b>	Thursday 21st July
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Friday 22nd July

<b>AUTUMN TERM - 2022</b>	
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Thursday 1st September
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Friday 2nd September</b>



## **Next Year's Term and Holiday Dates**

### **September 2022 - July 2023**

### **Whitehall Infant School**

#### **AUTUMN TERM - 2022**

<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Thursday 1st September 2022</b>
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Friday 2nd September 2022</b>
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 5th September 2022</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	Mon 24th - Fri 28th October 2022
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 31st October 2022</b>
<b>Term Ends</b>	Friday 16th December 2022

#### **SPRING TERM - 2023**

<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Tuesday 3rd January 2023</b>
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Friday 10th February 2023</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	Mon 13th - Fri 17th February 2023
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 20th February 2023</b>
<b>Term Ends</b>	Friday 31st March 2023

#### **SUMMER TERM - 2023**

<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 17th April 2023</b>
May Day (Public Holiday - school closed)	Monday 1st May 2023
<b>Term ends for the children</b>	<b>Friday 26th May 2023</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday</b>	Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June 2023
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Monday 5th June 2023</b>
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Monday 3rd July 2023</b>
<b>Term Ends</b>	Thursday 20th July 2023
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Friday 21st July 2023</b>

#### **AUTUMN TERM - 2023**

<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Monday 4th September 2023</b>
<b>Term starts for the children</b>	<b>Tuesday 5th September 2023</b>