



Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2022 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,

It is hard to believe that it is already February and the half term holiday is almost upon us.

A big thank you for all your support. Everyone has worked tirelessly this half term.

I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable break. Hopefully we can enjoy being outdoors as the weather improves.

Keep safe!

Manjit Bringan

Spring Term Dates

14th—18th February 2022 - Half Term

21st February 2022 - Back to School

3rd March 2022—World Book Day.
Dress up as your favourite book character

Friday 1st April 2022 - Term ends

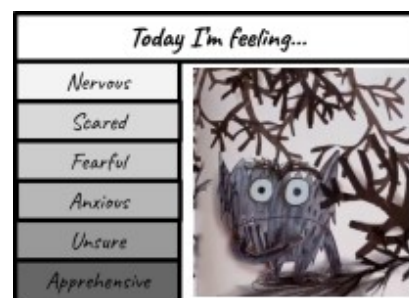
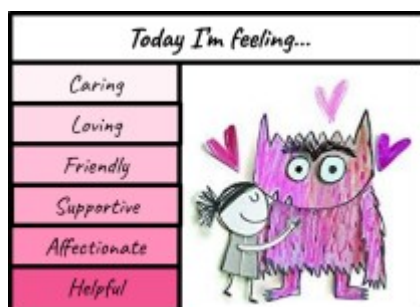
Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. Thank you to Mrs Williams and Mrs Pert for organising.

At school, the children have enjoyed listening to a story about Presley the Pug, who shares his experiences and advice for staying calm and relaxed.

In lessons, children learned about mindfulness, safe places and identified people in their lives who help to keep them safe. Each class learned about S.T.A.R - a great mnemonic to teach us coping strategies to support emotional health and wellbeing. Use the poster attached to this newsletter to help your children practice these coping strategies when feelings become overwhelming or too big. S.T.A.R is also a really useful tool for adults to use when facing stressful or challenging situations.

This week was also an opportunity for the children to reflect on our ongoing work around Emotional Wellbeing using The Colour Monster to identify how they are feeling each day. The Colour Monsters below show you the different emotions the children are able to identify - try identifying your emotions together with your child!



Attendance Heroes

Our individual attendance heroes over the two weeks were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>
Saivignesh	Birch
Rakkshu	Spruce
Anaya	Beech
Namrah	Elm
Edward	Flamingo
George	Peacock



Last week's top classes for best attendance were:

<u>1st Place</u>	Toucan class	96.8%
<u>2nd Place</u>	Spruce class	96.1%
<u>3rd Place</u>	Kingfisher class	94.2%



Chinese New Year!

On February the 1st our school celebrated Chinese New Year. Thank you to Mrs Bir our RE lead for organising.

The Chinese New Year is also known as the New Lunar Year or Spring festival. Each New Year is named after 12 different animals and the cycle repeats. 2022 is the Year of the Tiger. Our deputy head teacher, Miss Cheshire, shared that she was born in the year of the Tiger!

We had a school assembly about Chinese New Year and the children learnt about how the New Year traditions were started and what events take place when celebrating.

In Nursery the children learnt about how the Chinese community celebrate Chinese New Year. Nursery children made banners and sang songs to celebrate. They also learnt how to say Happy New Year in Mandarin.

Reception children developed their team and social skills by following instructions to make a dragon out of art materials and used the dragon in their PE lesson where children practiced ribbon dancing.

Year One built on the skills they learnt in Reception by creating and making lanterns as well as finding out about **how** the animals are represented every 12 years and this is the year of the Tiger.

Year Two learned about the Chinese zodiac and **why** the animals were chosen. They found out that people who celebrate Chinese New Year make wishes and tie them to trees. They linked this to their own hopes and dreams, wrote them on clouds and added them to spring gardens that they made in groups.



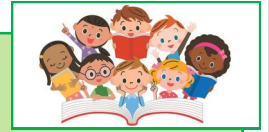
The Importance of Reading

At Whitehall Infant School we encourage all families to hear children read at home everyday and have lots of opportunities to talk about books and what they are reading.

10 Benefits of Reading Everyday

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.
2. Reading exercises our brain.
3. Reading improves concentration
4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.
5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.
6. Reading develops a child's imagination.
7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.
8. Reading is fun!
9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.
10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading Competition







We are running a competition with the chance of winning some book tokens. We would like photos of you or your child reading anytime anywhere! Please email them to office@mail.whitehallinf.org OR hand to one of the staff members on duty by 25th February 2022.

We would also like any top times for sharing books with your child and we will post them in the next newsletter.

World Book Day Thursday 4th March 2022

We will be celebrating World Book Day on the 4th March alongside other schools nationally. One way in which we celebrate is to invite children to dress up as their favourite book character. We have provided some ideas below.

More information will follow after the half term break.

Mr Bump	Matilda	Where's Wally	Harry Potter
			
You will need: Blue t-shirt, jeans or blue trousers, bandages	You will need: Blue dress, books!	You will need: Red and White stripy jumper or t shirt	You will need: Glasses, wand, zigzag on head (optional)

Gruffalo	Charlie and Lola	Super Soccer Boy	Lost and Found
			
You will need: Brown clothes, Gruffalo mask	You will need: Boy / Girl clothes	You will need: Football kit	You will need: Stripy top, hat, penguin (optional)

Parent Governor Applications

Many thanks to the parents who have responded to the recruitment of parent governors.



Fire Drill Practice

Last week we completed a fire drill practice. We were very impressed with the children's sensible response and calm behaviour. This enabled the staff team to evacuate with their classes in a timely manner.

Practices such as fire drills and lockdowns are practised throughout the year school year.

Safer Internet Day - 8th February 2022

This week, children took part in Safer Internet day. The theme this year was

'Together for a better internet'

We all thought about what we could do to make the internet safer.

Reception and Nursery met Digi Duck and helped him to stay safe online by



offering him ideas such as never telling someone online our personal information. Year One and Year Two were given scenarios that they had to discuss and come up with suitable next steps. They used the Colour Monster to share their feelings and come up with appropriate actions.

Don't forget our 'Safer Internet Day Competition' A leaflet was sent out earlier this week.

Thank you to Mr Ball, our computing leader, for organising the day.



February Half Term Events

Hillingdon has a great variety of sport and physical activity opportunities for all ages and abilities.

More information available here:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/clubs>

The Gospel Hall next to the school is offering a half term club.

Please visit the hall for more information



Family Craft Event

Learn about Cranford Country Park with its incredible natural beauty and fascinating history. Children will be invited to design the perfect park for wellness

Uxbridge Library
Thursday 17 February
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Booking essential



For further details or to book your free place call 01895 250714
or email: uxbridge-library@hillington.gov.uk

South West Locality Children's Centres

5 January (Wednesday) - 18 February (Friday) 2022

The Centres are open Monday - Friday (9:00am - 4:00pm) for information and support for families with children up to 5 years of age.
Due to Covid restrictions we have limited spaces on the face to face sessions and will be prioritising families accordingly.



Cherry Lane Children's Centre Sipson Road, West Drayton, UB7 9DL T. 01895 250393 E. cherrylanecc@hillingdon.gov.uk	Colham Manor Children's Centre Violet Avenue, Hillingdon, UB8 3PT T. 01895 250211 E. colhammanorcc@hillingdon.gov.uk	Oak Farm Children's Centre Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon, UB10 9PD T. 01895 250865 E. oakfarmcc@hillingdon.gov.uk
Yiewsley Children's Centre Colham Avenue, Yiewsley, UB7 8HF T. 01895 558194 E. yiewsleycc@hillingdon.gov.uk	Cowley Children's Centre Worcester Road, Cowley, UB8 3TH T. 01895 556990 E. cowleycc@hillingdon.gov.uk	Uxbridge Family Hub Mezzanine, Civic centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW T. 01895 558190

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Attention Hillingdon @ Yiewsley CC 10 Jan - 7 Mar (NO session 14 Feb) 10:00am - 11:00am Invite/Referral Only Stay & Play @ Oak Farm CC (0 - 5 years) 10:00am - 11:00am Please Book Baby Group @ Uxbridge Family Hub (0 - 12 months) 10:00am - 11:00am Please Book Baby Group @ Colham Manor CC (0 - 12 months) 10:30am - 11:30am Please Book ☺☺☺ 2 Year Old Funding Information available at all Children's Centres Please Call or Email	Childminder's Group @ Yiewsley CC 9:00am - 11:00am Invite Only Messy play @ Oak Farm CC (2 - 5 years) 10:00am - 11:00am Please Book Let's get Active @ Colham Manor CC (2 - 5 Years) 10:00am - 11:00am Please Book Attention Hillingdon @ Cherry Lane CC 11 Jan - 8 Mar (NO session 14 Feb) 10:00am - 11:00am Invite/Referral Only Language for Life @ Cowley CC 11 Jan - 8 Feb 10:00am - 11:00am Invite/Referral Only P3 @ Uxbridge Family Hub 9:00am - 12:00midday Please Book	Stay & Play @ Cherry Lane CC (0 - 5 years) 9:15am - 10:15am Please Book Let's Get Active @ Yiewsley CC (2 - 5 years) 9:30am - 10:30am Please Book Attention Hillingdon @ Uxbridge Family Hub 12 Jan - 9 Mar (NO session 16 Feb) 10:00am - 11:00am Invite/Referral Only ☺☺☺ Baby Massage Various Dates & Times Booking/Invite ONLY ☺☺☺ Virtual Weaning Parties Please contact the Health Visiting Team on: 01895 891302	Children's Integrated Therapy Service @ Yiewsley CC 13 January - Physiotherapy 3 February - Speech & Language 10 February - Occupational Therapy 9:00am - 12:30pm Booking/Invite ONLY EarlyBird @ Oak Farm CC (Limited Creche Spaces) 13 Jan - 24 Mar 9:30am - 12:00midday Invite/Referral Only Stay & Play @ Cowley CC (0 - 5 years) 10:00am - 11:00am Please Book Parent Space @ Yiewsley CC 10:00am - 11:00am Invite/Referral Only ☺☺☺	Stay & Play @ Yiewsley CC (0 - 5 years) 9:30am - 11:00am Please Book Stay & Play @ Colham Manor CC (0 - 5 years) 10:00am - 11:00am Please Book Let's Get Active @ Cherry Lane CC (2 - 5 Years) 10:30am - 11:30am Please Book Baby Group @ Oak Farm CC (0 - 12 months) 10:30am - 11:30am Please Book Dad's Stay & Play @ Cherry Lane CC (0 - 5 years) Saturdays 15 Jan, 12 Feb & 12 Mar 10:00am - 11:30am

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Afternoon	Attention Hillingdon @ Yiewsley CC 10 Jan - 7 Mar (NO session 14 Feb) 1:00pm - 2:00pm Invite/Referral Only Story & Rhyme @ Uxbridge Family Hub 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Baby Group @ Cherry Lane CC (0 - 12 months) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Messy play @ Colham Manor CC (2 - 5 years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Virtual (Microsoft Teams) Parenting (Behaviour Strategies) 10 Jan - 7 Feb 1:00pm - 2:30pm Booking/Invite ONLY	Stay & Play @ Cowley CC (0 - 5 years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Attention Hillingdon @ Cherry Lane CC 11 Jan - 8 Mar (NO session 15 Feb) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Invite/Referral Only Let's Get Active @ Yiewsley CC 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Parent Space @ Uxbridge Family Hub 1:30pm - 2:30pm Invite/Referral Only Virtual (Microsoft Teams) Your Bump & Beyond (Antenatal classes for first time expectant parents in Hillingdon) Various Dates & Times Booking/Invite ONLY	Children's Integrated Therapy Service @ Oak Farm CC: 26 January - Physiotherapy 1:00pm - 4:00pm Booking/Invite ONLY Baby Group @ Yiewsley CC (0 - 12 months) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Stay & Play @ Cherry Lane CC (0 - 5 years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Stay & Play @ Oak Farm CC (0 - 5 Years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Virtual (Microsoft Teams) Be Inspired (Healthy Mind, Healthy Body for Mums) Various Dates & Times Booking/Invite ONLY	Stay & Play @ Yiewsley CC (1 - 2 Years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Let's Get Active @ Oak Farm CC (2 - 5 Years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Let's Get Active @ Cowley CC (2 - 5 Years) 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Baby Group @ Uxbridge Family Hub 6 Jan - 10 Mar 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book Stay & Play Plus @ Colham Manor CC (0 - 5 years) 1:45pm - 2:45pm SEND, CDC or Speech & Language Referrals Only	Little Cooks @ Uxbridge Family Hub (2 - 5 years) 14 Jan - 10 Feb 1:30pm - 2:30pm Booking/Invite ONLY Language for Life @ Cherry Lane CC 14 Jan - 11 Feb 1:30pm - 2:30pm Invite/Referral Only Stay & Play @ Yiewsley CC (0 - 5 years) 1:30pm - 3:00pm Please Book Virtual (Microsoft Teams) Workshops 24 January - Fussy Eating 14 March - Behaviour Strategies 28 February - Toilet Training 1:30pm - 2:30pm Please Book

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/childrenscentres

Other services delivered at the Centres	Midwifery Clinics, Health Visitor Clinics, Breastfeeding support Clinics, Perinatal Mental Health Clinics, Child Development Centre Clinics and Neo Natal Clinics. These are all booked by appointment with the service only.
Useful information	Families Information Service - 01895 556489, Community Midwives - 01895 279472, Hillingdon Health Visiting Team - 01895 891302, Hillingdon Talking Therapies - 01895 206 800

