



Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2022 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,

Welcome back from the half term. It has been good to see all of you back at school this week.. I hope all our families had an enjoyable break. The weather is still very chilly so please wrap up warmly.

Last week we had a visit from our Local Authority School Improvement Link, Mr Gareth Thomas. He had a tour of the school and spoke to staff. He also had the chance to meet many of our wonderful children whilst they were learning.

We are looking forward to the exciting events planned for the rest of this term.

Manjit Bringan



Diary Dates Spring Term

WC 28th February 2022: Book Week

1st March: Shrove Tuesday

1st March: St David's Day

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

8th/9th/10th March: Ears and Eyes check Reception

WC 14th March 2022: Governor into School Week

15th & 17th March 2022: Parent/Carer Meetings

17th March 2022: St Patrick's Day

18th March 2022: Holi begins

Friday 1st April 2022 - Term ends

2nd April 2022—Ramadan begins

Coronavirus Risk Assessment

You will be aware of the latest Government announcements regarding COVID-19 last week. As of the 24th February there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate should a person test positive for COVID-19. This has the potential to place both parents and the school in a difficult situation. The DfE has now issued guidance to schools. Once we have collated the information, we will write to you with details.

At present, families should follow the guidance provided by the UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency).

You can find this information by going to the government website.

This states that if you or your child tests positive for COVID-19, you should still stay at home to avoid affecting others, but it is no longer a legal requirement. We will publish our revised COVID risk assessment this week.

At Whitehall, we will continue, in line with guidance, to

- Encourage good hygiene for everyone
- Ensure good ventilation across school
- Continue with our enhanced cleaning regime
- Follow public health advice on managing any Covid-19 cases.



Attendance Heroes — Our attendance heroes are picked randomly each week from all the children who were at school everyday all week.

Our individual attendance heroes last week were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>
John James	Nursery
Pamir	Nursery
Milla	Birch
Abel	Cedar
Ibrahim	Beech
Nyah	Pine
Riley	Kingfisher
Logan	Peacock



Last week's top classes for best attendance were:

<u>1st Place</u>	Toucan	98.66%
<u>2nd Place</u>	Beech	97.83%
<u>3rd Place</u>	Spruce	96.15%



Home-School Agreement

What is a Home-School Agreement?

A Home-School Agreement is a statement explaining:

- the school's aims
- the school's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age
- the responsibility of each pupil's parents/carers
- what the school expects of its pupils.

We have updated our Home-School Agreement and will send a paper copy home next week to be signed and returned to the class teacher.



The home-school agreement can be found on our website <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/key-information/links-to-policies>

Safety First

Pupil Supervision

Schools can be very busy especially at drop off and pick up times. We are also situated next to a busy road.

At school, we have a number of staff on duty to support supervising children so that they remain safe.

Please make sure that you are supervising your child at all times.

Encourage children to walk next to you not run ahead.

Make sure your child knows that they must be able to see you at all times

Hold their hand near the busy road

Do not use mobile phones when on school grounds.



Bumps, falls and accidents do happen. If your child has a bump, fall or accident outside of school please do tell us.

Spring has Sprung!!

We hope you are enjoying our beautiful crocus and daffodil flowers that are beginning to bloom on the grass verge alongside the driveway.

One of our school values is 'Respect'.

Crocus Flowers



We want all our families to be able to enjoy and show respect to our school and local environment.



Please do not allow children to pick the flowers or stand on them. This includes picking flowers in parks etc. This will damage the plant and they will not grow back.

Daffodil Flowers

Learning Powers

We use 8 learning powers to encourage the children in their learning. One of these is

Have a Go Harry Go on.... Just do it!

Have a Go Harry encourages children to 'have a go' and give things a try.

Staff will be on the look out for children who use this learning power!



Shrove Tuesday and Lent

Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival celebrated in many countries across the world. Christians also refer to Shrove Tuesday as pancake day! Pancakes are made with 'luxury' ingredients such as flour and eggs that Christians would traditionally use up before the beginning of Lent - a period of around six weeks leading up to Easter.

During Lent, Christians give up something to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray.

In school, we learn about Shrove Tuesday and lent as part of our social, moral, spiritual and cultural learning, RE curriculum and Understanding of the World area of learning in the Early Years. We will be seeing how pancakes are made and trying some in school this week.



Book Week

This week is 'Book Week' at Whitehall Infant School. Book week encourages a love of books and reading. We have lots of exciting things happening this week including World Book Day! More information on World Book Day can be found on the next page.



Bring in your favourite book

If you have a favourite book/magazine/comic that you like to read at home, we would love you to bring it in during the week to show to your class. Staff will also be sharing their favourite children's books.

Big Book Read

Every class will be reading one of our 'Big Books' that we have in school. We will take pictures and share the story. This is aimed at encouraging shared reading.

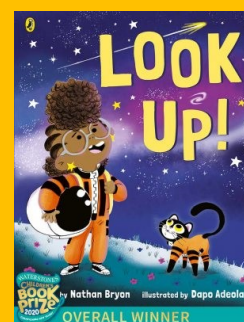
Story Time

Every day before going home we have story time. Staff will be reading books chosen by children and will have special visits from other staff from around the school to read to them.



Live Lesson KS1

Year 1 and Year 2 will be joining a live lesson on World Book Day where they will hear Nathan Bryon, author of 'Look up!' and illustrator Dapo Adeola. They will talk to children about their love of reading and how important it is to read!



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 extending our reading 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 the 4th March 2022.

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

World Book Day Reminder Thursday 3rd March 2022

We will be celebrating World Book Day on the **3rd 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.

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

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



Uniform

It is important that children are prepared for many types of weather.

We encourage all children to wear Wellington boots (wellies) if it is raining and to bring their school shoes in a bag to school.



Children should have a waterproof coat that should be worn when it is raining.



Safer Internet Day Update

We have had over a third of the school take part in the Safer Internet Quiz on Google Classroom with the majority of children scoring 4/5! This is great!



Thankyou to everyone who took part.

Three classes were the most active on Google Classroom and will receive a special certificate and prize for their classroom.

These were

Reception: Spruce class

Year 1: Elm class

Year 2: Flamingo class

Learning at Whitehall (Week ending 27th February 2022)

Children across the school have been enjoying greeting and playing with their friends after a week away from school.

In Nursery, children have been making their own binoculars to search for bears!



In reception, children have been creating their own interpretations of giraffe's out of different textured material as they have been reading 'Giraffe's Can't Dance'.



In Year 1, children have begun to learn about flight. They will be speaking to a Royal Air Force engineer about what it is like to build planes and then will be experimenting with creating their own flying machines.

In Year 2, children have been continuing to learn about plastic pollution and the impact on the environment. They are writing newspaper articles about this topic!

This week, children will be celebrating their love of reading!



Design a Logo!

The UK Space Agency have asked all schools to take part in a design a logo for a number of rockets that will take satellites up to space! All details of the competition are on Google Classroom.

If you cannot access Google Classroom please contact the office at office@mail.whitehallinf.org.

