

# Headteacher's Newsletter



**MARCH 2022 | Issue 1**

## Dear Parents and Carers,

March is well under way and we have enjoyed seeing the sun more often!

The children have had many exciting events since returning after half term.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for events as we relax some of our restrictions. Safety is our priority and we will be keeping an eye on both the number of positive cases in school and the local area.

Manjit Bringan  
Headteacher



## Diary Dates Spring Term

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 - Red Nose Day - Non-Uniform Day**

18th March 2022: Holi begins

**Friday 1st April 2022— Term ends**

## 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:

Name	Class
Grace	Nursery
Miqdad	Nursery
Alexa	Birch
Vinnie	Pine
Amine	Kingfisher
Harkaran	Toucan

Our class attendance winners are:

<b>1st Place</b>	Maple	98.2%
<b>2nd Place</b>	Peacock	97.67%
<b>3rd Place</b>	Toucan	97.62%



## Recent Communication

- Newsletter February Issue 2
- Coronavirus Letter March 2022
- Parent Meeting Email - Signing up instructions



## Farewells

At the end of this term will be saying farewell to Mrs Yates and Mrs Witcher.

After being at Whitehall for just under 2 years, Mrs Yates is relocating to Norfolk with her family.

Mrs Witcher, one of our Nursery Nurses, is retiring after being at Whitehall Infant School for over 2 decades! We will be sad to see her go as I'm sure many of you will be. We would love to hear your memories of Mrs Witcher, some of our parents even remember her from when they attended Whitehall Infant School. If you have a memory you would like to share, please email it to [office@mail.whitehallinf.org](mailto:office@mail.whitehallinf.org) by Monday 21st March 2022.

I would like to thank them for their hard and wish them all the best at their new ventures.



### Applying for Junior School

A number of parents have asked when they will hear if their child has been offered a place for Year 3.

The offer day is the **19th April 2022**.

On this day you should log into the E-portal to see if the offer status.



### Healthy Packed lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch in to school, please ensure that it is balanced and healthy.

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes#lunchbox-tips> for some great hints and tips on how to keep your child's lunchbox healthy and interesting.



**Please no nuts, chocolate, sweets or fizzy sugary drinks.**

Our caterer's provide a variety of delicious, nutritious hot meals every day. If your child has a packed lunch every day, why not encourage them to try one hot meal a week?

### In the news - advice for parents

Many of us are anxious about the news unfolding about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Even if you are not directly affected, watching these events is very upsetting.

Your child may not be watching the news, but they may still hear about these events in other ways, and this may cause anxiety for them too.

No matter how calmly you manage the current environment, children are likely to be anxious. They will pick up bits of information from their friends, from the news and from listening to adults talking around them – but they can misunderstand what they're hearing. It's important to talk to them about what's happening.

Below you will find a number of useful resources to support talking to your child should you wish to about the current conflict in Ukraine:

How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds)

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>

Worrying about Russia and Ukraine (Childline)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>



## Comic Relief 2022

We will be celebrating Comic Relief/Red Nose Day on

**Friday 18th March** in aid of Comic Relief.

This year's theme is 'Power'.

We **all have the power** to make positive changes to our own lives and the lives of others. Every small step can lead to big changes.

On this day, children can come to school in non-school uniform. We are asking all children to think about what their 'power' would be and to share this with their families, friends and teachers at school!

We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1. Every donation, no matter how small, helps vulnerable people across the World live free from poverty, violence and discrimination.

We are now able to accept cash in school so any donations can be given to class teachers at drop off or pick up.



## Courtesy and Car Parking

I am sure that those of you who have to drive to school are aware how difficult it is to park. Now that the weather is beginning to warm up, one option is to park a little distance from school and walk the rest of the journey - this is a good form of exercise and relieves the stress of trying to find a space outside school.



Another suggestion is to use the bus- children are entitled to free travel. If you have no other option but to drive to school then please park safely and with consideration to other motorists and pedestrians.

We know that many families use Cotswold Close to move between the front and the back of the school grounds. Please can we remind all our families that this is a private road where people live and we should continue to be respectful of their private property including not entering gardens or driveways. Parking is not allowed anywhere in the Close. I am sad to say that we have received some complaints from residents about parents and children behaviour.



On Monday, 21st March 2022 we are encouraging everyone to wear bright, exciting and/or mismatched socks to recognise World Down Syndrome Day.



The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness about Down syndrome. It helps to get people talking on [World Down Syndrome Day](https://worlddownsyndromeday.org) (WDSD), celebrated each year on 21 March.

If someone asks you about your socks you can tell them, *"I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome"*.

More information can be found using the following link:

<https://lotsofsocks.worlddownsyndromeday.org/pages/about-down-syndrome>



## Book Week at Whitehall

Thank you for the huge effort that you and your child made to dress up during World Book Day.

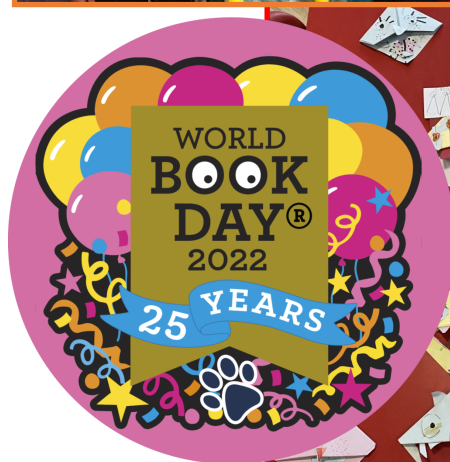
Throughout the week, children have enjoyed taking part in lots of reading and book based activities including

- Bringing in their favourite book to share with the class
- Big Book Read - Every class read one of our 'Big Books' that we have in school. This was aimed at encouraging shared reading.
- Year 1 and Year 2 joined a live lesson on World Book Day where they heard from Nathan Bryon, author of 'Look up!' and illustrator Dapo Adeola. They spoke to children about their love of reading and how important it is to read!

Together with your encouragement and the work from school staff we will help to inspire a life long love for reading in all our children.

### Book Tokens

£1 Book Tokens were given to all children in school. They can be spend their book token on a World Book Day £1 books. Books can be found in WHSmith in Uxbridge, Ruislip and Hayes and in Waterstones in Hayes.



## Reading Anywhere Anytime!

We had a number of children send in pictures of themselves reading one of their favourite books. 2 children, Theo and Elisa, wanted to share their favourite books with others.



Theo's favourite book is 'Pig's Skin' which is a gold book from school and his soft toy piggy sits with him when he reads!



Elisa was 'caught' reading in the lift after she had been swimming! Her top tip for sharing a book is to cuddle up and have lots of time to really get stuck in to the story.

Thank you both for your contribution!

## Shrove Tuesday and Lent



As mentioned in the last newsletter, 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, children learnt 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. Children saw how pancakes were made, tried some and even tried to flip them using a frying pan!





## HILLINGDON CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED THERAPY SERVICE - CITS

### Speech and Language Therapy Mainstream Schools Team

#### Zoom Parent Workshops – April 2022

You are invited to attend an online workshop with Speech and Language Therapists from the Mainstream Schools Team, via Zoom.

All these workshops can be joined on the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87028635766?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87028635766?pwd=eE1aWUQ4dnExcndQd1BGNGI3UE0zUT09)  
pwd=eE1aWUQ4dnExcndQd1BGNGI3UE0zUT09

Meeting ID: 870 2863 5766

Passcode: 208552

#### Language

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

1:30 - 2:30pm

The session will:

- Explain how language develops in children
- Give an overview of strategies and activities that can support your child
- Share sources of further information and support

#### Social Communication

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

11:00am - 12:00pm

The session will:

- Explain what social communication is
- Describe the kind of difficulties children might have
- Give an overview of strategies and activities that can support your child
- Share sources of further information and support

#### Selective Mutism & Reluctant Talkers

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

4:00 - 5:00pm

The session will:

- Explain what selective mutism & reluctant talking is and how it can start
- Give an overview of strategies and activities that can support your child in and out of school

#### Early Communication Skills

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

10:00 - 11:00am

The session will:

- Explain how children develop their early communication skills
- Describe strategies to encourage two - way interactions between you and your child at home

- These are ONLINE workshops delivered on Zoom which is free to use

- You can join on a phone or laptop but the information is easier to read on a larger screen

- Parents will be asked to have their microphones and videos off during the presentation

Each workshop will have the waiting room enabled. Please wait in the waiting room until the speaker allows you into the meeting.