

Headteacher's Newsletter



October 2022 | Issue 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has certainly flown by! We started with glorious sunny days and are now enjoying the autumnal sunshine and occasional showers. We said farewell to our well regarded Queen and welcomed in the new King.

The children and staff have worked hard to establish routines and settle into new year groups. You have supported your child/ren by making sure they are ready for school and on time for learning to begin. As always we want to thank our parent community for your feedback and support. We are all feeling the change in the air and uncertainty at national level. There is growing pressure on families. By working together we can ensure our children have the best educational experience we can offer.

One of our main aims is to make every child a reader and love reading for life. If you and your child/ren are not already a member of the library please pop into the library and join.

Have a restful half term,

Mrs Bringan



Reminders

Please ensure that no holidays are booked during term time.

Diwali Dress Up Day	Friday 21st October 2022
Half Term	24th—28th October 2022
Clocks go back by 1 hour	Sunday 30th October 2022
Children back in school	Monday 31st October 2022
Term Ends	Friday 16th December 2022 At 12:30pm (times will be confirmed)

Diwali Celebration

Diwali is a festival celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs. It is often called the Festival of Lights. The festival celebrates good over evil; light over darkness. The Goddess of Wealth, Lakshmi, is honoured during Diwali.

Our Diwali celebration day will take place on

Friday 21st October 2022

Children can come to school in traditional dress or in party clothes. Your child must wear sensible shoes. If your child has PE on this day we will provide children with a PE opportunity on another day.

School Photos

Photographs were postponed on Wednesday due to the photographer being unwell.

Photos have now been rescheduled for

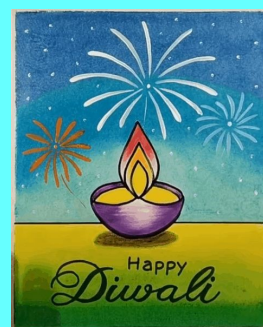


Wednesday 2nd November 2022

On **Wednesday** each pupil who had a photo taken will be sent home with their photo named photo card. This will have instructions on how to order your child's photo.

All orders are placed direct with Kittle Photography and not via the school.

REMEMBER ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME!



Harvest Celebrations

Thank you for all your kind and generous donations of non perishable food, toiletries and baby essentials.

The Hillingdon Foodbank are coming to collect our donations this week. Below is the link for the foodbank.

[Foodbank Link](#)



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all who attended, provided refreshments and donated to our Macmillan Coffee Morning. With your support, we have raised



£178.79



We will be holding more coffee mornings throughout the year. Dates will be confirmed after the half term.

Safeguarding Reminders

If you are worried about a child or are concerned about an on-going issue involving a child please contact

Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub on

01895 556006

or alternatively if you feel a child is in immediate danger then call **the Police** emergency number 999.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

PE Days

Class	PE Day/s
Nursery	Wednesday
Reception	
Spruce	Monday
Cedar	Tuesday
Larch	Wednesday
Birch	Thursday
Year 1	
Beech	Tuesday and Friday
Elm	Tuesday and Friday
Pine	Monday and Thursday
Willow	Monday and Thursday
Year 2	
Toucan	Monday and Thursday
Flamingo	Tuesday and Wednesday
Kingfisher	Monday and Wednesday
Peacock	Tuesday and Thursday

School Value — Respect

Children have recently had an assembly on our school value of respect.



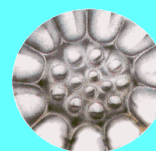
Children discussed how we treat other people and what ways we can show that we are respecting each other.

The following are promoted in school

- Being kind to others
- Saying 'please' and 'thank you'
- Greeting people with a smile
- Talking through problems to solve them
- Not raising our voices
- Our school community modelling respect to each other
- Respecting property
- Respecting ourselves including saying 'no I don't like it' if someone is being unkind

Steel Pan Agency Visit

October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years. The month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations.



**STEEL
PAN
AGENCY**
Performances & Workshops

Part of our statutory music curriculum is for children to listen to high quality live and recorded music. Miss Payne, our music subject coordinator, organised the Steel Pan Agency to visit us at Whitehall and what an experience all our children had.

It started with an assembly where Shareen Gray (steel pan performer) shared the history of the steel pan and played music, much to the delight of the children..and staff! We sang and danced throughout.

Over the day, children in year 1 and year 2 had the chance to play the steel pans in class workshops. We would like to say a big thank you to Shareen and the Steel Pan Agency for making the day so successful.



ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2023

Applying for Nursery School

For children due to start Nursery in September 2023, you must apply direct to the school. If your child's date of birth falls between **1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 and they turn 3**, then you can apply for entry in September 2023. 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 2023 you must apply for a Primary School place by **15th January 2023**. Applications should be made online at :

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

ADMISSIONS

Applying for Junior School

For children due to start Junior School in September 2023 you must apply for a Junior School place by

15th January 2023. Applications should be made online at:

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

New Admissions September 2023—Open Mornings.

We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer open days to those parents or carers who have children due to start nursery or school in September 2023.

We will be offering a number of open mornings in November 2022 and one in January 2023.

You only need to attend one session.

Dates

Tuesday 8th November 2022	Tuesday 15th November 2022	Tuesday 22nd November 2022
Wednesday 9th November 2022	Thursday 17th November 2022	Thursday 24th November 2022
	Tuesday 10th January 2023	

Times

09:45am : Headteacher welcome and introduction

10:10am : Accompanied tour of the school

If you or someone you know has a child due to start school in September 2023 then we would love to see them at one of our open mornings. In order to secure a space then please complete the attached Google Form

[Open morning form](#)

Open Evening

We will be holding an opening evening on Wednesday 9th November 2022 from 6 -7pm.

In order to secure a space please complete the attached form. You can find the link here:

[Open evening form](#)

Could you give up a couple of hours a week to help our children?

Want to Volunteer?



We are looking for parents / carers or members of our community who would like to volunteer at Whitehall Infant School.

Current volunteer positions:

Reading Champions - Please come and listen to children in school read.

Creativity Champions - Do you have a specific talent or interest? Are you able to paint/ dance/ draw / sew / cook? We are looking to give children rich experiences. Could you support us?

Class Champions - A class champion would be working in the classroom supporting children in basic skills.

To be a **class or reading champion** you must have a high standard of spoken English and reading. Training on how to hear children read will be provided.

If any of the above appeal to you, please pick up a volunteer form from the school office.

Lunches

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a **free school lunch**.

We are very fortunate to have caterers who provide a wide range of nutritious meals for children. **Please do encourage your child to have a hot lunch at school.**

Please remember that we are a **water only** school in line with the London Schools Healthy Lives programme.

If your child brings in a packed lunch then please ensure it is a healthy option.

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 spread, chocolate, sweets, juice or fizzy sugary drinks.



Parent Meetings

Parent meetings will be held this week.

If you have not already signed up or received your appointment slip please do speak to your child's class teacher.

The parent meeting are very important as they are an opportunity to talk about how your child has settled, what they will be working on in their learning, their targets and to share an attendance update.

We will take the opportunity to ask you to share your views on the strengths and areas of development for our school. There is also a parent survey which will be available in paper form / emailed. Please take time to share your views so that we can improve in areas.



Letter requests

If you require a letter from the school, please visit the main school office to complete a request form and provide supporting documentation. Please note that there is a **charge of £10** for letter requests.

Attendance

Every school day counts.

Young children will be more likely to get minor illnesses as their immunity is building up. Attendance in schools is tracked daily and has to be reported to the local authority. Children whose attendance falls below 90% are categorised as being **Persistent Absentees**. Absence includes all days off school for illness or other reasons.

Please try and book appointments where possible out of school hours. Avoid having any term time holidays. The school's Attendance policy is attached to this newsletter. It has all the information you need.

We celebrate weekly attendance heroes in our Friday Gold Book assemblies. All children who have been at school that week have their names in a draw and each year group has winners.



Punctuality

You will agree that poor punctuality is not to be ignored. At Whitehall the children have a lovely welcome into school and then go onto their phonics lessons. These lessons are grouped according to reading ability therefore most children will not be with their own teacher but in smaller groups across school.

Each morning office staff and myself, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Malik, Mrs Williams, Mrs Ferdous, Miss Hall, Mrs Woolley, Mrs Ferrell and other staff take children who are late to their class. This is not a good use of our time.

After half term we will be calling parents who are regularly late to meetings to discuss what can be done to improve punctuality. Occasionally anyone can be delayed. The children who are coming in late are missing valuable settling in time and learning time.

Punctuality



Please come and speak to one of the staff on duty if you would like some support with getting your child to school on time.

We have reward charts ready and will support you with ideas about morning routines.

PSHE Learning

Next week, during our PSHE lessons we will be teaching children the NSPCC's PANTS rules. These rules help children to understand that their body belongs to them and that they should talk to someone they trust if anything upsets or worries them. The rules are taught in an age appropriate way using child friendly stories.

Further information for parents can be found on the NSPCC website

at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

The Pantosaurus song has been made available on YouTube by the

NSPCC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lL07JOGU5o>



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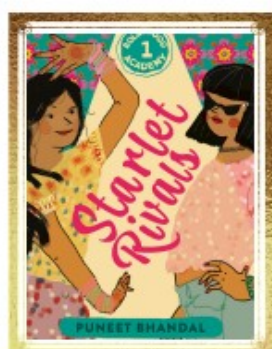


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**What's
on...**

at Hillingdon Libraries



Join Hillingdon author Puneet Bhandal as she discusses her star-studded Bollywood fiction series, *Starlet Rivals*.

Gain an insight into Bollywood and what makes it so unique, hear fun and fascinating stories about Puneet's work as a film journalist and what happens behind the scenes and listen to some of Puneet's favourite song clips.

And if that wasn't enough:

- ★ hear an exciting excerpt from *Starlet Rivals*
- ★ learn how to craft your own exciting story
- ★ ask Puneet any burning questions you have about writing, and of course, about Bollywood
- ★ take part in a Bollywood dance workshop and learn the steps to a Bollywood song.



Saturday 29 October

**11am at West Drayton Library
1pm at Uxbridge Library
3pm at Ruislip Manor Library**

Booking is essential

**For more information please speak to a member of staff
or visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/library-events**



**spooktacular October
Half Term...**

Monday 21st to Friday 25th

Love Uxbridge is delighted to provide FREE
kids events and activities for
October Half Term!

Magicians, glitter & slime, face painting,
pumpkin carving, spooky stories and more!



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
UXBRIDGE BID



Lifeboats

RNLI Fundraising Fete

Sunday 23rd October 2022, 11am—3pm

Packet Boat Marina, UB8 2JJ

Cakes, homemade soup, raffle, games and
much more...

[Www.justgiving.com/RNLI-Davison](http://www.justgiving.com/RNLI-Davison)

Contact Lizzie on 07949204940 for more
information

Diary Dates

Individual events information will be communicated with you where appropriate. All dates are subject to change.

Day	Date	Month	Event
Tuesday	18 th	October	Parent Meetings (3:30pm - 5pm)
Thursday	20 th	October	Parent Meetings (3:30pm - 7pm)
Friday	21st	October	Diwali celebration—traditional or party dress

Day	Date	Month	Event
Tuesday	1 st	November	Fire Safety Week
Wednesday	2nd	November	School Individual Photographs—Wear school uniform
Tuesday	8 th	November	Height and Weight checks—Reception
Tuesday	8 th	November	Open Morning 9:45am for September 2023 intake
Wednesday	9th	November	Open Morning 9:45am for September 2023 intake
Monday	14 th	November	Friendship/Anti-bullying week
Tuesday	15th	November	Open Morning 9:45am for September 2023 intake
Thursday	17th	November	Open Morning 9:45am for September 2023 intake
Friday	18 th	November	Children in Need—Dress Up Day
Tuesday	22nd	November	Open Morning 9:45am for September 2023 intake
Thursday	24th	November	Open Morning 9:45am for September 2023 intake
Monday	28 th	November	Vicar visit
Friday	2nd	December	Christmas Fair
Monday	5 th	December	Christmas Tree Assembly
Wednesday	9th	December	Christmas Lunch Day
Friday	9 th	December	Christmas Jumper Day
Dates	To Be	Confirmed	Year group performances- Christmas
Thursday	15 th	December	Christmas party afternoon—Children can wear party dress to school
Thursday	15 th	December	Nursery last day for the term
Friday	16 th	December	<p><u>Term Finishes</u></p> <p>Staggered Finish Times</p> <p>Larch and Spruce: 12:00</p> <p>Cedar and Birch: 12:10</p> <p>Year 1 and Year 2: 12:15</p>



School Terms and Holidays

September 2022 - July 2023

AUTUMN TERM - 2022

<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Thursday 1st September 2022
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Friday 2nd September 2022
Term starts for the children	Monday 5th September 2022
Half Term Holiday	Mon 24th - Fri 28th October 2022
Term Ends by 12:30pm (staggered finish times)	Friday 16th December 2022

SPRING TERM - 2023

Term starts for the children	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Friday 10th February 2023
Half Term Holiday	Mon 13th - Fri 17th February 2023
Term Ends by 12:30pm (staggered finish times)	Friday 31st March 2023

SUMMER TERM - 2023

Term starts for the children	Monday 17th April 2023
May Day (Public Holiday - school closed)	Monday 1st May 2023
Half Term Holiday	Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June 2023
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 3rd July 2023
Term Ends by 12:30pm (staggered finish times)	Thursday 20th July 2023
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Friday 21st July 2023

AUTUMN TERM - 2023 Provisional

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