

# Headteacher's Newsletter



November 2022 | Issue 1

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

The end of the Autumn Term is fast approaching and our Christmas celebrations have begun.



We have celebrated the start of Advent by decorating our school Christmas tree!

Advent marks the start of the Christian year and begins 4 weeks before Christmas. This is the time for Christians to prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

We have many experiences to look forward to in the weeks leading up to the holidays including welcoming parents back into school for year group performances.

M Bringan

Headteacher

## KEY DATES

What?	When?
Christmas Tree Assembly	Monday 5th December 2022
Year 1 Production	Wednesday 7th December 2pm
Year 1 Production	Thursday 8th December 9.05am
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 9th December 2022
Christmas Lunch Day	Friday 9th December 2022
Reception Sing along	Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 9:05am / 2:15pm
School Panto Visit	Wednesday 14th December 2022
Year 2 Carol Concert	Wednesday 14th December at 2:20pm—Hall
Year 2 Carol Concert	Thursday 15th December at 9:05am —Hall
Class Christmas Party Day—Non-Uniform	Thursday 15th December 2022
End of Term Nursery	Thursday 15th December 2022

## End of Term Timings

Term ends on Friday 16th 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.

Class/Year Group	Finish Time
Spruce/Larch	12:00pm
Birch/Cedar	12:10pm
Year 1 and Year 2	12:15pm

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

## Nursery

Nursery term ends on Thursday 15th December at the usual time for each session.

## Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children Campaign

Children can come to school in a Christmas jumper (or festive clothes ) on Friday 9th December 2022 for a donation of £1. We will have a bucket to collect your donations on the day .

Donations will be given to [Save the Children](#) on behalf of our school.



Sensible footwear should be worn and clothing appropriate for the colder weather.

# Thank You!

Our Christmas Fair on Friday 2nd December was a great success! We are very grateful to all our Whitehall Families who helped make it such a fun experience and for your kind donations towards the stalls.

## Class Christmas Parties



Class Christmas parties will take place on Thursday 15th December. Children can come to school in party outfits.

The weather is supposed to be much colder next week. Please remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather.

Classes will have a food/drink sign up sheet outside their classrooms (at the hall for reception). Please sign up against a food or drink item if you are able to provide anything.

If your child has any allergies, please speak to your child's teacher about what is suitable, or provide a selection of snacks (no nuts please).

## Christmas Cards



If your child would like to send Christmas cards to their friends they can use the school Post Box. Please make sure the name and class is written on the envelope.

To,  
Harry  
Toucan Class

**We have a wonderful Nativity display in our school, for children to look at!**



You may take photos or videos of the performances, but please do not post on social media!



### Performance Reminders

- If you are unwell, do not attend the Christmas performances
- Only two adults to attend. Please only attend one performance
- Please do not eat, talk or answer phone calls during performances
- Buggy's / Prams to be kept outside the hall

### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES REMINDER

Wednesday 7th December 2pm - Year 1 Christmas Production 'It's a Baby'

Thursday 8th December 9:05am - Year 1 Christmas Production 'It's a Baby'

Tuesday 13th December 9.05am & 2.15pm - Reception Christmas Sing-A-Long

**Wednesday 14th December 2.20pm - Year 2 Carols in the hall—Change of time and location**

**Thursday 15th December 9:05am—Year 2 Carols in the hall—Additional date**

Thursday 15th December - Nursery Christmas Sing-A-Long—Nursery classroom





We will be saying 'Farewell' to three members of staff who are leaving to further their careers:

**Mrs Sidhu** - one of our Learning Support Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors;

**Ms St. Clair** - one of our SEN Learning Support Assistants

**Mrs Williams** our SENCo.

We hope you can join us in wishing them all the best of luck and thank you them all their hard work and dedication to the school.

### Welfare Reminder

We are now in the season of coughs and colds! To stop the spread of germs, please ensure your child uses a tissue to wipe their nose and washes their hands regularly. For further advice visit the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk).



### Health and Safety Reminder

One of our school values is 'Safe' and we want every child to be as safe as possible.

During the winter months, please take care on paths and pavements as they can become icy. Please also ensure that you and your child are wearing footwear that is appropriate for this weather.

Our premises team do a great job of making sure the paths around the school are gritted so that they are safe to walk on.

### Christmas Tree Assembly

One of the highlights of the autumn term is the Christmas Tree Assembly.

The children all make decorations and then use them to decorate our tree in the school hall whilst singing carols.

It is a lovely festive assembly which ends with the main lights being turned off and the Christmas tree lights being turned on - the children are always so amazed with this!



### Learning at Whitehall—Last Week of Term

The countdown to Christmas started this 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. Year Two are also focusing on our school value of Respect and respecting the practices of others. Children have also discussed the reasons for the giving of gifts at Christmas - linking it to gift giving in other faith celebrations.

### Club Information

**We will be sending out a separate email in the next week with the details for the upcoming term.**





## Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds

You will have seen in previous newsletters and as part of home learning 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.



## **ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2023**

**ADMISSIONS**

### 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](mailto: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>

### 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>

## 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**.



# 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 can be found on our website. 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.

Days Absent	Missed Time	Number of Missed Lessons	Attendance
1	1 day	6	99.5%
2	2 days	12	99%
3	3 days	18	98.5%
4	4 days	24	98%
5	1 week	30	97.5%
10	2 weeks	60	95%
15	3 weeks	90	92.5%
20	4 weeks	120	89.7%
25	5 weeks	150	87.5%
30	6 weeks	180	85%
35	7 weeks	210	82.5%
40	8 weeks	240	80%

## 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 Woolley, Mrs Ferrell and other staff take children who are late to their class. This is not a good use of our time.

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.

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 or any other difficulties which are effecting your child's attendance/punctuality

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



# Diary Dates

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

Day	Date	Month	Event
Wednesday	7th	December	Year 1 Christmas Production - 'It's a Baby' at 2pm
Thursday	8th	December	Year 1 Christmas Production 'It's a Baby' at 9:05am
Friday	9th	December	Christmas Lunch Day
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	December	Christmas Jumper Day—Save the Children
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Reception Christmas Sing-A-Long 9:05am and 2:15pm</b>
Wednesday	14th	December	Christmas Panto
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Year 2 Carols—Change of venue—Hall at 2:20pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Additional date added Year 2 Carols—Change of venue—Hall at 9:05am</b>
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	December	Class Christmas Party Afternoon—Children can wear party clothes to school (Please wear suitable clothing for the weather)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Nursery Christmas Sing-A-Long</b>
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	December	Nursery last day for the term
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup>	December	<p><b><u>Term Finishes</u></b></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>

## Strep A

You will have seen the news over the past few days regarding the sad cases of children with Strep A. The BBC has a very good page with information that parents may find useful. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-63836093>.

Symptoms to look for:

- Sore throat, fever, vomiting and headache.
- 12-48 hours after feeling unwell a red rash develops

The NHS have advised that parents should speak to their GP to get a full diagnosis.

We will continue to remind children to wash their hands often and will continue our enhanced cleaning regime as we have done for the last few years.



# School Terms and Holidays

## September 2022 - July 2023

### 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>	Monday 5th September 2022
Half Term Holiday	Mon 24th - Fri 28th October 2022
<b>Term Ends by 12:30pm (staggered finish times)</b>	<b>Friday 16th December 2022</b>

### 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>
Half Term Holiday	Mon 13th - Fri 17th February 2023
<b>Term Ends by 12:30pm (staggered finish times)</b>	<b>Friday 31st March 2023</b>

### SUMMER TERM - 2023

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

### AUTUMN TERM - 2023 Provisional

<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	<b>Monday 4th September 2023</b>
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