

Headteacher's Newsletter

January 2023 Spring Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely seeing our families back at school. I hope you have had a good break and that the New Year has started well for you?

I know that many children were ill just before Christmas with an increase in bugs and illnesses.

This second term of school is called the Spring Term. We traditionally see children making accelerated progress in all aspects of school life. It is essential that they are in school every day unless they are too unwell to attend. Prior to the break there was an increase in the number of children arriving late to school. It is important for children to be on time to make good progress both academically and socially. Please only book holidays in the time permitted which is listed on the year dates. The Attendance policy clearly outlines what the position is on term time leave. <https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/key-information/attendance>

The New Year is always a good time to set some goals. I hope this is a positive year for you and your families! The children have settled back into their routines and are happy being back at school.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Bringan
Headteacher

Events for Parents

As you will have noticed we are really keen to have parents back into school since the lifting of Covid restrictions. We will be sharing these opportunities via the newsletter and website.

Class Assemblies

Please wait outside the school hall and you will be admitted at 9.00am. The assembly will begin promptly and will last 15 minutes. Children will be able to greet you after the assembly and share some of their learning with you.

Upcoming assemblies this half term

Class	Date	Time
Kingfisher	19 th January 2023	9am
Elm	26 th January 2023	9am
Pine	2 nd February 2023	9am
Peacock	9 th February 2023	9am

Parent Workshops

We will be holding parent workshops over the next four weeks to share how to support your child at home across a range of different areas of learning. These will include:

- How to listen to your child read at home (all year groups)
- Introduction to maths in the early years
- Maths in Key Stage One with a focus on written and mental methods
- Developmental writing in the early years

Dates will be shared next week.

Pupil Progress Meetings

At the end of last term teachers across all year groups have had the opportunity to meet with senior staff to discuss and review their classes attainment (if a child is working at age related expectations) and progress (if a child is working towards their own targets at an expected pace).

During these meetings children are identified who are at risk of not meeting their end of year targets based on recent assessments carried out by the teacher.

Barriers to learning and actions required to support children were discussed.

Following this, action plans were drafted identifying interventions to support focus children to make accelerated progress to enable them to meet their full potential.

These meetings take place each term.

Some barriers identified related to children's readiness for learning:

- Children being absent from school for long periods of time or children being absent for odd days throughout the term
- Punctuality in the morning causing children to miss important lessons that cannot be rescheduled later in the day
- Children starting the school day tired due to staying up late the night before.

You can help your child with the above by

- Having consistent routines at home
- Having a set bedtime and start of the day routine
- Communicating with the school if you are finding this challenging at home so we can signpost you to support

Some other barriers identified related to children's in school barriers:

- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- Social and emotional needs
- Attention and concentration needs

We will:

- Continue to provide high quality teaching to support learning in lessons
- Opportunities and focus activities relating to language development
- Continued opportunities for children to share their feelings and work collaboratively

SEN Update

A Message from the NHS Speech and Language Service

HILLINGDON CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED THERAPY SERVICE - CITS Speech and Language Therapy - Contingency Service Provision

The service is facing ongoing challenges with being able to recruit new staff to the team, in addition to a huge increase in statutory provision. There is a national issue with the recruitment of therapists, which is being felt across neighbouring boroughs.

The service has been in contingency for the last 12 months with all staff being asked to carry additional schools. Unfortunately we are losing staff due to these ongoing workload pressures.

It has now been decided that we can't continue with the existing contingency plan and it is important to retain existing staff and ensure that the situation does not deteriorate further.

This means that we will no longer be able to provide speech and language therapy for Whitehall Infant school in the spring term with the exception of any children/young people who need a statutory assessment of their communication needs.

We will be writing to the parent/carers of children/young people on the caseload to keep them informed.

What are we, as a school, providing?

As a school, we understand that if you were expecting your child to receive speech and language therapy the above message will be disheartening.

Please be reassured that the school provides high quality first teaching incorporating strategies from the therapy service to support speech and language in class. Children will also continue to receive speech and language interventions run by our staff.

If your child receives additional support from the school you will shortly receive an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This will outline the provision in place for your child. If you have any questions, please do speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Curriculum Overviews

Curriculum overviews are available on our website and will be sent home this week for this half term. The overviews will provide you with the curriculum coverage that your child will be learning over this half term.

Attendance

Parents and carers will soon receive a record of your child's autumn term attendance and punctuality. Parents and carers whose children have low attendance and poor punctuality

will be invited in to school to meet the Attendance Officer/Headteacher to discuss how we can work together to improve attendance in school.

Absence and lunch orders

Please ensure your child attends school on time. If your child is running late, please inform the school before 9.00am. The school is being charged for all school lunches booked, if you have not let school know your child is running late the school meal will be cancelled. If your child is absent from school please contact **The Pantry** directly and cancel the lunch meal booking. You can contact The Pantry by calling 020 8813 7040 or change bookings online <https://www.thepantrycatering.co.uk/contact.php>

School Census Day Thursday 19th January 2023 Non-School Uniform Day

On Thursday 19th January children will be able to wear their own clothes to school. This is a census day where the school's budget is calculated according to how many children attend school on that day. If your child is usually has a packed lunch would you consider ordering a school dinner for that day? Please see a change of menu for Thursday 19th January 2023.



School Uniform

Children look very smart in their school uniform, please ensure all school uniform items are labelled with your child's name.

School Shoes

Please ensure your child has suitable shoes appropriate for the weather and that your child can independently put on and take off. We would prefer that your child can do up laces before they have lace up shoes.

Spare Uniform

Thank you to parents who have given the school uniform, which is no longer required but in good condition.

This is useful if children require a change of clothing during the day.

We are in need of children's underwear and socks in all sizes (new please!).

After school clubs

An email was sent on 5th January 2023 with details for the after school clubs on offer this term. There are spaces available for further bookings.

Please visit <https://thepsdgroup.org.uk/psd-funweeks> for booking information on the PSD group website.

For gymnastics club please email queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk

Pedestrian Crossing Training

Children from Nursery, Reception and Year One have taken part in pedestrian crossing training. The children have gained a good understanding and awareness of crossing the road safely and using the Green Cross Code.



Welcome and Farewells

This term we have welcomed two new members of staff, Ms Mara Fabri and Mrs Navneet Kirwan. Ms Fabri is our new Welfare and Attendance Officer. Mrs Kirwan is our Finance and Communication Officer.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming them both to the Whitehall Infant School family. We will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Goldfinch who has been an SMSA for 14 years. We wish her the very best of luck for the future and thank her for her long service, support and dedication.

Christmas Card Competition

We are inviting all children to create a Christmas card which will be entered into a competition. The winning cards will be printed to use as the school's official Christmas card in December. The closing date for the competition is Monday 20th February 2023.



Uxbridge Library events

Have you and your family joined the library? If not please try and do so this month. There are many exciting events held there.

Tiny Tales

Tiny Tale sessions which might be of interest to parents. There are 3 sessions a week. Parents do need to book which you can do online or just pop into the library and the staff can book it for you. Visit <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries>

Victorian Toys Family Event - Half Term Holiday

Friday 17th February 2023 2pm -4pm

An event for all the family where you explore and play with Victorian toys, including some of the from the museum's collection. This is a free event but booking is essential please email: archives@hillingdon.gov.uk

Burns Night

Did you know traditionally people from Scotland will be celebrating Burns Night on 25th January 2023? Burns Night is celebrated to remember the poet Robert Burns. Many people will enjoy a traditional burns night dinner.

Chinese New Year

On Sunday 22nd January 2023, families from China will be celebrating Chinese New Year across the world. The Chinese New Year signals the end of the winter period and is a sign of new growth to come. The Chinese New Year is determined by the Chinese lunar calendar which means that the official date changes every year. 2023 is the year of the rabbit.



Contact details

If you change your phone number, email address or move house, please remember to update us with your new contact details. You can update your contact details by visiting the main school office.

We send letters and newsletters via email. If you do not receive these, please provide us with your email address.

Job Vacancies

SMSA Vacancy

8.75 hours per week + 2 half training days

We are looking for someone with a cheerful disposition and has experience of working with children preferably in a school environment.

Applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm, drive and a sense of humour, the ability to work as part of a team and make use of their own initiative when appropriate.

This will be a permanent position and the hours are typically 12.00pm to 1.45pm Monday to Friday, 8.75 hours a week, term time only.

Please collect an application from the school reception.

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 - Reception

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://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary#How%20to%20apply>

Applying for Junior School - Year 3

For children due to start Year 3 in September 2023 you must apply for a Junior School place by **15th January 2023**. Applications should be made online at:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary#How%20to%20apply>

Diary Dates

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

Day	Date	Month	Event
Sunday	15 th	January 2023	Deadline for nursery parents to apply for reception Deadline for year 2 parents to apply for year 3.
Thursday	19 th	January 2023	Census Day - Non-Uniform Day School lunch menu change
Thursday	19 th	January 2023	Kingfisher class assembly 9am - Hall
Sunday	22 nd	January 2023	Chinese New Year - The year of the rabbit
Thursday	26 th	January 2023	Elm class assembly 9am - Hall
Monday	30 th	January 2023	National Storytelling Day
Thursday	2 nd	February 2023	Pine class assembly 9am - Hall
Monday - Thursday	6 th - 9 th	February 2023	Children's Mental Health Week
Thursday	9 th	February 2023	Peacock class assembly 9am Hall
Friday	10 th	February 2023	Staff Training Day - No school for children
Monday - Friday	13 th - 17 th	February 2023	Half term holiday
Monday	20 th	February 2023	Children return to school