

Headteacher's Newsletter

February 2023 Spring Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that it is already February and the half term holiday is almost upon us.

Everyone has worked tirelessly this half term. I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable break. Hopefully we can enjoy being outdoors as the weather improves.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Bringan
Headteacher

Children's Mental Health Week

We have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and thinking about the theme of 'Let's Connect'. It has been lovely to see so many parents and carers coming into their children's classrooms to help our school community to connect with one another in the morning.

The children have been thinking of who in their lives they are connected to and who can support them with their emotions.

All children have contributed to a larger piece of art work based around the theme 'Let's Connect'. This will be displayed in the school hall after half term.





Safer Internet Use

Last week, children took part in Safer Internet Day. The theme this year was

'Want to talk about it?'

Children have taken part in lots of discussions about how they like to use the internet including playing games, watching videos and looking for information.

Children have been amazing at identifying who they can talk to if something they see online upsets them.

During our Friday parent morning coffee morning we discussed how we use parental settings on our devices to keep children safe.

At end the week, we asked parents to carry out an 'internet interview' with their children to ask each other about their online habits.

Pine Class Assembly

Pine class assembly was about being safe online. They taught us about the 'SMART rules'. They carried out role play and showed off e-safety posters.



Safe - Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information such as your name or address

Meeting - Meeting someone you have only just been in touch with online can be dangerous

A-Accepting messages from people you don't know can be unsafe they may contain nasty messages or viruses

R - Reliable someone online might be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet might not be correct.

T - Tell your parents/carers or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable while using the internet.



There has been lots of excited discussions around the display area.



Nursery and Reception Reading and Writing Workshops

Thanks you to all our parents who attended the Nursery and Reception parent workshops. For anyone who could not make it the details will be shared on the website soon.

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. We expect parent to make time to hear their child read every day.





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.



World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March 2023

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday the 2nd March 2023** alongside other schools nationally. One way in which we celebrate is to invite children to dress up as their favourite book character or they can wear their own clothes. Please do not buy items especially for the occasion. We have provided some cost saving ideas below.

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

Gold Book Awards

Teachers choose a number of children each week who are praised for using their learning powers in our Gold Book Achievement Assembly each week!

Class	Children
Cedar	Farhan, Alyssa and Omenah
Larch	Casper, Mariam and Nathen
Birch	Eirini, Noah and Dhaarsh
Spruce	Olivia, Imran and Aima
Elm	Casey, Hamza and Rosie
Willow	Rayyan, Antonia and Soheil
Pine	Amaya, Rahma and Rakkshanth
Beech	Medhanie, Ali and Teanna
Peacock	Oscar, Nyah and Tyree
Flamingo	Araliya, Melvin and Nathan
Kingfisher	Sumeyye, Yehia and Finlay
Toucan	Muhammad, Claude and Livi



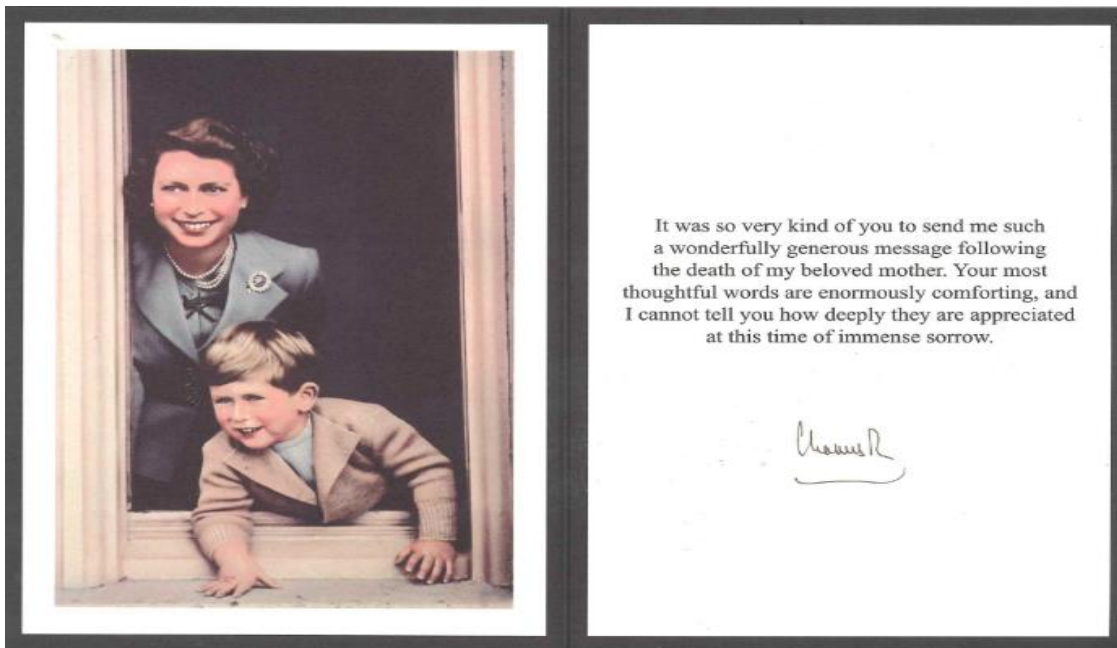
Attendance Hero Winners

Children who were present everyday are randomly selected from a list (2 per year group).

Attendance Superheroes	Class
Tyson	Birch
Subhana	Larch
Abel	Pine
Belar	Elm
Reem	Flamingo
Claude	Toucan

Message from Buckingham Palace

We have received a card from the Palace in response to the children's messages of condolence that were sent in September.



Welcome to New Staff

We have welcomed a new learning support assistant, Miss Matthews, who has joined our support staff team. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to the Whitehall Infant School family.

Litter on School Grounds

It is upsetting to see empty packets and other litter just being dropped on the ground. There are outdoor bins provided please ensure you are putting all waste in the bins.

Christmas Card Competition Reminder

You still have half term to enter the Christmas card 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**.



Safety First

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. Even when you leave school please ensure your child is next to you, there have been reports from older children of strangers in cars approaching children in the local area.



Children's Teeth



Good oral health starts at a very young age. Taking care of your child's gums and teeth every day **helps prevent tooth decay and gum disease**. It also helps make it a regular habit for your child. A regular teeth cleaning routine is essential for good dental health, please ensure children are brushing their teeth daily for further information please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-teeth-and-gums/taking-care-of-childrens-teeth/>

Diary Dates

Day	Date	Month	Event
Friday	10 th	February 2023	Staff Training Day - No school for children half term begins
Friday	10 th	February 2023	No parent / carer coffee morning
Monday - Friday	13th - 17th	February 2023	Half term holiday
Monday	20 th	February 2023	Children return to school
Monday	20 th	February 2023	Christmas card competition closing date
Friday	24 th	February 2023	Coffee morning - Hall

Uxbridge Library Half Term Events

Two half term events at Uxbridge Library. Animal Adaptations is aimed at children aged 4-7 years and is a STEM based event which lets children explore how animals adapt to their surroundings.

Our second event is Bird Feeder Making which is a craft activity for children aged 7-11. We will be making a bird feeder, looking at different birds and drawing them.



Bird Feeder Making
Uxbridge Library

Thursday 16 February
2.30pm-3.30pm
Ages 7-11

Celebrate nature with some bird inspired craft including making your own bird feeder

To book this free event please visit: hillington.gov.uk and search: 'Bird Feeder'
You only need to book tickets for children taking part who are aged 7-11

 www.hillingdon.gov.uk/heart

Animal Adaptation

Uxbridge Library
Monday 13 February
2.30pm-4.00pm
Ages 4 to 7

Take part in our exciting STEM workshop where you will learn about amazing animals and how they adapt to their environment

To book this free event please visit: hillington.gov.uk and search: 'Reading Sparks Event'
You only need to book tickets for children taking part who are aged 7-11





Parents/carers are asked to stay with their children to ensure their safety and enjoyment





