

Headteacher's Newsletter

March 1 2023 Spring Term 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

At Whitehall we pride ourselves on being a family. This gives us a sense of community and can make us feel part of something greater than ourselves. It can give us opportunities to connect with people who make us feel safe and secure.

If you have not popped into one of our Friday Coffee Morning yet please do so this week.

Manjit Bringan

Book Week at Whitehall infant School

Over the week children enjoyed taking part in lots of reading and book based activities. Reading regularly improves vocabulary, grammar skills and communication skills. Reading ignites imagination and can be a great source of relaxation and comfort.



World Book Day Book Tokens

All children were given £1 book tokens in their book bags on Friday 3rd March you can redeem them locally please visit <http://worldbookday/books/> for locations.

Thank you for sending in pictures of family reading time.



Sofia and little brother Lucas are reading together at bedtime.



Sevenne with her selection of books.



Mikelle reading at home in her tent.



Erika in her princess dress reading to her little brother.

Year One Library Visit

The children visited Uxbridge Library to learn about the library and how they can borrow exciting books to read. This was part of our World Book Day celebrations and will help to promote a lifelong love of reading. Our aim is that every single child at Whitehall Infant School is a library member. For more information please visit <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/uxbridgelibrary>. Due to the weather Elm class's trip has been rescheduled.

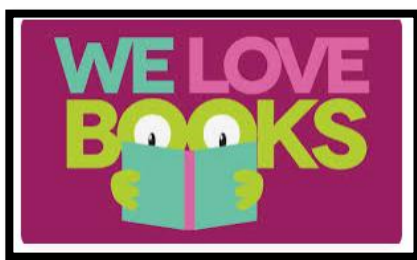
Hillingdon Libraries - World Book Week Festival

As part of World Book Week, Hillingdon Libraries invited schools to visit the Compass Theatre in Ickenham to meet and listen to a children's author.

The children travelled on the underground to Ickenham and walked to the Compass Theatre. There they listened to stories from a well known author, Mo O'Hara. The children loved their visit and learnt about what they would need to do to become an author themselves!



Working together with your encouragement and the work in school we will inspire a lifelong love of books in all children.



Flamingo Class Assembly

Flamingo class worked really hard to perform an assembly on healthy eating, they have shared ideas of what healthy foods to pick and other ways to keep their body and mind healthy. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the assembly and thank you for helping the children learn their lines.

AIM High Writing Event at Hillside Infant School

6 children from year 2 were invited to an AIM High Writing event at Hillside Infant School this week. The A.I.M. High programme is tailored for children to be able to - Achieve, Inspire and Master particular skills. In this instance, we focussed on writing. During the day, children worked with Stephen Davies, a renowned children's author, to develop writing techniques in a fun and inspiring way alongside children from other Infant schools in the borough.

The children loved getting to know other children from other schools and enjoyed learning new skills that they will use in their writing back in school.

'The day was so challenging! It made me think about how I could make my writing

better. I can't wait to show my class my story' Reem

'I showed Mr Stephen my joined handwriting. He was impressed. He showed me how to write sentences using suspense' Theo

'We got to listen to some of Stephen's books and he explained why he became an author' Finlay

'I think my writing is good and now it is even better! Mrs Aqbarawi is going to be really proud' Laura

'I made up my own character and have written a story. I'm going to read it to my class and find out what they think of it' Agasthya

'There was a lot of thinking I needed to do! I was so tired by the end but it was soooo good. I can't wait to show everyone what I wrote. I am proud of myself'. Mykah

Attendance

There have been a number of absences due to illness. Please ensure you are following school guidelines of reporting your child's absence by calling the school on **01895 590112** every day your child is absent. If you leave a voice message, please ensure you leave your name your child's name, class and a reason for absence.

Punctuality

There are an increasing number of children arriving late to school please ensure you are leaving plenty of time to arrive on time.

If in a school year, your child is late every day by...	Your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

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, The Pantry 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?



Red Nose Day

Comic Relief Red Nose Day is today **Friday 17th March** thank you for all your donations for charity. Children wore red today to show their support.



St Patrick's Day Friday 17th March

Happy St Patrick's Day! Today many people will be celebrating Irish culture with parades and special foods. Commemorating the patron saint of Ireland.



Ramadan

This year Ramadan is expected to begin on **Thursday 23rd March 2023**. Ramadan is observed by Muslim's worldwide it is a period of reflection, fasting, prayer and community.



Big Walk and Wheel events

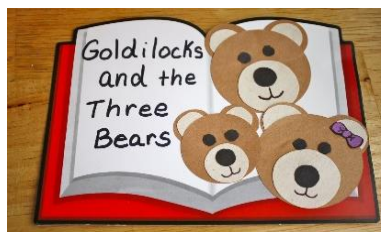
Whitehall Infant School has registered to take part in this year's 'Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel' event. It should inspire children to make active journeys to school and work towards improving air quality in the local area. Participating in the 'Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel' also contributes towards our 'STARS' school travel plan accreditation.

This year's challenge will run from **Monday 20th March - Friday 31st March**.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears Performance

Reception class children will be performing Goldilocks and the Three Bears on **Wednesday 22nd March at 2:15pm or Thursday 23rd March at 9:15am** Invitations for parents of the classes below were sent out on Monday.

<u>Reception Class</u>
Cedar
Larch
Birch
Spruce



Performance reminder

Please wait outside the school hall and you will be admitted at 9.10am or 2:10pm. The performance will begin promptly. Children will be able to greet you after the performance. Please ensure you have turned your mobile phones to silent and be a brilliant audience!

Parents Meetings

Thank you to all parents who attended parents meetings this week. There was an excellent turn out and we were pleased with the feedback we received regarding pupil's progress and development. There were however a number of missed appointments, this is disappointing considering teachers were left waiting with no communication. Please speak to your class teacher if you have missed your parent meeting appointment. It is important that either an in person or telephone meeting takes place.

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
Flamingo	Saskar, Jenson, Namrah
Kingfisher	Jessica, Eyosiyas, Winner
Peacock	Taiba, Rion, Ayyub
Toucan	Sevenne, Mursal, Livi
Elm	Bayaan, Aaria, Haroon
Willow	Emillie, Mastura, Safa
Pine	Jacob, Asher, Zaynah
Beech	Haitham, Ayaat, Sofia
Cedar	Alyssa, Alfie, Thomas
Larch	Miqdad, Laiba, Amber
Birch	Sarayu, Naya, Abeer
Spruce	Radman, Florence, Tony



Attendance Hero winners

Children who were present everyday are randomly selected from a list.

Class	Attendance Superheros
Birch	Reha, Abeer
Spruce	Rose, Hiba
Larch	Aaminah, Iris
Cedar	Fariya, Valerie
Elm	Kornelia, Abiah
Pine	Iman, Harris
Beech	Adeep, Alaa
Willow	Liam, Safa
Flamingo	Rion, Albie
Peacock	Theo, Rion
Toucan	Oliver, Trinity
Kingfisher	Ebaad, Busayo

Farewell

Mrs Ferdous will be leaving us at the end of term after 12 years of service. She is integral to so many parts of the school and will be greatly missed. Please join me in wishing Mrs Ferdous all the best for her future endeavours.

Parent Survey Feedback

Thank you for completing our parent survey in the autumn term. We have collated some information for parents in areas where parents have identified that they are unsure how the school responds to an area. Thank you for telling us how you feel about the school. Your views matter. We appreciate your feedback both positive and ideas for improvement.

School statement	School response
The school deals effectively with bullying	Incidents of bullying are extremely rare at Whitehall Infant School however any incidents that are perceived as bullying are taken very seriously. Our anti bullying procedures is outlined in our positive
Most children behave well	

	behaviour policy. This can be found here. https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/key-information/links-to-policies
The school provides good extra-curricular opportunities and wrap around childcare as needed.	The School offers a variety of after school clubs for each year group. We also provide a school breakfast club that begins at 7:30am. If you would like further information regarding clubs please speak to our school office team or email office@mail.whitehallinf.org
I receive regular information about how my child is doing	At Whitehall we provide parent meetings twice a year and an end of year written report. Parents also receive a termly 'learning log' that shows children's strengths and targets. Staff are always available to discuss any concerns you may have. Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent	We encourage children to be resilient and use our learning powers to solve problems independently. You can encourage your child to become more independent by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeping to a consistent routine - Put clothes and shoes on independently. - Use cutlery themselves
Need more afterschool clubs	Currently the uptake for afterschool clubs has not been very high. Please feel free to email in suggestions for us to consider.
Additional comments	<p>'The teachers are amazing and really care about the kids. The management is helpful and quick to respond.'</p> <p>'A well-disciplined school.'</p> <p>'The teachers are very welcoming.'</p> <p>'Care and support from the faculty.'</p> <p>'The thing I like most about Whitehall Infant School is the morning welcome.'</p> <p>'Staff and teachers are friendly and approachable.'</p> <p>'Teachers are very friendly and very helpful.'</p>

	‘Teachers and members of staff are kind, polite and understanding.’
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Diary Dates

Day	Date	Month	Event
Monday	20/03/2023	March	Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel begins
Wednesday	22/03/2023	March	Reception performance - 2:15pm Hall
Thursday	23/03/2023	March	Reception performance - 9:15am Hall
Friday	24/03/2023	March	Coffee Morning - Hall
Friday	31/03/2023	March	Coffee Morning - Hall
Friday	31/03/2023	March	End of term - half day
Monday	17/04/2023	April	Term starts - School re-opens
Monday	01/05/2023	May	May Day, Bank holiday - School closed

Local Events

What's
on...

at Uxbridge Library

Midsummer Masks Craft Event



Monday 20 March
4.00pm to 5.00pm
Ages 4-7

Join us to celebrate Shakespeare Week. Make masks from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Visit: www.hillingdon.gov.uk and search 'Masks' to book your free place
or call us on: 01895 250714



**SHAKESPEARE
WEEK**
Children's Library



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



HILLINGDON
LONDON

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries