



# Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 6

## Spring Term:

### Welcome to WJS



Dear Families,

Welcome to all families joining our school this term. I hope that your children will settle in well and that you will start to feel part of our school community as time goes by. With our Spring Term now fully underway, we generally find that our pupils make accelerated progress in their learning and draw closer to fully achieving their age-related expectations.

As our Year 6s prepare themselves for their SATs exams set to take place in May 2024, we know that they are now knuckling down as the staff put them through their paces.

In January, our Year 6 parents will already have had an update on the progress their children are making. The Parent-Teacher conferences for our Year 3-5 children will take place this week, **18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**. Kindly ensure that you contact your child's teacher to book an appointment if you haven't already done so.

Attendance and punctuality remain crucial, so we continue to monitor this closely. In recent weeks, I have seen a surge in the number of holiday requests for families wishing to travel abroad for long periods. These will unfortunately not be authorised as time away from school impacts of learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours in education,  
**Mrs A. Moloji**

**Headteacher/ Designated Safeguarding Lead**

## Achievements

### Fantastic Class Assemblies



Parents, I am sure that you will agree that our Friday Assemblies have been such a delight to watch this year.

As each class rises to the challenge of showcasing their fantastic learning, it is evident that we have such talented pupils who can project their voices, hold a melody, remember the facts and much more.

A special thank you to you for attending each assembly in great numbers, and to the staff for fantastically presenting each term's teaching and learning.

We recently enjoyed the first of our Year 3 class assemblies kick-started by the Bees. This was then closely followed by Class 3C who enthusiastically shared their learning, followed by the Ladybirds who inspired us with their knowledge of the artist, Lowry.

There are certainly some budding artists already in Year 3 that we may well see some of the artistic pieces hanging up in galleries across the world one day.

Over the Spring and Summer Terms, we look forward to seeing our Year 4 classes presenting confidently to their parents.

Please make a note of your child's assembly date as it would be great to see you there.

Upcoming Friday Assemblies (9am start in Hall)	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Class 4 Tigers
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Class 4 Lions
Friday 07 <sup>th</sup> June	Class 4 Elephants
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Class 4 Bears



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### General

#### Music News: 'Voice in a Million'



As a school, we pride ourselves in providing rich learning experiences for our learners beyond the classroom. It is with great excitement that our school choir is once again looking forward to their trip to the Wembley SSE Arena on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

Final rehearsals are now underway, and I am sure that it will be an amazing evening. Thank you to the staff who will be accompanying our 45-strong choir this week. I hope that you sing your hearts out, WJS, and do us proud!

#### Staffing Updates



There have been two Year 4 teachers who have gone off on maternity leave in recent times. Miss Brown, who has since had a beautiful, healthy baby boy, began her maternity leave in January 2024 and Mrs Seymour has just begun her maternity leave after the February half-term break.

Please join me in sending our congratulations to Miss Brown and her partner as they welcome their son into our WJS family.

#### Welcome to our new teachers

Two teachers have joined our school this term. **Ms Sharma** replaces Miss Brown as

class teacher of 4B, whilst **Mrs Hampton** replaces Mrs Seymour in 4E. I ask that you give them both a warm WJS welcome.

Visit our school's website

[www.whitehalljunior.org](http://www.whitehalljunior.org)



**Have you visited our school's website recently?**

To find out more about what is going on each term in your child's year group, why not visit the pages below:

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/year-3/>

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/year-4/>

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/year-5/>

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/year-6/>

#### Ordering of school dinners



Parents and carers are reminded to order your child's meals by midnight daily. EduSpot has already been set up for the term so you can book all meals in advance.

As all children receive free hot dinners this year and will thankfully continue to receive free meals next year, too, it has never been easier.

For assistance with logging in or accessing EduSpot, please contact our school's office.

Failure to do so will lead to your child possibly having to wait at the end of the queue to ensure that all others who have rightly ordered their meals have been served.



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### Free School Meal Applications



We understand that for many families the current cost of living has had an impact on our daily lives and that many people have lost jobs, and their circumstances have changed. If your circumstances have changed significantly, your child may be entitled to free school meals.

If you think you qualify for this entitlement, please email the office on: [office@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:office@whitehalljunior.org) with the following details:

**Parent's full name,**  
**Parent's date of birth**  
**Parent's national insurance number**

### Labelling uniform



Daily, we find that our children will forget items of clothing on the playground. There are often items of clothing that cannot be returned to their rightful owners as they are not labelled.

As the weather becomes slightly warmer, we may see a rise in the number of children taking off their jumpers as they run around outside. It would be advisable that you label your child's uniform, water bottles and lunch bags for easy identification.

### Late arrivals in the morning



Increasing numbers of children have been arriving late over the last few weeks. Whilst I

appreciate the odd traffic jam or bus being delayed, we have noticed that some children are **consistently late, often unaccompanied**, impacting on their first session of learning.

**Arriving on time allows your child a smoother start to the school day.**

### Contacting parents in an emergency



To ensure that we are able to reach parents by telephone in an emergency situation, we are asking that each family provides us with **more than one telephone number or names of people** to contact if you are not available.

Do contact the Office with additional numbers, if needed. Thank you.

### Useful Email Addresses



To contact our **main school office**, email us on our new email address:  
[office@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:office@whitehalljunior.org)

**For safeguarding matters, email us on:**  
[safeguarding@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:safeguarding@whitehalljunior.org)

Should you wish to **get in touch with your child's teacher** to discuss work being covered in the year group or to query something, you can contact them directly on:

Year 3- [year3@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:year3@whitehalljunior.org)  
Year 4- [year4@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:year4@whitehalljunior.org)  
Year 5- [year5@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:year5@whitehalljunior.org)  
Year 6- [year6@whitehalljunior.org](mailto:year6@whitehalljunior.org)



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### World Book Day: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Our school recently celebrated World Book Day on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. All children were invited to come dressed in their pyjamas or a onesie that day to promote the idea of reading before bedtime.

Our staff were great sports and also joined in the fun as pictured below! Let's try to continue to promote daily reading at home.



**Final Day of the Book Fair today:** Thank you to all families who came to support our Book Fair last week. Today is the final day on which you can purchase a book or two!

### Year 5 Pedestrian Training

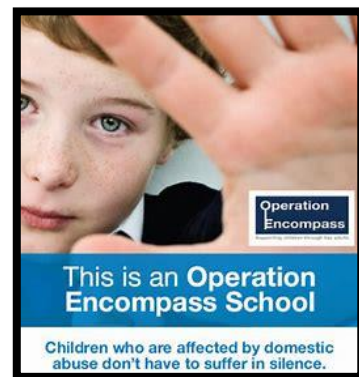


Our Year 5 classes participated in pedestrian training led by officials from the London Borough of Hillingdon. The training focused on promoting and encouraging road safety including active and sustainable travel.

Given that our Year 5s and Year 6s may be granted permission to travel to and from school unaccompanied, it is important that they do so safely.

During the training, children reflected on the dangers of oncoming traffic along with understanding and dealing with hazards. Children were also encouraged to use designated pedestrian crossing at all times.

### Safeguarding Matters: Operation Encompass



As safeguarding of our children remains a priority, we continue to engage with Operation Encompass, a Hillingdon project, that runs jointly between our school and the Metropolitan Police Service.

Operation Encompass will send a notification to schools that a child (under 18) has been



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exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a specially trained member of the school staff, known as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), is informed, to ensure that the wellbeing of the child is supported more closely as a result of this. We believe that this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

### Dealing with any concerns



We believe in dealing with any possible concerns that you might have as they arise. Feel free to talk to the staff on duty and we will direct you to the right member of staff if we are unable to deal with your concerns or questions.

I must stress that parents are not to confront other parents about matters taking place in school. In recent weeks, this has led to unpleasant scenes in front of other parents and children which could have been avoided if addressed properly.

We politely remind parents that we should all be demonstrating our **'Ready, Respectful, Safe'** behaviour principles when accessing the school site for drop-off and pick-up daily.

In the first instance, we ask that you talk directly to the class teacher who quite often can deal with the matter swiftly as they deal daily with your child.

Thank you for your co-operation with such matters.

### Moving Schools



Are you in Year 3-5, and are moving school and not intending to return to Whitehall Junior School?

If so, please email the Office to request a **leaver's form** for completion. Once your child has begun at their new school, we will contact them to handover relevant files, and this will allow us to ensure that your child safely moves onto their new school.

### Term Dates: 2023-2024



To access copies of our term dates for both 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, please visit our website using the link:

### [Term Dates | Whitehall Junior School](#)

<b><u>School Term Dates 2023-2024</u></b>
<b><u>Spring Term 2</u></b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 (Training Day) Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Early Closure</b> Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Start of Easter Break) <b>Year 3 &amp; 4- 12:10pm dismissal</b> <b>Year 5 &amp; 6- 12:15pm dismissal</b>
<b><u>Summer Term 1</u></b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024- Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Bank Holidays</b> (School closed to children) Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024