



Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 29th January 2021

Spring Term: 3

Dear Families,

I hope that you are keeping well in this third lockdown. As we are all in this together, I know that this is an exceptionally difficult time for parents and children alike.

As we usher in February, we remain hopeful that we will be reunited as a school community once the Government, informed by the scientists, deem it safe for us to fully reopen our schools. What a joyous day that will be!

In recent reports, the DfE has commented that this is **not likely to be before 8th March 2021**, as they would want to give at least 2 weeks' notice to ensure that we have the right measures in place to welcome your children back.



Our school continues to run the special provision for a small part of our school's population but we do certainly miss seeing all the friendly faces of our families each day.

Achievements

Fantastic Remote Learning Participation



As Headteacher, I remain exceptionally proud of our pupils at this time and wish to commend you all for the fantastic participation of our pupils. All members of staff are actively contributing to our remote learning, whether it be through planning and delivery of lessons, the regular wellbeing calls, helping with the distribution of devices and work packs, preparation of food parcels and FSM vouchers, just to name a few. We remain committed to striving for excellence whilst maintaining, **'Happiness at the heart of learning!'**

Devices for schools



In the last two weeks alone, in response to the national appeal for businesses and organisations to support schools by donating new or used devices, there has been an outpouring from 4 Uxbridge-based groups. I wish to acknowledge the generosity of **Xerox, Waterloo Road Church, Christ Church**



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Uxbridge, and the Uxbridge United Welfare Trust who have donated devices to our school. These will benefit some of our disadvantaged families within the coming weeks.

All these devices will supplement the limited number of DfE devices already benefiting some of our children during this lockdown.

General

Safer Internet Day 2021



Celebrating Remotely

Safer Internet Day is on Tues 9th February 2021. The theme this year is, '**An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.**' The UK Safer Internet Centre have put together a variety of resources for KS1-4 which now includes additional guidance to adapt and deliver remotely.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2021-ways-schools-and-other-settings-celebrate-remotely>

February Half-Term



Please note that the school will be closed during the February half-term break, **Monday 15th-Friday 19th February 2021**. This is in line with the DfE's recent announcement. The special provision will not run during this week's closure and remote learning will only

resume on **Monday 22nd February 2021** when schools reopen.

Postponement of February Training Day



In consultation with our Infants' School, it has been decided to postpone the scheduled Teacher Training Day on Friday 12th February 2021. The special provision and remote learning will take place as normal. Instead, **this dedicated training day will move to the first day of school's reopening**, once announced by the Government.

Reporting Absences



During this partial opening of schools, it remains important for parents to report a child's absence, whether or not you are attending the special provision. By so doing, we will ensure that our staff do not contact you to find out why your child is not accessing the remote learning that day. If your child is due to attend school, please ensure you inform us if they are unwell. To report your child being unwell, please call the school on: 01895234071.

Free School Meals



Free school meal VOUCHERS

All families eligible for FSM will have received an Edenred voucher for the entitled child for the 4-week period until Feb half-term.



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Please note that the school does not determine the criteria for Free School Meals as this is set by the Government.

Should your family circumstances have changed, and should you wish to check if you are perhaps entitled to FSM now, please email the school on:

whitehalljun@whitehalljunior.org.

You will need to provide the following details, so your application can be assessed:

- your National Insurance number / NASS number (can be found on your benefit letters)
- your date of birth
- your surname
- your full address
- your child(ren)'s details

Year 6 SATs 2021 Cancelled



The Department of Education has recognised that due to the further disruption caused by school closures, primary assessments cannot continue as intended.

As a result, the statutory key stage 2 tests and teacher assessments planned for summer 2021, including the key stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics have been cancelled.

At Whitehall Junior School, we will continue to use assessment during the summer term to inform teaching, to enable us to give information to parents on your child's attainment in their annual report and to support transition to secondary school.

Mayor's 'Feel Good' Photography Competition



As part of **Hillingdon Libraries Heart Month**, the Mayor is hosting a 'Feel Good' photography competition and we thought some of your pupils and their families might be interested in entering their photos to the competition.

The competition runs over 4 weeks and each week there is a different theme for the photo. The attached poster gives more information and the weekly themes can be found on:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/6670/Mayors-Feel-Good-Photography-Competition>

Term Dates



<u>School Term Dates 2020-2021</u>
<u>Spring Term 3</u>
Monday 04 th January 2021 - Friday 12 th February 2021
<u>Spring Term 4</u>
Monday 22 nd February 2021 - Wednesday 31 st March 2021 (Early closure: 12:30pm only on the last day of term)