



Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 23rd November 2020

Autumn Term: 2

What lies ahead?

Where has 2020 gone? Listening to the radio the other day, I was not surprised to hear that the most widely used word this year is 'lockdown'.



While I know that this pandemic has affected us in different ways, we should remain hopeful that we will overcome this together. For me, the image above reminded me of our own families and the community we serve, and how we should all look forward to 2021 with POSITIVITY!

Having participated in the 'BBC Children in Need 2020' charity drive recently, it was wonderful to see so many happy faces and the creative ways in which different children had marked the day. Thanks to your generosity, we managed to raise **£341** towards this amazing cause.



Looking forward to even more exciting things in December, let us all wear our Christmas jumpers or a creative festive outfit as we will be fundraising this year for **Great Ormond Street Hospital**.

Achievements

TRRS Competition: Maths School Rock Out 2020



During Maths Week England, children at Whitehall Junior School took part in the annual School Rock Out competition on Times Table Rock Stars.

This involved pupils using their knowledge of times tables to compete against one another to discover who the ultimate Times Table Rock Hero is!

After an exhausting week of mathematical fun, the notable performers within our school were:

1st place - Leonardo (50)

2nd place – Adib (4L)

3rd place – Ayyub (4L)

Over 3000 schools participated in the competition and Whitehall Junior School fell within the top 7%! Congratulations also needs to be given to **4L** who came 45th in the nationwide class competition which included over 20,000 classes!

Well done to all of the children who participated in the competition.

Our Upper and Lower school Battle of the Bands competition now begins and will continue up until the end of term with children being able to compete and improve upon the ability online daily. Good luck to all our pupils!



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Star of the Week



As a school, we love to hear about the many things that are pupils are involved in outside of the school day.

This week, I would like to applaud, Freya (a Year 5 pupil), who cut her hair in support of the **Little Princess Trust**.



By cutting off such a length of hair, Freya will afford some unfortunate child suffering from cancer or other conditions a beautiful wig.

"Congratulations, Freya on this most generous act of kindness!"

General

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs



Throughout the first half of the Autumn Term, we ran a Breakfast Club for parents who had indicated that they required the service.

However, due to very low numbers, it proved not sustainable, so we took the decision to close it.

After-School Provision

In keeping with our tight COVID-19 procedures, we continue to monitor the situation locally and nationally. At present, whilst the situation remains unchanged, we are unfortunately not able to resume our After-School provision yet.

Attendance Updates



The DfE's guidance on the new national restrictions makes it clear the government is continuing to prioritise the long-term future of children and young people, therefore early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will remain open. It is very important for children and young people to attend their education setting for their wellbeing and long-term development.

School attendance **continues to be mandatory**, although the expectations have changed for children who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable. We are happy to discuss individual family concerns with you.

Cold Weather Procedure



To ensure that we provide the best practice of health and safety, we regularly review our school's health and safety policies. Having recently reviewed our **cold weather procedures**, we are pleased to mention that in the case of extreme weather conditions,



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parents should assume that the school is open unless otherwise informed.

If information needs to be shared about the school not being able to open, we will contact you via the school's messaging system and /or via email.

Festive Friday for GOSH



As we typically fundraise for a children's charity in December, we have decided to support the Great Ormond Street Hospital's charity drive this year. Therefore, on **Friday 11th December**, we are inviting all children to come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper or any festive colours or **red, green, gold** (or even with some wonderful tinsel) and donate generously to this amazing hospital.

Quite a few of our families have already benefitted from the specialist treatment that they offer children, making it even more important that we support this event this year.

Christmas lunch: Friday 11th December 2020



As always, we have arranged for every child to have a FREE Christmas meal on **Friday 11th December 2020**. This year, we are pleased to announce that we have a selection of 3 options on our menu: Non-halal turkey, halal turkey and a vegetarian option of Quorn roast with lots of festive trimmings and delicious chocolate dessert.

We look forward to celebrating as a school together that day.

Safety updates

Christmas cards



We value the wonderful traditions of children exchanging Christmas and Seasons Greeting cards. To allow for the safe exchange of cards this year, we will be allowing children to bring in greeting cards for friends only during the week of **Monday 7th December - Friday 11th December**. All cards will be quarantined and will then be distributed in the final week of term.

Please wear your masks



Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, we are now asking all adults and young adults entering the school grounds to wear a face mask or covering, unless exempt from wearing one. We hope that you will support us with this to keep all parents, children and staff as safe as possible.

Self-Isolation is important



In the case of any families having had to self-isolate, it is important that you then not



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present on our school grounds or in public spaces.

This is more important in the case of families where someone has tested positive. As a school community, we must all take responsibility to safeguard other families by observing the strictest of COVID-19 regulations.

In the event of your family needing to have a COVID-19 test done, during a period of self-isolation, it is important that you notify us of the result of the test. This will enable us to take the necessary action and prevent a possible spread of the virus within our school community.

Please see the COVID-19 Self-Isolation guidance on our website:
<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/september-school-reopening/>
To report your child's absence, call us on: 01895234071.

Applying for Junior School



For children due to start Junior School in September 2021, you must apply for a junior school place by **15th January 2021**. Applications should be made online at: <https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/junior-school/>

Local Offers

SEND Family Support - Santa's Alternative Grotto 2020

Please see the Santa's Grotto letter on the SEND page of our website: www.whitehalljunior.org/special-educational-needs/ with details about being part of a Christmas treat being offered by SEND Family Support.

Dates for your Diary



Monday 11th December 2020 <i>Christmas Jumper Day: Non-Uniform Day</i>
Friday 11th December 2020 <i>Whole School Christmas Lunch</i> <i>Free lunch for all pupils</i>
Thursday 17th December 2020 <i>Class parties</i>
Friday 18th December 2020 <i>Last day of term</i>

Term Dates



<u>School Term Dates 2020-2021</u>
<u>Autumn Term 2</u>
Monday 02 nd November 2020- Friday 18 th December 2020 (Early closure: 12:30pm only on the last day of term)
<u>Spring Term 3</u>
Monday 04 th January 2021- Thursday 11 th February 2021 **Training Day** Friday 12 th February 2021 SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN

Early Closure



As the last day of the Autumn Term is **Friday 18th December 2020**, the school will be shutting from 12:10pm that day. Staggered dismissal times will be shared with you soon. Please ensure that you make the necessary arrangements to collect your child earlier on that day.