



Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 6th November 2020

Autumn Term: 1

"All things bright and beautiful"



Happy Friday to you all! The second term has begun as expected and despite the second lockdown now in place, we continue to provide the best education for our children.

Since the DfE's release of the amended guidance for schools, it is evident that very little has changed in the guidance for primary schools. Upon reviewing our risk assessment and procedures, we are pleased to announce that we are already doing that which is expected of us and more.

We look forward to the next 6 weeks of term, enjoying learning alongside all of our children. Thank you for your continued support and have a restful weekend with your families.

Achievements

'Bravo' parents/carers



Having chatted to several parents at the gate, in light of the Government's announcement of the second lockdown, I appreciate how anxious families will be at this time.

Despite this, you have remained committed to sending your children in and we celebrate a sustained **95% attendance** this week. Well done!

Compliments from the School Nursing Team



This week, the Hillingdon Nursing Team was in to administer the flu vaccine to the pupils who had signed up for it. Given that the nurses travel to different schools, they praised us on how well-mannered and beautifully behaved our children are. As a Headteacher, this makes me extremely proud.

Macbeth



As an introduction to the English work that our Year 5s will be studying this term, all classes were involved in exciting, active storytelling workshops presented by the Young Shakespeare Company this week. This will certainly have brought Shakespeare's wonderful works to life for our children!

General

Attendance Updates





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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.

BBC Children in Need 2020: Non-Uniform Day



On **Friday 13th November 2020**, everyone is invited to come to school in your own clothes with a spotty theme, something yellow or any 'Children in Need' merchandise, **donating £1** for this great charity. **Feeling creative:** *Why not take an old white T-shirt and draw spots of different colours- no cost needed!*

Diwali Celebrations



As a multi-cultural school, we appreciate the many festivals and traditions celebrated by our families. With Diwali being celebrated next weekend, we will mark the occasion by allowing all pupils to wear their traditional attire or party clothes on **Monday 16th November 2020**. All children and staff are welcome to dress up this day. Having an

awareness of each other's religions is important to gaining an understanding and respect of all faiths within our community.

WHY IS DIWALI CELEBRATED?

Diwali is the five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and New Year celebrations, is a **festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.**


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, 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.

Applying for Junior School



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING JUNIOR SCHOOL IN 2021-2022?
Check out the parents' guide to junior school admissions

Remember the deadline - Apply by January 15 2021

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/>



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Safety updates

No visitors on site



To ensure the highest of health and safety standards during this pandemic, we are minimising the number of visitors to school.

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, we are now asking all 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.

We are also not allowing any parents into the building, albeit to drop off a packed lunch or water bottle. Please ensure that you send your child in with these in the morning as this will help with reducing the number of 'non-essential journeys' during the lockdown.

Self-Isolation is important



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

Free Local Services:

Educational Psychology Service - Telephone helpline for parents and carers



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Do you, as a parent or carer at home with your children during the current school shut down, feel that you need someone to talk to about how you can cope during this challenging time for families?

Hillingdon Educational Psychology Service is providing a helpline for any parent or carer of children, who feel they would benefit from a consultation with a psychologist to support them with any concerns arising at this time, for them or their families.

Area of concern you may wish to discuss may include:

- Anxiety around the current situation and its impact on your children and family;
- Supporting you to support your children's emotional needs;
- Concerns about friendships, learning, daily structure and activities;
- The impact of change, loss or bereavement;



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- How to best look after yourself so you can look after your children.

The concerns can be related to school or family life.

If you would like to access this service, please email:

educationalpsychologyservice@hillingdon.gov.uk with the following information:

- Your name;
- The telephone number you would like to be contacted on;
- The name of your child's school;
- Times and dates you are **not** available for a consultation;
- A brief description of what you would like to focus on in the consultation.

We will aim to get back to you within two working days to confirm a date and time for your consultation. The consultation service will, **as far as possible**, be confidential.

Spreading Christmas Cheer

HARRISON
food with thought

Celebrate Christmas

Friday 11th December

Roast Turkey served with Chicken Sausage, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy

Quorn Roast served with Quorn Sausage, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Seasonal Vegetables and Vegetarian Gravy

Festive Chocolate Yule Log with Vanilla Ice Cream

Once again this year, we are in a position to offer all of our children a FREE Christmas lunch. This will be served on **Friday 11th**

December 2020 which coincides with **Christmas Jumper Day** too. Sign your child up for their FREE meal that day.

Dates for your Diary



<u>Friday 13th November 2020</u> <i>Children in Need Day: Non-Uniform Day (£1 donation)</i>
<u>Monday 16th-Friday 20th November 2020</u> <i>Anti-Bullying Week</i>
<u>Monday 16th November 2020</u> <i>Diwali Celebration: Non-Uniform Day</i>
<u>Monday 11th December 2020</u> <i>Christmas Jumper Day: Non-Uniform Day</i>
<u>Friday 11th December 2020</u> <i>Whole School Christmas Lunch</i> Free lunch for all pupils
<u>Thursday 17th December 2020</u> <i>Class parties</i>
<u>Friday 18th December 2020</u> <i>Last day of term (12:30pm closure)</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