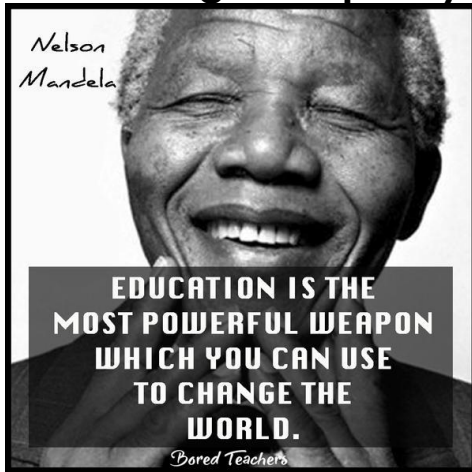




## Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Autumn Term: 1

### **Black History Month:** **'Educating for Equality'**



Welcome to all new families who have joined us in the last two weeks. It is great to see our pupil numbers growing steadily and to meet so many new people from different parts of the world.

As we near the end of an extremely exciting yet busy first term, we pause to reflect on our many successes this term. We celebrate the fact that our pupils have settled in well into their new classes and that they have embraced the many procedures put in place for the safety of all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the wonderful support shown by all parents this term, especially yesterday, when at least 90% of the adults who entered our school site wore a face mask. Thanks to our combined efforts, we have not had a single reported positive case within our pupil and staffing groups.

Let us take a moment to celebrate our attendance which is currently at 96%, despite the challenges we are facing locally and nationally. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for ensuring that all children have been safe, happy and well since returning in September.

### **Achievements**

#### We are the World



Every October, a national census is conducted by every school, registering the numbers on roll in each school. It always fascinates me to learn about the selection of languages spoken by the families within our amazingly diverse community. This year, we registered an astounding **48 languages** spoken by us all. What a celebration of our various backgrounds!

#### Bikeability Success!



Once again this year, we have been able to offer Bikeability session to our Year 6s in collaboration with the Hillingdon Road Safety & Cycle Team. This amazing group of volunteers put our 29-strong group of Year 6s through their paces, ensuring that they received their Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability accreditation by the end of the week.

We received wonderful feedback from the team who commended our children on having been brilliantly behaved throughout and for the warm welcome received by the school. Given that they work in many Hillingdon schools, it is great to receive such positive feedback. **"Well done, Year 6s!"**



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### Google Classroom



Having now had the opportunity to review our remote learning offer over the initial lockdown earlier in the year, we are now looking to enhance our practices, bringing us more into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As a school, we will be using Google Classroom in the event of school closure during this pandemic. Already this week, you will have received guidance on how to use it. Children will also be directed by teachers on how to access their accounts. We are excited about this new platform as this gives us all the amazing opportunity to continue to learn alongside our children.

### **General**

#### Parent-Teacher Success



Thank you to all parents and carers who arranged to chat to their child's class teacher over the telephone this week. I hope that you have found these discussions productive and that you now have a sense of how well your child has settled into the new year group.

#### Secondary School Applications



If you are applying for a secondary school place for **September 2021**, please apply online. Closing date for applying is Saturday **31st October 2020**.

### Applying for Junior School



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/>

### FREE Flu Immunisation for Year 3-6 pupils



As part of our annual NHS commitment to tackling colds and flu, our local nursing team will be in on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020** to administer the nasal flu immunisation.

It is important to note that **no child would ever be forced into having this immunisation without parental consent.**

### Safety updates



Since reopening, we have been constantly reviewing our systems around the school as a way of keeping all children, staff, families, and local community safe. With the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in London, it is important that we all do what we can to keep each other safe.

It is important that we all remember to wear our face masks and coverings when on the school site, and remember to respect the personal space of others within our community.



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### Thank you for your generosity



Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to produce approximately 20 large food packages this year. We have already handed out several bags to some elderly friends of Whitehall Junior who would otherwise have joined us for our annual Harvest Festival but could not due to the current situation. The remaining packages will be collected by the local food bank in the coming days.

### Self-Isolation is important



As you will have observed from the rising number of cases over last week alone, COVID-19 cases continue to climb in London.

There have been many positive cases reported in many local primary and secondary schools. This has resulted in class and year-group bubbles having had to shut. 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.

### 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.

### Did you know?



Hattie McDaniel was the first black woman to be awarded an Oscar, although she was not allowed to attend the premiere of '**Gone with the Wind**', in Atlanta, although she was present at the film's debut.





# Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## A new hospital in Hillingdon



The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has announced plans to build a new hospital in Hillingdon. As anyone who has visited the hospital will realise, the current Hillingdon Hospital is an old building. The maze-like layout makes it difficult to get around and the condition of buildings can make the experience of being in hospital more difficult. They have an ambitious plan to build a new hospital by **September 2025** and very much want to hear from everyone who has an interest in the hospital, to ensure that plans consider their ideas and aspirations.

More detail about the plans and a short survey can be found online:  
[www.thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment/](http://www.thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment/)

## Don't forget!



Do not forget that the clocks go back by 1 hour on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## Half-Term Break



Our Autumn half-term break will take place from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October until Sunday 01<sup>st</sup> November 2020**. Unlike some local secondary schools, our break is only 1 week. We will reopen on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Please ensure that no holidays are booked during term time. If you are planning to travel abroad in half term, please ensure you are aware of quarantine requirements in place and know that these are subject to change. Please visit:  
[www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors/](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors/) for up to date information.

## Term Dates



<b><u>School Term Dates 2020-2021</u></b>
<b><u>Autumn Term 1</u></b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2020- Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020 (Normal dismissal)
<b><u>Autumn Term 2</u></b>
Monday 02 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020- Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 (Early closure: 12:30pm only on the last day of term)