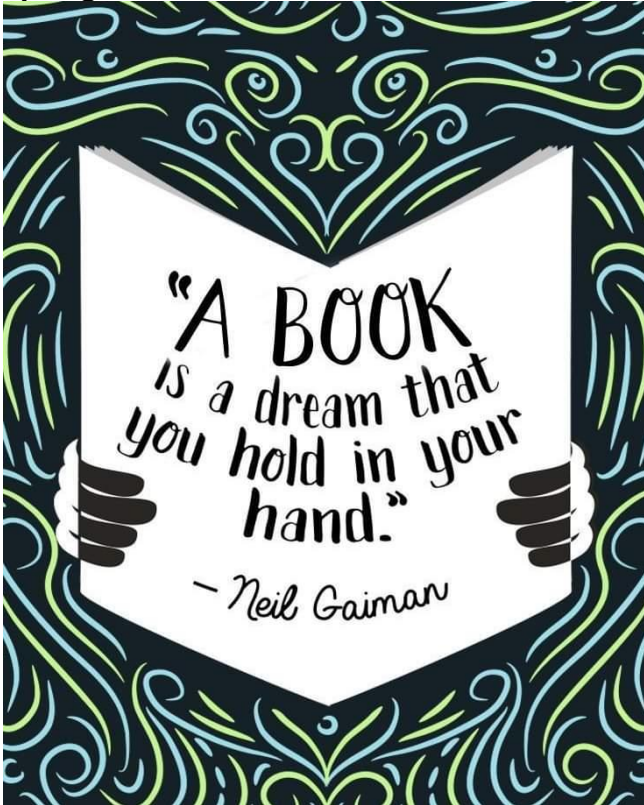




Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter March 2022

Spring Term: 4



Dear Families,

I hope that you remain well. As we continue to enjoy the Easter break, we recap on the term and begin to plan ahead for the Summer Term. The final term is a crucial one as we all work towards ensuring that our Year 3-5 pupils are ready for the next year up, whilst we prepare our Year 6s for that 'big jump' to secondary school.

For those of you planning your Easter celebrations, I hope that this will be a special one. Others within our community are now in the holy month of Ramadan and we hope that it is a fruitful one too.

Enjoy the time with your children at home and we hope that this glorious weather allows for many outdoor adventures too.

Stay safe and stay well!

Mrs Moloi, Headteacher

Achievements

Comic Relief

THANK YOU
for supporting Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who made such a huge effort to support the Comic Relief Charity again this year. All donations have been counted and we collected near enough £305. Well done, WJS!

Music News: 'Voice in a Million'



Congratulations to the **29 children** who represented our school at the Voice in a Million mass choir event this month. I heard that you all sang your hearts out and the staff who accompanied you made a special mention of your exemplary behaviour. Thank you to the staff involved this year and to Mr Short and Mrs Beig, two of our parent volunteers, for accompanying our school too.

General

It's a girl!



It is with great excitement that we share the news of the birth of Mrs Azeem's baby girl. We welcome her into the Whitehall Junior family and please join me in congratulating the family!



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Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises

With the escalating conflict in Ukraine, the British Psychological Society has provided advice and guidance on how best to support children who are anxious about the current situation.

"Children are both our reason to eliminate the worst aspects of armed conflict and our best hope of succeeding in that charge."

Graça Machel



Professor Vivian Hill, of the Division of Educational and Child Psychology, says:

"Our children are constantly absorbing things they read, see and hear and it's completely natural for them to be picking up on the situation in Ukraine and feeling anxious and also asking questions about what is going on."

"Children and young people have experienced an incredibly difficult two years due to the pandemic, and now they are faced with an even more uncertain world

with the threat of conflict and war. It is important that we don't avoid talking to our children about what is going on, but you might want to try to moderate their exposure to constant rolling news and updates."

- **Give them the basics and don't avoid the conversation** – Listen to their worries and provide honest answers to their questions about what is going on, don't overcomplicate responses and try to give details at an age-appropriate level. Don't avoid answering their questions about the situation as this could promote more anxiety but keep to basic facts.

- **Ensure they feel supported and safe** – It's important to help children/young people understand the level of threat to them and their friends and family. Explain this is happening in Ukraine, a different country and show this if necessary, using a globe or map.

- **Manage your own feelings** - Try to deal with your own feelings of stress and distress and those of staff in a way that it is managed as children/young people will be sensitive to your reactions.

- **Explain to children/young people that bad things can happen in the world but there is always some way we can help** - Plan together how you might deal with this situation through fundraising or other actions to support the Ukrainian community.

- **Avoid exposure to a constant stream of news** – Be mindful of the impact of the radio or TV and internet, as children/young people will be absorbing news without us realising it. Try to build in 'breaks' from the news, for example, if you are picking up children up from school, turn off the radio in the car or make sure it isn't on a news station to provide a break from the constant exposure to worrying rolling news cycles.



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• **Watch where they are getting their news –**

We know that fake news is an issue, particularly on social media sites so be mindful of what children/young people are absorbing and where they are getting it. Ensure they understand that not everything they see on social media sites is true, and they know what reliable sources of news they can access.

Ongoing home-school communication



Thank you to all parents who made an appointment to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. As this was the second parent-teacher meeting for this academic year, you can expect to receive your child's annual report in the Summer Term instead. This will highlight the overall progress that your child has made this year. There will be the opportunity for you to contact the class teacher should you have questions about the report.

Until then, should you need to contact your child's teacher about work-related or non-urgent school matters, you may email them on:

Year 3- year3@whitehalljunior.org

Year 4- year4@whitehalljunior.org

Year 5- year5@whitehalljunior.org

Year 6- year6@whitehalljunior.org

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.

School Uniform

"Think Smart, Dress Smart"



It has been pleasing to see how smart our pupils are looking, especially when they are wearing the correct school uniform. As the summer months are approaching, I would like to remind you that our school uniform is as follows:

Girls:

The summer school uniform for our girls includes our usual school uniform and red gingham dresses (no gingham playsuits allowed). These are available from local supermarkets such as: Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, etc. Matching hair accessories may also be worn.

Strictly no sandals or leggings allowed as this is not in keeping with our school uniform.

If preferred, girls may wear long white socks instead.



Boys:

Our boys are allowed to wear grey/charcoal coloured school shorts also available from any local supermarkets.



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Strictly no sandals or trainers allowed.



Removal of earrings on PE days: On the days on which your child has PE, it is your responsibility to take your child's earrings off before school or to put a plaster to cover the earring. For health and safety reasons, this has to be insisted upon.

Black shoes only: Thank you to those parents who have purchased your child a sturdy pair of black shoes. Unless for PE, different coloured trainers are not allowed.

Wearing PE kit to school

PE Day	Year Group
Monday	Year 5 & 6
Tuesday	Year 3 & 4
Wednesday	Year 5
Thursday	Year 3 & 4
Friday	Year 6

Labelling uniform



Especially now that the weather is becoming warmer, 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. It would be advisable that you label your child's uniform, water bottles and lunch bags for easy identification.

Wraparound Care

Wraparound Care

Our school continues to offer a Wraparound Care service, run by our own school staff, for families who require it. The details are as follows:

Breakfast Club: (7:30-8:30 at £3 includes a light breakfast)

****For Junior School pupils only****



After-School Provision: 3:15-5:15 (Mon-Thus ONLY) £5 per hour includes a light snack

****Open to all Junior School pupils and for siblings in as young as Yr1****

Having reviewed our weekly uptake, we are no longer in a position to operate on a Friday afternoon as there were insufficient numbers attending. You should have received this notification at the start of the holiday.

Our SEND Information Corner



To find out more about our school's amazing Special Educational Needs and Disability's offer, and to find out about many local initiatives visit our website on:

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/special-educational-needs/>



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Safeguarding Information: 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 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.

Year 6 SATs in May 2022



Our Year 6 pupils will sit their SATs, end of primary school testing, this year. Due to the pandemic, the last two Year 6 cohorts were unable to complete these. With the wonderful work ethic of our Year 6s, we are confident that they will rise to the challenge.

Monday May 9th 2022	English grammar, punctuation and spelling: Paper 1: questions Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday May 10th 2022	Reading
Wednesday May 11th 2022	Maths: Paper 1: arithmetic Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday May 12th 2022	Maths: Paper 3: reasoning

Term Dates



<u>School Term Dates 2021-2022</u>
<u>Summer Term 5</u>
Tuesday 19 th April 2022- Thursday 26 th May 2022 (May Bank Holiday- school closed: Monday 2 nd May 2022)
<u>Summer Term 6</u>
Monday 06 th June 2022- Thursday 21 st July 2022 **Training Days** Monday 04th July 2022 Friday 22nd July 2022 SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN

Visit our website on:

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/term-dates-1/> to access our 2022-2023 term dates already.

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.



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Some of the term's highlights:

Our Year 3 Reading Cafés to celebrate World Book Day



Year 5's Jackson Pollock's Art Session



Edward Tulane
Guided Reading Text
inspiration studied this
term.

