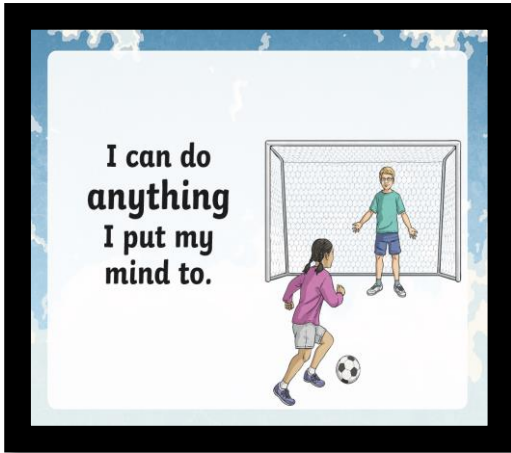




Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter February 2022

Spring Term: 3



Dear Families,

As we recap on the short yet busy term that we have just had, it seems hardly possible that we are already in February and now nearly approaching March. Whilst there were many COVID-related staff and pupil absences for at least a three-week period, we still kept going as a school.

As our children experienced during Mental Health Week and that which some of you may well already do as families, we tried to focus on daily affirmations. These affirmations serve to motivate us to act on certain things, help us to concentrate on achieving our goals and give us the power to change our negative thinking patterns.

Going forward, let's try to reinforce the idea of, **'I can do anything that I put my mind to!'** This is easier said than done but a wonderful mantra to keep us going during challenging times.

As always, let us welcome new families joining our school this term. I look forward to introducing you to others within our ever-growing school community.

Stay safe and stay well!

Mrs Moloi, Headteacher

Achievements

Music News: 'Voice in a Million'



As a school, we pride ourselves in providing rich learning experiences for our learners beyond the classroom. It is with great excitement that our school choir is once again looking forward to their trip to the Wembley SSE Arena on **Wednesday 23rd March 2022**, especially given that this event could not take place in the last two years. Rehearsals are now underway and I am sure that it will be an amazing evening.

New Improved Menu



Throughout this term, we have introduced some exciting changes to our menu in the dinner hall. This includes some of our children's favourite meals which include: a variety of nuggets, more vegetarian options across the week and a lovely addition of Yorkshire puddings with our roast dinners on a Wednesday, to name a few. To find out more about how you can book your child's hot dinners, please contact the Office. More



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information can also be found on our website:

<https://whitehall-junior.secure-primarysite.net/school-dinner-menu/>

Farewell, Mrs Ketteley!



Keeping our children and staff well-fed and watered is yet another integral service which we offer daily. Having led this service with great pride for **almost 11 years**, we said our fond goodbyes to Mrs Ketteley, whom our children would have known as Carmen, whom we will sadly miss. Please join me in thanking her for her dedicated service and to wish her well for the future. We are working closely with our kitchen team to ensure that Harrison, our catering company, continues to offer the highest food standards for our community.

General

Hot dinner orders



This is a general reminder for parents wishing for their children to have a hot dinner provided by us to order your child's meals in advance. In recent times, we have found that there are sometimes up to 30 children

on a given day for whom a hot dinner has not been ordered, meaning that the food could run out before all children have been served. Get in touch with the school office during operating hours should you still have difficulties in accessing Edu Spot or send your child in with a packed lunch instead.

Free School Meal Applications



We understand that for many families COVID-19 has had an impact on their daily lives and that many people have lost jobs, and their circumstances have changed. If your circumstances have changed significantly, your child may be entitled to free school meals. If you think you qualify for this entitlement, please email the office on: whitehalljun@whitehalljunior.org with your full name, your date of birth and your national insurance number.

Reporting absences



It is important that parents continue to report their child's absence. Please ensure that you give a reason for the absence and please state if it is linked to COVID-19 symptoms. To report your child's absence, call us on: 01895234071 or leave a message on the absence line.

Did you know that a day's absence counts as two sessions missed?

As the register is taken twice a day, counting as a morning and afternoon session, absences can quickly build up if there are regular absences. Do speak to us should you have concerns about your child's absences.



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Office Opening Hours



To ensure the smooth-running of the school day and the school's systems, the office opening hours are as follows: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

Calling the school outside of these hours:

Please be aware that the telephones are often unmanned outside of these office hours. Kindly leave a message, if necessary, and we will attempt to contact you at our earliest possible convenience.

Late arrivals in the morning



Increasing numbers of children have been arriving late over the last few weeks. Whilst I appreciate the odd traffic jam or bus being delayed, we have noticed that some children are **consistently late, often unaccompanied**, impacting on their first session of learning. **Arriving on time allows your child a smoother start to the school day.**

Update your contact details



Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

Please call the Office next week or email in on: whitehalljun@whitehalljunior.org to update your contact details and to ensure that you do not miss out on any important correspondence.

School Uniform

"Think Smart, Dress Smart"



As we begin the new term, it is important that we prepare our uniforms in readiness for school, ensuring that we are looking neat and tidy daily. For the benefit of all, I would like to remind you that our school uniform is as follows:

Girls: grey or black skirt, pinafore or trousers, the school's red jumper, white shirt/polo shirts, grey or white socks or tights (**no footless leggings**) and plain black school shoes (no boots or trainers).

Hair accessories: these are to be in school colours, should be of a sensible size. Religious head scarves are to be of school colours (i.e. red or white). Strictly **no nail polish or jewellery**, other than a pair of stud earrings.

Boys: grey/black trousers, the school's jumper, white shirt/polo shirts, grey socks and plain black school shoes (**no trainers**). Thank you, in advance, for your support in this regard. Staff will continue to monitor this in each class.

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.

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs



As a school, we offer our wraparound care for all Junior pupils and for those with siblings as young as Year 1 at the Infant School. Should you wish to find out more about our



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school-run provision, do contact the Office to find out about how to enrol your child.

Breakfast Club: 7:30-8:30 daily

After-School Provision: 3:15-5:15 (Mon-Thus)
3:15-4:15 (Friday only)

Swimming resumes for Year 5s



We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer our Year 5 pupils a next round of intensive swimming lessons this term. Our school's swimming sessions take place at the Hillingdon Leisure Centre as part of our PE programme and our school's amazing offer.

Staffing updates

Maternity Leave



Mrs Azeem, one of our Year 6 teachers, has left us this term to welcome her first child. We would like to wish her and her husband everything of the best as they eagerly await the safe arrival of their baby girl.

Staff Leavers

Thank you and farewell to the following staff who left us recently:

Mrs Lakshmanan (who is now enjoying her retirement)
Mrs Wicks (who has moved on to a new job)

Staff Absences



Thank you for your co-operation and patience in recent times. As you may have already been aware, we have experienced many staffing absences this term, particularly due to COVID-related matters. Thankfully, due to our excellent staffing teams in each year group, and across different key areas of our school's administration, we have been able to offer our usual standard of education.

Term Dates



<u>School Term Dates 2021-2022</u>
<u>Spring Term 4</u>
Monday 21 st February 2022- Friday 1 st April 2022 (Early closure: 12:30pm only on the last day of term)
<u>Summer Term 5</u>
Tuesday 19 th April 2022- Thursday 26 th May 2022 (May Bank Holiday- school closed: Monday 2nd 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.