



Whitehall Junior School School Newsletter 08th October 2021

Autumn Term: 1



Over the last two weeks, we have begun safely reintroducing wider enrichment of our pupils through undertaking school trips. It is reassuring to see that we are slowly returning to some normality, adding to the enjoyment in learning that we have to offer our learners.

As a school, we celebrate how beautifully diverse we are and during the month of October, we turn the spotlight onto **Black History**. That said, with a keen focus on bringing about **Equality within our Education**, beyond October, we will be looking at different elements of diversity.

We plan to share the various ways in which we would like to involve you in our journey of 'diversifying our curriculum'. This will include the many ways in which we already mark the different religious celebrations as a school.

Coming up in the first week of November will be our Diwali celebrations, where our intention is to highlight to non-Hindus and non-Sikhs the importance of this 'festival of lights' to their believers.

Other than racial and religious differences, we wish to educate our children on our differing **special educational needs** and **disabilities** too. Let's embrace our differences together and respectfully!

Stay safe and stay well!

Mrs Moloi, Headteacher

Achievements

We are the World



Every October, a national census is conducted by every school, registering the numbers on roll in each school and collates lots of useful data about each school nationwide. 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 **46 languages** spoken by us all. I can only speak two languages. Children, how many do you speak?

Local trips safely reintroduced

Year 3s' visits:

Our Year 3s were fortunate to have gone on their first school trip to Uxbridge Town Centre. The children had been very excited on the week coming up to the trip; eager to learn more about their local area as well as visit the Uxbridge Library and our local Civic Centre. The highlight of the trip was watching our children behave maturely and act as a brilliant ambassador for Whitehall Junior School. Thank you to the parents who helped out; you made the day that much more enjoyable. Year 3s are very excitedly planning their next trip.

Year 4s' visits:

It has been an exciting week for Year 4 as children had the opportunity to go on their first trip of the year - a visit to our local town centre of Uxbridge. This informative expedition allowed children to learn about the history of the town and its important



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locations, such as the Underground station, St Margaret's Church (where children stopped off for a spot of sketching) and the Civic Centre. Children then finished their trip enjoying some reading time at Uxbridge Library, appreciating all their wonderful books and resources. An enlightening experience was had by all and a great opportunity to learn about our fabulous town's background, locales and historical relevance, where every street, building and resident has a story to tell. A huge thank you to Uxbridge Library for accommodating us and giving us an insightful tour, as always!

General

Harvest Festival donations



Annually, at this time of year, we ask for food donations as contributions towards our **Harvest Festival**. Thank you to those families who have already given so generously.

These can be brought into school by your child from until **Wednesday 13th October 2021** for distribution to some elderly people within the community and for collection by the Hillingdon Food Bank.

Parent-Teacher Consultations



Our Parent-Teacher Telephone Conversations have been scheduled for week beginning **11th October 2021**.

These are important Autumn Term meetings as you will find out about the progress that your child has already made and to discuss how your child is settling into their new class.

If you haven't already booked or to cancel your appointment, contact the school's Office on: 01895234071.

Individual photographs



On **Wednesday 13th October 2021**, our Kittle photographer will be in school to take individual photographs of our pupils. As always, children are to look their smartest and are expected to wear their full school uniform that day. There will be the opportunity for siblings within the Junior School to have their photograph taken towards the end of the session. Your child will come home with their Kittle card to allow you to order your child's photograph.

Mental Health Matters



World Mental Health Day is observed on 10th October every year, with the overall aim of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and creating positive changes that support and improve mental health.

As a school, the mental health of all within our school community is important. Feel free to contact us for support, especially if concerned about your child's mental health. <https://www.whitehalljunior.org/world-mental-health-day-2021/>



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Secondary School Applications



If you are applying for a secondary school place for **September 2022**, please apply online. Information packs will be emailed out to our Year 6 parents on Monday. Closing date for applying is **Sunday 31st October 2021**.

Bikeability Programme 2021



We are delighted to be able to partner with the Hillingdon Road Safety and Cycle Team to offer our Year 6s cycling proficiency courses in October and November. Let us see how many of our pupils can successfully complete their Level 1 & 2 Accreditation this year.

Cold & Flu Season Ahead



This year, more than ever, we have seen a stronger strain of the cold & flu virus in our school, resulting in a longer recovery period than usual.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should

isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- **a new, continuous cough,**
- **a high temperature,**
- **loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.**

If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

As part of our annual NHS commitment to tackling colds and flu, our local nursing team will be in on **Friday 5th November 2021** to administer the nasal flu immunisation. This FREE service is offered to all junior-aged children and further information has been sent out to families this week.

Paper copies are available in the Office too. It is important to note that only children with signed permission from a parent will receive the immunisation.

Safety first: COVID-19 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.



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Local rise in COVID-19 Cases:



Several local secondary schools have reported a rise in the number of positive cases within their pupil body over the last two weeks. This, together with the national rise in COVID-19 cases and fatalities, indicates that this pandemic is far from over.

Dismissal updates:

Thank you to all parents who already maintaining the queuing systems daily, allowing Yr 3 & 4 parents to collect their children first at 3:10pm and Yr 5 & 6 parents to safely collect their children at 3:15pm.

I have however observed that some parents are arriving with multiple adults accompanying them, adding to the risk of the transmission of the virus. I have to ask that you restrict the number of additional persons entering the school site as we need to keep you, all children and our staff safe.

Whilst I appreciate that the wearing of masks is a personal choice, I have to insist on parents queuing up in an orderly fashion, allowing all families to safely collect their children without being anxious about the spread of COVID-19.

I do have to insist that we exercise patience, queue in an orderly fashion behind the next parent and safely allow each other to collect their children.

Let's all follow our school's policy of being courteous and put the safety of ourselves and others first!

Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 13th October 2021 <i>Individual Photograph Session</i>
Friday 22nd October 2021 <i>End of Term</i>
Friday 05th November 2021 <i>Diwali Celebrations & 'Own Clothes' Day</i>

Term Dates



<u>School Term Dates 2021-2022</u>
<u>Autumn Term 1</u>
Thursday 02 nd September 2021- Friday 22 nd October 2021
Training Day Monday 1 st November 2021 SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Half-Term Break Monday 25 th October 2021- Friday 29 th October 2021
<u>Autumn Term 2</u>
Tuesday 02 nd November 2021- Friday 17 th December 2021 (Early closure: 12:30pm only on the last day of term)

