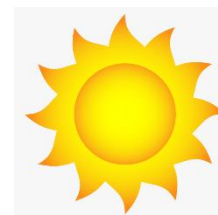


Governors' Newsletter

Summer Term 2022



Happiness at the heart of learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this on the hottest day of the year, yet another challenge in a year of so many challenges. At the weekend I spoke to Mrs Moloj about the impending heatwave and was of course reassured that the Hot Weather Plan was on its way to join the Cold Weather Plan, Covid Recovery Plan and the many other plans that are in place behind the scenes to make sure that Whitehall Junior School is a happy and safe place to learn whatever the circumstances.

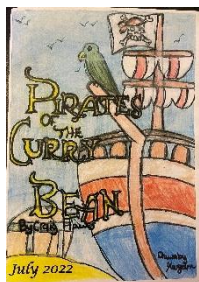


I would like to thank Mrs Moloj, the senior team and all the staff at the school for their tireless efforts this year. In many ways, this year has been as challenging, if not more than the previous years, with everything returning to normal on the surface, but with us all aware that the last couple of years have had a range of impacts that will be with us for quite some time.

Mrs Upfield, Miss Costa and Mrs Huse have worked heroically to put in place individual and small group tutoring and Catch-Up programmes, with many teachers and teaching assistants contributing their time and support to children across the year groups. As governors, it has been fantastic to see the return of trips and visits, Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, the Cardfields residential, the Year 6 production and Sports Day; all important aspects of school that have been sadly missing in recent times. We were also delighted to be able to meet in school for Governors' Day which had been postponed during the pandemic. Members of the Governing Board share their thoughts on some of these events in this newsletter.

I would also like to thank members of staff and governors who are leaving Whitehall Junior School this term and wish them well for the future and welcome those who are joining... And every good wish to Year 6 on the next phase of their education journey.

Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors



Year 6 Leavers' Production 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'

What an absolute treat to be kidnapped by pirates aboard the Curry Bean led by the superbly played Captain Redbeard and the adventures that follow with her children looking for her! Let's not forget the hilarious and daring encounters with the crew of the HMS The Crunchy Frog, led by Admiral Hornhonker and Captain Cod. Interspersed with brilliantly choreographed dances from all of the cast, the humour had the audience laughing out loud, the dancing and singing was so uplifting and the acting was brilliant. Huge well done to all the children and teachers that helped to pull this performance together. All the hard work was so evident and the audience all enjoyed it so much.

Anu Short – Parent Governor and Vice Chair, Strategy and Pupils' Committees



Governor's Day on 29 April 2022 was a wonderful experience. We met the children as they arrived at school. It was a pleasure to see how confident the pupils were and how sure they were about their learning. Year 6, in particular, impressed me as they were very knowledgeable about the next stage on their school career.



This academic year, Whitehall Junior School has had a real focus on reading. I visited three classrooms to observe the pupils and it was very impressive to watch the different methods used, to ensure that each pupil achieved their personal best. Moreover, the pupils were really enjoying their lessons and fully understood how important reading was to their progress in school.



English – We have covered stories, folk tales and poetry from countries such as Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Ghana.

Guided Reading – Poetry that cover subjects such as equality.

Music – Songs from rap to gospel, covering topics including the 60s civil rights movement.

Topic – Geography unit focused on Gambia.

Art - identity and diversity, designers and fashion.



Schools do not run on teachers alone, and for me, the highlight of the day was to observe how well respected the teaching assistants are at Whitehall Junior.

As a governor, you cannot be fully aware of all aspects of the school curriculum, so it was really exciting to hear what happens in each year group. A teacher in each year group and the teaching assistant attached to that year group treated us to a breakdown of what had been taught and a detailed breakdown of the pupil's progress. It was so evident that they work as a team and for me this is a real achievement.



As an ex-teacher, I know how difficult the last few years have been for the teachers at Whitehall, but I am so in awe, not only of the pupils' progress, but also how the staff aim for Whitehall Junior School to be a safe and happy environment.

Mary Clancy – Chair of Pupils' Committee

Summer of Sport I have been delighted this year to attend more events at the school. As the Sports Link Governor, I attended football fixtures, where we played local schools and had a mixed team of Years 5&6. It was great to see the children really enjoying playing with a fantastic team spirit (even when results didn't go the way they wanted). There was also a very special football match where teachers, parents and governors played against Year 6. It was a very close game and some strong tackles were made. At full time, it was a draw so it went to penalties. Delighted to say the teachers, parents and governors saved face and won!



Three Rounders teams took part in the inter-school tournament. The children played really well despite the weather hitting 27 degrees Celsius with one of the teams reaching the quarter finals. We had some great Year 5 performances so hopefully next year they will be able to progress further in the competition.

Sports Day saw the whole school out on the field for the team races. The children were extremely well-behaved waiting patiently for their race and cheering on their friends. It was great to see this happen again after Covid! There was a huge uptake from parents / carers (and governors) racing too; I have never seen so many wanting to take part. There were so many races to schedule so that the races could be run safely. Great work Mr Jones for coordinating it all from the starting line! It was a pleasure to be able to attend and well done to the winning house Chiltern. Here's a picture of me winning the mum's race!



Kelly Barter – Co-opted Governor, Pupils' Committee

Governor Training

This year I have taken maximum advantage of online training available to get a wider understanding of school life and my responsibilities as a governor.

On **National Governor Awareness Day**, earlier in the year, I attended 'The Nine Habits of Trust' webinar delivered by the

Trusted Executive Foundation and the **Schools Procurement training** session delivered by Hillingdon Council's Head of Procurement and Commissioning.

Safeguarding is a key responsibility for all school staff and governors. The **Safer Recruitment training** session delivered by Hillingdon's LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer), demonstrated that missing out any part of the required Safer Recruitment process can, and has nationally, led to serious risk and harm to children and young people. Effective verifications and checks should be made and nothing significant can be easily left out – whether purposely or accidentally. The diagram above was presented at the session and gives a good overview of what Safer Recruitment is.

Sally Davies – Co-opted Governor, Resources' Committee

Mistaken identity!

I was fortunate enough to catch the end of the wonderful picnics on the field to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Not one for dressing up, I had managed to find a red and white dress and blue cardigan for the occasion and was rewarded by a young man in Year 5 asking me if I was the queen. Worryingly for me, he was aware that she had been queen for 70 years and is 96 years old!

Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors

Changes in the Governing Board: Huge thank to Matthew Ralph who has left the Governing Board after many years of excellent service with the Resources' Committee. We wish him well for the future and welcome Manish Lath who will join us in September 2022.

Wishing you and your families a safe and a wonderful summer holiday.

To contact the governors, please email: governors@whitehalljunior.org

What is Safer Recruitment?

It is the first opportunity to minimise the risk of any harm happening to children.

Applying a safeguarding mindset to every stage of the employment journey with an aim to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children (KCSIE)

Perpetrators of abuse may deliberately target settings that give them access to children.



It is more than a criminal record check

Being confident the people you are bringing into your setting are the right people and are safe people who will keep children & young people safe from harm.

Assessing candidates have the right attitudes, values and behaviours to work with children & young people

Includes all school staff – caretakers, managers, governors, volunteers, agency workers



Red, White & Blue Day: Thurs 26th May 2022

