



Happiness at the heart of learning

Our vision

'Our school is a welcoming and inclusive community providing all children with high quality learning in a respectful and safe environment. Through inspirational teaching and a positive, encouraging atmosphere, we enable children to aspire and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.'

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

One of the great aspects of the role of a school governor, is the opportunity to visit the school to see the areas of school life that we discuss in meetings in action. We look for evidence to show how well we are achieving our vision for the school.

We all have links to particular areas of the school and do individual visits throughout the year. In addition, once a year usually in the Spring term, we hold a 'Governors' Day' in school where we hear presentations from staff, speak to pupils, and visit lessons. Doing this as a group enables us to develop our shared understanding of the successes of the school and any challenges the school is facing. This year the **Governors' Day was held on Tuesday 5th February 2019**. Governors who took part have contributed their perspectives on aspects of the visit.

These are the activities that took place on the day:

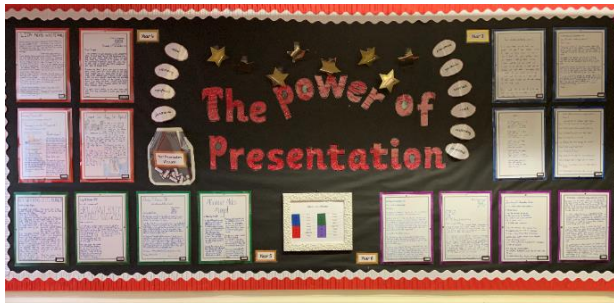
Meeting parents in the playground: You may have spoken to one of us and let us know what you liked about the school and anything that you would like to improve. The majority of parents and carers that we met were very positive about Whitehall Juniors and we received some fantastic comments regarding the teachers being approachable and encouraging, the wide range of homework, Mrs Moloi's 'passionate' and 'proactive' attitude and most importantly, how happy their child is at the school.

Presentation on the curriculum:

Deputy Head, Mrs Upfield gave an overview of the way the school plans the curriculum. At Whitehall we are very proud of the breadth of our curriculum and the range of opportunities for learning provided outside the classroom through trips and visits, visitors into school and extra-curricular clubs at lunch time and after school. We heard about how the curriculum is a key focus in the new Ofsted framework which will be in place from September 2019 and what the school is doing to prepare for this.



Presentation of pupils' work:



Mrs Seymour, spoke to us about the work she has been leading on improving how children present their work in their books. After the presentation pupils came with their books to speak to governors. They were all very proud of their work and explained to us how the 'Non-negotiable' and DUMTUMS had helped them. If you don't know

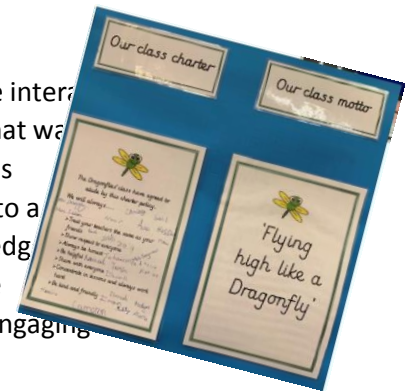
what they are speak to your son or daughter!

Displays in the classroom and around school

Mrs Seymour has also developed guidelines on how 'The Whitehall Classroom' should look with wall displays and information to help learning.



The displays around the school were lovely to see! They were interesting with purpose and celebrated the children's work. A display that was particularly appreciated was one that encouraged the children's presentation in their books by allowing staff to add names into a plastic jar, attached onto the display, when a student had been acknowledged for their excellent presentation skills. Other displays were relevant to the children's learning and reflected what they had learnt. They were most engaging and impressive.



Governor learning walks: We visited the classrooms in different year groups.

Year 6 classroom visits



All the pupils in Year 6 were working on activities related to **Safer Internet Day** looking at the theme of consent. The pupils were working in groups looking at specific scenarios and then acting out the situations. One was about sharing a photograph online without asking permission and the other was about inviting someone to join a closed group in on-line game without asking the others. The pupils contributed thoughtfully

about the issues raised and also discussed other aspects of e-safety such as reading terms and conditions and not being enticed to spend money when free trials have ended. This was definitely learning for 'an ever-changing world!'

Year 3 class visits

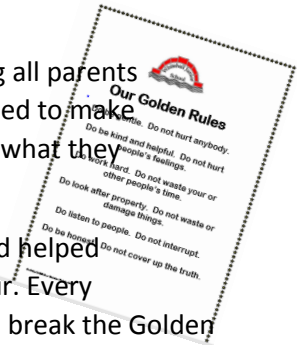


The year 3 class visits were an absolute pleasure to experience. All classes were studying *The Iron Man* as their class text and it was clear that all children were really engaged in the text; pupils explained that the enthusiasm and love of reading was generated by their teachers. The class were up-leveiling adjectives and using persuasive language to create their own adverts. All classrooms provided a positive learning environment and the children's stimulation was reflected in their work.

Pupil Voice

The confidence and maturity demonstrated by the **School Council** was something all parents should be proud of. Each child spoke passionately about what changes they wanted to make to help the school and fellow pupils. They told us the importance of e-safety and what they were learning. Next on their agenda is to tackle food and healthy eating.

Two very brave pupils told us how the new behaviour system of **Go for Green** had helped them to improve and how it enabled all children to reflect on their own behaviour. Every child starts each day on a Green card and their aim is to stay on Green and not to break the Golden Rules which could earn them an Orange or Red card. This traffic light system is clearly working and respected by the pupils.



The house captains also took time out to talk us through the **House Point System**. Incentivised by a termly prize, each house competes to win a team celebration. House points can be rewarded for behaviour, homework or in class work. The jars are outside Mrs Moloi's office so have a look next time to see if your child's house is winning.



As a Parent Governor it was such an enlightening day for me to see the school behind the scenes and the place where my two children spend all day. Huge thank you to how welcome the staff and pupils made us.

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea



In addition to the Governor's Day, we were also lucky enough to be invited to the Afternoon Tea held in the main hall, in honour of Mother's Day. What an absolute treat for all the carers that attended. The tables were beautifully laid out with platters of cake, sandwiches and fruit and the teaching staff served us with hot and cold drinks. The children had a great time eating as much cake as possible and playing – which gave all the mums a chance to catch up and talk to each other. A fantastic idea which brought the community together and a lovely thank you to the mums/grandparents and other adults that came.



Would you like to find out more about becoming one of our school governors?

We would be delighted if any parent reading this would like to join us as we have a vacancy for a parent governor in the school. The role is hugely rewarding and you will be making a real difference for all pupils in the school.

Please speak to Mrs Moloi or email governors@whitehalljunior.org and we will contact you.

Have a wonderful Easter break.

Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors