

Headteacher's Newsletter



December 2023 | Issue 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the end of a busy term. I want to thank everyone including parents, children and staff for all their hard work.



The start of a new year brings much challenge and change. I have been impressed with how well children have settled into their new year groups and made so much progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for their well wishes for both Mrs Bringan on her recovery and myself as I go on maternity leave in January. It is this kindness that makes Whitehall Infant School such a special place.

I know you will all show your support to Mrs Wade as she joins the school as interim headteacher in January.

On behalf of the staff and governors, we wish you all a restful holiday, a Happy Christmas to all those celebrating and a Happy New Year.

Carolyn Kennedy
Acting Headteacher

End of Term Timings

Term ends on **Wednesday 20th December** for reception, year 1 and year 2.

Please see below for timings.

Class/Year Group	Finish Time
Reception	12:00pm
Year 1	12:00pm
Year 2	12:00pm

Children can be collected up to 12:20pm when the gates will close. After this time, children will be taken to the office where you can collect them.

Nursery term ends on Tuesday 19th December at the usual time for each session.

KEY DATES

What?	When?
School Panto Visit	Monday 18th December 2023
Nursery Christmas Party	Monday 18th December 2023. Children can come to school in party clothes.
Nursery sing-a-long and last day	Tuesday 19th December 2023. Am nursery sing-along 11:00am PM nursery sing-along 2:30pm
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Parties	Tuesday 19th December 2023. Children can attend school in party outfits.

NEW YEAR RETURN TO SCHOOL!



We look forward to seeing all our children back after the holiday break. The first day back to school for all will be:

Monday 8th January 2024

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas Fair. We raised



£1615.00!!!!



Welfare Reminder

We are now in the season of coughs and colds!

To stop the spread of germs, please ensure your child

- uses a tissue to wipe their nose
- washes their hands regularly. A useful video can be found on the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk)



When a child seems unwell in school, we check their temperature using a forehead thermometer. At home, it is useful to also have a thermometer available so you are able to check your child's temperature before taking the necessary actions.



Pantomime Visit

We were very lucky to receive a visit from Chaplin's Pantomime who performed a wonderful show to the children this morning. It was lovely to see the children all enjoying the show and getting involved when asked to. Cinderella is the story of a young lady, 2 evil step-sisters, one fairy godmother and a charming Prince who is in search of his true love.

Thank you to Chaplin's Pantomime for providing such a memorable experience to all the children.



Christmas lunch

The children enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch last week, provided by our caterers.

I would like to thank The Pantry for their nutritious lunch and to all the school staff who helped out for ensuring the children had an enjoyable meal.

Christmas Performances

I would like to thank the staff and children for all the hard work they put in to making the Christmas performances so wonderful.

They were such high quality performances and the children all did so well in learning their lines and songs.

It was great to see so many parents come along to watch their child perform. I hope you enjoyed the performances as much as the children did.



Christmas Tree Assembly

One of the highlights of the autumn term is the Christmas Tree Assembly.

The children all make decorations and then use them to decorate our tree in the school hall whilst singing carols.

It is a lovely festive assembly which ends with the main lights being turned off and the Christmas tree lights being turned on - the children are always so amazed with this!



Christmas Jumper Day

It was fantastic to see so many children taking part in our Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Save the Children

Reading Challenge

At Whitehall Infant School we think Reading is one of the most important skills to learn. We want to make a huge display of all our fantastic readers. To do this we need your help!

Get an adult to take a picture of you reading in some interesting places! The most peculiar or imaginative will get their picture on the display and a special prize! All entries should be emailed to office@mail.whitehallinf.org

All entries must be submitted by Monday 8th January 2024

Father Christmas Visit

This week, the children have their class parties. Father Christmas visited Nursery today!

Each child was gifted a book to take home and keep. Father Christmas may visit the Christmas parties tomorrow if everyone continues to make good choices!



We would like to thank Father Christmas for our visit and we hope he will visit again next year to see all our wonderful, happy children.



Welcomes and Farewells

Miss Matthews - Learning Support Assistant will be leaving at the end of this term after securing a role working with a national mental health charity.

We wish Miss Matthews all the best for the future.

Welcome to Miss Khan and Mrs Greenman, who will be joining the Whitehall family as SEN keyworkers.



Christmas Card Designing —Breakfast Club

The children in Breakfast club have been using iPads and laptops to create their own digital Christmas cards. Please see the designs below. Well done to everyone involved



Learning at Whitehall—Last Week of Term

The countdown to Christmas started this week and it is always a very special time of the year for all. Our Christmas tree in the hall was beautifully decorated with hand crafted decorations by the children in all year groups and each child was able to hang up their own decoration on the tree during our Christmas Tree Assembly.

Whilst Christmas is a very busy time with lots of creative activities, it is important to remember why Christmas is celebrated. Christmas is an important celebration for all Christians and Non-Christians too around the world.

In Nursery we have read the 'Christmas Story' which is about the birth of baby Jesus and talked about key vocabulary. We also talked about how it is celebrated as well as comparing similarities to other festivals that we have celebrated so far eg Diwali.

In Reception children have been learning about how and why Christmas is celebrated, retelling the nativity story and using songs and crafts to understand the cultural side of Christmas as part of the Early Years 'Understanding of the World' area of learning.

In Year One the children also learnt about how Christmas is celebrated by Christians all over the world and how they celebrate with different traditions depending on their culture.

Year Two have been learning about the different ways Christmas is celebrated from one family to the next including which aspects of Christmas are most important to different people e.g. for some it is about Jesus whilst for others it's about family time and togetherness. Year Two are also focusing on our school value of Respect and respecting the practices of others. Children have also discussed the reasons for the giving of gifts at Christmas - linking it to gift giving in other faith celebrations.

As a school, we understand that this time of year can be very busy with lots of activities happening for children to enjoy. We try to keep to our usual routine as much as possible to support children to self regulate and support them in advance with any changes that may occur.

Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds

You will have seen in previous newsletters and as part of home learning that we have purchased the license for Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds again this year.

Feedback from children and parents over the last year was positive and children really enjoyed the games and additional practice in these crucial areas.

Reading Eggs also has a large online library of books that children can read.

Your child has their log in information in their reading records. Please ensure that you do log on with your child so that they can access these resources. Teachers have introduced these resources to children in the classrooms.

For further instructions on how to access Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds please visit:

<https://www.whitehall-inf.hillingdon.sch.uk/childrens-page-1/home-and-remote-education>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the instructions. Please email the school if you have any difficulties or speak to the class teacher.



After School Club Information Spring Term 2024

Day	Club	Start Date	Finish Date	Finish Time	Link to book
Monday	All year groups Multisport Club	8th January 2024	18th March 2024	4:15pm	www.thepsdgroup.org.uk
Tuesday	Year 2 Gymnastics	16th January 2024	19th March 2024	4:15pm	queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk
Tuesday	All year groups Football	9th January 2024	19th March 2024	4:15pm	www.thepsdgroup.org.uk
Wednesday	All year groups PSD—Balls Skills	10th January 2024	20th March 2024	4:15pm	www.thepsdgroup.org.uk
Thursday	Reception Gymnastics	18th January 2024	21st March 2024	4:15pm	queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk
Friday	Year 1 Gymnastics	19th January 2024	22nd March 2024	4:15pm	queries@gymlets-cheerlets.co.uk

Parent Survey - After School Provision

Over the last 3 years we have had a drop in need for after school provision and wrap around care. We are interested in capturing your views in this area. Please complete the below survey by Monday 8th January 2024.

[Complete form by clicking here](#)

If you have any issues opening the survey, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will send it out to you.

We will share the results as soon as possible.

Staying Safe

One of our school values is 'Safe' and we want every child to be as safe as possible.

During the winter months, please take care on paths and pavements as they can become icy. Please also ensure that you and your child are wearing footwear that is appropriate for this weather. Our premises team do a great job of making sure the paths around the school are gritted so that they are safe to walk.

Although ice and snow can be exciting for children (and us as adults) it is important that we keep ourselves as safe as possible. Stay away from open water and under no circumstances venture on to ice regardless of how thick or safe you think it may be.

The UKHSA has issued reminders that in the UK the weather will **never be cold enough** to make ice thick enough on lakes and ponds for a person to walk on.



We have a wonderful Nativity display in our school, for children to look at!



Did you know that you can wash your child's red book bag in the washing machine? Ensure you empty the bag first and put on a cool or delicates wash (30 degrees). Don't put light or white colours in with the book bag.

ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2024

ADMISSIONS

Applying for Nursery School

For children due to start Nursery in September 2024, you must apply direct to the school. If your child's date of birth falls between **1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024** and they **turn 3**, then you can apply for entry in September 2024. Please email the school office directly with any questions : office@mail.whitehallinf.org

Applying for Primary School

For children due to start Reception in September 2024 (date of birth should fall between 1 September 2019 and 31st August 2020) you must apply for a Primary School place by **15th January 2024**. Applications should be made online at:

[Hillingdon e-admissions](#)

Applying for Junior School

For children due to start Junior School in September 2024 (date of birthday should fall between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017) you must apply for a Junior School place by **15th January 2024**. Applications should be made online at:

[Hillingdon e-admissions](#)

Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2WXUD8Fido> for more information and instructions on how to create an online account.

Safeguarding Reminders

If you are worried about a child or are concerned about an on-going issue involving a child please contact

Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub on

01895 556006

or alternatively if you feel a child is in immediate danger then call **the Police emergency number 999**.



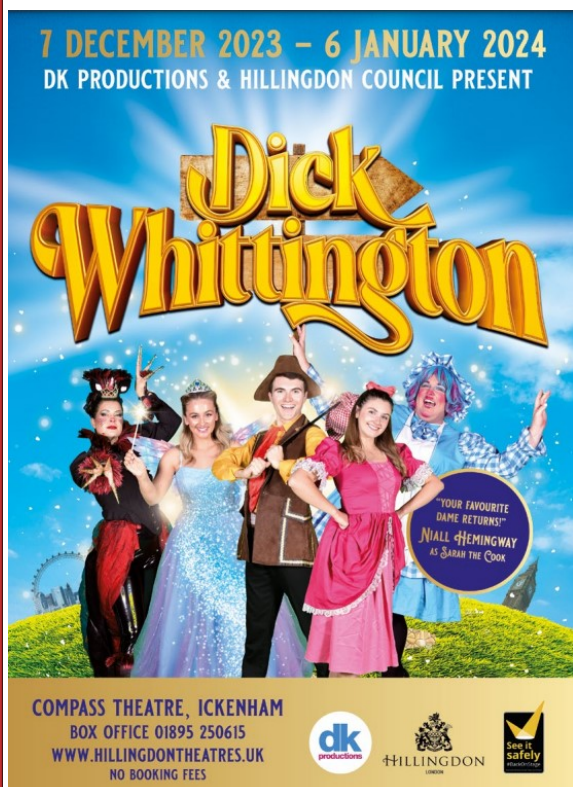
Diary Dates

Individual events information will be communicated with you where appropriate. All dates are subject to change.

Monday	18th	December	Pantomime visit—Morning
Monday	18th	December	Nursery class parties—Children can come to school in party clothes
Tuesday	19th	December	Class Parties—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Wear party clothes)
Tuesday	19th	December	Last Day of Nursery before the holidays. Nursery sing along 11:00am Nursery AM - Parents are welcome to join 2:30pm Nursery PM—Parents are welcome to join
Wednesday	20th	December	Term ends for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Finish time 12:00pm - Gates will close at 12:20pm
Monday	8th	January 2024	Children return to school
Friday	12th	January 2024	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am School Hall
Thursday	18th	January 2024	Willow Class Assembly 9:00am Hall
Thursday	18th	January 2024	School Census Day—Change of menu tbc
Friday	19th	January 2024	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am School Hall
Monday	29th	January 2024	Safer Internet Day
Thursday	1st	February 2024	Pine Class Assembly—9am School Hall
Friday	2nd	February 2024	Time to Talk Campaign
Friday	2nd	February 2024	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am School Hall
WC Monday	5th	February 2024	Children's Mental Health Week Parents are invited to soft start activities in classrooms
Thursday	8th	February 2024	Beech class assembly—9am Hall
Friday	9th	February 2024	Parent Coffee Morning 8:45—9:45am School Hall
Monday— Friday	12th— 16th	February 2024	Half Term
Monday	19th	February 2024	Staff Development Day—School is closed for children



Holiday Activities



Event at Uxbridge Library	Link
<p>Tiny Tales</p> <p>Join Uxbridge Library for stories and rhymes with a simple activity at our regular storytime for ages 18 months to 5 years old.</p>	<p>https://discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/library-events?pref1=2895&q=&Submit=Search#eventsearch</p>





School Terms and Holidays

September 2023 - July 2024

AUTUMN TERM - 2023

Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)	Monday 4th September 2023
Term starts for the children	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Half Term Holiday	Mon 23rd - Fri 27th October 2023
Term starts for the children	Monday 30th October 2023
Term Ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023
Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)	Thursday 21st December 2023

SPRING TERM - 2024

Term starts for the children	Monday 8th January 2024
Term Ends	Friday 9th February 2024
Half Term Holiday	Mon 12th - Fri 16th February 2024
Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)	Monday 19th February 2024
Term starts for the children	Tuesday 20th February 2024
Term Ends	Thursday 28th March 2024

SUMMER TERM - 2024

Term starts for the children	Monday 15th April 2024
May Day (Public Holiday - school closed)	Monday 6th May 2024
Term ends for the children	Friday 24th May 2024
Half Term Holiday	Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May 2024
Term starts for the children	Monday 3rd June 2024
Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)	Monday 1st July 2024
Term Ends	Tuesday 23rd July 2024
Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)	Wednesday 24th July 2024



School Terms and Holidays

September 2024 - July 2025

Whitehall Infant School

AUTUMN TERM - 2024

<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 2nd September 2024
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Term starts for the children	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half Term Holiday	Mon 28th October- Fri 01st November 2024
Term starts for the children	Monday 04th November 2024
Term Ends	Friday 20th December 2024

SPRING TERM - 2025

Term starts for the children	Monday 6th January 2025
Term Ends	Thursday 13th February 2025
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Friday 14th February 2025
Half Term Holiday	Mon 17th- Fri 21st February 2025
Term starts for the children	Monday 24th February 2025
Term Ends	Friday 4th April 2025

SUMMER TERM - 2025

Term starts for the children	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
May Day (Public Holiday - school closed)	Monday 5th May 2025
Term ends for the children	Friday 23rd May 2025
Half Term Holiday	Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May 2025
Term starts for the children	Monday 2nd June 2025
Term Ends	Friday 18th July 2025
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Monday 21st July 2025
<i>Staff Development Day (Holiday for children)</i>	Tuesday 22nd July 2025