Whitehall Park School

LEARN, ENJOY, SUCCEED

Friday 23rd October 2026 Tel: 0207 561 0113 Email: office@whitehallparkschool.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your tremendous support over the last eight weeks. It has been an absolute joy to see how brilliantly the children have engaged in their learning during this time. Following a period of significant change over recent years, we are exceptionally proud that the children's behaviour, their academic achievements, the breadth of our curriculum, the range of personal development opportunities, and the high quality of teaching they receive every day are now of a genuinely good standard... and getting better all the time.

A special thank you goes out to all of our families for your support, loyalty, and positive encouragement during our Ofsted inspection this week. The warmth and backing from our school community meant so much to the whole team. We are really excited to get the report back and remain very hopeful that all of the school's amazing strengths will be rightly recognised.

The Importance of Attendance

As we look ahead, I want to emphasise the HUGE importance of excellent school attendance and our high expectations for every single child to be in school each and every day. We cannot change the previous, and now historic, poor attendance record that exists for Whitehall, but for this academic year, we have set an ambitious whole-school attendance target of at least **96%**. Every day in school matters immensely; when children attend regularly, they build strong friendships, maintain consistent learning routines, and avoid missing out on foundational skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. For instance, missing just a few days of school can mean missing the key building blocks of a new maths concept or the crucial opening chapters of a class text, making it much harder for children to catch up and feel confident in their learning. Being in school all of the time ensures your child receives the full benefit of our vibrant curriculum, great support, and exciting enrichment activities. Thank you in advance for working with us to ensure your child arrives on time and ready to learn every single day.

Thank you also to everyone for your support at our Black History Month themed 'Fantastic Friday' event today - such a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together as a community!
Please note that the school will reopen after the half-term break on **Tuesday 3rd November**. Looking ahead, our **Parents' Evening** will take place the following week (second week back) on **Wednesday 11th November**, held together in the main hall.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back on November 3rd!

Warm regards,

Mr Mills-Bishop

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL KITCHEN STAFF

Throughout Black History Month, our children have been learning about the incredible contributions Black people have made to society and the positive impact they have had on the world.

From inspirational figures such as Maya Angelou, Mary Seacole, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Bob Marley, Garrett Morgan and Mae Jemison, Barack Obama, to many more remarkable individuals, the children have enjoyed discovering their achievements and learning about their lasting legacies.

We look forward to showcasing and celebrating the children's wonderful learning during Fantastic Friday!

To round off our celebrations, we enjoyed a delicious African-Caribbean themed lunch, featuring jollof rice, jerk chicken and fried plantain.
The special meal was thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults alike, bringing everyone together to celebrate culture, heritage and diversity through food.

A huge thank you to our amazing catering team for preparing such a delicious feast and making our celebrations extra special!

Celebrating history, embracing diversity and inspiring future generations!













BACK TO SCHOOL

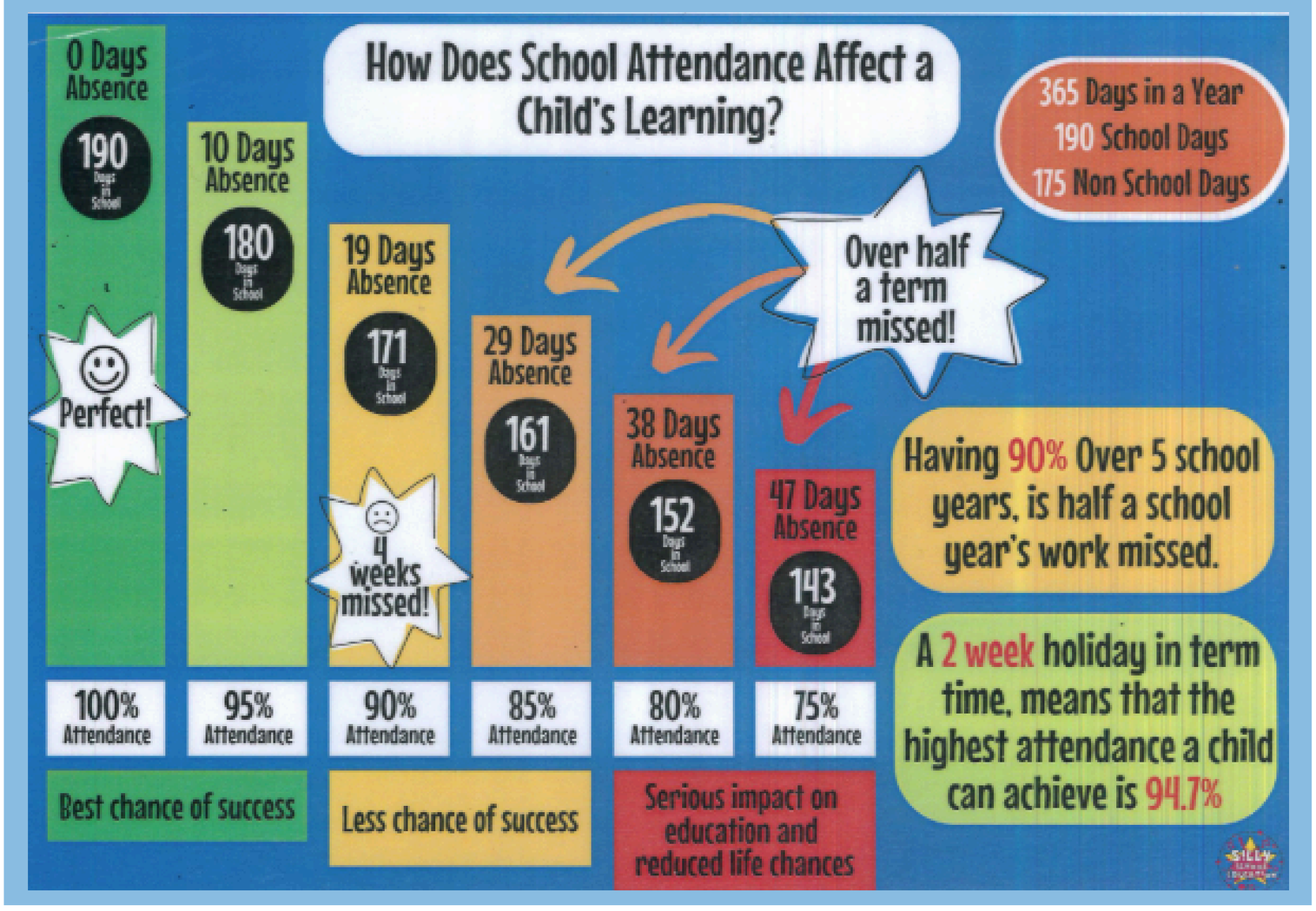
TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER – 8.40AM

REMINER PARENTS EVENING – BOOKING SLOTS ARE OPEN

Arbor

Wednesday, 11th November 2026
Format: In person meetings
Duration: 10 minute appointment slots
Please book your slot on the Arbor App

ATTENDANCE



DATES COMING UP!

All diary dates will now be saved on our website. Please import dates into your calendar or bookmark the page for quick access: **https://www.whitehallparkschool.co.uk/Calendar/**

STAFF INSET DAY – MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 6th November - more information to follow

School Lunch

Arbor

Please ensure that you are booking your child's lunch option via the **Arbor Parent App.**
If no lunch option is selected, your child will be assigned an office-issued meal choice. Your child will always be provided with a meal; however, it may not be their preferred option.

To help us ensure your child receives their chosen meal, please make your selection the evening before. If you are unable to book a lunch, please contact the school office for assistance.
For guidance on how to select meal choices in Arbor, please see the link below:
https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/6956696271261-Meal-Menu-choices-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-Parent-App

ISLINGTON PARENT CARER FORUM

Islington Parent Carer Forum

What's On November

3 Nov 10am-12
Q&A Coffee Morning
with Jon Abbey Director of Children's Services Islington, Simon Wellman Director of Education and Cllr Sheila Chapman

12 Nov 9.30am-2.30
Speech & Language Therapy Training day
Book your place in advance due to limited numbers

13 Nov 9.30am-11.30
Q&A Coffee Morning with Islington Short Breaks

16 Nov 6pm-8pm
Pizza Night
Cally Park Clocktower Cafe

27 Nov 9.30am-11.30
Coffee Morning

www.islingtonparentcarerforum.com

IPCF events are open to SEND parent carers who live in Islington or have a SEND child at a school in Islington

Islington Parent Carer Forum
Working together for SEND families

Shared aims
- Better outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Better support for families
- SEND voices at the heart of all changes

100% Independent
Since 2024, IPCF has been fully independent, funded directly by the Department of Education

You do not have to wait for your child to receive a diagnosis to join

What is co-production?
PCF play an important role in speaking up for SEND families while working in partnerships with local services.

Parent Carer Forums are here to:
- Share real parent carer experiences
- Raise concerns honestly
- Challenge services constructively
- Help improve local SEND support

Co-production with local authority services does not mean staying quiet or avoiding challenge.

Events
- Coffee Mornings & Q&As with Islington MPs, guest speakers from CAMHS, Health, Council Leaders, Short Breaks, Local Authority, S&LT, SEN Team
- Family Fun Days at adventure playgrounds & Babylon Park
- Evening Pizza Nights for parent carers
- Online presentations & Q&As
- Caring for Carers annual event at Islington Town Hall
- Training Speech & Language Therapy SEND Law courses by IPSEA

Campaigning
PC Forums adhere to Department of Education guidelines.
- PCF leaders cannot usually lead both a campaign group and a PCF at the same time due to conflict of interest rules
- Parent carers can still campaign as individuals
- Families can still attend rallies, speak up and advocate for change in a personal capacity

Pressures faced by families
PCFs are all SEND famillies, many are working in challenging circumstances juggling a range of demands:
- Support for their own families
- Constructive challenge
- SEND reforms and consultations
- Partnership working with stretched local systems



This is why we want to hear from families about your experiences

Your Voices matter

Sign up today

sign up | whatsapp | instagram

All events are free

find out more about events and how you can get involved
Events are open to SEND parent carers who live in Islington or have a SEND child at a school in Islington
www.islingtonparentcarerforum.com

SPORTS at WPS

ISLINGTON YEAR 3/4 BOYS FOOTBALL

Well done to the boys who competed at the Islington Football Tournament. Each match was a close contest with us missing out by one goal in one match, drawing one and a triumph win in the other.

For the boys first matches together, the boys showed great communication and resilience when things didn't go our way. I look forward to many more to come!







PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DURING HALF TERM

Just a reminder with half term coming up children should be doing 60 minutes of physical activity a day to keep a healthy active lifestyle, not just short term, but long term benefits. Adults are 150 minutes a week.

If physical activity were a drug, we would refer to it as a miracle cure, due to the great many illnesses it can prevent and treat.

This could be walking, dancing and little things such as taking stairs instead of lifts or walking to the shops instead of transport.





RECEPTION & NURSERY

This Black History Month, Parsley and Sage class have been celebrating inspirational Black figures who have made a difference in the world. We learnt about Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel into space, who inspired us to dream big and reach for the stars! We also discovered Garrett Morgan, whose invention of an early three-position traffic signal helped make our roads safer.

We explored the incredible achievements of Mo Farah and Usain Bolt, reminding us that with determination, perseverance and hard work, we can achieve great things! We also enjoyed the uplifting music of Bob Marley, reminding us that "every little thing is gonna be alright!"

Alongside all this wonderful learning, the children have made fantastic progress in developing their independence, confidence and emotional regulation. We are learning to recognise our feelings, express our emotions and find ways to help ourselves feel calm and happy.











YEAR 1/2

It has been another exciting week in Jasmine Class. We have demonstrated creativity through our growing imagination and hands-on learning!

Inspired by the music of Alexis Ffrench, the children explored how sound can guide their artwork. They listened carefully to the music and thought about how different sounds, rhythms and feelings could be expressed through lines, shapes and movement.

In Year 2 History, children took part in role-play, imagining how the soldiers might have felt when Mary Seacole arrived to care for them. They explored different emotions and developed their understanding of the important role Mary Seacole played in supporting soldiers. Please ask them about their learning!

In Science, we investigated the question, “Will it float or sink?” The children made predictions, tested different objects and observed the results. They absolutely loved this hands-on experiment and enjoyed discovering whether their predictions were correct.

Well done, Jasmine Class, for ending half term with another fantastic few weeks of learning, curiosity and creativity!

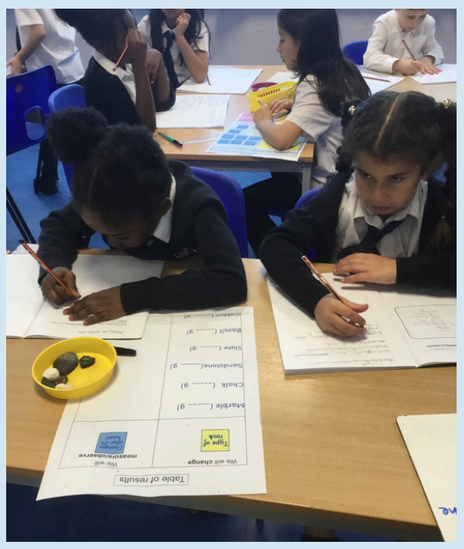


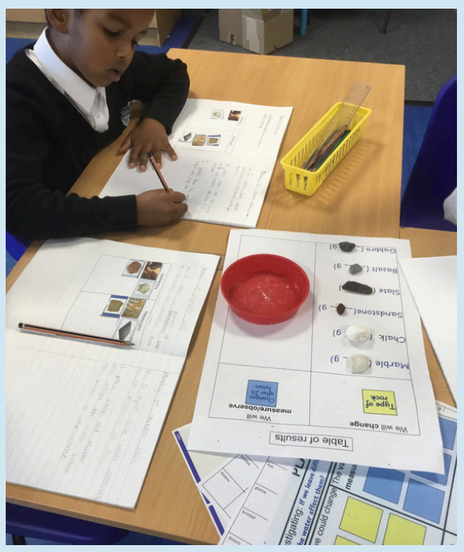
YEAR 2/3

What a fantastic half term it has been! Lavender class has had a wonderful time writing entertaining and creative instructions on how to wash their favourite prehistoric creature. In history, they role-played and delivered fantastic pitches, while in science, they became young geologists exploring rocks and soils. In maths, they began exploring different strategies for addition and subtraction, all while honing their shading and observational skills in art. They have achieved so much while having tons of fun!

We hope you enjoy a relaxing holiday, and be sure to ask your child about their prehistoric creature instructions over the break!



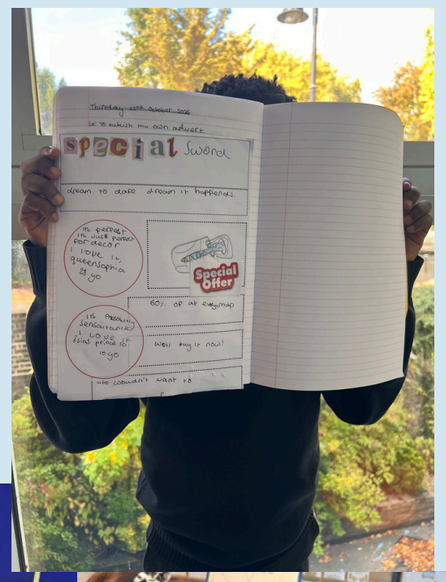


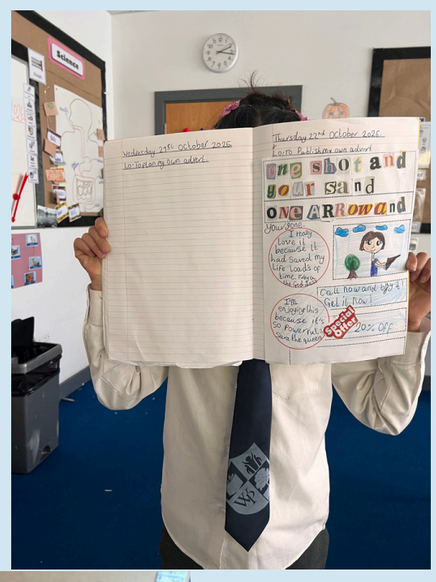


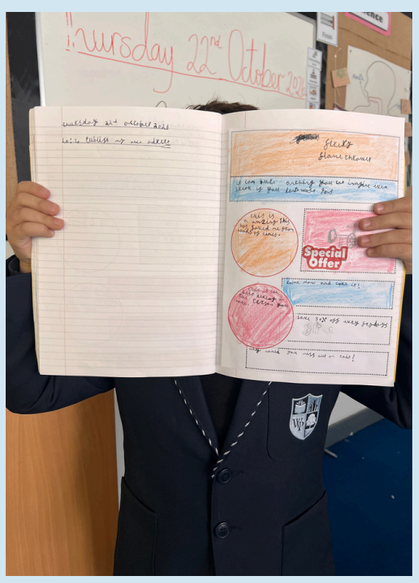
YEAR 4

During our English lessons, year 4 has been learning about adverts and how to convince our audience to buy the products!

We decided to create some magical objects to help villagers, gods and Demi gods, just like Arthur and the Golden Rope!





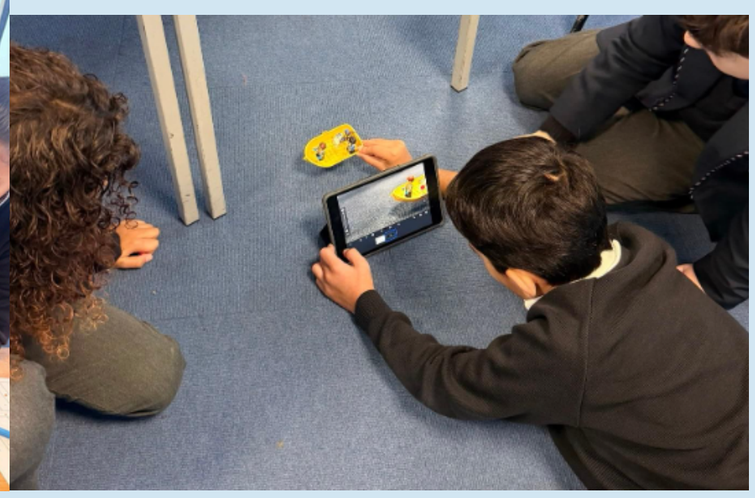


YEAR 5

As part of our end of unit assessment in History we made stop motion films explaining what England looked like before 1066,
the events of the Battle of Hastings and life whilst the Normans ruled over England their legacy.







YEAR 6

Firstly, we both want to say what a fantastic start to the academic year it has been in Year 6! Myself and Mr Hayward could not be prouder of the sheer brilliance, focus, and enthusiasm the children have brought into the classroom every single day.
Our history and literacy work has been deeply moving, with pupils producing incredible WWI poetry alongside an impressive, in-depth understanding of trench warfare. Not only achieving in their writing and historical knowledge; the year group has demonstrated depth in their mathematical reasoning, while letting their vibrant creativity shine in both music and art.
As we look ahead to Autumn 2, we cannot wait to carry this fantastic momentum with all the rigor and ambition Year 6 have shown so far. But, as we wrap up this half-term, we have still had some wonderful pieces of work , from stepping into history by writing in-character diaries inspired by War Horse, to mastering the tricky techniques of long division!

Thank you to all of our pupils for such a rewarding half-term; keep up the extraordinary work!

A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS! 👻

A **huge thank you** to our amazing PTCA for organising this year's Halloween Disco! The event was an absolute triumph packed with incredible energy, non-stop fun, and some truly fantastic costumes.

Thanks to the wonderful support of our school community, volunteers, and everyone who attended. They raised **just under £600**!
A massive well done to everyone who helped plan, decorate, supervise, and clean up to make it such a memorable night for the children.











Things to do in the Half -Term





