

# Whitehall Park School

## Newsletter 23rd October 2020

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*Learn Enjoy Succeed*

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I have now been here for half a term now and it has been so lovely meeting your wonderful children; and absolutely confirmed that I have made the right decision to come to Whitehall Park School! I had hoped that I would have personally met all of you by now and I am so sad that this has not been possible with current Covid restrictions. Please do try to join my rescheduled curriculum review webinar on the 6th November at 10am-10.40am and I will also be holding a Zoom webinar to update you on current school priorities—date to follow.

After an unusual and slightly wobbly start to this term post-lockdown, the staff and I have really seen a difference in your children over the past couple of weeks; they are much more settled and focused on their learning and it is a pleasure to see.

### An update on staffing news:

#### Lavender Class (Y1):

I need to inform you that Miss Begum has relocated to Essex and is no longer with us. However, I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed a new teacher called Ms. Nolene Lutumba who will be commencing in post on Monday 2nd November. She comes to us well regarded through the Trust. We will organise a Meet the Teacher zoom shortly in the new half term.

#### Cinnamon and Nutmeg Classes (Y6):

Some exciting news!

This is a special year as our first Year 6 cohort are our first Year 6 children in the history of WPS. Combined with the challenge of recovering lost learning during lockdown and the children needing to make great progress to meet their aspirational and challenging targets, we sought to provide additional and high quality teaching. I am thrilled to let you know that we have appointed Miss Natasha Otero a highly experienced Year 6 teacher who has also been a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) working across a number of schools in another London borough for 4 days a week across both classes.

Year 6 are learning about the heart and circulatory system, please have a look at Ezra's skillful drawing of the heart and a sample of writing across the school attached to our newsletter email.

It is a shame that none of us are able to travel too far afield to visit family and friend during half term but I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and restful half term break!

Best Wishes,  
Helen Tyler



### Celebrating Black History Month

In line with Black History Month this year, Islington have a programme with many online events for the community to partake in. There are a burst of different activities such as musical performances, thought-provoking discussions, history sessions, networking events, and many more. To get involved with this, please click this link to [IslingtonLife](https://www.islington.gov.uk/black-history-month).

### Correct uniform

Please can we remind parents to send your children into school with the correct uniform. Please also ensure all items of uniform are correctly labelled so they can be returned if lost as we do not have a lost property box anymore due to the current situation. Please also remember to send your children to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE and a sports based after school club activity. Thank you for your understanding.



### No toys

Children should not be bringing toys into school. This is to reduce the spread of the virus and to avoid any unfair play or misuse of toys that come on site. Please note that if children do bring a toy into school, it will be taken from them and returned at the end of the day.

### Jewellery and hair

Jewellery worn into school should always be minimal. Please ensure that children are not wearing long necklaces or hooped earrings as these can easily be grabbed and pulled on during play which could cause injuries. Please also ensure that if children have long hair that exceeds their shoulders, it is to be tied back.

### Curriculum Review Webinar

We profusely apologise for changing the webinar date with Laura Gregory, our Director of Education, and Helen Tyler but this will now take place on Friday 6th November between 10—10.40am. Your parental views are really important so we hope that you get to join us!

### Coming in through the gate

For safeguarding reasons, please make sure that you buzz the gate and clearly state who you are and why you need to come in so that we can make sure that only the right people are on site. Please do not enter the gate if someone else has come in before you and follow the above procedures. This is to ensure the safety of all who are on school site.

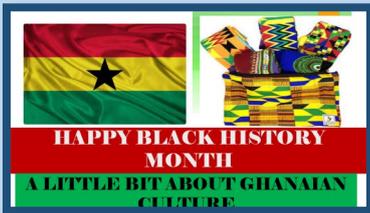


### Parking at drop off and pick up times

Although parents have made a conscientious effort to make sure their park in bays when dropping off their children, we have had a few complaints from our neighbours on Stanhope Road as parents are still parking in their residents' parking bays. Their groundsman is now collecting number plates and will report them to the council.

## Black History Month

Throughout the October month, children have been learning and exploring Black History. This year, due to the current restrictions we were unable to invite artists and performers in for live workshops and special events. However, our children were able to taste different dishes such as jollof rice from Ghana and Benachin from Gambia. Trying to distinguish the different flavours and, discovering new ones was something the children were able to participate in when getting to know about who ate these meals. A big thank you to Miss Agatha for organising all the food tasting sessions for each class. She also delivered a special assembly to teach the children about what schools look like in Ghana and how the children learn.



## Healthy School

At Whitehall Park School, we pride ourselves on our Healthy Schools Silver Award. We are helping children to see the importance on having a balanced and healthy meal everyday. Our kitchen staff (lead by our amazing cook Paqca) are very much involved and have been preparing some colourful meals for children to enjoy daily. To have a look at our current lunch menu, [click here](#).

We also encourage children to eat a healthy snack during their morning break sessions. Children lower down in the school are given a choice of fruit (banana, carrot) and the older children are free to bring in a snack from home (dried fruit or fresh fruit) that they enjoy. We encourage children not to bring cereal bars with fruit as these often contain a lot of sugar and potentially nuts which are not allowed on school site.

We want to thank all our staff for the efforts they put in to help our school remain healthy, and the children for trusting us and being proactive in keeping themselves safe and healthy!



# Celebrations



We are always incredibly impressed with how well our children are doing at school and are so proud of their achievements. Each week we celebrate our achievements in our Golden Book assembly, where we celebrate everyone's green behaviour and learning and even award exceptional learning with special stickers

Name	Reason
Flynn W.	Outstanding behaviour and contribution in all lessons.
Chive Class	For competing in our Year 2 Sports Day!
Beau B-C	Great attitude to learning!
Xavier C C.	For excellent work in Maths!
Max W.	Exceptional vocabulary choices in his writing.
Famke U-W	For making me laugh out loud at her 1920s diary!

## Attendance Matters

Achieving good attendance and good punctuality are two important factors that ensure your child has access to the best opportunities. During these unprecedented times, unless we have medical evidence that your child is required to shield, he/she needs to be in school as per the DFE Statutory requirements. This is paramount in these times of recovering children's loss of learning and routines.

Well done to Jasmine class. You are superstars!

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Parsley	95.7%	Rosemary	94%
Sage	94.7%	Clove	95.7%
Lavender	97.9%	Myrtle	97.3%
Jasmine	100%	Chamomile	93.6%
Basil	97.6%	Mint	95.2%
Chive	97.3%	Cinnamon	97%
Thyme	97%	Nutmeg	96.7%