



Whitehall Primary School

Newsletter

October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Term 1, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received since starting in September. You have helped me settle to my new role very quickly and I already feel part of the community. The school most definitely lives up to its reputation as an inclusive and caring place to be. I am very pleased to be here and I am looking forward to continuing to work with you and your families.

I can see why so many children speak so positively about the great learning that goes on at Whitehall. It has been my pleasure to visit the classes and see the exciting and engaging lessons and learning opportunities going on across the school. Some particular highlights have included the class WOW days and educational visits off site. You can keep up to date with what your child is learning by visiting the class pages of the school website.

<https://www.whitehall.bristol.sch.uk/children/our-learning>

I am aware that with increasing costs for us all, the challenge of paying for school trips and events is getting harder. We really don't want any child to miss out on learning experiences for financial reasons. Mr Pring, our school business manager, is devising a plan to help spread payments more evenly across the year.

Thanks for your generous donations for our Harvest Festival collection. We have passed them on to [East Bristol Foodbank](#) where they will go to help people in our local community.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Turner who has been working in our Rainbowfish class for the past year. Mrs Turner is a popular member of the team and will be missed by staff and children. We wish her well for the future.

Happy Diwali to all those that will be celebrating over half term. We are very grateful to Mrs Roudh, Miss Roud and the rest of team for organising our whole school Diwali Day celebrations on Friday. Please see the Diwali letter for more detail.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break. We look forward to welcoming you back to Whitehall on Tuesday 1st November.

Best wishes,

Tom Burton

Punctuality

The school gates open at 8.40am to allow children to arrive promptly and make a good start to the school day. All children are expected to be in by 8.45am to begin their learning. Class registers close at 8.55am. Please can you make sure your child has arrived at school by this time. The school gates remain open until 9am to allow any parents and cares on site time to leave before they are locked for the day. Children arriving after 8.55am will need to go through the main office.



Dear Parents/Carers

Please can you ensure that if you have to leave something at the school office for child that it is **CLEARLY** labelled with their name and class details.

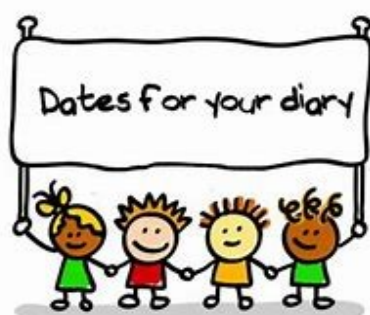
Thank you!



Educational Visits

We are aware that the costs of the fantastic educational visits we offer the children are increasing significantly on previous years, and whilst these increases are outside of our control we want to try and help families the best we can.

Therefore we are looking at better ways families can spread the costs of these trips and an update will be issued in Term 2 on how we can use our online payment system (School Money) to help us achieve this.



October

Friday 21st—Diwali celebrations

Friday 21st—Last day of term

Monday 31st—INSET DAY—school closed

November

Tuesday 1st—Children return to school

Friday 4th— Y4 Trip to Wild Place

Thursday 10th— Y3 Trip (Sulcata Tortoise) Folly Farm

Friday 11th—School photographer

Monday 14th—Anti-bullying week

Monday 14th—Y3 Trip (Giraffe & Leopard) Folly Farm

Wednesday 16th—Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Monday 21st—SEND Coffee Morning 9.30am

December

Saturday 3rd—FoW Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 6th—KS1 Nativity 9.30am & 2pm

Wednesday 7th—KS1 Nativity 9.30am

Tuesday 13th—EYFS Nativity 9.30am

Wednesday 14th—EYFS Nativity 9.30am

Wednesday 14th—Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day

Thursday 15th—Class Christmas parties

Friday 16th—Last day of term

January

Tuesday 3rd—Inset day—school closed

Wednesday 4th—Children return to school

School Lunches

Unfortunately due to the unprecedented price increases across all aspects of our kitchen costs we will need to increase the price of our School lunch to £2.50 per day as of the 1st November 2022.

We are extremely proud to be an in house kitchen (a bit of a rarity in Bristol), which means we can change menus / ingredients and be more flexible than we would if we were part of a large catering company.

We are still committed to offering healthy, tasty, seasonal food which can provide good nutrition and expand the children's taste palates and we continue to engage with our excellent suppliers to best keep the cost increases to a minimum.

The price increase is not something we wanted to do but the economic situation has unfortunately left us with no other option



A big thank you to all our parents/carers for your support with our Bristol Schools Safer Streets campaign



School Crossing Patrol location: Mrs Beard (Gillian) has moved to cross pedestrians at the corner of Westminster Road and Prospect Place (the corner with the Care Home behind it). If you wish to use the SCP please approach from this side of the junction and she will happily assist you. Thank you again for all your help with this.

Please can we remind our parents/carers that our Breakfast Club does not offer a drop-in service.

All spaces must be pre-booked and for in advance with the school office.



£3.50

Monday 21st November 9:30-10:30

SEND Coffee Morning

A member of the school nursing team will be coming to school to explain the role of the school nurse and the areas they can offer support with such as anxiety, emotional health, healthy relationships, toileting, sleep, food and eating and dental health. They will then be available to answer any questions.

Any one who is interested is very welcome to attend.



Friends of Whitehall

We hope everyone has settled nicely into this new school year. Friends of Whitehall held it's first AGM on 12 October since becoming a registered charity last year. Thank you to all of those who attended. Sarah-Jane Freni was re-elected as Chair of Trustees, Craig Shaw as Treasurer and Steph Mireylees and Cheryl Irle as joint Secretary.

In case you haven't seen it yet, we are in the customer vote for a Tesco Community Grant. It's a scheme which could see us receive a grant of up to £1,500. The more votes we get, the more funding we get, so please don't forget to put a few tokens in for us next time you shop at Tesco.

We are now turning our attention to the Christmas Fair which will be on

Saturday 3 December. As always, we'll be calling on your support so do keep an eye out for emails and text messages. Enjoy half term!

Thank you! Any questions, let me know.

Kind regards,

Sarah-Jane



Please vote for us with your tokens—Friends of Whitehall Primary School Development of a Wilderness Area, Bristol



We are creating a unique 'wilderness area' at Whitehall Primary School providing a tranquil green space all year round for children to play safely and learn about local wildlife.

Stores which will vote on your project

2136 Bristol East Extra BS5 6XU 2523 Fishponds Bristol Express BS16 3PQ 2781 Kingswood Bristol Express BS15 9RR
2871 Mangotsfield Express BS16 9JB 3088 Redfield Express BS5 9HT 5582 Bristol Soundwell Express BS15 1PN
5679 Warmley Express BS15 9JB 5976 Staple Hill Superstore BS16 5NP 6508 Bristol Bell Hill Express BS5 7NF

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value.

You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

<https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/legendaryparent>



Turn your family into Internet Legends! — Parent Zone – Parents' area

Be Internet Legends from Google and Parent Zone helps families to become safer and more confident explorers of the online world.. As parents, you're the experts on your kids – as well as their first and most important teachers. These tips and tricks are designed to support what you're doing at home – while helping you to have fun together.

www.parents.parentzone.org.uk

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FREE FAMILY LANTERN MAKING

IN PREPARATION FOR THE ROSE GREEN / BWIPCC ANNUAL
BONFIRE NIGHT

Monday 24th October
10am-2pm
Rose Green Centre Gordon Rd,
Bristol, BS5 7DR

Come along and join visual artist Ruth Ramsay with your family to build
lanterns of Anansi the Spider and Mr Snake to be displayed at our annual
Bonfire Event on Saturday 5th November

No booking, equipment or payment required
Just bring yourselves!

Children must be accompanied by an adult, suitable for children aged 6+.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
EMILY@SHOOTINGFISH.CO.UK



SEND



Working with parents, carers and stakeholders to improve local services in Bristol

Signposting for SEND

The Bristol Parent Carer Forum recently came into school to do a coffee morning. They have created a digital newsletter which signposts parents to a number of different organisations where parents can receive support, from meeting other parents and families to courses and advice. To see the leaflet, please click on the link below. Children do not need to have any formal diagnosis of a SEND need to be able to access most of these organisations.

<https://simplebooklet.com/digitalsendlocalofferbrochure>

Parent courses to support with SEND

In addition, in conjunction with the North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forums, Bristol Parent Carers are hosting free training courses for parents and carers of children who are on the waiting list for an Autism assessment.

The courses can give parents / carers insights into how to help and support their children with the challenges they may face whilst they are waiting for a formal assessment. These tools can be helpful whatever the outcome of the assessment.

The courses can be booked here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bristol-n-somerset-and-s-glos-parent-carer-forums-41027867683>