



# Whitehall Primary School

## Newsletter

### December 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of term 2, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in organising and joining in with our many school celebrations. The way the community works together at Whitehall feels very special. The Diwali Day event at the end of last term brought parents, staff and pupils together to celebrate and learn more about this special occasion. Our celebrations continued this term with the Rose Green Fireworks performance in November and recent Christmas events. I must say a particular thank you to our Friends of Whitehall group who organised the Christmas Fayre. I know a lot of hard work goes into preparing and running these events. They are very much appreciated by all at the school. The Friends of Whitehall are always interested to hear from anyone who wants to join them. [friendsofwhitehallbristol@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwhitehallbristol@gmail.com)

Thank you to all of you who came to the Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances. The children were fantastic! So too were the staff who did a great job of bringing the performances together at this busy time of year.

With so many great events going on at the school I thought it would be a good idea to make sure they are shared across our school community. We have set up a new page on the website where you will be able to find pictures and write ups of some of our special events.

<https://www.whitehall.bristol.sch.uk/pages/news>

Finally, I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday. I look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Tom Burton—Head Teacher



#### **Congratulations to Ella from Badger class!**

Ella's amazing artwork won first prize in The West Of England Mayor's competition.

Her design will feature on the official Christmas Card from the Mayor's office and be sent cross the South West region.

Well done Ella! We are so proud of you!



#### **Welcomes & Goodbyes**

This Friday sees us saying good luck and goodbye to Emily Shuker, who has been our acting Assistant Head & Safeguarding Lead, whilst Cat Filmer-Bennett has been on maternity leave. We'd like to thank Emily for all her help and support over the last year and wish her very well in her next venture.

Term 3 will see us welcome Mrs Filmer-Bennett back to Whitehall Tuesday—Friday.



#### **School Governors**

Governors would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas break and New Year! Some of us were lucky enough to see the children in the nativities and they were all amazing! Thanks to all the staff for their hard work!



### Poetry/picture competition winners

Well done to all who entered and congratulations to these children whose poems were published in the poetry book:

Stella Dowty (Year 2 - Penguin class)

Azariah Gill (Year 3 - Sulcata Tortoise class)

Micah Grice (Year 5 - Armadillo class)

Ysee Laval Cheilan (Leaver)

Sumayyah Aslam (Leaver)

Nneeka Warren-Samuels (Leaver)

Molly Sykes-Jerrold (Leaver)

Big congratulations also to Solange Johnston (Year 6 -Sun Bear class) whose uplifting picture was chosen for the front cover of the book! Here she is, celebrating with the winners from other schools, at the awards ceremony.



Would you like to have your poem/picture published in a real book? Then look out for details of the next poetry competition, coming in the new year!



**Friends of Whitehall** would like to thank everyone who donated and helped at the Christmas fair and of course those who attended too. I think it's fair to say it was a great success. It's worth remembering

that these events are only made possible by volunteers so thank you for your continued support.

We are still in the customer vote for a Tesco Community Grant until mid-January. 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.

Wishing you all a lovely festive season and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

Bethany, Chery, Craig, Steph and Sarah-Jane

### Book Fair

Thank you for all the support at the recent book fair. We raised a total of **£1,147.49p** which we will be spending on lovely new books for our school library.







**EYFS—Reception**

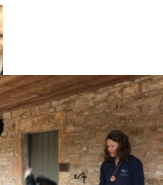
The children in reception have been learning about transport this term. As part of their learning around emergency vehicles they had a visit from PSCO Purnell and her colleague. They brought along a police van to show the children. It was very exciting and the children even got the chance to climb in the back!



**Year 3** visited Folly Farm and had an exciting and educational day where we had the chance to see and experience Viking life and created lots of crafts.

We had a go at making miniature hurdles/fences using twigs from the hazel trees by bending and weaving thin flexible twigs around more sturdy upright poles. We learnt that Vikings used full size hurdles woven from willow and hazel to form fences which were used to pen animals and to control animal grazing.

After that, we also had a go at making felt from sheep's wool. We untangled it and cleaned it using combs made from bone, or tougher and more flexible materials. The piece of felt we made were a great example of a simple way in which wool was used to create useful material.



## Year 1 Dinosaur Day

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Year 1 had a special 'Dinosaur Day', celebrating all of the amazing learning they have done for their 'Dinosaurs' topic this term. The children had the chance to create fossils out of clay, role play dinosaur adventures, practise their colouring and drawing skills too! We also worked together in teams and used our art skills to create huge dinosaur collages which looked amazing! Year 1 have loved their dinosaur topic this term and have really impressed us with everything they have learnt.

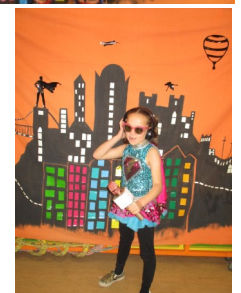


## Year 2—Superhero Day!

Year 2 had such an amazing time on Superhero Day! Children came in dressed up as their favourite superheroes or as their own invented superhero. Some of the characters we had were Spiderman, Ocelot boy, Lava girl, Miraculous Ladybug and Skeleton boy!

The aim for the day was to create their own eco-friendly superhero badges. In the morning, we researched superhero badges and used this information to design our unique, eye-catching logos. After that, we carefully designed what we wanted our badges to look like and the materials we wanted to use. We then spent the afternoon using our plans to make our badges and it was so much fun! To end the day, we evaluated our badges.

What a successful day!





## Year 4

This term, year 4 enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Wild Place Project as part of our 'Wonderful Wildlife' topic.

We were amazed by the huge, gentle giraffes and fascinated by the cheeky meerkats.

We even managed to get super close to the lemurs in the lemur walk through!

We learned so much about lots of different animals, and we also used our trip as inspiration to create our own advertising leaflets in our English lessons.



## Year 5



As part of our Intrepid Adventures topic, Year 5 explored beyond the speed of sound with an out-of-this-world visit to Bristol's own awesome Aerospace museum. Our expedition led us to learn about the magnificent engineering feat of Concorde, to the far reaches of the universe to understand how light travels (creating our own periscopes!) and to discover aviation history.

Our Year 5 children said: "This is the best trip we have ever been on!", "I just loved the creative part when we got to make the periscope," and "Being on Concorde was amazing - I felt like I was the pilot!"

## Year 6



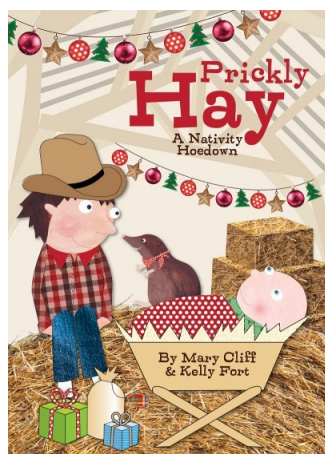
As part of their 'Extreme Environments' topic, Y6 visited the St Werburghs Climbing Centre. Everyone had a go at climbing, belaying and abseiling down the wall after listening carefully to the instructions of the staff. We had good fun and everyone showed great determination to get a little bit higher each time. Staff at the centre commented on how wonderful the Y6 children were- they really did do us proud.

Afterwards, in their English lessons, the children wrote their own set of instructions explaining what they had to do in order to be safe and successful whilst climbing.



## Key Stage 1 Nativity

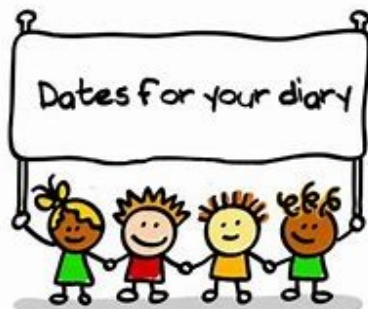
Key Stage 1 have worked so hard on their nativity performance of Prickly Hay this year. It has been great fun coming together to learn the songs, actions and channel our inner performers. We hope you enjoyed coming to watch!



## Rainbowfish

Rainbowfish have really enjoyed our topic of toys this term. We have been learning about different toys and how we can play with them. We explored nursery rhymes in a sensory way and with the current season coming to an end we have been using lots of leaves for our sensory stories and our Autumn themed pictures.





### December

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

### February

Friday 10th—Last day of term

Monday 20th—Inset day—school closed

Tuesday 21st—Children return to school

### SEND

#### SEND Coffee Morning Term 3 –

Dates to be confirmed



#### School Nurse Webinars

Following on from our school nurse coffee morning. The school nurse has provided a link for a number of free parent webinars. They are about a range of topics such as

- Keeping your child happy and healthy
- Healthy eating and physical activity
- Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing
- Eating disorder awareness
- Dental Health

Sleepfile:///C:/Users/p\_thomas/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps\_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/1/Attachments/School%20Nurse%20webinars%202022-23%20(1)%20(2)[72].pdf

### 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.



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 paid for in advance with the school office.



**£3.50**

### Local offer translation

The Bristol Local offer now has a translation function. There is a button in the footer of every page on the site, linking to this page

[Translate the SEND Local Offer site \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://bristol.gov.uk/translate-the-send-local-offer-site)

### Belongings

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

Thank you!



# STAY AND PLAY WARM HUB

Every Wednesday  
3.30PM to 5.30PM

The  
Beehive  
Centre



Free  
*sm*

Drinks  
Snacks  
& Toast



Games  
& Crafts



Quiet  
Table



A WARM PLACE  
FOR FAMILIES WITH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AGED CHILDREN TO  
MEET AFTER SCHOOL

all children must  
come with an adult

STARTING 11th JANUARY

At The Beehive Centre,  
19a Stretford Road,  
BS5 7AW



Contact us for more info:  
01179 354471 / [info@thebeehivebristol.co.uk](mailto:info@thebeehivebristol.co.uk)



## Accessing food during the cost of living crisis

If you're struggling to afford food at the moment, there are organisations and schemes across the city which can help you. There are a number of foodbanks across Bristol for those who are eligible, with friendly volunteers available to talk about your needs and how they might be able to help:

North Bristol and South Gloucestershire Foodbank <https://nbsg.foodbank.org.uk/>

Bristol North West Foodbank and Homebank [www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk)

South and East Bristol Foodbank <https://eastbristol.foodbank.org.uk>

Visit the Too Good to Go website to find out how you can buy food from cafes, restaurants and shops at a reduced price, when it hasn't sold in time. <https://toogoodtogo.org/en>

On the Olio website you can find people giving away free food to their community. <https://olioex.com/>

After some top tips to help you save money on food?

Plan your meals – buying food for the week helps to cut down on impulse buys

If you can, buy food like rice and pasta in bulk – it is often much cheaper per 100g than smaller bags

'Reduced to clear' foods can help save money – but think about when/how you'll eat them before you buy

Buy what you need - buying loose fruit & veg can help you save money by buying only what you are going to eat

## How to get cost of living support

The rising cost of living is impacting people across Bristol in different ways. To help support people most impacted, including those who have not faced financial challenge before, the council has a cost of living support webpage: [www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving)

It provides advice and guidance on topics including housing, benefits and financial help, employment and skills, mental health and wellbeing, and provides links to useful websites and community organisations. It also includes information on the city's network of Welcoming Spaces where people can meet up, socialise, keep warm and access support relating to the cost of living crisis. There are now 37 spaces open in the city.

Our Citizen Service Point, located at 100 Temple Street, BS1 6AG, is also on hand if you need help using the council's services or need access to a computer. The opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 10am to 5pm. The service is closed on bank holidays.

You can also call the We Are Bristol phone line on 0800 694 0184, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm

## Inclusion and belonging survey

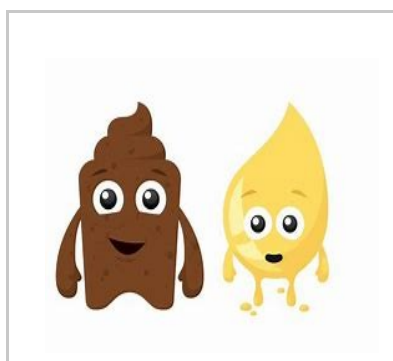
Bristol City Council, The University of Bristol and Murmuration Community Therapy are working together to create a film to promote inclusion and belonging for children and young people with SEND in Bristol's primary and secondary schools.

In order to inform the content of the film help Bristol City Council to identify where the greatest need might be, they would like your views on what great inclusive practice looks like. Please can you complete [this short survey](#) which asks:

*'Thinking about the experience of children and young people with SEND, what advice would you give to a new teacher about nurturing a culture of belonging at school?'*

ERIC are holding a fantastic session that I wanted to highlight to you all to share with your parents. Here is the information and how to book on -

### [Talking about wee and poo - parent / carer event - ERIC](#)



#### [Talking about wee and poo - parent / carer event - ERIC](#)

19.00 - 19.15 Welcome and Introduction to ERIC. Opening poll. Setting the scene. 19.15 - 19.45 How bowels work – how to recognise & manage constipation; 19.45 - 20.05 How bladders work – how to promote a healthy bladder; 20.05 - 20.25 Effective toiletting programmes; 20.25 - 20.30 Closing poll. Evaluation. 20.30 - 21.00 Q&A with Helpline team and close.

[eric.org.uk](http://eric.org.uk)