WHITEHALL

Summer 1 Week 4

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a focused time in school recently as Y6 have worked tremendously hard on being as prepared as they can be for their SATs which will start next week.

We know that this is a very narrow measure of achievement which does not accurately measure all that children learn and can do and certainly does not capture who they truly are. It is, however; one that is an important milestone and one our cohort this year have approached with a quiet determination and resilience. We know they will try their very best and approach next week with a calm and focussed mindset. We wish them all the best.

A reminder that emails for teaching staff and not admin related should be sent to the communications@whitehall email address to ensure that the right messages are getting though to the right teams. The email address is: communications@whitehall.waltham.sch.uk

We have also celebrated Futures and looked at financial literacy and marked Deaf Awareness week which you can read all about in the body of this newsletter. The Deaf children lead on assemblies for the whole school and it was one of the most profoundly moving things I have been privileged enough to be part of. I am incredibly proud of the children here and how they see, recognise and celebrate the differences we have. Not only that- the courage of our children to use their voice to express their identify, whilst not infringing on the rights of others, is truly a remarkable thing. Please do speak to your children to discover what else they have learnt and their takeaways from the assembly that was shared.

We will also round off this half term with Feast. The children will look at food, nutrition, making good choices and how food is used to bring people together and celebrate so much of what we hold dear. In that vein, we invite you to take part in our internation food evening where we all contribute and sample the many dishes our families and communities eat. It is always a really fun evening so please do make sure you read below for more information and how you can take part.

Key Dates

This is a short half term- 6 weeks and we are already at week 2 so please do keep an eye out for key dates listed below.

11th May	SATS week
18th-23rd May	Feast
21st May	International Food Evening 3-30-5:00
22nd May	End of half term
26th May-29th May	Half term
1st June	Children return to school
5th June	Rowan Class Assembly @ 9.15am
8th – 12th June	Phonics Screening Week
18th June	Exhibition
23rd June	Reception – new Reception visits
25th June	Reception – new Reception visits

WB:29th June	All Star Games
30th June	New Reception parents' meeting New Nursery parents' meeting
1st July	EYFS/KS1 Sports' Day
2nd July	KS2 Sports' Day
3rd July	Summer Fete (possibly)
7th July	Reserve EYFS/KS1 Sports Day
9th July	Y6 Performance to Parents
10th July	Meet the Teacher Reports to Parents
13th July	Y6 Leavers Party
14th July	Parties PM
15th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly am Last day of term – 2pm
16th July	INSET- school closed to children
17th July	INSET- school closed to children
20th July	INSET- school closed to children

EYFS

As part of our Colours of the Earth topic and Deaf Awareness Week, the children in Nursery have learnt how to sign the colours, along with the words rainbow and sing. They had lots of fun signing along to the song 'I Can Sing a Rainbow' and showed great enthusiasm while learning new signs.

KS1

To celebrate Deaf Awareness Week, our Year 1 pupils have been learning all about how our ears work to support our hearing and took a closer look at the incredible equipment that helps people in the Deaf community. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their understanding and celebrate the different ways we experience the world around us.

This week, Year 2 have been exploring Deaf Awareness Week as part of their wider enquiry question, “How do people experience places differently?” The children have been learning about what deafness is and how it can affect the way people experience the world around them. They’ve discussed different ways that Deaf people communicate, including sign language, lip reading and the use of technology, and have thought carefully about how we can make our classrooms and community more inclusive. It’s been wonderful to see their curiosity, thoughtful questions and growing understanding of how people may experience the same place in different ways.

LKS2

In Year 3, the children have been learning about campaigns to promote inclusivity for children with hearing impairments and talked about the need for a national drive for the appreciation of British Sign Language. We also talked about how members of our phase with hearing impairments have such a positive impact to our school community.

One child shared that "I have friends with hearing impairment and they have taught me sign language. I like that we are all unique and everyone should be included."

As part of our science lesson this week, Year 4 made links between science and real life by studying how electricity is used in hearing technology. We discovered how hearing aids work by using electrical signals to amplify sound, helping deaf people to hear more clearly. Furthermore, we talked about different ways people communicate, including lip reading and sign language. Through our discussions, we highlighted how we can make slight alterations to the way we communicate to ensure that we are more inclusive, including support others by facing them when speaking, speaking clearly, and being patient.

Throughout the whole year, Year 4 have been discussing deaf awareness and how we can create a more inclusive world for everyone. Year 4 have shown great curiosity and sensitivity during this topic and they are developing a strong understanding of how to be inclusive and supportive members of their community.

UKS2

In Year 5, during our P4C lesson, pupils created and explored their own big questions linked to the theme of inclusion. The question we had chosen to discuss was: *"Why do we treat people differently although we're all human?"* The children demonstrated great maturity and empathy as they shared their ideas, listening carefully to one another and building on each other's thoughts. The pupils engaged in a collaborative discussion, contributing such thoughtful responses, with many pupils recognising the importance of inclusion, respect and celebrating differences.

Eddie summarised and captured everyone's ideas beautifully: "I think people may be treated differently because they look different, for example because of their ethnicity or disability. But it doesn't matter if you are different - what matters is that you are kind."

In Year 6 our P4C lesson this week was inspired by deaf awareness week. We discussed the scenario: "Amir has just started a new school. He is deaf and communicates using British Sign Language. In class, the teacher talks while writing on the board. Amir finds it difficult to follow what is happening."

Theressa: "I think your rights should not be impacted by your hearing ability - everyone needs equal access to education"

Some of the questions children came up with:

Is treating everyone the same fair?
If everyone was the same, would people treat others as inferior or superior (based on their roles in society)?
Is equality always fair?

In Science this week, Year 6 explored how different components in a circuit can affect the brightness of a lightbulb. They began by building a simple circuit, then experimented by adding a buzzer, a switch and a motor. Their investigations led to some interesting and thoughtful observations about how circuits work.

To mark Deaf Awareness Week, Year 6 used a P4C lesson to explore philosophical questions about deaf awareness. They watched an assembly led by deaf pupils in our school and reflected thoughtfully on what they had learnt from their peers.

"I learnt that everyone is unique in their own way of hearing and that not every Deaf child hears in the same way." – Penny

"The Deaf Awareness assembly was eye-opening to how Deaf people feel when others talk to them. It made me see things in a new light and I now understand more about this." – Finn

Philosophical questions from our P4C lessons:

Does fairness mean giving everyone the same support, or giving each person the support they need?

Should the Deaf community adapt to the general public, or should the general public adapt to them?

How do we make sure that everyone feels included?

Futures

During Futures, the children have developed their financial understanding through our bespoke finance curriculum. EYFS and KS1 have learnt to recognise money, understand the difference between needs and wants and begin making simple spending and saving decisions. In KS2, the children have built on this by exploring banking, budgeting and interest, before moving on to real-life financial concepts such as payslips, taxes, loans and mortgages. This learning has helped the childdren develop important life skills, preparing them to make informed and responsible financial decisions in the future.

LSK2 had a special visit from Javed, a motivational speaker and journalist with cerebral palsy. He shared his inspiring story, talking about the challenges he has faced and how he has overcome them to achieve his goals. The children were fascinated by his positive attitude and learnt the importance of resilience and determination.

Hudhayfah: “He inspired me to never ever give up and to chase my dreams!”

Year 5 were visited by Ibrahim, who has developed the use of virtual reality (VR) to help those without access to science labs take part in scientific activities. He demonstrated how this technology can bring learning to life and make science accessible to everyone. The children were excited to explore this innovative approach and learnt how technology can open up new opportunities in education.

Aasia “it’s mind-blowing what technology can do! It can help us to access so much!”

To celebrate Futures, Year 6 focused on developing practical skills they may need in later life. They took part in activities focusing on problem solving, teamwork, communication and resilience. They particularly enjoyed learning how to sew a button and how to work collaboratively to complete a series of team challenges.

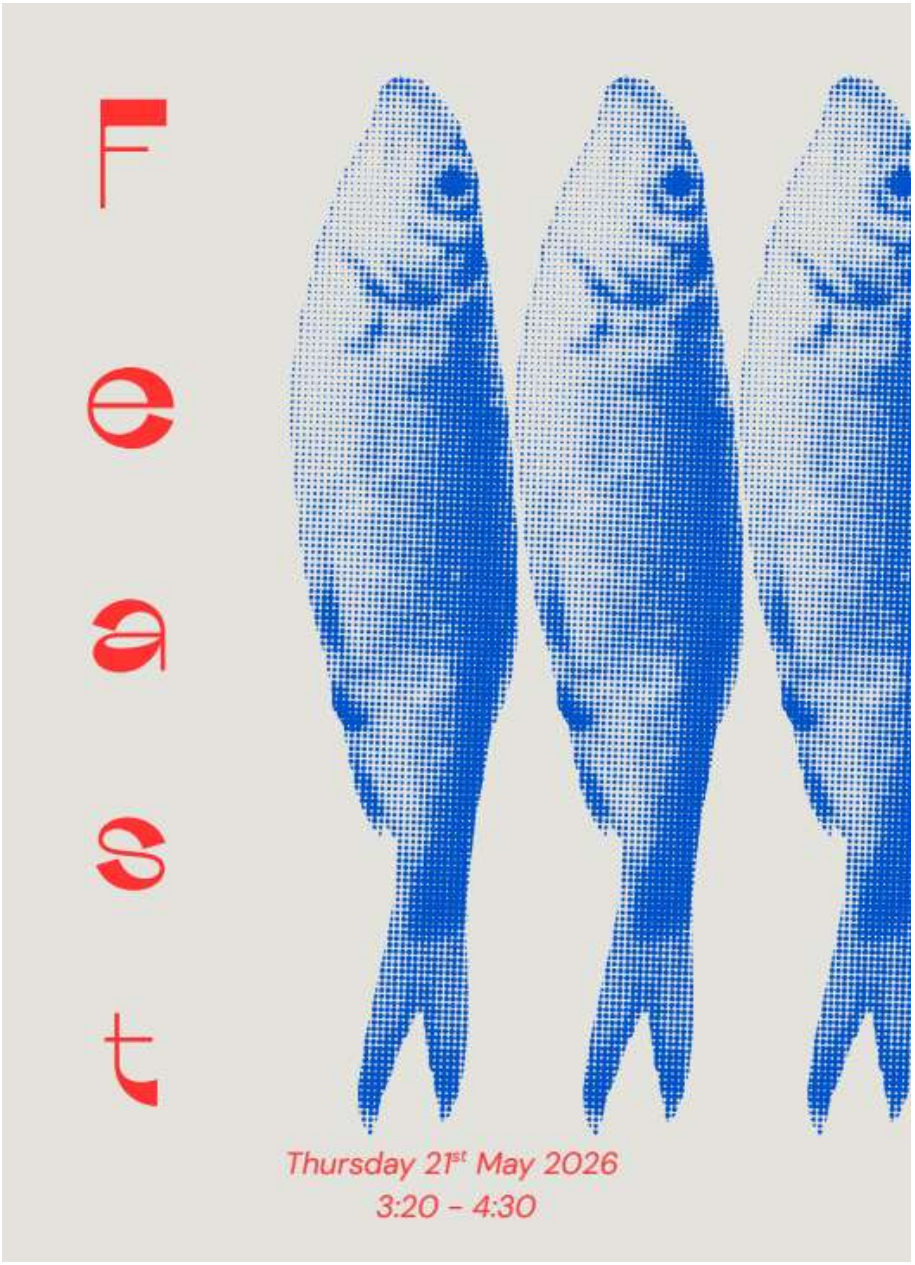
Feast

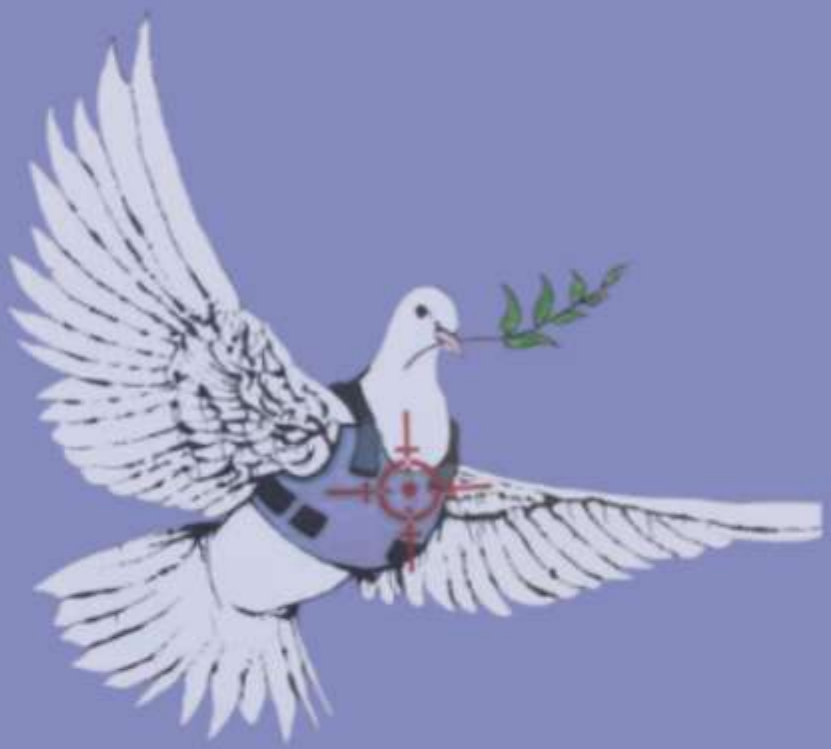
During the week beginning Monday 18 May, we will be hosting Feast Week. Throughout the week, children will take part in preparing and cooking food in our outdoor cob oven, enjoying the experience of sharing food with friends and celebrating our community through food.

As part of this week, the PSA will once again be running an International Food Evening on Thursday 21 May, from 3:20pm to 4:30pm. Families are invited to join us as we share and celebrate the wide range of foods enjoyed within our school community.

If you would like to provide a dish, please let the PSA know by completing the form via the link below. This is a free event, and all families are welcome to attend and enjoy.

International Food Evening sign up





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Whitehall Exhibition 2026
18.06.26
15:30 - 17:00