WHITEHALL

Message from the Headteacher

We have reached the end of this half term and it has been a very busy, but, hopefully, very fulfilling and enriching one for the children and our wider school community.

We have had plenty of opportunities for parents to be in it this half term; from meet the teacher meetings, to family maths, class assemblies and also ending this half term with a chance to see how the children have nurtured the artists within themselves by joining our end of week Art Symposium showcase. It has been brilliant seeing so many of you at all of these opportunities to come into school and see the children and what they get up to at Whitehall.

We have also had the flu nasal sprays administered as well as the school photographer in.

The children have also been out on lots of trips from local area walks to visiting The National Gallery, to visiting the Tate Modern. Clubs that we offer have also been running- these are always volunteered by the teachers and is run for free, where there are no additional materials being used, so that all of our children can partake in them. We work really hard to make sure the children have a really enriched experience in the curriculum and provision we offer here at Whitehall.

I like to take my hat off to teachers and all staff who work so hard, particularly in their own time, to go to, source and plan these experiences for the children to make sure they get the very best provision available. You will know that schools have become front line services for so many spaces- from providing childcare outside of schooling and teaching to medical awareness, mental health support, providing families with extended support in holidays etc. This is on top of, of course, teaching to a high standard so that all children flourish and keeping everybody safe. In the ask we have of teachers, and schools, we can all sometimes forget how big an ask that can be; thank you to all of our incredibly supportive parents who know, and see, and understand, that we are working as hard as we can to provide as much as we are able to. We always try to listen to suggestions, where we can, but I know you will all appreciate how not every ask can be met. Thank you for your understanding on this.

A gentle reminder, that, whilst some sharing of information though groups chats and different platforms can be helpful at times, a feeling or comments meant innocuously can sometimes snowball; we must be careful not to bring others into personal experiences and incite ill feeling almost others, against others. We are always careful at Whitehall with teaching the children the principles of being kind, being generous with others when we can, and not holding onto feelings where people feel they must 'win' against another. We are, of course, happy to listen and are available to talk to you each and every day both in the mornings and after school- looping in others to incite, and creating bad feelings, very rarely resolves genuine communication gaps where we are all trying to meet the needs of the children.

Thank you to all those who work alongside us and know of the pressures we face and work to alleviate and support where you can. Trust is the foundation of everything between schools and families and we thank those who work hard on maintaining such positivity and genuine care between us all. Have a lovely half term.

Benedict's Law- Allergens

A new law has come into force regarding food and how allergens are managed and how information is shared. To this end, and to support us all to have the same conversations, we attach the allergens policy for your information. This is also in line with the guidance introduced last year re consumption of food in school site. For breaks, children can only bring in fruit as a snack.

A gentle reminder to parents re sweet treats and sharing food for birthdays; we strongly advise against providing sweet treats for birthdays, even if this is in the school playground. As well as being mindful of different dietary needs, we have had requests from families that this can often cause upsets with children who need careful monitoring or when families have made food choices for their children. Thank you for your support with this.

Parking

We ask all families to ensure that they do not park on pathways, the pavements near the grass verges and on corners. These are very dangerous places to park and puts the children, and families, at risk as they are having to navigate around vehicles and walk along narrowed pavements and cross a very busy street.

The children are all ours- please do not park in a place that puts others at risk and adds additional stresses and challenges at an already tricky time of day- both at the beginning and end of the school day. Please support us by ensuring we all play our part in allowing the children to come and leave school safely.

EYFS

Exploring *A Muse* by Cosmè Tura, Reception looked closely at the intricate patterns, swirling shapes and rich colours before creating their own artwork. Using vibrant colours, textured materials and shimmering silver, the children experimented with different techniques.

KS1

Inspired by the famous Renaissance painting, *A Muse (Calliope?)* by Italian master *Cosimo Tura,* the children focused on the intricate details of the painting, particularly the elaborate shells that form the crown of Calliope (the Greek muse of epic poetry). Putting their own creative spin on the masterpiece, the students first sketched out their unique shell concepts. They then and used clay to sculpt their 3D designs.

Year 2 enjoyed an exciting visit to Tate Modern. The children were captivated by the spectacular building and the beautiful and thought-provoking displays of artwork inside. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience art beyond the classroom, explore different artistic styles and find inspiration in the work of others. We were particularly proud of how exceptionally well the children conducted themselves throughout the trip. They were enthusiastic, respectful and a real credit to Whitehall, demonstrating impeccable behaviour and making the most of this valuable learning experience. Their conduct made the day a pleasure for everyone involved.

Back at school, the children also took part in a pottery workshop, where they explored their creativity and developed their artistic skills through hands-on learning. They thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with the materials and discovering how they could transform their ideas into something tangible.
It has been a fantastic week of artistic exploration, with the children demonstrating curiosity, imagination and enthusiasm throughout. We are proud of their creativity and look forward to seeing how they continue to develop as young artists.

LKS2

Year Three have been fully immersed in all things creative and Art! From our visit to the National Gallery, our children were inspired by the painting by Cosimo Tura, A Muse (Calliope?). They have created their own response to the painting, through making a portrait collage piece. Our children have been busy posing, cutting and decorating their wonderful work. We are proud of how each art piece is vibrant, unique and reflective of their own personalities and interests. Here are a few sneak peek images for you to enjoy... Well done Year 3!

Year 4 brought Art Symposium Week to life with a vibrant street art tour through Shoreditch, exploring how creative inspiration connects across centuries. While admiring the bold, hyper-realistic murals and modern tags of East London, the children drew fascinating parallels to Cosimo Tura's Renaissance masterpiece, *A Muse (Calliope?)*. They discovered that whether an artist is using oil paints to depict a fantastical throne in the 15th century or using a spray can on brickwork today, they are driven by the exact same spark of imagination and divine artistic ingenuity. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to see how today's street artists follow their own modern muses to transform everyday urban environments into powerful works of art.

UKS2

As part of their topic this term, Year 5 have been creating their own Egyptian cartouches, writing their first name in ancient hieroglyphs. They first designed their cartouche, then learnt clay skills before using clay and acrylic paint to complete it.

Year 6 drew inspiration from the ornate patterns and rich textures found in Cosimo Tùra's Renaissance masterpiece, *A Muse (Calliope?)*.

Combining classical art appreciation with hands-on craftsmanship, the children hand-sculpted plates, cups, and bowls using air-drying clay, carefully carving intricate patterns directly into the surface as they worked. Once dried, they will bring their creations to life using a sgraffito-inspired technique with acrylic paints—applying contrasting layers of paint to reveal their designs.