



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 6th September 2019



A message from the headteacher...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone and welcome to all our new children and staff. It's been a fabulous first week and the children have settled in beautifully. They all looked super smart in their uniforms, thank you so much for ensuring they come to school looking this good.

Don't forget to label all their clothing and belongings, we already have a few jumpers looking lost and alone with no name in them.

Over the summer holidays we have been working hard on the school's outdoor spaces, creating a Mud Lab (thank you Jacques Raymond "Cut Once Woodworks") in our "micro forest" area. We still have a bit more to do here but it's nearly done.

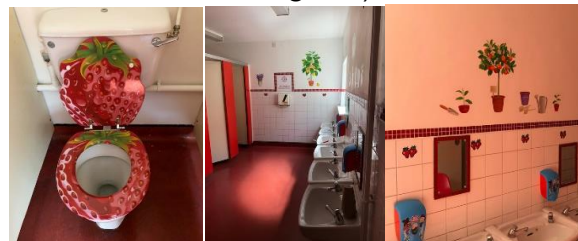


A rather gloomy space has now been transformed into a lovely garden area which we have called "The Sanctuary". Last term we planted and grew tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, chillies, mint, lemon mint, strawberries. Over the summer we planted hops, passion fruit, wisteria an olive tree and something I can't remember the name of but it looks lovely.



We will be having an **"Open Classroom" opportunity on Monday 16th September 3:15pm-3:45pm**. You can come into your child's classroom to see where they spend a lot of their time and to say hi to their teacher. You are welcome to have a wander into The Sanctuary or down to see the Mud Lab. If you would like to talk to the class teacher about something in particular it is best you ring to make an appointment on another day as this will just be a meet and greet opportunity.

The upper school girl's toilets have had a "fruity" revamp too (I think we could possibly be the only school in the UK with toilet seats that look this good!)



We have some incredible things in store for your children this year. The curriculum at WJS is underpinned by our curriculum drivers; adventure, resilience, community, independence, challenge and curiosity, which we constantly consider, when deciding how and what we teach. We just know your children will be having the learning time of their lives. Next week we have an inspiring day all about the wonder that was Roald Dahl. Children will be immersed in reading his stories, developing their understanding of his characters and story lines and learning about his life and inspirations; a day guaranteed to create awe and wonder!

In addition to this, the Year 6 children who have decided to take part in the Kent Test will be completing the long awaited tests on Thursday 12th September. Further details for those parents and children will be detailed in a letter going out today, that will also be available on our website. All letters will be emailed to you (we are trying to do our best to be environmentally friendly), but please do contact us if you would rather have a paper copy and we will make sure you get one. This week year 3 parents will have a paper copy. All letters are saved on our website, so if like in my house they can go missing just have a look on there.

Here's to a fabulous term ahead.

Warm wishes,

Annie Knoupe

Changes to homework...

New Homework System for 2019!

The new academic year brings with it our new approach to homework. It is so important to us to ensure that we get the balance right for all of our families so we have made important changes to the homework expectations.

Enjoyment of learning and improving key skills is always our focus so children will be expected to **practice their target times-tables** using TTRockstars, **learn their focus spellings for the week** using Spelling Shed and **read every day**.

There will also be an **Optional Homework Grid**, sent out every new term, which gives children an opportunity to complete fun and inspiring activities that are linked to reading, PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) or their current topic theme.

Children will have a **Homework Book** that will include: the **Optional Homework Grid**, their timetables and the spellings for the term so that they can be practiced without the online sites should IT not be available. These books can be handed in every week should any of the **Optional Homework** activities have been completed. Please record when your child practices their times tables, spellings and reads in their **Contact Books which should be in school every day**.

Here are the links to the online homework areas.



Your child's SpellingShed and TTRockstars logins will be at the front of their contact books early next week. These are different to previous versions last year.

To login in visit: SpellingShed: <https://play.edshed.com/> TTRockstars <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

For TTRockstars the children will need to set their ROCK SPEED in the studio section. This involves playing 10 completed goes to set their new speed for their new year group.

Spelling tests will be on **Friday** so the children have to week to revise the words through the week. A termly overview will be in the children's homework books.



Our Carrot reward system will also be starting on Monday. You and your child can monitor points by visiting <https://www.mystickers.co.uk/>. We are linking these to our new drivers: adventure, independence, curiosity, resilience, community and challenge. The children will have more information about this in Monday's assembly.

If you have any problems, let the office know and we will try to resolve these as soon as we can.

Clubs Information...

Clubs will start on Thursday 19th September. You will receive a letter next week which will provide you with a web address to access the club booking system. Follow the instructions on screen and then you will be able to book clubs. If the club is full you will be unable to book a place. If you can then your child has a place on that club.

Please ensure that you phone the office to let us know if your child is not going to attend a club they have been booked onto. We can then inform the member of staff and when they take the register they won't be alarmed that your child is not there.

Clubs are run by staff on a voluntary basis. This means that there are some occasions when they have to be cancelled. Therefore I would urge you not to use clubs as child care because of this.

Animal "Creepy Claws" Club is a club run at school by an external provider. A letter will be coming to you on Monday. You need to contact them directly to book a place and make payments. School is not involved with the administration of this club.

Our School Values

Respect, Fairness, Trust, Responsibility, Determination, Caring

Children can collect evidence to show they can demonstrate these values by joining the Whitstable Junior School Royal Native Citizenship Award. More information will follow about this from Mrs Migden.

Letters this week...

- Facebook information letter
- Free School Meal letter

Don't forget you can find all the letters we email out to you saved on the school website. <http://www.whitstable->

Keeping our school in tip top condition...

Congratulations to **Tyler** in year 6 who found the first piece of "**Do Nut Litter**" this year. Children are encouraged to keep our school playground tidy and as a reward if they pick up the litter with the special message on they win a prize for being so caring about our school environment. Everyone else-keep your eyes peeled for the next time "Do Nut Litter" is on the playground. It could be any day!!

DO "NUT" LITTER



Thankyou for picking up this piece of litter without being asked.

Bring this to assembly and you will receive a prize for being so caring about our school environment.

A few other reminders....

Mobile Phones-Upper School children only (Years 5 and 6)

All mobile phones must be switched off on the school premises and handed to the class teacher for safe keeping during the school day.

Cycling/Scooting to school

Any child cycling or scooting to school (and leaving this at school) needs to fill in a permission slip which they can get at the school office. All children **MUST** wear a helmet.

Bikes and scooters must be dismounted at the school gates.

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.30 and the credit limit allowance is £10. Please pay via parent pay-details went out on Thursday.

Free School Meals - If you are entitled to Government benefits then please complete the free school meal application forms that will be sent home this week. Please return these to Mrs Amos in the office.

Sickness absence

Please telephone the school on each day of absence before 10am to let us know your child won't be coming in, otherwise we worry. Thank you.

Collecting your children after school

We understand that emergencies happen and sometimes you have been held up and need to change collection arrangements. If this happens please telephone the office as early as possible, ideally before 2:45pm. Thankyou

Parent Communication

As an eco-school, we are constantly looking at ways to reduce the amount of paper we use. Therefore we aim to send as much information to parents via email or text message. If you don't have access to emails or need a letter printing please let the office know and we will make sure you get a printed copy.

Mini bus travel

At WJS we are lucky enough to have two minibuses; both with fully fitted seatbelts. These are used on a regular basis for trips out to the beach, the woods and many other exciting places. Before your child is taken out on the minibus, you will be told in advance and have the opportunity to make any queries.

Important dates for Term 1

September	2 nd	Start of term 1
	12 th	Kent Test Day - Year 6
	13 th	Roald Dahl Day (not dressing up)
	16 th	Open Classroom 3:15-3:45pm
	16 th	Jeans for Genes
	20 th	Photos - Individual pupils and staff
	24 th	Adult Education Taster Session – WJS Studio (pm)
	25 th	Parents Music For Schools Workshop 6pm
October	14 th – 18 th	Black History Week
	10 th	Hello Yellow-Mental Health Awareness Day 2pm PESE talks to parents
	14 th	6pm PESE talks to parents
	15 th	Parent Consultations (3:30-6pm)
	17 th	Parent Consultations (5:30-8pm)
	18 th	Term 1 Ends
	31st	Term 2 Starts