



Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

Tel: (01227) 272385

Headteacher: Mrs. Annie Knoupe BA (Hons) PGCE

e-mail: manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to update you on the current position the school is in.

As you are aware, following the recent government announcement, we will not be asked to take any additional year groups this term. There is however a degree of flexibility passed to Headteachers to determine whether and if they are able to take any further children. This is bearing in mind the fact that we are still at COVID19 alert level 4, rather than level 3, and yet are already opening for the year groups as per the plan for alert level 3.

The government are clearly disappointed at not being able to achieve the wider opening, but I genuinely feel if they felt it was safe and possible to do so they would have continued with this plan. So on that basis, it is clearly not. Therefore, this means we will stick to our current plan which is Year 6 and Key Worker children attending school.

I am also considering how we might be able to give some limited visits during this term to our new year 3's and the rest of the children across the school in years 3, 4 and 5 so that they would be able to meet their new teacher. However it is proving very difficult to organise without compromising the safety of current bubbles. I am therefore waiting to see if the guidance relaxes at all before we commit to anything. It may be that all of this has to wait until September ... I am only exploring options with you to be as transparent as possible.

I am aware of the disappointment that the announcement may have brought to some families and yet others may be feeling relieved. I also understand that continuing to motivate your children to do learning at home for what is now a longer period of time than we may have imagined, is increasingly challenging. We have had so many positive comments about Google Classrooms and we will endeavour to continue to provide this at the same level. However we hope you will be understanding that as more staff return to school the immediate feedback within Google Classrooms may not be as frequent.

We will continue to provide as many virtual opportunities to mirror events that would have happened this term and will be letting you know about our ideas for a virtual sports day. We will also be connecting with the children in a variety of virtual ways to support their transition to their new classes and to help them get to know their new teacher before the summer holidays arrive.

Looking forward to the next academic year we have made some decisions. With all the uncertainties, the children will definitely be remaining with their current classmates next year and you will hear in the next few weeks who your child's new class teacher will be.





Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

Tel: (01227) 272385

Headteacher: Mrs. Annie Knoupe BA (Hons) PGCE

e-mail: manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk

Finally I would like to share with you the news that WJS have been selected to take part in a COVID-19 study to assess and monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 among pre-school, primary and secondary school pupils and staff.

The study begins next Wednesday 17th June and swabs will be taken every Wednesday until the end of term. Only children and staff attending school are involved in the study and only if they want to be involved. This information is important to help scientist advise the government about how to bring all children and staff safely back to school. We decided by being involved we would be making the school an even safer place for your children and the staff.

I apologise for the length of this letter but felt it was important to update you on all that we are dealing with. Thank you again for all your messages of support, they mean a great deal.

Warmest wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

