



Whitstable Junior School

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Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now had the figures in for Year 6 and Key Worker children attending school next week and we are as expected experiencing an increase in numbers. We have made the decision to have one final registration for school places which will be **for attendance until the end of term**. This is for Year 6 and Key Worker children, and those children whose parents we have spoken to. This will enable us to ensure we comply with our risk assessment and give us time to arrange adequate staffing. It is very important you register your child using the link which will be sent out on Mon 22nd June. This link will close at midday on Thursday 25th June.

I mentioned in my last letter that we were considering ways we might be able to give some limited visits to children across the school in years 3, 4 and 5 so that they would be able to meet their new teacher. The increase in the number of children attending school is making this look very unlikely unless there is a huge change to government guidance and bubbles cease to exist. Teachers across all year groups are teaching in bubbles which would mean they couldn't then meet with their new class. Please rest assured that we will be supporting the children's transition in a whole variety of ways though. You will find out which class teacher your child is with next Friday 26th June.

On that note I think it is the right time to share with you that we will be saying goodbye to Mr George at the end of this term. Mr George is moving on to new challenges in a school in London. We will miss him terribly and have been so lucky to have him as part of the WJS team. I did send a meme to him of someone with their fingers in their ears because we don't want him to go, but unfortunately it is too good an opportunity for him to miss. We wish him all the success in the world.

I also wanted to touch on the news that is circulating about summer schools, catch up schools etc. We have had no information from the local authority or the Government regarding this and I'm hoping there may be some clarity today. However I wanted to give you all as much notice as possible regarding WJS's position on being open over the summer holidays. In short we won't be open and the term ends on Friday 17th July. We will also not be open for Key Worker children either. The staff have worked tirelessly since partial school closure was announced in March and we do all need a rest and time to re-charge. It is obviously not the norm for schools to provide child care over the holidays and as other child care facilities are now open we feel it is right to be taking a break so that we can be ready for whatever September may bring. I'm hopeful everyone will understand this decision.

Thank you again for all your messages of support and I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Warmest wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher



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