

Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

Tel: (01227) 272385

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Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised here is an update on the latest Government guidance and the arrangements (see the attached Information for Parents Sep 2020) for the start of term on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. I hope the “Information for Parents Sep 2020” will answer all your questions. If you still have questions after you have read this document please email the school office on manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk and we will try to answer them.

Firstly I want to reassure you that the safety of our school community is at the forefront of all the decisions we have made. Outlined below is the set of “System of Controls” that schools must take to ensure they are able to open fully. They are grouped into ‘prevention’ and ‘response to any infection’.

System of Controls

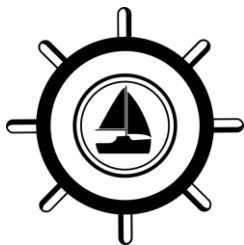
Prevention:

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice





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The school has worked very hard to assess the risks involved in all children returning to school in September. We have worked through the system of controls and put into place a fairly large number of measures (the Risk Assessment is 24 pages long!) in a way that addresses the risks identified. We have done this alongside having a desire to be able to deliver a full curriculum for the children. The Governing Body have agreed that the Risk Assessment we have produced will effectively reduce risks in school and create an inherently safer environment.

The Government acknowledges that social distancing for children, especially younger children, is hard to maintain and that is why for the primary setting they are encouraging children to be kept in groups. However they also understand this may not always be possible and then ask that we ensure thorough hygiene routines are in place and social distancing is reinforced. This could for example be in a small group provision between children in the same Year Group (Year Group Bubble).

We have been able to see how our initial plans and partial opening Risk Assessment have worked over this term with Year 6 and Key Worker children being in school. I'm pleased to say our systems worked well. However having the whole school back is obviously a more challenging scenario. We therefore ask that you understand that we may have to make some tweaks once term has started.

The "Information for Parents" document has the start time for your children and where to bring them. The entrance is the same as it would have been which is the bottom gate onto the playground. The Year 3 bus stop will be there along with the class teachers to meet you.

I look forward to meeting you all in the new academic year and welcoming you to the WJS community. I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday.

Warmest wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

