

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 28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you have had a lovely summer. I wanted to write to you before the start of term with some reassurances and reminders about the term ahead.

I have included a link to the latest Government guidance for parents and carers (this could of course change over the weekend) [DfE Latest Parent and Carers Government Guidance 21st Aug 2020](#). The school risk assessment that has been agreed by Governors can now be found on the school website should you wish to read through it.

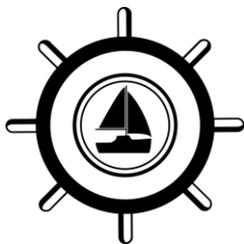
At the end of the summer term I emailed out the “Information for Parents Sep 2020” which had most of the answers to your questions about what returning to school on September 2nd would look like for the children and what measures we were putting into place. This also has the times and gates your child should use to arrive at and leave school. Remember to use the youngest sibling’s gate and times if you feel managing 2 entrances and times will be difficult. Also if you have children at the infants then we are happy for you to drop your child here after their allotted time so long as it is before our gates close in the morning at 9am. (So for example: if you have 2 children with an 8:30am drop off time, take your infant school child first and then bring the junior school child to us a little later). Collecting a little after the allotted time is also fine as we will hold on to the children until you arrive. I have updated the “Information for Parents Sheet Sep 2020” with any additional information and attached it to this email.

The summer has been a busy one ensuring all the, ‘prevention’ and ‘response to any infection’ systems of control, have been put in place. Classrooms have been reorganised and the school has had a deep clean.

As I am sure you are aware the guidance on **face coverings** is changing all the time. Government guidance has been updated to provide schools with greater flexibility around the use of face coverings [Updated DfE Guidance Face Coverings in Education](#). Whilst this guidance stems from a statement made by the World Health Organisation, the Government is still not generally recommending face coverings due to mitigating measures put into place in schools. We have put in place a number of mitigating measures, so rather than enforcing the non-wearing/wearing of face coverings, we believe that it should be optional and are happy for staff/children to wear a face covering if they feel that an additional control measure is required. Please note that your child will be responsible for the safe disposal or storage of their face mask – see guidance below. Please also speak to your child to let them know that some of their friends may choose to wear a face mask, although I’m sure that your child is used to seeing others wearing face masks now. If you will be sending your child into school



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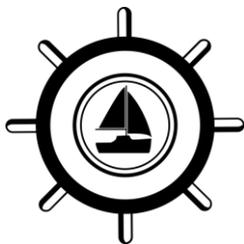
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with a face mask, please ensure that it will not distract learning; therefore, it must be plain in design (some of the mask designs are quite scary!!) and fit well so they are not distracted by it. If your child's mask design/pattern distracts learning, we will be in touch for you to provide an alternative. Thank you in advance for your support.

Face coverings: Important information if you would like your child to wear a face mask - Information taken from Government guidance		
How to wear a face covering		
A face covering should:	When wearing a face covering you should:	When removing a face covering:
cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably	wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on	wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face	avoid wearing on your neck or forehead	only handle the straps, ties or clips
be secured to the head with ties or ear loops	avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus	do not give it to someone else to use
be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton	change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it	if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a lidded bin and do not recycle
ideally include at least two layers of fabric	avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession	stored in a sealable plastic bag when not being worn
unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged		wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed
If you would like to make a face covering, you may want to visit the big community sew website. https://www.bigcommunitysew.co.uk/		



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Also over the summer there were some relatively sudden changes to quarantine rules for those people who had **travelled abroad**. I do ask that you let us know if this has affected you and if your child cannot return to school because you are having to **quarantine** as a result of these changes. It is very important that your child **does not return** to school if they are meant to be in quarantine. We will ensure that the absence is authorised as these are exceptional circumstances.

I fully understand that some families will be feeling very anxious about the return to school and especially if you have had a member of the family shielding. The Government has paused shielding and have said that all children and staff will be safe in schools as long as the school has put all of the Government's recommendations in place. The exception to this are those people who are under the care of a clinical consultant who says that they cannot be in a school setting as the risk to them, because of their specific condition, is too great. The individual would need a letter from their consultant to confirm this. Please do get in touch if you have any worries and I hope we can reassure you that we have done everything possible to keep our whole school community as safe as possible. **Attendance at school has returned to being mandatory** and we hope that all the measures we have put in place will enable you to feel happy and confident about your child attending.

We are all really looking forward to the children coming back and we have missed them all enormously. We will be welcoming our new Year 3 children and some new children across other year groups into our WJS family and can't wait to let them see what a great community we are.

If you still have any questions please email the school office on manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk and we will try to answer them (but do read the Information Sheet first).

Finally I hope you will understand that we may have to make some tweaks to all our plans once term has started. We do believe strongly that we have everything possible that can be planned ahead in place but we are also ready to adapt and make changes should we need to.

I'd like to wish you all a great bank holiday weekend and look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks as I run from the front gate to the back. Take care everyone.

Warmest wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher



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