



# Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## 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 few days and the children have settled in beautifully and have taken to school life as though they have never been away. They all looked super smart in their uniforms, thank you so much for ensuring they come to school looking this good.

The school grounds have been kept looking lovely over the time you have been away. We had the structure mended, we have kept the timber trail in order and the pond. We have been so lucky to have a very generous parent who has used "lock down" to help re-paint some of the out-buildings.

"The Sanctuary" looked a little bit like the Sahara Desert in some areas after all the sun and so we have revitalised it with some new plants. Some of the planting from last summer has become established and we actually have some hops.



Over the next few weeks, the children will be re-igniting their passion and enjoyment for learning through many exciting topics and theme days. We start with celebrating National 'Read a Book Day' this Sunday- so it would be amazing if you could spend some time sharing your favourite books and authors as a family this weekend. In addition to this, each year group will be enriching their themes through outdoor learning experiences so that the children's understanding and engagement of The Stone Age in Year 3, Rivers in Year 4, Coasts in Year 5 and Rainforests in Year 6 will be memorable and fun. Take a look at this terms Curriculum Overview for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you again for being understanding about the various tweaks and changes we have had to make over these first few days to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible. Also thank you for following the requests we have made around social distancing. A small reminder that once you have collected your child/ren please can you leave as quickly as possible, this will help us maintain social distancing (it's not because we don't like your company).

Here's to a fabulous term ahead.

Warm wishes,

Annie Knoupe

## Attendance...



**98.2%** A fabulous start to the school year. Keeping our fingers crossed that we all keep well and safe and we can keep this up.



## Kent Test...

The date for the Kent Test for Year 6 children who have registered is the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Further information can be found following this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-2>

We are waiting to hear from the secondary schools how they intend to carry out Open Days and will share information with you as soon as we have this.

I will be sending information to Year 6 parents regarding the secondary transfer process over the coming weeks.

## Homework...

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 a 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.

## 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...

- August-Update-Letter-to-Parents-School-Opening-Sep-2020
- NEW SRE letter to parents September 2020
- Permission to watch a PG film 2020
- School Start and Finish time Update Letter to Parents 3.9.20
- Term 1 Subject -Curriculum overview 2020
- Updated-August-Information-for-Parents-Sep-2020
- Year 5 Term 1A Overview
- Year 6 Permission to walk home Letter 2020

Don't forget you can find all the letters we email out to you saved on the school website.

<http://www.whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk/>

## A few other reminders....

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

Children in Years 5 and 6 will bring a mobile phone contract home today. This needs to be signed and returned to school. All mobile phones must be switched off on the school premises and handed to the class teacher for safe keeping during the school day. The phones will be sanitised before storage.

### **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. Please email the school office to request a form and we will send it home with your child. All children **MUST** wear a helmet.

Bikes and scooters must be dismantled at the school gates.

### **School Dinners**

The cost of school dinners is £2.35 and the credit limit allowance is £10. Please pay via parent pay-details went out on today.

Free School Meals - If you are entitled to Government benefits then please complete the free school meal application forms on this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

### **Packed Lunches**

Please can children bring spoons if their food requires one. Unfortunately we are unable to use spoons from the school kitchen for this.

### **Water Bottles**

We are asking children to take their water bottles home on a Friday to be washed and returned on Monday. (massive thanks to the PTFA for providing these for every child as a gift)

### **Sickness absence**

Please telephone the school on each day of absence before 9:30am 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 2:30pm. Thankyou

### **Parent Communication**

We communicate with parents via email or text message. There will be some occasions when we send home paper copies but we are working on ways to completely stop the need for this.

### **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.