



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow



Week ending 18th December 2020

A Christmas message from the headteacher...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, this has been a different end of term for all of us. I think I have only ever missed one other Christmas in school since I started teaching 28 years ago and that was when I had my second son. Thank you to everyone who has emailed school to not only wish me well but to also tell us how tremendous you think we have been as a school during the pandemic. You have told me how your children have blossomed over the last 2 terms and how fabulous the teachers, LSA's, wellbeing staff and office staff have been during this time. These emails are really welcome and have supported staff at a time that has on occasion been quite nerve wracking and very exhausting. I'd like to take this opportunity to join you in saying thank you to the awesome WJS team. Every single member of staff (teaching, support, office, site and kitchen) has had to go above and beyond over the last 2 terms. Their commitment has been second to none and I am incredibly grateful for their ability to dig deep and carry on showing your children what it means to be part of the WJS community. They all deserve a truly lovely Christmas break and a well-earned rest.

I also wanted to give you a quick update on where things are with school and COVID19. We have actually fared reasonably well in comparison to many schools with regard to positive cases. Over the whole of term 1 and 2 we have only had to close school bubbles twice due to positive cases. We dearly hope that we can maintain this record on return from the Christmas holidays. You may have heard about the possibility of routine testing in schools after Christmas. As yet this is only for secondary schools but we wait to hear if and when primary schools will become involved. As soon as we know more, we will update you. Please keep an eye out for the letter today with information about how to keep school informed about a positive case up to the 24th December.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that everyone stays safe and you manage to relax, re-charge and enjoy some family time over this festive period. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 4th January.

Warmest Christmas Wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

A Christmas message from Mrs Roy...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and relaxing Christmas and New Year and to thank you and your children, for making this last week such a lovely time in school; with such kind and caring messages and smiling and happy children, the true spirit of Christmas has not been forgotten. The 'silver-lining' to this strange and unsettling time, has been that I have had the delightful job of hosting the Year 3 Festive Sing-a-Long that put smiles on all or our faces and brought festive cheer to our hearts-your children were amazing.



The staff have been fabulous, ensuring that the Christmas festive activities continued, from Christmas parties, to making Christingles, to playing festive code cracking games, to making delicious gingerbread biscuits- the festivities really have not stopped! So thank you to all of the WJS community, who, as always have been amazing.

Warm Festive wishes,
Kate Roy
Assistant Head Teacher



Year 3 Learning...

Year 3 have been feeling rather festive as they gear up for the big day. In Literacy, they have been using Christmas TV adverts to create and draw their own 'under the bed' monsters and have been writing thank you letters and designing presents for different characters. In Maths, they have been consolidating all of their number skills to crack codes and find the answers to some fantastic Christmas Cracker jokes. Do ask your children if they can remember any!

They have also been learning sewing skills while creating their very own Christmas stockings to hang up on Christmas Eve. In ICT, the children have been using paint and publisher to create their very own Christmas cards to take home. However, without doubt, the most exciting part of this week for all the children and staff, has been learning the lyrics and actions from their favourite Christmas songs, ready to perform to their parents and carers. A fantastically festive week has been had by all!

Year 4 Learning...

This week year 4 were so inspired by the robin in their book 'Coming Home' that they wanted to discover more about these fascinating creatures. This led to the children showing amazing curiosity by researching robins before presenting this information to the class. The children have also demonstrated what incredible artists they are by creating elf versions of themselves and creating snow globe decorations, whilst making and learning all about the tradition and meaning behind Christingles; the classrooms smelt very festive afterwards!

Year 5 Learning...

This week the children in year 5 have been writing Non-Chronological reports in Literacy about the Solar System, show-casing their wealth of knowledge about the planets and sharing the most amazing facts- did you know that it rains diamonds on Neptune! In Maths, they have moved on from perimeter to Area, so they can now measure rectangular shapes accurately. In addition, the children have thoroughly enjoyed completing their Space Rovers in D&T and made Christmas cards featuring the galaxy and the Christmas Star that will appear in our sky on the 21st December as Jupiter and Saturn align.

As the week concluded, 5M had their carrot reward treat making gingerbread, whilst enjoying the online pantomime

Whilst at home, 5L have been working on their directions in French, had their first Virtual Christmas party, and made Christmas cards, Christingles and Christmas Jumper designs.

Congratulations to the winners of our Year 5 photography competition



During term 1, Year 5 were lucky enough to have a photography pro (Mr Rick) come in and teach the children all about the history of taking photos. Afterwards, all of the year 5 classes got to take part in a photography competition and here are the fantastic winners of first, joint second and third prize! Well done to all of those who took part, I know that it was incredibly difficult to choose between them because they were all so marvellous.

1st Prize – Lincoln Soutan

2nd Prize – Evie Jones and Victor Poole

3rd Prize – Jacob Exley

Runners up were: Phoebe Moore, Felix Ball and Henry Carter

Year 6 Learning...

In year 6, they have been learning about genetic engineering as part of their science lessons and looking at the points for and against; even debating about the idea of 'designer babies'! In history, they have been learning about Mayan numbers by completing a QRcode quiz as well as completing a comprehension about the Mayans. The children have also used Menti to share thoughts about marriage as part of their SRE. During maths, they have been helping Santa find his missing sleigh! (Well, it's been confirmed that Kevin will be on the naughty list this year!) In literacy, the children investigated Christmas around the world. Did you know that in Sweden, the eldest daughter of each family will dress up with a wreath on her head, which holds lit candles? She then serves coffee and special buns to her family, whilst in Japan, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has become so popular for a Christmas dinner you need to make a reservation to eat there on Christmas Day! The children have also been looking at Mayan weaving, which inspired them to make a brightly coloured striped squares using wool.


A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA...

All of the children and staff, would like to thank our wonderful PTFA for all their hard work and efforts to ensure that, despite the current restrictions, we were still able to provide the children with the school Christmas shop. This long-awaited event provided all of the children with the opportunity to purchase Christmas presents for their family and friends from a choice of gifts. Even though it did take on a totally different form this year it was still a huge success - so a big thank you to all parents, carers, staff and children for supporting this great tradition again this year.

Second round of FLU Vaccinations in the New Year:

Please refer to the email sent out yesterday with details of the Flu vaccinations that will be held in school on **Friday 15th January 2021** for any of the children that missed it this week or if you decide that you would like your child to have it.

Festive Clothes Day update:

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and children that made donations last Friday to support the amazing charity: 'Save the Children'. As a school, we raised  Save the Children. £130.48, which will be gratefully received this Christmas. Thank you.

WJS Amazon Wish List...

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has already purchased something from our wish list. We have been bowled over by your generosity. The link to our wish list is here should you wish to have a look at the items on there. [WJS Amazon Wish List](#) (You might need to press Ctrl on your key pad first and then click on the link to make it work, it depends what device you are using.)

Santa's Grotto...



This year Whitstable Rotary Club have arranged a new initiative for children to visit Santa on Zoom. The cost is £5.00, which goes to charity. They will plan the last visit for Saturday 19th December. Click on the link to take you to their website which will give you more details about how to book the event. <http://whitstablerotary.org/>

NEW Self-isolation guidance due to COVID19 ...

NEW guidance provided by the DfE this week has reduced the isolation period from 14 days to 10 full days, not including the first day of your first symptom. If **ANY** member of the household has symptoms of COVID19 the rest of the household **must** self-isolate until a negative test result is returned or a period of **10 days** has passed since symptoms began (10 days for the person with symptoms).

You will have received a letter from Mrs Knoupe today outlining what to do should your child have a positive test after being at school on Friday 18th December. Here is the link to the Pupil Notification Form of a Positive Case [Positive Case Pupil Notification Form WJS](#).

Letters

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/>

Term 3 Dates and information...

Monday 4th January – Term 3 begins and individual music lessons start again
-Forest School Days for each class will start again this term, more information to follow next year.

-PE days will remain as in Term 2 –and will commence from Week 1. An email will be sent out to confirm days later today.

-School lunch Menu for Term 3 will be emailed out today or refer to the school website

Monday 11th January – Friday 15th January – Curiosity themed Arts Week

Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th January – Year 6 tutoring starts again

Friday 15th January – Child Flu Vaccinations

Friday 22nd January – World Religion Day

Friday 29th January – Geometry Day

Monday 1st February – Friday 5th February – National Story-telling week

Friday 5th February – Give a child a Smile Day

Monday 8th February – Friday 12th February – Year group Science Themed Days

Thursday 11th February – Safer Internet Day

Friday 12th February – End of term 3