



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 26th February 2021



A message from the headteacher...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term break (Arctic one weekend and Spring-like the next). Here we are at the start of Term 4 and I type this with a beautiful blue sky outside my window and the sun shining.

School Open for ALL Children

As you are aware, we have had the news that schools will be opening for all children from 8th March. All children will be expected to return to school on that date. When we reopen, school will have a similar look in terms of class bubbles and safety measures to those we had in place before Christmas. I will send a letter full of reminders at the beginning of next week about coming back to school. Keep an eye out for it because this will remind you which gates and what times etc. Over this current lock-down period we went back to original school start and finish times but we will need to revert to the ones we had in September. Rest assured, we will do everything we can to try and make school operate as smoothly as possible in the circumstances and as safely as we can in line with the guidance provided by Government. We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children and staff back. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the "road map" set out on Monday by the Government stays on track and by Summer term we may be back to something much closer to normal.

Remote Learning

Next Thursday and Friday there will be no Live Lessons or Reading Sessions. We will still provide remote learning on Google Classrooms. This will enable all staff to be in school to prepare the classrooms for re-opening. Key Worker bubbles will still be open for those children currently coming in to school. Children in these bubbles will join their own class bubbles on Monday 8th March. I just wanted to mention the move to Google Meet for our live lessons. This has generally worked really well and I know staff have been quick to adapt and use the new tools available. Unfortunately, there have been some technical difficulties for a few children and staff. Where this has happened, our priority has been for the lessons to go ahead and so you may have found lessons reverting back to Zoom invites on occasions. Hopefully as we move forward these issues will eventually be overcome and also, we are keeping our fingers crossed that we won't have to use any remote learning in the coming months. Please cross your fingers for us!

Learning Next Week

Next week we are delighted that we are still able to celebrate our love of reading and maths with National Book Week and National Maths Day. This week will give the children (both at school and at home) the chance to share their favourite authors and snippets of their books, plus hear from their teachers about their favourite authors across not just fiction but non-fiction and poetry. There will be a chance to dress up on Thursday 4th March as a favourite book character (so those of you at home please send us your photos as we would love to be able to share them during our assembly on Friday). Children will also receive a digital book token. This week also gives us the opportunity to 'find maths is fun!' so on Wednesday 3rd March all the children's maths lessons will be based on real-life maths and sharing maths tricks with each other. There will also be an ultimate TT-Rockstars competition across the whole school to see which class can take the lead with the most answers correctly answered across the day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Warmest regards,

Annie Knoupe

Year 6 Secondary School Places...

To all year 6 Parents and Carers. We would like to remind you that you will receive your child's secondary offer place on Monday 1 March 2021 by email after 4pm (online applications) and letters will be sent out 1st class.

Carnegie Mental Health ...



Hopefully you will have seen the letter yesterday telling you all about our journey to achieving the Carnegie School Mental Health Award SILVER Status.

We are absolutely delighted and so proud that all that we believe in has been recognised. Mental health is something dear to our hearts at WJS. When we get this right, everyone can secure those "Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly". They can then make great strides in their achievements and be ready for all that the world has to offer.

Free School Meals ...

Kent Local Authority are trying to ensure that those families who are entitled to Free School Meals receive them. For further information please use this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

Headteacher Award...



Congratulations to **Alex in 5L**.

He has shown fantastic resilience, commitment to learning and amazing progress. Not only was his teacher blown away with the way he is independently working in all his lessons, but he has also been showing off his fantastic vocabulary. Every adult who works with him has commented on the huge progress he has made and how much we love having him at WJS. Well done, Alex!

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 Dates...

Term 4

Week beginning 1st March - Book Week (with dressing up day on Thursday 4th March)

Wednesday 3rd March - World Maths Day

Week beginning Monday 8th March - British Science Week

Friday 12th March- "Hug in a Mug" Sale (to be explained).

Week beginning Monday 15th March - Shakespeare Week

Friday 19th March – Red Nose Day- Super Power Day - Dress up as your secret superpower, going full superhero or just wear a mask/cape/badge.... Donations on the day for Comic Relief.

Tuesday 16th March- Parent Evening- 3:30pm-6:30pm

Thursday 25th March – Parent Evening – 5pm-8pm

Thursday 1st April- End of Term 4