

Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

Tel: (01227) 272385

Headteacher: Mrs. Annie Knoupe BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

e-mail: manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the Government's announcement on the 22nd of February I am writing to provide you with some information and reminders about our full opening on Monday 8th March. I have included a link to the latest Government guidance for parents and carers.

[DfE Gov Guidance What parents need to know about school Feb 2021](#)

The school updated risk assessment will be on the school website by Friday 5th March should you wish to read through it.

Class Bubbles

We will be following the same systems of measures as we were in term 2 before Christmas. Children will be taught in class bubbles to limit any transmission of the virus. Break times and lunches will be staggered. We will follow our risk assessment ensuring thorough cleaning, hygiene and ventilation processes.

Gates and Drop Off and Pick-Up Information

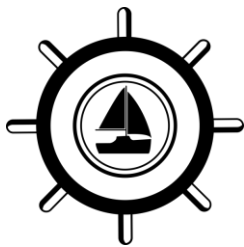
Below you will find the information reminding you which year groups use which gates and at what time, unless you had come to an agreement to use a particular gate and time due to having several children at the school in different year groups. In which case, please use the same gates you were using last time to drop your child/ren off and to collect them from school. Remember to wear a mask (unless exempt) and adhere to social distancing. Where possible please can only one adult collect their child/ren. This helps reduce the numbers waiting.

Year	Entrance & Exit	Waiting Zone	Start Time	Finish Time
3	Bottom Gate	Netball Court Playground	8:45 am	3:15 pm
4	Top Gate	Front of school	8:45 am	3:15 pm
5	Bottom Gate	All Weather Pitch	8:30 am	3:00 pm
6	Top Gate	Front of school	8:30 am	3:00 pm

Face masks

Staff will continue to wear face masks in communal areas and at the school gate. We ask that all parents and carers continue to do the same unless they are exempt.

As per Government advice, children in primary settings do not need to wear a face mask, unless they choose to do so. If you are sending your child into school with a face mask, please ensure that it will not distract learning; therefore, it must be plain in design and fit well so they are not distracted by it. 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. Please note that your child will be responsible for the safe disposal or storage of their face mask.



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Attendance

I fully understand that some families, both adults and children, will be feeling very anxious about the return to school. We have our fabulous Well Being Team on hand to support the children in their transition back into school life. However, I do have to make it clear that attendance is mandatory from 8th March 2021. If your child is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable the current advice from the Government is that they should not attend school and you will have been advised of this. If your child/ren are not in school, please note that your child's absence will be unauthorised unless it is related to public health advice to self-isolate.

You should not send your child to school if;

- they have symptoms or live in a household with someone who has symptoms have tested positive themselves, even if they do not have symptoms
- they live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms
- they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons (quarantine rules)
- your child is confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable, they are advised not to attend school until further notice. The school may check that your child is advised not to attend school by asking to see a copy of the shielding letter sent to you. Find out more on [Guidance on Shielding](#) .

Testing and contact tracing

Regarding contact tracing, the procedures remain similar to before Christmas.

If your child has been identified as a close contact in school, we will contact you as before with the relevant guidance set out by Public Health England.

School staff are undertaking home-testing with Lateral Flow Device tests every Monday and Thursday morning. We hope this will help families feel a little safer.

Behaviour expectations

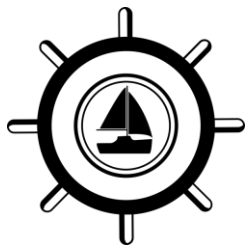
It is essential that children follow the rules that we have in school around distancing and hygiene. We ask for your support in explaining to your children that they do have to continue to follow these instructions for the safety of everyone around them.

Equipment and Items for School

School will provide each child with their own frequently used "equipment set". However, if a child can bring in their own stationery that would be very useful. Colouring pencils, pens, glue sticks etc. Children will be able to keep these in their trays and they need to stay in school not be brought to and from home. We ask that you limit the number of items children bring in to school as much as possible.

Breakfast and After-School Club (Kindergarten Kids)

Breakfast Club and After-school Club will be up and running again from Monday 8th March. Please contact Kindergarten Kids if you require this.



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Other after school clubs

There will not be any after school clubs in term 4. However, we will review this after the Easter holidays.

PE Kits and Uniform

Children should continue to wear their PE kits on PE/Games days. See table below. Uniform is expected to be worn. We will be understanding about items of clothing that children have grown out of and you have been unable to purchase due to lock down restrictions. Children can bring an extra non-uniform jumper to keep warm.

Class	PE Days
3H	Thursday & Friday
3MC	Tuesday & Friday
4L	Tuesday & Friday
4O	Monday & Tuesday
4W	Monday & Wednesday
5L	Tuesday & Wednesday
5M	Wednesday & Thursday
5T	Monday & Friday
6H	Monday & Wednesday
6RM	Monday & Thursday

School Meals

School dinners will be back up and running from Monday 8th March. We will be following the same systems of control as we were prior to Christmas. Children who select a hot meal will eat in the school hall and children who have packed lunches will eat in their classroom. The children in the hall sit on class tables and are socially distanced from other classes.

If you still have any questions please email the school office on manager@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk and we will be happy to answer them.

I hope you can see that we are doing all we can to keep our community as safe as possible. We are all really looking forward to the children coming back and we have missed them all enormously. Take care everyone.

Warmest wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

