



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 6th January 2023



A message from Mr Cooper and Mrs Roy...

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope you had a wonderful Christmas, spent with family and friends.

It is rather lovely to be writing our first newsletter and to share with you some of the wonderful things that have taken place already this week.



Having been able to be on the gate in the morning and afternoon has been lovely; especially to see all of the children looking so happy to see their friends and to be back at school. Thank you for your efforts to send your children into school looking so smart and dressed correctly for the weather. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that shoulder-length hair or longer should be tied up (unless specific arrangements are in place) and shoes/trainers should be black (or very dark).

Having spent time walking around the school, it has been wonderful to see how engaged and excited the children are to be learning and doing their best; there is a lovely atmosphere in school, full of very polite and charming children.

Warmest regards,



Mr Cooper and Mrs Roy

What have the children been up to this week?

For their first week back, year 3 have been exploring exciting new literary devices, including personification and onomatopoeia using their new text, The Iron Man. They have also started their new history topic - the Indus Valley. The children have been full of great questions pertaining to the topic and it is clear they can't wait to explore it further.



In year 4, the children have started a new book in their literacy lessons about Pompeii, which is linked to their history topic. They have also been tackling factors in maths, using 'factor bugs' to help their understanding. In science, the children have also started a new topic, learning all about the human body and finding out how amazing it is! They had great fun drawing and labelling the human body parts as you can see by this picture!

The children in Year 5 have been exploring whether the world was created randomly or by design. The children went looking for evidence outside and created newspaper reports to see if God was involved in current affairs; this really did create quite a discussion! In literacy, the children launched their Ancient Greeks topic by studying stories about the creation of the world by the Gods and Pandora's box, as well as starting the class reading book: Percy Jackson.

Finally, Year 6 have started reading the amazing book 'Darwin's Dragons'. They have been using a wide range of vocabulary to write diary entries and descriptive paragraphs imagining what it must have been like to be one of the main characters washed up on The Galapagos Islands. Also, as part of their bread making



lessons in DT, they have been exploring how yeast makes bread rise. For science, the children have been recapping what they know about electricity and what they would like to explore more about during the course of the term. The children also completed some Outdoor Learning Lessons, developing their risk taking and precision skills, to make their own tools and wands.



Well Done, such amazing work completed; we are very proud of you!

Message from our Well-Being Team...

Leanne and Nicola are available on the gate, as well as via email or telephone, should you require any support or advice, such as gaining food from the Food Bank or signposting you to financial advice. Or just to listen and be there for you should you need to chat.

Medical guidance...



The following link was shared last term, however with the rise in common colds and flu-like symptoms, we wanted to share this with you again and let you know we are continuing to encourage children to wash their hands regularly as well as before eating and after going to the toilet. Hand soap and sanitizer is also available.

There are sections for a lot of common childhood illnesses, with a very-new section added to cover the signs of Group A Strep/ Scarlet Fever. <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>

Attendance...

**Attendance was
down to today:
93%**

A reminder that holidays cannot be authorised unless for exceptional circumstances and these are very few and far between.

If your child is too unwell to attend school, especially if they have a fever, then please phone the school office by 8:45am. Please feel free to select option 1 and leave a message. If we don't hear from you, we will have to ring you and if we cannot contact you this becomes an unauthorised absence.

Headteacher Award...



Harry has been working really hard to improve his focus and produce some wonderful work, showing great resilience and proving to himself how well he can do when he sets his mind to it. He is also incredibly helpful and polite, always providing support to others and looking after his friends. He is a delight to have in the classroom and he should be very proud of himself!

Harry 4B

Sporting News...

We have our penultimate Boys Football match at home against Ethelbert School next Wednesday from 3.30pm until 4.15pm. We would very much like to wish them luck and welcome your support if you are available.

WJS House Certificate Winners ...

We will be starting these next week so look out for the lucky winners next Friday

Letters

[Click here for the website where you will find all letters.](#)

Term Dates...

Clubs start next week

Wednesday 11th Jan - Boys football match at WJS

Monday 16th Jan - World Religion Day

Wednesday 18th Jan - Sports Hall Athletics for Upper School

Wednesday 25th Jan - Girls football match at WJS

Week Beginning Monday 30th Jan - National Story-Telling Week

February

Wed 1st Feb - Speed Stacking Tournament

Friday 3rd Feb NSCPCC Number Day

Winter Olympics Begin

Week Beginning Monday 6th Feb - Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th Feb Safer Internet Day

Term 3 ends 10th February