



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 19 May 2023



A message from Ms Kent

Dear parents and carers,

I have enjoyed seeing the variety and creativity with hair styling today – thank you so much for your support with donations for the local food bank. Over the last few weeks I have been enjoying getting to know your fabulous children better over lunch in the dinner hall, whilst sampling the cuisine on offer. I have to say our children are so lucky to have such a great food offer. We cater exceptionally well for all dietary requirements and needs. It would be great to see more children enjoying Tammy's home cooked meals. The more children that use this service the better value for money we can offer. The weather this weekend promises to be more spring like – I wish you all a restful, sunny weekend.

Sarah Kent

What have the children been up to this week?

This week **Year 3** have been revisiting their arithmetic skills, impressing their teachers with how much more confident they are using all operations with 3-digit, even 4-digit numbers. In Science we have been carrying out investigations to determine whether the length of our femurs has any bearing on how far we can jump. **Year 4** children have started reading a new text, 'Ming's Adventure with the Terracotta Army.' This ties in with their topic work this term on the Shang Dynasty and gives them the opportunity to find out lots of fascinating facts about the Terracotta warriors! They have also started to look at decimals in maths, challenging themselves to divide one- and two-digit numbers by 10. The children also went on a hunt for invertebrates when they enjoyed pond dipping in the timber trail! **Year 5** have had great fun experimenting with candles and working out how they work and what the fuel is that creates the flame. They have been looking into whether it is a reversible/ irreversible change. They have also been investigating angles on a straight line and round a point and regular/ irregular polygons. Things turned a bit gruesome as we studied the history of Crime and Punishment in the Anglo-Saxon times! Looking at Weigeld and trial by Ordeal, we decided we have a much fairer justice system today. In **Year 6** English lessons the children have delved into Dickens and the description of Fagin and his den. In Maths, their work continues on finding the area of 2D shapes including triangles. Science has seen them putting their pulses to the test in exploring heart rate during and after exercise. It was fascinating to learn about the smuggling stories of Georgian Whitstable in history lessons and find out how Squeeze Gut Alley really got its name!

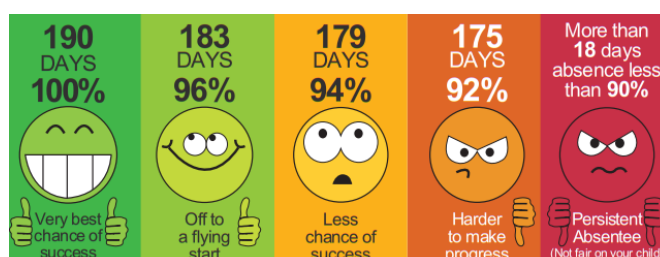
Attendance and Holiday Requests...

Attendance

is:

93.36%

Thank you for ensuring your child is on time and ready to learn.
Gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am. Let's try and increase attendance next week!



Every minute of every school day is vital and pupils will only be granted authorised absence by the school in exceptional circumstances. A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be exceptional and therefore no term time holidays will be authorised by our school unless they do fall into this category.

If a parent or carer wishes to request a period of leave of absence for their child under exceptional circumstances, they are required to write to the Headteacher by email at manager@whitstable.kent.sch.uk. This should be done before flights, holiday bookings or other arrangements are made. Please be aware that under the terms of the education related provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, EACH parent or carer may be issued with a penalty notice of £120 or £60 if paid within 21 days if you allow your child to take leave of absence in term time without a school's authorisation.

There is no entitlement to time off in term time.

Mental Health Week

This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week. The official theme for this year, as set by the Mental Health Foundation, is 'anxiety'. Over the week, the children have been engaged in activities to raise awareness of what anxiety is, what causes it and how we can help manage it.

They have been discussing: -

- recognising what anxiety might feel or look like
- describing actions that a person can take if they are anxious
- deciding which actions might be more or less effective in dealing with anxiety



They have taken part in activities such as learning about positive and negative coping skills, the circle of control and breathing techniques.

Did you know that gaming increasing your child's cortisol levels, which leads to increased feelings of anxiety and stress? The best way of reducing cortisol levels is through exercise and movement. So, if you know your child is feeling anxious, go on a bike ride or a walk in the woods rather than allow them to game



Why not leave your car at home next week and walk, scoot or cycle to school? Let's do our bit to care for our planet whilst getting fit at the same time.



Pupil Leadership Team Driver Awards go to....



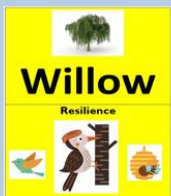
Frankie – 4CR
Challenge



Lexi – 30
Community



Iris – 5L
Challenge



Lucas – 6H
Challenge



Uniform Reminder

It is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. After half term children will be expected to wear school uniform or school PE kit on PE days. On days when children have outdoor learning, please can they wear either school PE kit or school uniform. Children can bring a change of shoes if conditions are wet.

The PE kit is as follows:

Polo shirt in house colour

Black shorts

Black or white plimsolls (Trainers may be worn for outdoor PE/Games/ outdoor learning)

Sweatshirt in House colours (optional, but recommended)



PE/Swimming and Outdoor Learning

- 3J - Outdoor learning Tuesday, PE Wednesday, Swimming Friday
- 3O - Outdoor learning Monday, PE Thursday, Swimming Friday
- 4B - Swimming Tuesday, Football on Wednesday, Outdoor learning Friday
- 4CR - Swimming on Tuesday, Football on Wednesday, Outdoor learning Thursday
- 5H - PE Monday and Thursday
- 5L - PE Monday and Thursday, Outdoor learning Wednesday
- 6H - PE Mon and Thursday
- 6M - P E Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
- 6T - Tuesday and Thursday PE



Netball

Yesterday, after months of hard work and effort the WJS Netball team won their first game against Swalecliffe 7-4. We are really proud of them showing us all how perseverance and resilience can pay off!



Letters

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



Term 5 Dates...

Monday 22 May – Year 5 CAT test mop up week for children who were absent previously

Thursday 18 May – Netball match – here – against Swalecliffe Primary School

Friday 19 May – CACOT Fund Raising event – more details to follow

Friday 26 May – Last day of term 5 and cake sale

Monday 5 June – **Start of term 6**