



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 15 September 2023



A message from Ms Kent

Dear Parents and carers,

It is hard to believe we have only been back in school two weeks – the children are all so settled and enjoying our exciting learning opportunities. I regularly eat lunch with the children and these are just some of the comments from our year 3 happy customers!

"I love this school – my teacher is so kind."

"My maths lessons are really fun."

"Lunchtimes are really good because we have lots of things to choose from."

The children all made me immensely proud this week when we had our back-to-school Fire Drill. They walked out calmly and in silence and we had the building fully evacuated in under 4 minutes. This is a credit to our teaching staff who have been ensuring we have consistent learning behaviour throughout school. Our children are rising to this challenge showing great behaviour for learning in the classroom and moving calmly around school. We love greeting children on the gate – please encourage your child to respond to our good mornings with a smile or good morning.

Thank you to all of our parents who came to our 'meet the teacher' on Wednesday. This year we will have termly events for you to attend – so please keep a look out for these!

We have reviewed our end of day handover to parents. If your child is in Year 5 and 6 and you would like them to walk home on their own, please complete the consent form sent home by the office this week ASAP.

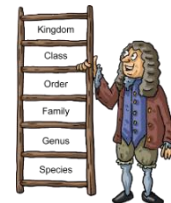
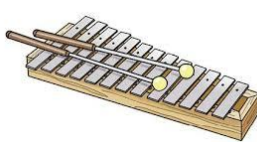
Lastly, thank you so much your support with healthy snacks at breaktime. Please could I also ask you to refrain from smoking whilst waiting outside the school gate and parking across the zig zag no parking area at the entrance to the alley on Argyle Road. We have received complaints, the latter in particular from local residents, as it is dangerous. Again, thank you for your support.

Sarah Kent



What have the children been up to this week?

Year 3 have had another exciting week settling into life at WJS! They have continued learning about the Stone Age, looking at different types of rocks to determine their durability in science and finding out what their lives would have been like as children living in the Stone Age. The children have also continued learning balls skills and fitness in P.E and some have had the chance to try out tag rugby. The remaining children are excited about playing next week. **Year 4** have been mapping out river journeys from source to mouth and joining Mole and Ratty as they commence their own river expeditions in *The Wind in the Willows*. In Maths, they have been continuing to explore place value of numbers up to 10,000 and have started to discover the differences between solids, liquids and gases during science. In Music, both classes have been enjoying playing 'When the Saints go Marching In' on the glockenspiel and listening to the musical stylings of Louis Armstrong and incredible tuned percussionist Christoph Sietzen. In PE, Football and Fitness have been providing them with plenty of opportunities to get those heart rates up. This week, **Year 5** have loved learning about how to separate materials in science. They had to use sieves to organise snacks that had all been mixed up. In Literacy, they have been working hard on using fronted adverbials to make their creative writing more enjoyable to read; they have also spent time learning some new ninja vocabulary. In Geography, the children have been learning about erosion and deposition and locating features of these around the coast using atlases and devices. In **Year 6**, the children have been honing their place value skills by working with negative numbers, the power of 10 and the use of number lines. English has continued to take them on a voyage down the Amazon River and focused on instruction writing on how to build the perfect raft. In Science, they have researched facts on the famous taxonomist Carl Linnaeus and they are starting to plan their rainforest-based automatons for DT work.



Times Table fact of the week

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

Chartwell's medical diet form

Parents of children who need an adapted medical diet should fill out a Chartwell's medical diet form. Forms for children the school are aware of went home this week. If you didn't receive and require one, please contact the school office. Medical diet requests need supporting documentation by way of a letter from a doctor, dietician, another medical professional or a professional medical care or allergy action plan in order for the diet to be processed.

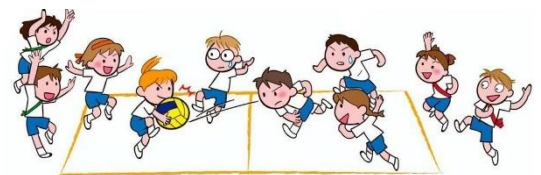
If your child has a dietary requirement but does not require an adapted medical diet menu supported by Chartwells, then there is no need to complete this request form.

Chartwells allergen reports, declaring the presence of the 14 mandatory Food Information Regulations allergens, and nutrient counts (including carbohydrates, protein and fat) are available for all Chartwells recipes on current menus. Please ask the kitchen team or request them from your local Chartwells contact. If you would like to speak to Tammy, our fabulous cook, the school office can arrange a meeting. Just let the office know!



Lunchtimes and clubs

This year we have revamped our lunchtime and club offer to ensure we have enrichment opportunities for everyone. Mrs Roy surveyed the children to find out what they wanted and has produced a club programme which, I'm sure you agree, is enticing! Please ensure you sign your child up to clubs if you have not already done so.



Attendance and illness

Attendance is:
95.79%

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 ensure we all work together on attendance and punctuality giving all children the very best chance to succeed!

There is no need to keep your child off school if they have a cough or cold if they are well enough to come to school. It is only necessary to be absent when there is a fever. There is also no need to keep children off if they have head lice, threadworms, slapped cheek, sore throat, cold sores or conjunctivitis.



Pupil leadership Team Driver Awards go to...



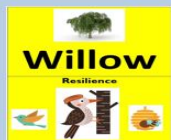
Hatty - 5H
Independence



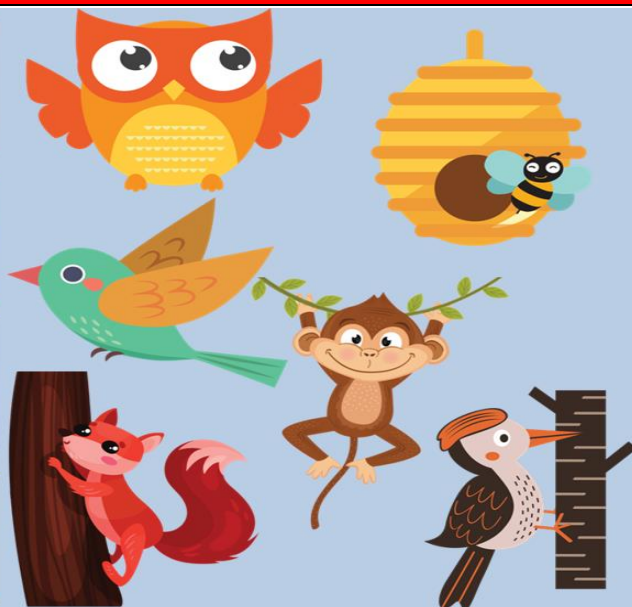
Charlie - 4T
Resilience



Iris - 6H
Resilience

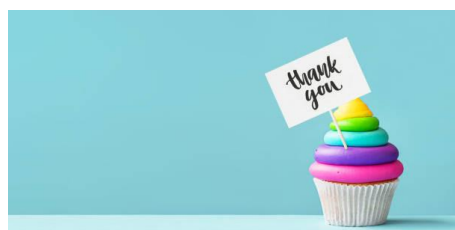


Lowen - 3O
Challenge



Can you help?

We are blessed with an amazing school site and building. However, the upkeep and maintenance are a challenge. We are hoping to blitz the weeds and have a general tidy of our outdoor area on Friday 6 October 1.30-3.15. If you are able to come along with your wellies and gardening gloves, please let the office know. We will provide tea, coffee, cake and friendly faces!



Letters

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



Term 1 & 2 Dates

Monday 18 September – After school clubs start.

Monday 18 September – Recycle week and beach cleans

Thursday 21 September – Year 3 Rugby taster session (no-touch rugby) please wear PE kits

Monday 25 September – Gillwell Park deposit deadline

Wednesday 27 September – 3O trip to the Beany Museum.

Thursday 28 September – 3B trip to the Beany Museum.

Thursday 28 September – Year 6 Rugby taster session (no-touch rugby) please wear PE kits

Thursday 28 September – After school club for Year 3 who enjoyed rugby sessions

Monday 2 October – Chartwells pizza workshop

Tuesday 3 October – Chartwells pizza workshop

Wednesday 4 October – Chartwells pizza workshop

Thursday 5 October – Year 6 Rugby taster session (no-touch rugby) please wear PE kits

Thursday 5 October – After school club for Year 3 who enjoyed the rugby sessions

Tuesday 10 October – 6PM Year 6 parents/carers secondary school application support meeting

Thursday 12 October – After school club for Year 6 who enjoyed the rugby sessions

Monday 16 October – Black History Week
Tuesday 17 October – Food bank donations, collection at the gate
Wednesday 18 October – Individual school photos
Wednesday 18 October – Kent Test results emailed to parent/carer after 4PM
Wednesday 18 October – Parent/carer consultations evening
Thursday 19 October – After school club for Year 6 who enjoyed the rugby taster sessions
Thursday 19 October – Parent/carer consultations evening
Friday 20 October – End of term 1
Monday 30 October – Staff development day
Tuesday 31 October – Term 2 starts
Tuesday 31 October – Year 6 parent/carer to have completed secondary school application
Monday 6 November – Year 6 bikeability until Tuesday 14 November
W/C Monday 6 November/ 13 Nov – Parent/carer tours for next year
Monday 13 November – Friendship, antibullying and Inter-faith week
Saturday 18 November – Open morning
Friday 1 December – School Christmas fair 3.15 – 5PM
Tuesday 3 December – Year 3 Nativity TBC
Wednesday 6 December – Christmas jumper and lunch day
Wednesday 13 December – Christmas carols in St Alphege Church from 1.30pm
Wednesday 13 December – Progress and Attainment Reports
Friday 15 December – End of Term 2