



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 22 September 2023



A message from Ms Kent

It's been another busy week of learning at Whitstable Junior School with school club starting this week. I believe we now have an exceptional club offer with something for everyone. We still have places in the following clubs: Whole school eco, basketball, glee and athletics, upper school football and netball and lower school change for life and sketch. So, if you've not signed up yet, please do! As with school, we encourage a 100% attendance at our clubs too. A gentle reminder: if your child is in school and signed up for a club but not attending, please let the school office know by lunchtime. This ensures all children are accounted for at the end of the school day. **Lastly, from Monday 25 September, after school club pick up at 4.15PM will be from the back gate.** This does **not** apply to AM/PM.

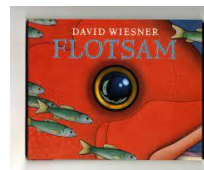
It was lovely to welcome some new faces to our PTFA. If you would like to get involved, please email ptfa@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk Please look out for upcoming events.

Wishing you all a good weekend,
Sarah Kent



What have the children been up to this week?

This week in **Year 3** the children have been using lots of beautiful language in their English lessons to describe George and the Dragon, including adjectives and similes. In maths they have been busy ordering numbers in ascending and descending order, as well as learning to count in 50s. The children have also continued learning about the stone age and in science discovered how fossils are formed. The children have also enjoyed rugby taster sessions over the past two weeks with lots of them now keen to become rugby players! **Year 4** have continued to explore the riverbank, focusing on writing some beautiful descriptions before delving into the Wild Wood with Moley. In science, they have been exploring the effects of heating and cooling. Art has been creating beautifully detailed fandangles inspired by the work of Chris Ofili and we have continued to explore the fascinating rituals and music of Hinduism. **Year 5** have had a very exciting week in science looking at how things dissolve and made a solution using the solute candyfloss and the solvent water. They took this idea and investigated a range of materials that dissolved. In literacy, the children have been exploring some of the underwater pictures the camera in the Flotsam book took and describing it using their new piece of punctuation - the colon! They can now use colons to show lists. In Maths, they have been applying their understanding of numbers to a million and spotting them on different intervals on a number line! The fragrant smell of pineapple washed through the **Year 6** block this week as the children tasted the treats that The Explorers discovered on their journey through the Amazon rainforest. This inspired a recount of their adventures in written work. Common multiples and factors along with rules of divisibility have been a focus in maths. In science, the children used the Linnean system to classify rainforest insects. The layers of the rainforest were explored in geography. In DT, they are starting to explore the motion of cams in preparation for making their own working automaton.



Times Table Fact of the Week

To help children know and retain all their times tables, we are sharing our Fact of the Week which also gets shared in assembly. If children learn them all, they will be able to calculate all times tables by the end of the year. There are **only 36 times tables facts** to learn!

$2 \times 3 = 6$ **FACT**

School values

Our school values are care, respect, fairness, responsibility, trust and determination

Each term we explore one of these values in assembly and we will be learning about a famous person who encapsulates the value of the term.

This term we are exploring our school value of care and learning about Sir Richard Attenborough

We are thinking about how we care for others, for our environment and for ourselves.

How we care for others at WJS

Share kind words and actions

Notice when someone needs our help

Offer care with no expectation of a reward.

How we care for our environment

We keep our school environment tidy; we take care of our belongings; we pick up litter

We care for our wider environment by; reducing our plastic use; recycling as much as we can; helping with beach cleans

How we care for ourselves

We eat a healthy diet and drink plenty of water

We exercise

We get plenty of sleep

We limit our screen time and spend time with family and friends

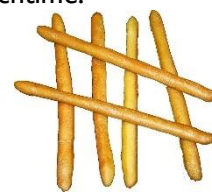
Lunch box challenge

How can we reduce our use of single use plastic? We are encouraging our families to use less packaged food in lunchboxes. In assembly children were asked to think of one thing they could do to reduce their single use plastic use.



Healthy eating/snacks

I have had a number of queries regarding school policy for breaktime snacks. Having spoken to some families and children, we will include the following items as well as fruit and veg: plain rice cakes, plain popcorn and bread sticks. I hope this now ensures all children can bring in a healthy snack to keep them going until lunchtime!



School uniform reminder

We have noticed with the colder weather some children wearing leggings to school. Leggings are acceptable on PE days but not on other days. Please see our uniform policy on the school website.

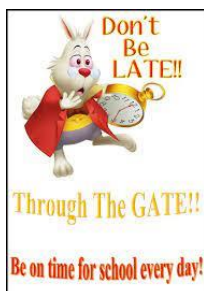
<https://www.whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=49>

Attendance and illness

Attendance is:
95.20%

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 work together to ensure our attendance doesn't drop below 95%. We understand there are coughs and colds this time of year, but if the children are well enough to come, there is no need for them to be absent.



Pupil leadership Team Driver Awards go to...



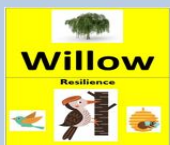
Mia – 4T
Resilience



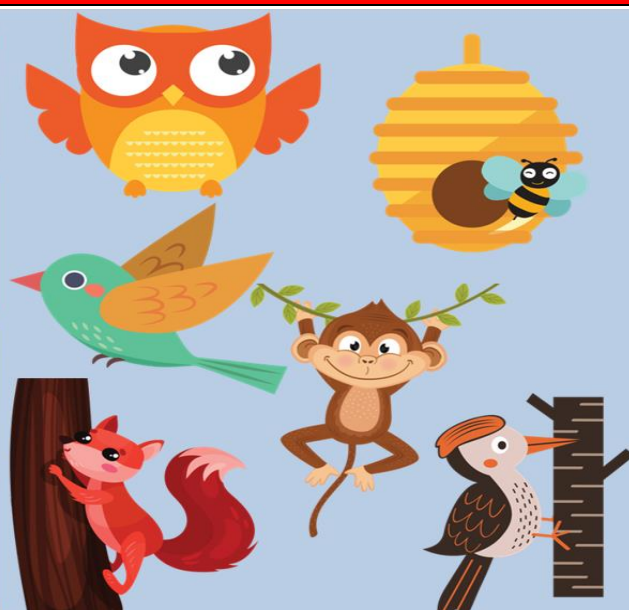
Rudi – 3O
Adventure



Dylan – 5L
Challenge



Jurgis – 6M
Independence



RAAC

Below is the information we have received to date with regards to RAAC. As soon as the report is completed we will, of course, let you know of the final outcome.

We have been completing the DFE portal – your School currently sits as inconclusive on the portal, as a desktop survey was completed of all schools, and your school was risk rated as low risk:

	Low	Schools constructed before 1950 and after 1980, or with flat or pitched roof construction
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All schools rated High and medium risks have had their surveys completed, and due to the summer holidays, we have not booked in any surveys for “Green” schools – however, we will be contacting you this term to complete a survey to confirm RAAC is not present, thereby allowing us to confirm on the DFE

Letters and emails

If you have a message, please send it to the office and it will be passed onto your child's teacher / dealt with as appropriate. Our teachers are extremely busy teaching and sometimes messages don't get seen in a timely manner. Thank you for your understanding with this!

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



Term 1 & 2 Dates

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/carers after 4PM

Wednesday 18 October – Parent/carers consultations evening 3.30 – 5PM

Thursday 19 October – After school club for Year 6 who enjoyed the rugby taster sessions

Thursday 19 October – Parent/carers consultations evening 4.30 – 8PM

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/carers to have completed secondary school application

Monday 6 November – Year 6 bikeability until Tuesday 14 November

W/C Monday 6 November/ 13 Nov – Parent/carers 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

Wednesday 6 December – Christmas jumper and lunch day

Thursday 7 December – Year 3 morning performance of nativity to Year 4 and evening performance to parents at 6PM

Friday 8 December – Year 3 morning performance of nativity to Years 5 & 6 and afternoon performance to parents at 2PM.

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