



# Whitstable Junior School

*Learning today for life tomorrow*

**Week ending 14 October 2023**



## A message from Ms Kent

Dear Parents / carers,

This week every child has had the opportunity to become a photographer – thanks to Nick from IGNITE. We have all enjoyed literally seeing the world through the children's eyes. And who knows we may have inspired some of our children to explore the wonderful world of photography.

Last Friday the children learnt about and experienced democracy by asserting their right to vote for their House Captains. The children said that voting made them feel 'grown up' 'powerful' 'in control.' A huge well done to all of the year 6 pupils who stood as candidates; showing resilience and confidence. Our new house captains are: Ephraim, Tallulah, Jurgis, Iris, Ida, Leo Ted and Maisie.

On Tuesday 7th November we will be hosting the first of our open mornings for prospective parents, who have children starting school September 2024. If you know of someone looking for a school place for next September, please do share our open morning dates. In addition, we have lots of exciting events planned for our Family Open Morning on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 where we will be showcasing all that makes us unique at WJS.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Sarah Kent



## What have the children been up to this week?

This week **Year 3** had a brilliant time in their photography work shop, learning how to take photographs and getting the opportunity to take their own photos outside using digital cameras. In English they have been reading 'Where the Wild Things Are,' and using their inference skills to make predictions about the text as well as using time adverbials to order the events of the story. In maths the children have moved on from addition and are now tackling subtraction with exchanging. In science they have been recapping all their knowledge of rocks and soils, proving themselves to be quiz masters! **Year 4** had the chance to explore a real river during our wonderful trip to Canterbury. They were delighted to find lots of links to their story - Wind in the Willows too. During English, they have been practicing using speech marks ready to complete a story: the further adventures of Mr Toad. In maths they have moved onto addition and subtraction and have enjoyed studying the festival of Diwali in RE. **Year 5** have had a busy week finishing their persuasive letters to companies about plastic pollution and there have been several eco-warriors emerging who will change the world! In maths it has been problem solving time looking at multi-step problems for addition and subtraction. Furthermore, the children have taken part in a wonderful photography workshop and learnt all about cameras. As part of Mental Health Day on Tuesday, the children learnt about taking care of both their physical and mental health and the importance in moving, sleeping and eating well to help maintain these. Lastly, **Year 6** have been continuing their information texts which are full of fascinating facts about rainforest animals. Did you know that sloths have to do a 'poo dance'? They are rounding off their writing with a glossary of terms. In maths they have been continuing with the challenging task of long division and learning how to convert their understanding to problem solving with division. It was 'breadtastic' in science as the children devised ways to explore the growth of mould on bread and placed their bread in various places around school. 6M have conducted a thorough beach clean and 6H made 5-point scales to recognise emotions for World Mental Health Week.



## 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!

$$2 \times 6 = 12 \text{ FACT}$$

## Beach clean

Well done 6M who did an amazing beach clean this week. At WJS we are passionate about beach clean-ups and love putting in a bit of hard work to ensure our beach stays clean of litter. Plastic bottles, food wrappers and empty cans don't just make our shore look unseemly; they also significantly impact the environment and marine animals. Taking part in beach clean ups and doing something for the greater good of the community and the environment enriches lives, makes us appreciate our beaches even more and is fabulous for mental health.



## Pupil leadership and team driver awards go to...



Luna 6M - Resilience  
Sophia 5H - Challenge



Daniel 4JW – Challenge  
Sonny 5L - Challenge



Harriet 4T – Community  
Ruby-Jean 6H - Resilience



William 3B – Challenge  
Theo 3O - Community



## Attendance and illness

Attendance is:

95%

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 make a concerted effort to not drop below 95% next week.

Please note: of course we understand Year 6 children are visiting potential secondary schools and these visits are authorised. If younger siblings are also visiting, and therefore absent, they are marked as unauthorised absences.

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**  
every student, every day



## All things football

We are very proud of our boys' football team who played their first match against The Endowed this week - they showed great skill and resilience.



Thursday 19 October – Year 6 girls' team against Davington Primary – **away**

Thursday 19 October – Year 6 boys' team vs Davington Primary – **away**

Tuesday 28 November – Year 6 girls' team vs Ospringe Primary – **away** at The Mount Faversham

**Come and cheer them on!**



## Harvest and food bank donations

Please drop off any food bank donations at the gate on Tuesday 17 October. Tinned and jarred foods, pasta sauces, long life milk/juices, jams and dried pasta will be very much appreciated. Home cleaning items, toiletries, dog and cat food also very welcome! No perishables please! Thank you.



## 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. Thank you.

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



## Term 1 & 2 Dates

**Monday 16 October – Black History Week**

**Monday 16 October – Year 6 Thornden Woods, doesn't affect lunch, change of footwear and coat as appropriate**

**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 – 5.30PM**

**Thursday 19 October – Sketch club cancelled due to parent consultation**  
**Thursday 19 October – Girls’ football match against Davington Primary**  
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**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**  
**Wednesday 1 November – NHS height and weight measurements Year 6**  
**Friday 3 November – School council members and ambassadors will go to Guildhall in the morning**  
**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**  
**Wednesday 15 November – The Lancaster Model – Year 6**  
**Saturday 18 November – Open morning**  
**Tuesday 28 November – Girl’s football match against Ospringe Primary at The Mount Faversham**  
**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**  
**Monday 11 December – Flu jabs at school**  
**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**