



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 5 January 2024



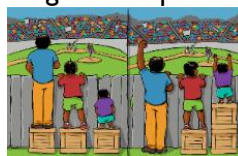
A message from Ms Kent

Dear Parents/carers

Happy New Year to all of the WJS community. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and enjoyed spending this special time with your children.

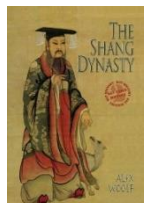
This term we will be exploring our school value of Fairness. We will be developing an understanding of what is fair in our community and how we can make the world a fairer place. The children will consider how to develop a sense of fairness both to themselves and to others both inside and outside of school. We will explore the difference between equality and fairness: Equality has to do with sameness, just like in maths. An equal sign tells us that both sides of the equation are exactly the same ($3 + 2 = 5$). Fair is different. Fair means everyone gets what they need, based on visible gaps in opportunity. And sometimes people will have different needs because we are unique individuals. For example: Some children wear glasses and some don't. That's not equal, but it's fair because not everyone needs glasses to see and learn best. Some children may receive a different lunch in school because they have food allergies. That's not equal, but it's fair. Helping children understand fairness is an important part of growing up and practising empathy. When we understand what others need and perhaps what we don't, we recognise our differences and think a little beyond ourselves. We get to step into someone else's shoes for a moment and consider their life.

Wishing you all a good weekend,
Sarah Kent



What have the children been up to this week?

Year 3 have got off to a fantastic start to the new year looking at the new topic of the Indus Valley and learning all about magnets and forces in science. The children have also started writing a non-chronological report about France, building on their knowledge and writing skills from last term. In maths, they have been looking at reasoning in multiplication and practising their times-tables skills. In this short week, **Year 4** have started exploring the wonderful world of Ancient China and their Shang Dynasty in both History and English. They have considered the gift of giving in RSE and have started their exciting new topics of dance and hockey in PE. **Year 5** have started 2024 with a very positive attitude to their learning by writing amazing poems about what they would put in a magical box. Due to our new history topic of The Ancient Greeks, the children have explored the story of Pandora's box to inspire their writing and the Greek creation story. They have also started our new book, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. So far, they have met the villain Mrs Dodds and seen her transform into a beast at the museum. In maths the children have revised their adding of fractions with different denominators, adding more than 2 fractions and some mixed number fractions. In history the children have looked at the rise of the Ancient Greeks, their location and what achievements they have given the world. **Year 6** have been transported to the Galapagos islands as they read 'Darwin's Dragons'. They have written a diary in the role as the mysterious 'sky beast' and practised using a range of fronted adverbials in their descriptive writing. As part of their DT, the children have been investigating how yeast makes bread rise and in science they have been recalling their previous knowledge about circuits.



Times Table Fact of the Week

$$3 \times 9 = 27$$

The first parent workshop of this year is on January 9th which Miss Lodge will be leading. She will explain how we teach Times Tables and how you can support your child. Sign up via the office. The workshop is at 9.00am and please enter through the bottom gates.

Attendance

Thank you for ensuring your child is on time and ready to learn. Gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am. Please ensure your child is at school and on time every day.



This week's attendance is **95.7%**

Attendance continues to be a key priority in school. We will be continuing with our **Key Challenge** this term. This is a whole school reward system where each week the children can earn a key. Each key is worth a prize which the children enjoy on the last week of term. To gain a key whole school attendance needs to be 95% or above.

1 key – non uniform or PJs, 2 keys- non uniform plus bring in a soft toy, 3 keys – non uniform, soft toy + movie, 4 keys – non uniform, soft toy, movie + popcorn, 5 keys – non uniform, soft toy, movie, popcorn and a drink.

Joke of the week

Why should you put your calendar in the freezer? To start off the new year in a cool way.



PE days/Outdoor learning and football fixtures

PE days for Term 3 starting week 2. Please note that PE days for 6H have changed and are now Monday and Wednesday instead of Monday and Thursday. This is for the whole term.

- 3B Monday and Thursday
- 3O Tuesday and Wednesday
- 4JW Tuesday and Thursday
- 4T Monday and Wednesday
- 5L Monday and Friday
- 5H Tuesday and Thursday
- 6M Tuesday and Friday
- 6H Monday and Wednesday



Outdoor learning Term 3

Dates for the first two weeks of **Term 3**. Please note it will then be every other week for each class. Full PE kits to be worn and please send you child in with an additional pair of shoes. We are trying to keep excessive mud out of the classrooms!

- 3B Monday 8 January
- 6M Tuesday 9 January
- 4T Wednesday 10 January
- 5H Thursday 11 January
- 3O Monday 15 January
- 6H Tuesday 16 January
- 4JW Wednesday 17 January
- 5L Thursday 18 January



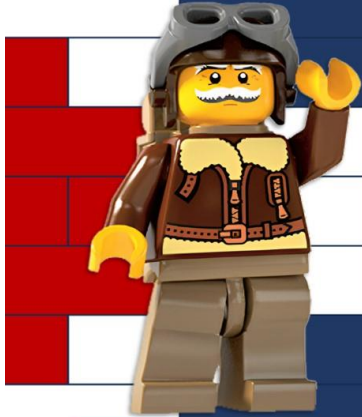
Football Fixtures

- Monday 8 January – Year 6 boys team vs Swalecliffe – **home**
- Tuesday 9 January – Year 6 girls team vs The Endowed – **home**
- Tuesday 16 January – Year 6 girls team vs Bysing Wood - **home**
- Wednesday 17 January – Year 6 girls team vs Eastling – **home**



Additional Messages

Three instalments should have been made for Year 6 Gilwell, leaving one final payment that is due on Thursday 1 February. Please check SchoolMoney/Eduspot.



BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

NO BOOKING REQUIRED


Are you a LEGO enthusiast? If so then join us for the **ultimate family friendly** LEGO exhibition week this half term. Our museum are proud owners of LEGO models, so why not pop on down and enjoy the fun with like-minded LEGO lovers this February half term.
(Normal museum entrance fees apply)

Lego figure hunt
Search around the museum, find the hidden Lego figures & win a prize...only £1.50

Dates: 10th- 18th February (Half Term)
Located: RAF Manston History Museum
Times: 10 am – 3pm Daily

If you have any questions, contact our events committee
events@rafmanston.co.uk

BIGGER & EVEN BETTER THAN LAST YEAR



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.](#)



Terms 3 & 4 - Dates

Monday 8 January – Year 6 boys football home game vs Swalecliffe
Tuesday 9 January – Year 6 girls football home game vs The Endowed
Tuesday 9 January – Parents/carers times tables workshop in The Studio at 9.00am – enter through back gate
Thursday 11 January – Food bank donation – non-perishables dropped at back gate
Tuesday 16 January – Year 6 girls football home game vs Bysing Wood
Wednesday 17 January – Year 6 girls football home game vs Eastling
Monday 22 January – Science workshop
Thursday 25 January – 5H Taster Day at The Archbishops
Friday 26 January – Parents/carers maths games/times tables at 2.45pm (in class with your child). Enter through back gate please
Thursday 1 February – Final payment for Gilwell is due. Please check SchoolMoney/Eduspot
Friday 2 February – Whole School Number Day
Monday 5 February – Children's mental health week. "My Voice Matters" – activities TBC
Tuesday 6 February – Whole School Safer Internet Day
Friday 9 February – End of Term 3
Monday 19 February – Start of Term 4
Monday 4 March – Whole School Book Week
Thursday 7 March – World Book Day – dress up as book characters
Monday 18 March – Year 6 Enrichment Week
Thursday 21 March – Poetry Day – Alan Durant AIM High Workshop
Wednesday 20 March – Year 6 residential trip to Gilwell Park
Tuesday 26 March – Parents/carers workshop for reading strategies – The Studio from 9am back gate please
Wednesday 27 March – Reports sent home
Thursday 28 March – Wear a hat day – Raising money for brain tumour research
Thursday 28 March – End of Term 4
Monday 15 April – Start of Term 5