



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 19 January 2024



A message from Ms Kent

Dear Parents/carers

Despite being cold and frosty, our children have continued to have lots of valuable experiences this week. Both the girl's and boy's football teams played home games showing great team work and demonstrating all of our school values – well done children! Our year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic magnets workshop, inspiring future scientists.

This year we have introduced early morning maths across the school in our drive to improve standards in maths. These sessions are used to go over any misconceptions children may have prior to their next maths lesson, for pre teaching to give some children a 'head start' in their maths lessons as well as to consolidate and embed learning. We are seeing the impact of this in closing gaps for children. We do appreciate that some children may find this start to the day a challenge and we encourage the children to dig deep and develop resilience and to remember they may not be good at maths – YET! Thank you to all of our families who ensure their children are on-time so that they can access this extra learning opportunity.

Remember next Friday you are invited to come and play maths games with your children from 2.45 pm. Please come into school via the back gate and head straight to your child's class.

Enjoy your weekend everyone
Sarah Kent



What have the children been up to this week?

Year 3 enjoyed a science workshop from Dr Francis this week, learning all about their new topic of forces and magnets. They got to see forces in action in the form of flying footballs, electrifying hair and more! They have enjoyed their new English text of 'Boot' and have been using it to learn more about verbs, first person and more. This week, **Year 4** have been multiplying and dividing some rather large numbers. In English they have been learning all about the incredible Terracotta Warriors of China and accompanied Ming on his incredible adventure with them. In RSE, they have taken the time to create cards of appreciation for members of staff who mean a lot to them, particularly those they do not always say thank you to. In Art they have continued to explore the wonderful world of Chinese brush work and have created beautiful, intricate paintings. **Year 5** have been tackling the concept of multiplying numbers by 2 digits. They have looked at both the area model and long multiplication this week which has shown how important their times table knowledge is. In English the children have been empathising with Daedalus in the Greek Myth of Icarus (who flew too close to the sun) and wrote diary entries from his point of view both before and after they had jumped out of the window. In history the children have been exploring the Greek Gods and Goddesses, looking at their roles, responsibilities and how they link to each other. **Year 6** have been using their knowledge of rainforests to make comparisons with favelas in Brazil. In English they have been developing their editing skills to improve their diary writing, focusing on colloquial language and cohesion. They have been working with resilience in maths, to build on their understanding of place value looking at decimal numbers.



Times Table Fact of the Week

$4 \times 6 = 24$

24

4 4 4 4 4 4

$24 \div 3 = ?$

$6 \times 4 = 24$

24

6 6 6 6

$24 \div 6 = ?$

Attendance

The Government launched an attendance campaign which is called **Moments Matter, Attendance Counts**. It aims to raise awareness of the importance of school attendance, to highlight the benefits beyond just attainment, such as friendships and wellbeing. The campaign is targeted at preventable odd days of absence – or “avoidable absence” linked to coughs and colds and mild anxiety.

For most pupils, the best place to be during term-time is in school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers. This is important not just for your child’s learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health.

There are plenty of important moments in each school day which make a positive difference to your child, and the Chief Medical Officer has [written a letter](#) to schools explaining why [regular attendance](#) is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Children can sometimes feel a little bit worried about going to school. Mostly, this is a very normal emotion.

It’s important to recognise that going into school can help children to feel less worried than letting them stay at home. If your child is anxious over several weeks, talk to us about how we can support you!

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.



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.

Pupil leadership and team drivers go to...



Sinan – 4JW
Community – helping a class mate.



Hazel – 5L
Curiosity – for completing House Captain’s challenge



Louie – 3B
Challenge – in maths work



Clara – 6H
Resilience – for good maths work



PE days/football and netball fixtures

PE days for Term 3

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



Football Fixtures

Monday 29 January – Year 6 boys team vs Joy Lane – **away**



Netball Fixtures

Wednesday 7 February – Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed - 4.15pm finish – (friendly) **home**

Monday 26 February – Joy Lane – 4.15 finish – **home**

Monday 11 March – Davington – **home**

Tuesday 23 April – Bysing Wood – return time 4.45pm – **away**

Monday 29 April – Hernhill – **away**

Tuesday 7 May – Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed – return time 4.30pm – **away**

Monday 13 May – Boughton-under-Blean – return time 4.45pm – **away**



Additional Messages

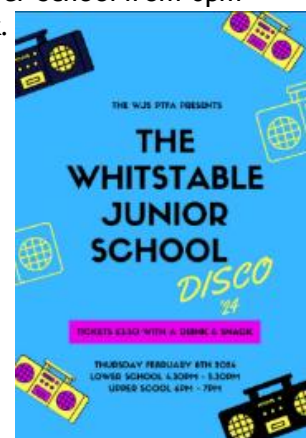
Attendance Forum

Don't forget the Attendance Forum for parents/carers on the 5 February at 2.30pm. Please book spaces via the office and enter through the front gate.

Parent Governor Vacancy

As you are aware, we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Deadline for applications is Monday 29 January.

WJS school disco Thursday 8 February. Lower school from 4.30pm – 5.30pm and Upper School from 6pm – 7pm. Tickets available from the office at a cost of £3.50 which includes a drink and snack.



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.

information

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

Terms 3 & 4 - Dates

Tuesday 23 January – Science workshop

Thursday 25 January – 5H Taster Day at The Archbishops

Monday 29 January – deadline to apply for parent/governor position

Friday 26 January – Parents/carers maths games/times tables at 2.45pm (in class with your child). Enter through back gate please

Monday 29 January – Year 6 boys football away game vs Joy Lane

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

Monday 5 February – Attendance Forum at 2.30pm in The Studio. Please book a space through the office, enter through front gate.

Tuesday 6 February – Whole School Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7 February – netball friendly vs Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed - away

Thursday 8 February – School disco. Lower School 4.30pm – 5.30pm & Upper School 6pm-7pm

Friday 9 February – End of Term 3

Monday 19 February – Start of Term 4

Monday 26 February – netball vs Joy Lane - home

Monday 4 March – Whole School Book Week

Thursday 7 March – World Book Day – dress up as book characters

Friday 8 March – PTFA Thank You shop

Monday 11 March – netball vs Davington – home

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

Tuesday 23 April – netball vs Bysing Wood – away

Monday 29 April – netball vs Hernehill – away

Tuesday 7 May – Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed – away

Monday 13 May – Boughton-under-Blean - away