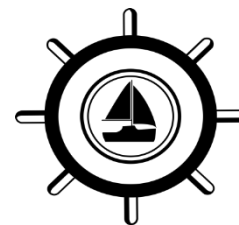


Whitstable Junior School

Sports Newsletter- Terms 3 and 4 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Sports Newsletter for Term 3 and 4. It has been another busy few terms with regards to sporting events and opportunities at WJS, from increased opportunities at lunchtimes provided by Inclusive Sports, to taking part in a variety of different sporting competitions, to completing our final football fixture games to starting the Netball tournament season; all with a focus on developing resilience, leadership skills, passion and team-work. No matter what the focus or activity, every child has demonstrated respect, responsibility, kindness, skill and resilience and we would like to take the opportunity to say how proud of them we are.

We would also like to say a huge congratulations to Iris, in Year 6, who came 2nd and 3rd in the local Skating Competition; I know how much this meant to you Iris and how committed to completing the 7-hour long event you were. If there are any other children with sporting hobbies that they enjoy taking part in outside of school, we would love to hear about them and how others may be able to join if they wish. So, please email me on kroy@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk to let me know, or children simply come and find me around school.

After School Clubs

The end of this term saw the first After School Club Launch Assembly. The focus being to promote Term 5 and 6 after school clubs and the benefits they can bring to the children before the clubs went live for booking. We wanted to raise their profile and give the children time to ask questions so that more children took up the offers. We also sent a copy of the PowerPoint home to parents and carers to embed the message further. The clubs on offer are still based on what the children said they would like to experience as well as promoting being active, healthy and developing the skills for learning today for life tomorrow.

Clubs on offer for Term 5 and 6 include: Multi-Sports, Rounders, Netball, Football, Dance, Musical Theatre, Animation, Change for Life, Book and Film club, as well as learning to play a musical instrument or learning French.

Without doubt, the assembly was a success as within 10 minutes of going live, 75% of the clubs were full. This year, we have been ensuring that our more disadvantaged children (who may not get these experiences outside of school) have had priority booking. Obviously, we want to involve as many children as possible in this aspect of school life so if you have any ideas of how we can extend our club offer or indeed have a spare hour after school and would like to run a club please contact the office, we would love to hear from you.

Inclusive Sports



We continue to be supported by Inclusive Sports to help overcome any barriers that the children may have to enjoying sport; either through working with our Nurture Group to develop teamwork skills and resilience or during lunchtimes with organised team games. Next term, we will be funding an after-school club run by the awesome Joe Theze to encourage children to take part in more active minutes and develop passion and team work.

Sports Crew

Sports Crew have continued to be involved in promoting the daily sporting activities around the school by applying their training, knowledge and skills to ensure that there are a variety of lunchtime activities on the large playground. They have been supporting the younger children in playing structured games and have also

taken on the role of monitoring the sports equipment to ensure that it is stored away safely and carefully looked after; which is great to see and shows what great role-models they are.

Change for Life After School Club:



Thank you so much to Mrs Dean and Mrs Browning who have continued to make this club such a success. They have ensured that they keep the club focused on exploring and creating seasonal, delicious and nutritious meals as well as exploring ways to keep bodies and minds healthy. Yet again, the club has helped many children to overcome food barriers, enjoy trying different vegetables and explore different festive traditions. This term, the club has experienced cooking their own Chinese feast to celebrate The Chinese New Year (looking at how to cook healthy take away food), feasted on a spicy Caribbean chicken dinner, made their own zesty guacamole (as part of investigating healthy snacks) and discovered inspiring ways to stay active. This club has proven to be quite a hit with all ages, and has been one of the first to fill all spaces for both Upper and Lower School next term.



Netball, Football and Rounders League Games:

We have come to the end of our Football League games against other schools in the area and would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Peter McCalla who has given up his time every week to coach the boys team and to Mr Emptage and Joe Theze (from Inclusive Sport) who have coached the girls team. Without your time and support both teams would not have developed as they did: demonstrating team work, passion, determination and respect for each other, the referees and the other teams. We would also like to say a massive Well Done to Ted and Maisie who overcame their nerves and supported the teams as the best goalies we have seen for quite a while-amazing.

Term 4 saw the start of the Netball League games, this year organised and run by the amazing Mrs Reed who has been working with the Netball after school club for quite a while, in anticipation of the upcoming games. It is so amazing to see the passion, commitment and effort being put into their practice sessions and the children's focus on winning matches against the other local schools. So far, they have played: Joy Lane, Ethelbert Road and Davington Primary schools, as well as a friendly match against The Endowed. We wish them much luck for their future games. Should your child wish to take part in the Netball games and are in Upper School please let the office know.

New for this year, we have also signed up to the District Rounders League games due to take part in Terms 5 and 6. So watch this space for how we get on as this season gets underway. Should your child be interested in taking part in such a great team game, and they are in Upper school and haven't sign-up for the after school club run by Joe Theze please let the office know.

Inter-School Competitions:



As part of our commitment to remaining a Gold Level Sporting School, we have competed in 5 different School Games competitions over the past few terms. It has been an absolute pleasure taking the children to represent our school, every time, no matter who we have selected every child has demonstrated our community code: to be kind, to be safe and responsible. Showing passion, resilience and respect no matter the outcome or situation. We have

competed in a range of activities: from a non-competitive Speed stacking tournament with Year 3 children, to a high-intensity Basketball competition with both Year 5 and 6 children, to a tiring Cross-Country competition with our amazing Year 6 children (with Charlie gaining 4th position out of 57 runners) to a nail-biting Handball





competition where the children competed with such focus and determination- achieving joint 3rd place out of 16 schools and only missing out to 2nd place by one goal!!! Without doubt, we have to say Well Done to Leo in Year 6 who started the competition stating that we were going home with a medal and he really worked hard to ensure that we did!! Proving to be our Star Player!! We have also taken part in the Herne Bay High School Dance Academy Festival, with

children from all year groups working with A-Level pupils from HBHS to choreograph a dance based on the St Patrick's Day Festival and performing it at HBHS in front of 3 other schools, parents and staff. Well, Done team WJS!!

In Term 5 and 6, we are looking forward to many more amazing competitions, ranging from taking part in a Football Futures spring competition to girl's dynamo cricket and mixed cricket, as well tennis and Handball.

Due to being a coastal town, we are passionate about ensuring that all children are able to swim and enjoy the sport so once again we are excited to say that every child in the school will be attending swimming lessons using the Whitstable Swimming Pool, with the aim that all children will be able to swim 25 meters by Year 6. Year 3 and 4 will be first to swim during Term 5 followed by Year 5 and 6 in Term 6. Furthermore, Year 6 will take part in Water Safety training to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to be able to keep themselves safe as they get older.



We are also excited about our Term 6 Olympic-themed Sports Week. We will be encouraging our children to explore the different sports related to the Olympics, research influential Olympian and Para-Olympian athletes as well as prepare for our Sports Day; developing personal bests and appreciating the importance of finding a sport and/or exercise that they enjoy. Please let me know if you have any thoughts on how this event can be made even better for all children who take part, we welcome all ideas.

During this week, the children will also be immersed in additional sporting activities, intra-school competitions, wake-up and shake-up routines, yoga and working together to see how far we can run as a school.

Thank you for taking time to read our Sports Newsletter for Terms 3 and 4. We hope you all have a wonderful break and enjoy Easter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me either via email.

Kate Roy

PE Lead

March 2024