



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow



Week ending 19 December 2025

A message from Ms Kent & Ms Collin



Dear Parents and Carers,



What a wonderful term it has been at Whitstable Junior School! Our pupils have enjoyed a packed schedule of exciting activities and learning opportunities.

Earlier in the term, we launched our Skip to be Fit challenge, which has really taken off! Well done to all the children who have been skipping their way to fitness. Last week we celebrated our top skippers : **Laurie and Nikos Y3, Lewis Y4, Emily and Anaya Year 5, Alfred and Sinan Year 6**. Next term we will be celebrating our most improved skippers, so keep skipping, children!

Children have enjoyed an array of enrichment trips this term, including visits to Canterbury Cathedral, the Lord Mayor, Canterbury Mosque, and our local beach. All of these opportunities help to bring learning alive for children.

Thank you to our Year 3 team and children for such a beautiful Nativity performance. Let's try and remember the message of the true meaning of Christmas as we move into this busy time.

The children have been busy preparing for today's Carol concert, which I'm sure you will all enjoy and hope it brings some Christmas cheer!

This week in assembly, we reminded the children about the importance of shining brightly over the holidays. A simple smile, kind words, and thoughtful actions can bring light to others during this special time of year.

We hope all our families have a wonderful, restful break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

Best wishes,
Sarah Kent and Kirsten Collin



What have the children been up to this week?

Year 3 have had a wonderful final week of term. In English they have been looking at a range of Christmas adverts and designing characters based on these. In maths, the children have been using their skills to solve a Christmas cake mystery. **Year 4** have been amazing this week, persevering with their work even as the festive excitement creeps in. We finished our super volcano explanation texts and the children really 'wowed' with their knowledge! In maths, we tried numerous strategies to help us solve division problems - ask us what our favourite was. As well as working jolly hard, we have also enjoyed some fun activities, such as making Christmas cards and taking part in a general knowledge quiz. **Year 5** have completed their persuasive letters about sewage pollution. They have worked hard on the structure and emotive language. In art, they have been putting their finishing touches to their versions of Whitstable beach scenes in the style of Surat. They have also been using their maths skills in geography to create graphs to present their information about pebble sizes. **Year 6** have had a festive week delving into the Christmas Carol and looking at what happened from the point of view of each ghost. In Maths, they have been busy converting units of measure and looking at how to use both metric and imperial measures. The children completed making their incredible masks and have been evaluating their final piece and in music the children practised their carols which we hope you will enjoy. They have all worked really hard and we are very proud of them - have a good Christmas rest ready for Term 3!

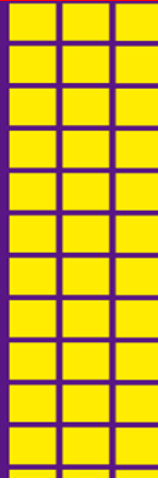


Times Table Fact of the Week

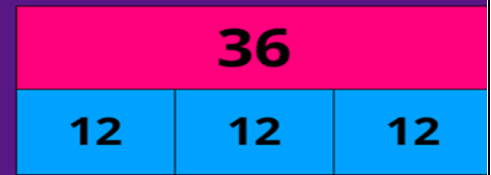
$$3 \times 12 = 36$$



$$36 \div 3 = ?$$



$$12 \times 3 = 36$$



$$36 \div 12 = ?$$

Attendance



Gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45 am. Children are registered in their ready to learn time, therefore prompt attendance is essential. If your children are late, please bring them into the office. The school logs a reason for lateness which should come from parents/carers. If children are absent due to illness, please call the school office by 8.50am. You will need to call the school each day of absence with the illness please as the school needs more info than "poorly".

Outdoor Learning – Term 3

- 6T Monday 5 & 19 Jan/2 Feb
- 3M Tuesday 6 & 20 Jan/3 Feb
- 4J Wednesday 7 & 21 Jan/4 Feb
- 5PW Thursday 8 & 22Jan/5 Feb
- 6L Monday 12 & 26Jan/9Feb
- 3H Tuesday 13 & 27 Jan/10 Feb
- 5H Thursday 15 & 29 Jan/12 Feb



PE Timetable for Term 3 & Upcoming Football Fixtures

Children **come to school** wearing **full PE kit** (inc. jogging bottoms and jumpers if necessary – not skins) on the following days.

- 3H Tuesday and Friday/3M Wednesday and Thursday
- 4J Monday and Thursday
- 5H Wednesday and Thursday/5PW Tuesday and Friday
- 6L Monday and Friday/6T Wednesday and Friday



Boys Football : Parents/carers welcome (matches subject to change)

- Wednesday 28 January Hampton vs WJS – **home** (astro)
- Wednesday 4 February Davington vs WJS – **away** (grass)
- Thursday 12 February Swalecliffe vs WJS - **home** – (astro)
- Wednesday 25 February Thornden Wood vs WJS – **away** (grass – studs needed)

Girls Football : Parents/carers welcome (matches subject to change)

- Tuesday 20 January Joy Lane vs WJS – **away** – (grass – studs needed)
- Wednesday 21 January St Mary's vs WJS – **home** (astro)
- Wednesday 4 February Davington vs WJS – **away** (grass – studs needed)
- Wednesday 25 February Thornden Wood vs WJS – **away** (grass – studs needed)



Claude Gigglesprout - Antics of The Week

What an exciting and unplanned weekend Claude had! He was a little concerned last Friday afternoon as he thought he would be by himself with none of the children in school for the duration and was expecting a rather lonely weekend. So, he was delighted to discover that coincidentally one of his best friends, Mr Sparkle-Elf, was staying not far away. Playdate and sleepover “here we come” he thought without even asking his friend if that would be ok. Mr Sparkle-Elf looked a bit shell shocked and surprised to see him but was equally delighted. Oh, what fun they had train racing. They also had a midnight feast after having found a packet of chocolate mini rolls. By Monday morning he was up to his old tricks and mischief and had changed the entire staff team pictures to ones of himself including the co-head teachers in the school office! Not sure the children’s parents would want Mr Gigglesprout in charge and running the school, can you imagine the chaos! Tuesday morning Claude was having a whale of a time in the upswept leaves. Mr Rick cleared them up before he spread them all over the place and even managed to get Claude to help! Claude seemed to be at a bit of a loose end literally on Wednesday and was hanging around the office. When he is bored is when the mischief can start, thankfully he didn’t get up to any though apart from interrupting when the office staff were speaking. He doesn’t have the manners of our lovely Whitstable School children for sure! On Thursday Mr Gigglesprout wanted some peace and quiet to iron his crisps of all things! He was found in the library completing this very important task for himself. Fussy little Elf that he is, he doesn’t like any crinkles or creases in his crisps. Thursday night Claude was feeling a little homesick so decided to pop back to the North Pole briefly to see his friends which also enabled him to check on how Father Christmas was getting along without him and check all was on schedule for Christmas Eve. He was delighted to report all was well. To spread some Christmas cheer, he decided to bring you all a taste of Christmas and brought back a snowman. Unfortunately, the warmer weather in Whitstable didn’t suit the snowman and he melted!



Lunch Menu w/c 5 January

School lunches are £3.20 per day. Menu being updated as eggs will never be an option under Deli option 4

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges 🌱	Beef Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta 🍷 🍷	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chinese Sticky Lemon Chicken with Wholegrain Rice 🍷 🍷	Fish Fingers with Chips
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
BBQ Vegetable Wrap with Potato Wedges 🌱 🍷	Vegetarian Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta 🌱 🍷 🍷	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 🌱	Cheesy Vegetable Hotpot 🌱	Quorn Dippers with Chips 🌱
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans or Cheese
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES				
Egg/Cheese Sandwich or Wrap	Ham/Cheese/Tuna Sandwich or Wrap	Ham/Cheese/Tuna Sandwich or Wrap	Ham/Cheese/Tuna Sandwich or Wrap	Ham/Cheese/Tuna Sandwich or Wrap
DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD				
Crunchy Apple Slice 🌱	Strawberry Shortcake Mousse	Oat Cookie 🌱	Apple Crumble with Custard 🌱	Chocolate Ice Cream

Additional Messaging

We are delighted to celebrate the retirement of Mr Guider who has dedicated an incredible 45 years to education and to our school community. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr Guider has served in multiple roles – as a teacher, deputy head, acting head, and teaching assistant – demonstrating remarkable versatility, commitment, and passion for supporting children's learning and development. Over these four and a half decades, Mr Guider has touched the lives of countless pupils, colleagues, and families. As Mr Guider embarks on this well-deserved retirement, we want to express our deepest gratitude for his extraordinary service. We wish him all the best for a happy, relaxing and fulfilling retirement and hope that it is full of wonderful times for him and his family.

We also wish to announce a change of role for one of our members of staff. From January, Mrs Reed will be taking on the role of School Business Manager here at WJS. We wish her the best for this new, pivotal role in our school.

Our wonderful PTFA raised a magnificent £1065 at the fair, all going towards the playground project. We are so grateful.



Parking : Residents of Cromwell Road are getting very angry and frustrated with parking by some parents during drop off and pick up. Parking on the zig zags, double yellow lines, parking in the resident car parks and in disabled bays has been mentioned many times now. This causes cars to have to mount the pavement and put lives at risk, including Whitstable School Children. Please be aware that number plates are being recorded now by residents and sent to the council. Please can we all make a joint effort to be respectful of local residents and safety next term.



RNLI Whitstable Boxing Day Dip 2025 Registration, Fri 26 Dec 2025 at 14:30 | Eventbrite
<https://share.google/aZJMPd3OjO7nsxnYR>



Letters and email

If you have a message, please send it to the office and it will be passed to your child's teacher / dealt with as appropriate. Do contact the office if you require paper copies. Please refer to the date section of the newsletter for upcoming trips.



Dates

Monday 5 January – Start of Term 3

Friday 9 January – Whole school panto at 9.30am

w/c Monday 12 January – The Lancaster Model questionnaire

Monday 12 January – World Religion Day

Monday 12 January – After school clubs start for terms 3 & 4

Tuesday 13 January – AIM high maths day. Years 5 & 6

Wednesday 14 January – HBH Arena Cross Country Comp. Years 3/4 & 5/6 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday 14 January – 5H Parent/Carer lunch

Wednesday 21 January – 5JW Parent/Carer lunch

w/c 21 January – NSPCC assemblies in phases

Tuesday 3 or Thursday 5 February NSPCC workshops for Years 5 & 6

Tuesday 3 February – Number Day

Thursday 5 February – Year 3 Beaney Trip

Friday 6 February – NSPCC Number Day

Friday 6 February – Year 3 Trip to Beaney

Monday 9 February – Safer Internet Week

Wednesday 2 February – Sports Hall Athletics (HBH) 9.30 – 12.30 Year 5 & 6

Thursday 12 February – School Disco – Lower School 4.30pm – 5.30pm/Upper School 6pm – 7pm

Friday 13 February – £100 residential trip instalment due

Friday 13 February – End of Term 3

Tuesday 24 February – Start of Term 4

Wednesday 18 March – Quicksticks Hockey HBHS (LS 9 – 11 and US 1 – 3.30M)

Friday 27 March – After school clubs finish

Monday 30 March - £100 residential trip instalment due

Thursday 2 April – End of Term 4

Thursday 23 April – New to Tennis at UKC Tennis Centre – Years 5/6 10 – 12pm

Monday 27 April – Parent consultation – time TBC
Wednesday 29 April – Parent consultation – time TBC
Thursday 7 May – Tennis Tournament Year 3/4 at UKC Tennis Centre 10 – 12pm
w/c 11 May – Year 6 SATs tests
Friday 15 May – Year 6 End of Sats trip to Betteshanger
Monday 1 June – Kent Test application for year 5 opens
Wednesday 3 June – Friday 5 June – Year 6 residential
Wednesday 10 June – Dynamo Cricket (Boys) US 10 – 3.30pm Chestfield CC
Friday 12 June – Summer Fair TBC
Wednesday 17 June – Football Tournament LS - Herne Bay High 1.30pm – 3.30pm
w/c Monday 29 June – Transition Week – ALL schools on Thursday 2 July
Wednesday 1 July – Dance Competition TBC (Boughton Village Hall)
Thursday 2 July – New Year 3 Parent Meeting at 9am
Wednesday 1 July Kent Test application closes
w/c Monday 6 July – Year 6 Production
Wednesday 15 July – Full Reports to parents
Wednesday 15 July – Year 6 Leavers Celebration in St Alphege church from 11am for Year 6 and 2pm for parents
Friday 17 July – End of Term 6

Term 3

Start: Monday 5 January 2026
Finish: Friday 13 February 2026

Term 4

Start: Tuesday 24 February 2026
Finish: Thursday 2 April 2026

Term 5

Start: Monday 20 April 2026
Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May 2026
Finish: Friday 22 May 2026

Term 6

Start: Monday 1 June 2026
Finish: Friday 17 July 2026

Staff Development Days

Monday 23 February 2026
Monday and Tuesday 20/21 July