



# Whitstable Junior School

*Learning today for life tomorrow*

## Week ending 9 January 2026



### A message from Ms Kent & Ms Collin

Dear Parents and Carers,



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful break and are ready for an exciting spring term ahead. It's lovely to see all our pupils back in school, refreshed and ready to learn.

The start of a new year is always a special time at Whitstable Junior School, filled with new opportunities and experiences for our children. In assembly this week we looked back to the successes of last year and asked the children to think about their goals and opportunities for the year ahead.

This week, we were delighted to welcome a pantomime performance to our school! The children thoroughly enjoyed the show, and it was wonderful to see their faces light up with laughter and excitement. Thank you to the PTFA who organised this special treat – it was a fantastic way to start the new term.

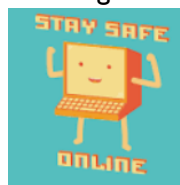
Our Year 6 pupils received an important visit from our local PCSO this week, who delivered a session on online safety. With many children receiving new phones and devices over the Christmas period, this was particularly timely. The session covered how to stay safe online, recognising potential risks, and knowing who to talk to if something doesn't feel right.

We know that technology plays an increasingly important role in children's lives, and we're committed to ensuring our pupils have the knowledge and confidence to navigate the online world safely. If you'd like to discuss online safety further or need advice about managing your child's device use at home, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We have lots to look forward to this term, and we'll be sharing more details about upcoming events in future newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Kent and Kirsten Collin



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

**Year 3** have returned to school after the break with a real enthusiasm for learning. The children have started learning about the Ancient Egyptians in English and history where they have written descriptions of the setting of the new story. In maths, the children have been working on multiplication and division skills and making connections between the processes. In science, they have started looking at forces and how pushes and pulls help in our lives. **Year 4** have returned to school with energy and enthusiasm for their learning which has been a joy to see. In English we have enjoyed starting our new book, 'The Magic Paintbrush', and predicting how it will end. We have used the story so far to do some beautiful watercolour pictures, write detailed character descriptions and accurately punctuate an imagined conversation between the main characters. This week we resumed our flute lessons - we have improved so much from where we started! We also started our new history topic - the Shang Dynasty - looking at the timeline of the period and investigating the geography of Ancient China.

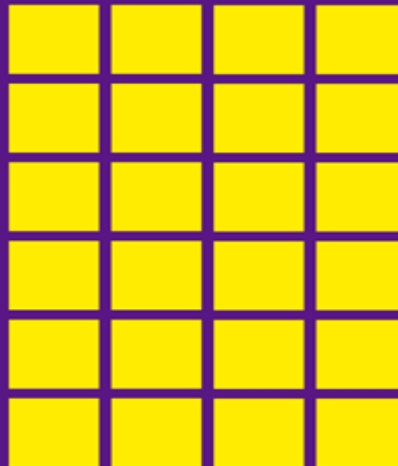
**Year 5** have settled into their new term of learning brilliantly. In English they have been engrossing themselves in the wondrous world of Greek mythology. In maths, they have been adding mixed numbers, using all the skills they've acquired over this unit on fractions. Chronology has been the buzz word in history, looking at where the Ancient Greek age sits on a historical timeline and the 5 ages it is itself split into. Also, in art, they have loved sketching the different shapes of Ancient Greek pots, in preparation for creating their own from clay later on in the term!

This week, **Year 6** have been immersed in an exciting learning journey. Through their new class text *Darwin's Dragons*, the children have been exploring the Galápagos Islands, using the book's stunning imagery as inspiration for some truly impressive descriptive writing. In mathematics, pupils have been developing their understanding of decimals by identifying their place value, learning how to round them accurately, and applying their knowledge to addition and subtraction. As part of this term's Design and Technology unit, the children have been investigating the role of yeast in bread making, exploring its purpose and effect on dough. In geography, they have been locating South America and learning about its position within the wider world, while in science they have been developing their practical skills by constructing simple electrical circuits.



### Times Table Fact of the Week

$$4 \times 6 = 24$$



$$6 \times 4 = 24$$

24

4 4 4 4 4 4

24

6 6 6 6

$$24 \div 3 = ?$$

$$24 \div 6 = ?$$

### 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 19 Jan/2 Feb
- 3M** Tuesday 20 Jan/3 Feb
- 4J** Wednesday 21 Jan/4 Feb
- 5PW** Thursday 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)



**Lunch Menu w/c 12 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	Pork Sausages with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Chicken with Rainbow Rice	Fish Fingers with Chips
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Veggie Burrito with Wholegrain Rice 🌱 🍌 🍌	Vegetarian Sausage with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy 🌱	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 🌱	Macaroni Cheese 🌱	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
<b>HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES</b>				
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
<b>DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD</b>				
Chocolate Caramel Crunch	Flapjack 🌱	Chocolate Brownie 🌱	Apple and Golden Syrup Sponge with Custard 🌱	Strawberry Ice Cream

**Menu for Thursday 15 January – Not as Above**

Why wasn't the pizza joke funny?  
Because it was cheesy!

What do you call a fake pizza?  
A pepper-phoney!



Why did the pizza ingredients have to squeeze together?  
Because there wasn't mushroom!

**Additional Messaging**



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Should we encounter severe weather, the school will text parents/carers by approximately 7.30am and inform if the school will be open or shut.



After school clubs start back next week BUT due to unforeseen circumstances, Change 4 Life and Craft club are not running next week. First session of Change 4 Life now 21<sup>st</sup> Jan and Craft now 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

Please double check clubs you have booked onto definitely start in Term 3 and NOT Term 4.



## 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

**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**

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