



Whitstable Junior School

Learning today for life tomorrow

Week ending 24 April 2026



A message from Ms Kent & Ms Collin



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school this week ready for term 5. A reminder that it is parent consultations next week so please book a slot if you've not already.

Please take a few moments to complete this year's parent survey by Friday May 1st 2026.

Your views really do count. We love to hear what we're doing well, as well as suggestions for improvements.



Here are just a few changes we've implemented following last year's parent survey:

Play opportunities

- You said: You'd like to see more opportunities for play
- We did: We've developed our play and lunchtime offer this year

Social skills

- You said: You'd like us to teach social skills
- We did: We introduced 'manner of the term' where adults catch children demonstrating good manners, such as saying good morning to adults on the gate or holding doors open

Library access

- You said: You'd like children to have more access to the school library
- We did: The library is now open every lunchtime for reading and quiet craft activities

School trips

- You said: You'd like to be able to help with trips
- We did: We regularly invite parents to help on school trips

Academic focus

- You said: You'd like a greater focus on academics
- We did: This has been a key area of development over the last three years. Our data last year celebrates this refocus - we were above national attainment in reading, writing and maths. This year we've split Year 6 into three classes by employing Mr Baybutt (previous Deputy Head Teacher) to allow for focused interventions, ensuring children reach their potential before leaving Whitstable Junior School. Throughout the school, we strive for academic excellence within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Uniform

- You said: You'd like a more relaxed uniform to be available
- We're listening: This year's parent survey includes a section about uniform. Your feedback will inform any changes we make to the uniform policy for 2026/27.

Link to survey below

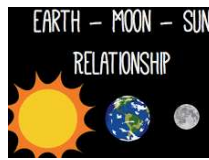
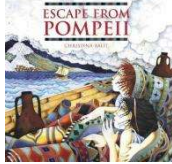
<https://app.bouncetogether.co.uk/shrt/MJZZ0CJRQL>

Warmest wishes,
Sarah Kent and Kirsten Collin



What have the children been up to this week?

Year 3 have started studying a new book in English lessons; *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat*. The children have become detectives and have been retrieving information and making predictions on what might happen next. In maths, they have revised their knowledge on the 4 operations and have also worked hard to learn about money and how to create their own shops. In science the children have started looking at nutrition in humans and how a balanced diet is important. This week in English, **Year 4** have begun looking at their new text, 'Escape from Pompeii', writing beautiful descriptions of the events in the book and using drama to retell the story. Continuing to learn about decimals, we have been concentrating on partitioning decimals in a variety of ways. In science, we explored what we already know about electricity and what we would still like to learn. This week Year 4 also had their first swimming lesson of the year. **Year 5** have launched into space this week. They have embraced life as an astronaut through their space day, enjoying space food, controlling a rover, exercising and even some cleaning! They have also explored how the Earth, Sun and Moon relate to each other, creating models. In DT, they have begun to research space rovers in order to think about designing their own. **Year 6** have had a fantastic week exploring the themes of conflict and arguments, while preparing to write balanced arguments using a range of techniques such as rhetorical questions and cohesive devices. In maths, they have been revising their knowledge of shapes and are encouraged to continue practising naming different types and recalling their properties. In other areas of learning, the class has been exploring how music has been recorded over time, including formats such as CDs, records and tapes. They have also begun designing sports bags, which they will be making later in the term.



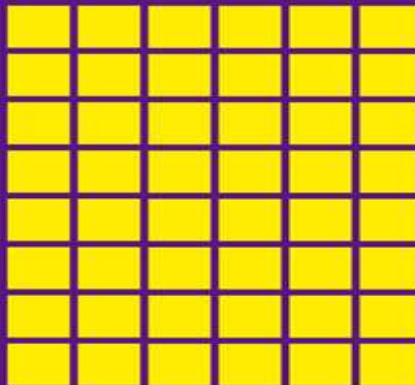
Times Table Fact of the Week

$$6 \times 8 = 48$$

48

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

$$48 \div 6 = ?$$



$$8 \times 6 = 48$$

48

8 8 8 8 8 8

$$48 \div 8 = ?$$

Attendance

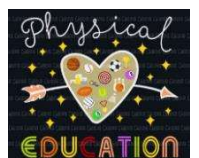


Gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45 am. Children are registered in their ready to learn time, therefore prompt attendance is essential. If your children are late, please bring them into the office. The school logs a reason for lateness which should come from parents/carers. If children are absent due to illness, please **call the school office by 8.50am or inform the person dropping your child to let you know if they will no longer be attending that day.** If we aren't made aware, we cannot confirm your child's whereabouts, which can cause parents to worry when the office ring to report their absence. You will need to call the school each day of absence with the illness please as the school needs more info than "poorly".

PE Timetable for Term 4 & Upcoming Fixtures

Children **come to school** wearing **full PE kit** (inc. jogging bottoms and jumpers if necessary – not skins) on the following days unless swimming, in which case school uniform should be worn. Astro boots should not be worn for PE and not as part of their regular school uniform either.

- 3H** Monday Swimming/Tuesday PE/**3M** Monday Swimming/Wednesday PE
4J Tuesdays Swimming/Thursday PE
5H PE Wednesdays & Thursdays/**5PW** PE Tuesdays & Fridays
6L PE Mondays & Fridays/**6T** PE Wednesdays & Fridays



Outdoor Learning – Term 5

Please ensure your child has a change of shoes. This is to try and limit mud being spread around the school.

6T Thursday 7 May/**3N** Tuesday 21 April/Tuesday 5 May/Tuesday 19 May
5PW Wednesday 6 May/Wednesday 20 May
4J Monday 11 May/Thursday 21 May
6L Monday 27 April/Monday 18 May/**3H** Tuesday 28 April/Tuesday 12 May/
5H Wednesday 29 April/Wednesday 13 May



Lunch Menu w/c 27 April – School lunches are £3.20 per day

Eggs will never be served in sandwiches – will remain as ham, cheese or tuna

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with BBQ Potato Wedges 🍕	BBQ Pork Meatball Tortilla with Wholegrain Rice 🍝	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 🍗	Lasagne with Garlic Bread 🍝	Fish Fingers with Chips 🐟
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Veggie Meat Feast Pizza with BBQ Potato Wedges 🍕	Cheesy Bean Burrito with Wholegrain Rice 🍝	Vegetarian Cottage Pie with Gravy 🍷	Beany Chilli with Baked Nachos with Wholegrain Rice 🍝	Quorn Dippers with Chips 🍟
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Jacket Potato Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato Beans or Cheese	Jacket Potato Beans or Cheese
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD				
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				
Custard Shortbread with Melon Wedges 🍰	Apple Crumble with Custard 🍰	Chocolate Mousse 🍰	Lemon Drizzle Cake 🍰	Vanilla Ice Cream 🍰

Playground Update

The WJS stage in the playground is really starting to take shape. The backdrop is now up, and the next steps are painting the stage floor and putting together a dressing-up box. A huge thank-you to Pearson's Arms for generously sponsoring this project.

If anyone is able to help with painting, or with sorting costumes and props, please let the office know.

This week the children will also begin using the construction area during play. We're looking forward to seeing some impressive new creations appearing on the playground.

As we continue fundraising for these playground improvements, we would be grateful for any help with the Summer Fair on 12th June. Please contact the office if you can support, or feel free to share our fundraising link.

Our next fundraising goals are to create a dedicated gymnastics area in our Creative Corner and to develop a wildlife play space at the back of the playground.

You can follow our progress or make a donation here:

👉 <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/whitstable-juniors-playground-project>



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 not contact the office if you require paper copies. Please refer to the date section of the newsletter for upcoming trips.



Dates (dates in red indicate a date change)

Monday 27 April – After school clubs resume

Wednesday 29 April – Parent consultation – 2.30pm – 5pm

Thursday 30 April – Parent consultation – 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Friday 1 May – Morris Men at school in morning

Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday

Thursday 7 May – Tennis Tournament Year 3/4 at UKC Tennis Centre 10 – 12pm

Friday 8 May – 4J Richborough trip

w/c 11 May – Year 6 SATs tests

Friday 15 May – Year 6 End of Sats trip to Betteshanger

Thursday 21 May – Class/group photos

Friday 22 May – End of Term 5

Monday 1 June – Start of Term 6

Monday 1 June – Kent Test application for year 5 opens

Wednesday 3 June – Friday 5 June – Year 6 residential

w/c Monday 8 June – Years 5 & 6 Swimming lessons x 5

Wednesday 10 June – Dynamo Cricket (Boys) US 10 – 3.30pm Chestfield CC

Friday 12 June – Summer Fair TBC

Monday 15 June – Year 4 Otterden trip

Wednesday 17 June – Football Tournament LS - Herne Bay High 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Tuesday 23 June – Sports Day

w/c Monday 29 June – Transition Week – ALL schools on Thursday 2 July

Wednesday 1 July – Dance Competition TBC (Boughton Village Hall)

Wednesday 1 July Kent Test application closes

Thursday 2 July – New Year 3 Parent Meeting at 9am

w/c Monday 6 July – Year 6 Production

Tuesday 7 July – New September Year 3 Parents Evening Meet at 5.30pm

Friday 10 July – After school clubs finish

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

Thursday 16 July – Leaver's Disco

Friday 17 July – End of Term 6

Monday 20 July – SDD

Tuesday 21 July - SDD

TERM DATES 2026/2027

Term 1 Starts Wednesday 2 September 2026/**Term 1 Ends** Friday 23 October 2026

Term 2 Starts Monday 2 November 2026/**Term 2 Ends** Friday 18 December 2026

Term 3 Starts Monday 4 January 2027/**Term 3 Ends** Friday 12 February 2027

Term 4 Starts Monday 22 February 2027/**Term 4 Ends** Thursday 25 March 2027

Term 5 Starts Monday 12 April 2027/**Term 5 Ends** Friday 28 May 2027

Term 6 Starts Monday 7 June 2027/**Term 6 Ends** Friday 16 July 2027

SDD Days:

Tuesday 1 September 2026/Friday 30 April 2027/Monday 19/Tuesday 20/Wednesday 21 July 2027



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