



Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed (Church of England (Aided) Junior School

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15 July 2026

Dear Families,

September 2026

I cannot believe that we are almost at the end of another academic year but of course, plans are afoot for a great start in September and I am writing to share with you some information about that. We have been thinking very carefully about how we can make the whole experience of school even better, more enriching and enticing as well as making sure that everyone has and feels that sense of belonging that is so important. Next year will include getting out and about more as well as inviting visitors in to school.



All Aboard! – We are changing the way that we start the day. Children will go straight into their classrooms when they arrive at school and not stay out on the playground. We ask you to leave the children at the gates and we will be there to guide them in to class. You can arrive from 8.40am when the children can 'come aboard'. **New Year 3's can arrive and head through the gates next to the Garden Room with their parents for the first week.**

The reason for this is to give the children a gentle start to the day doing some activities like jigsaw puzzles, colouring or reading. Parents and families will be able to come on to the playground at the end of the day to collect (as we do now). Please ensure that your child(ren) is in school by 8.50am when the register is taken. We are working hard to improve our attendance and ask for your support with this.

Raising the Sails – at the start of each day, after the register, we are planning different activities to get the day off to a good start for example, learning performance poetry, having an expert speaker – child or adult, mindfulness...the list goes on and will change as the year progresses. We hope this will offer an exciting start to the day to ensure we have all of our 'crew' on board for a great day's voyage.



Voyage of Discovery – We are changing the way that we talk about the curriculum from September: you have probably noticed the sailing references by now! Every child's learning journey is going to be called a Voyage of Discovery; a journey through each year, collecting gems and jewels for a treasure chest of learning treasure as they go. Learning is not just about the curriculum subjects but also what our children learn about themselves and others – the personal development side of the curriculum. We are going to be using a variety of terms that will become familiar too us all, for example, looking through the telescope will help us think about where a lesson or topic will take us and where we want to be, or have learned by the end.

A life ring might represent extra support that we all need from time to time and a map will be how we get to the destination – the learning that sticks through carefully planned and taught lessons.



continued over





Each class will have a display of their Voyage and each class name will be also the name of their boat in which they make the journey – their safe place, where they belong and are guided and helped by the adults in the class – maybe a child will be at the helm too? There will be more to come and we will share this with you.



Lanterns – As a Church school we talk about moments of Spirituality, those moments that change us is a good way to explain it. We have taught the children to think of having a little lantern in your heart and that the flame can change depending what you encounter and how that affects you. We will take the lanterns on the Voyage to guide the way. We talk about surrounding yourself with others who will make your lights shine brightly and not to be someone who is a flame 'blower-outer'.

Play a Part - Thank you if you have shared with us offers of things that you can do to enrich our Voyage – we will be in touch and please do continue to contact us if you can help. We really do appreciate it and our aim to make what we offer here even better with your involvement.

End of this Year

Now that I have set out our exciting plans for September, I wanted to just mention a few important matters for your attention.

Reports

Enclosed with this letter you will find your child's end of year Report home. I have enjoyed reading each one and feel enormously proud of the children who continue to shine their lights so brightly. We would welcome yours and your child's feedback on these reports and this academic year, which you can do by either completing the slip over or clicking on the link in the slip to provide feedback.

School Dinners

Our governors have taken the decision to increase the price of school dinners to £3.00 per day from September 2026. As I am sure you are all very much aware, food costs continue to increase and sadly as a school, we are not protected from these price rises. It is for this reason that we need to increase the daily cost of meals, which is still very good value for a home-cooked meal every day. We know that some families may be struggling with living costs too, so if you really feel you cannot afford this price increase in meals, please do speak to me or Miss Parker, our FLO, in confidence as there may be something we can do to help. Should parents wish to pay for meals termly, those prices will be published on our website ahead of the new academic year. Weekly dinner prices will be £15.00 for a child that has a dinner every day. Please also remember that within MCAS, dinners must be chosen, booked and paid for in advance. This really does help to ensure that we can continue to reduce our food waste in school. Any parents and carers that have not chosen, booked and paid for a school meal in advance, will be contacted by the school to provide a packed lunch for their child.

'Goodbyes'

We say 'goodbye and good luck' at the end of this academic year, to Mrs Usher and Mrs Moody who are leaving us. Thank you to both of them for their hard work and dedication whilst at the Endowed.

And finally; we have uploaded to our website information on local support services available to access by families should it be needed over the summer break. Details can be found here [Local Support Services](#).





So, as the children say to each other at the end of worship, regularly; we say to you all "Go in the love of God and let your light shine!" On behalf of the whole staff team, we wish you all a wonderful, relaxing and safe summer holiday and look forward to a fantastic start to the next part of your children's Voyage of Discovery as they come back in September.

I will write again in the new academic year with information for the year ahead. We welcome children back in to school on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 to 'come aboard' and in the very first week we will all enjoy a visit from [Spirit of the Wild](#) to start the year off.

With kindest regards

Ellen Taylor
Headteacher

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END OF YEAR [REPORT COMMENTS](#) – PLEASE RETURN TO MISS TAYLOR

CHILD'S NAME:

Parent/Carer Comments:

Thank you for my report, which I have read.

Child Comments:

