

10 October 2025

NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

We've had another successful week! The school has continued to celebrate some truly remarkable student achievements across all year groups. Please read on for more details and highlights from this week!

Key Dates:

- **17 October 2025** - End of Term 1
- **03 November 2025** - Start of Term 2
- **19 November 2025** - Year 10 & 11 Parent Forum
- **27 November 2025** - Sixth Form Open Evening
- **03 December 2025** - Year 7, 8 and 9 Parent Forum
- **04 December 2025** - Year 12 Parents Evening
- **09 December 2025** - Flu Immunisations – All year groups
- **11 December 2025** - Year 13 Parents Evening
- **19 December 2025** - End of Term 2 (*Students leave at 12:55PM*)

Reminder

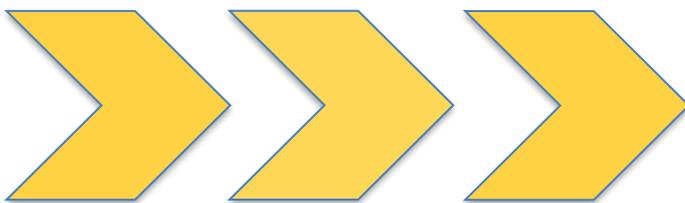


SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 27 November 2025

**The event will take place between
5:30PM and 19:00PM.**

We look forward to welcoming all prospective students and families!



NEXT WEEK IS WEEK A TIMETABLE



**Artsmark
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**GOLD
SCHOOL
2020**

ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE

A member of Swale Academies Trust

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 2JS

Registered in England No. 07344732

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of this academic year has been extremely busy, but students have settled in well across all year groups as we re-establish our routines and expectations for learning.

Our Open Evening was a resounding success this year. Bringing it forward to an earlier point in the term proved to be a great decision, creating a lighter and more enjoyable evening. The event was extremely well attended, and I would like to extend a big thank you to all the student helpers who supported us so professionally as subject ambassadors.



Our Award Shop is now up and running and it has been fantastic to see students coming down at lunchtimes to trade in their achievement points for demonstrating our TRACK values in lessons and around the school.

I am delighted to see our Stage Academy flourishing and thrilled that we are making excellent use of the King's Hall Theatre in Herne Bay which we are privileged to have access to through a successful National Lottery partnership bid. Our STEM Academy pathway also continues to grow with upcoming highlights including the VEX Robotics Competition later this year and the fantastic work our Irish Scholars are doing in collaboration with the University of Kent – all truly aspirational opportunities for our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of attendance. We have seen several short one-day absences and some requests for term-time holidays. The government and Kent County Council have placed increasing emphasis on improving attendance and as a school we must ensure that every student is present as much as possible. Please make every effort to ensure that your child attends school even if they have a mild cold or are feeling a little tired. We will always look after them once they are here. Every lesson counts – when students miss learning they can quickly fall behind in the sequence of their work, making it much harder to catch up later. Please also avoid booking holidays during term time as these will not be authorised.

Homework remains an essential part of learning. Please check that your child is completing their homework regularly. Our library is open for homework every lunchtime and after school and staff are available to offer additional support. Homework helps to build independent study habits and is especially important in preparation for GCSE success. It is very difficult for students to achieve strong grades – particularly Grade 6 and above – without consistent independent study and revision at home.

Developing a culture of perseverance and study beyond the school day is vital. In grammar schools and the independent sector this is well established, and we want our students to have the same opportunities to achieve their very best. That culture starts early from Year 7 onwards.

Thank you once again for your continued support

Mr. A. Holmes
Headteacher



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ANNOUNCEMENT

The trustees of the Swale Academies Trust and the Governors of The Whitstable School are seeking views on a proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the Whitstable School, from 210 to 190 places from September 2027. Further details can be found in the attached letter: [PAN Consultation Letter](#)

You can have your say by:

- emailing us at TWS_admin@swale.at
- completing the response form at the back of the letter and sending it to the Chair of Governors at The Whitstable School (you can hand the completed form into the school office).



The closing date for sending your response is **Friday 14 November 2025**. The school are hosting a drop-in session on Monday 3rd November between 5.30pm to 6pm to answer any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

** Sixth Form Open Evening! **

We are excited to announce our upcoming Sixth Form Open Evening for September 2026 Admissions.

Join us on **Thursday, November 27th, 2025, from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM.**

This is a fantastic opportunity for families and prospective students to get a real feel for our school community. You will have the chance to hear directly from our Headteacher, meet our dedicated staff and current pupils, and tour our excellent facilities. Advance booking not required.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

We can't wait to welcome you!



ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2026

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday, 27 November 2025
5:30PM- 7:00PM

New **Football Academy** curriculum pathway.

We look forward to meeting you at our Open Evening.
Attendance is open to all and no advance booking is required.



Contact Us
01227 931300

Website Us
<https://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk>



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**** Important: Upcoming Vaccination Dates ****

The Immunisation Team will be visiting our school on **Wednesday, 25/02/2026** and again on **Wednesday, 11/03/2026** for a full-day visit.

The primary focus will be on the Year 8 students. However, students in Years 9, 10 or 11 who have not yet received a dose of the **HPV vaccine** will also be included in the session if they are available.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

For more information visit the [Immunisation service](#) website.

**SIXTH FORM UPDATE****** Sixth Form Study Skills Workshop with Queen Mary University ****

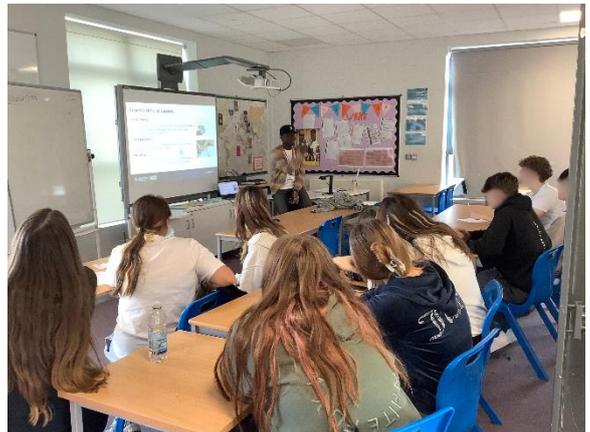
Yesterday, our Year 12 and 13 students participated in a fantastic Sixth Form Study Skills workshop led by Queen Mary University of London, a respected Russell Group institution. The university delivered a highly engaging session on effective study methods. It was interactive, with students working through scenarios and creating supportive plans to manage their time efficiently.

The workshop was truly inspiring; many pupils who previously knew little about university left the session motivated to learn more and consider applying!

Interested in Joining Our Sixth Form?

If you are interested in joining our Sixth Form for September 2026 Admissions, please come along to our upcoming **Open Evening on Thursday, November 27th, 2025, from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM.**

It's the perfect opportunity to learn about our academic options and fantastic university links!

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**** Academy Trial Announced: 2026/2027 Scholarship Intake ****

We are excited to announce the first recruitment trial date for our prestigious 2-year full-time **Football & Education Academy Scholarship** programme (2026/2027 intake).

This is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring athletes to combine elite football training with excellent academic pathways, including **25 A-Level options** at **The Whitstable School** or the **NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport** (based at Whitstable Town FC). Students compete in the highly competitive National League U19 Alliance.



Additional Academy Trial Dates Announced!

We are excited to confirm **two new trial dates** for the Football & Education Academy Scholarship programme, including our first dedicated girls' trial!

Trial	Date	Time	Location	Eligibility
Boys' Trial 1	Monday, October 20, 2025	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Registration at 5:15 PM)	Whitstable Town FC Stadium	15–18-year-olds (Y11, Y12, Y13)
Girls' Trial	Monday, December 22, 2025	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Whitstable Town FC Stadium	15–18-year-olds (Y11, Y12, Y13)
Boys' Trial 2	Monday, December 22, 2025	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Whitstable Town FC Stadium	15–18-year-olds (Y11, Y12, Y13)

To register and secure your place, sign up here: <https://football-futures.com/whitstable-town-football-club-sign-up-online/>



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THIS WEEK SO FAR...

** Book of Commendation- Celebrating Student Success! **

We are pleased to announce the following students have been recognised for their exceptional work and have been added to the Book of Commendation.

Mathematics:

- **Harry, Ashby, Isabelle, Olive, Hennessy (Year 9) and Annabel, Tilly, Katie, Zac and Ivy (Year 7)** for their very well-done work in maths.
- **Lexi (Year 8)** for her exceptional maths work at GCSE level.

Art:

- **Tylor, Grace, Imogen and Alana (Year 8)** for their impressive portrait artwork.

Food technology:

- **Jamie, Maya, Archie, and Liz (Year 11)** For participation in the Future Chef Competition.



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The Institute for
Research in Schools



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**** TRACK Excellence Raffle Winners Announced! ****

Each Wednesday, the school will run a 'TRACK Excellence' raffle for all students. To enter, students must have seven or more positive signatures over the two weeks. Students with negative signatures are still able to participate.

This week's winner is:
Violet (Year 8)

We've teamed up with local businesses for amazing rewards.
This week's prize is vouchers for local café: **Revival**.



**** FutureChef Competition: High-End Talent on Display! ****

Our students demonstrated exceptional culinary talent in the school heat of the **FutureChef competition**, run by Springboard, on Wednesday, October 8th.

The quality of the dishes was truly amazing! Students successfully planned, prepared, and cooked two portions of a main course for under £6.50 in just one hour.

The judges were highly impressed by the wide range of skills, citing everything from beautifully cooked, juicy chicken thighs with crispy skin to brill *en papillote* with salsa verde.

The judges stated they would have been pleased to have been served these dishes at a high-end restaurant!

It was a close contest, with only five marks separating the top and bottom scores.

A huge congratulations to **Maya and Archie (Year 11)**, who are through to the next round!



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**** The Reading Zone: Encouraging Reading at Home ****

Reading is a vital skill your child is developing and we ask for your help to continue encouraging this practice at home.

The school library is open **before and after school, as well as during break and lunchtimes**, for your child to borrow books over the upcoming half-term break.

The Power of Reading

We are keen to see the love of reading developed in primary school continue to thrive here. Did you know that the difference between reading just 1–2 times per week and reading daily is immense?

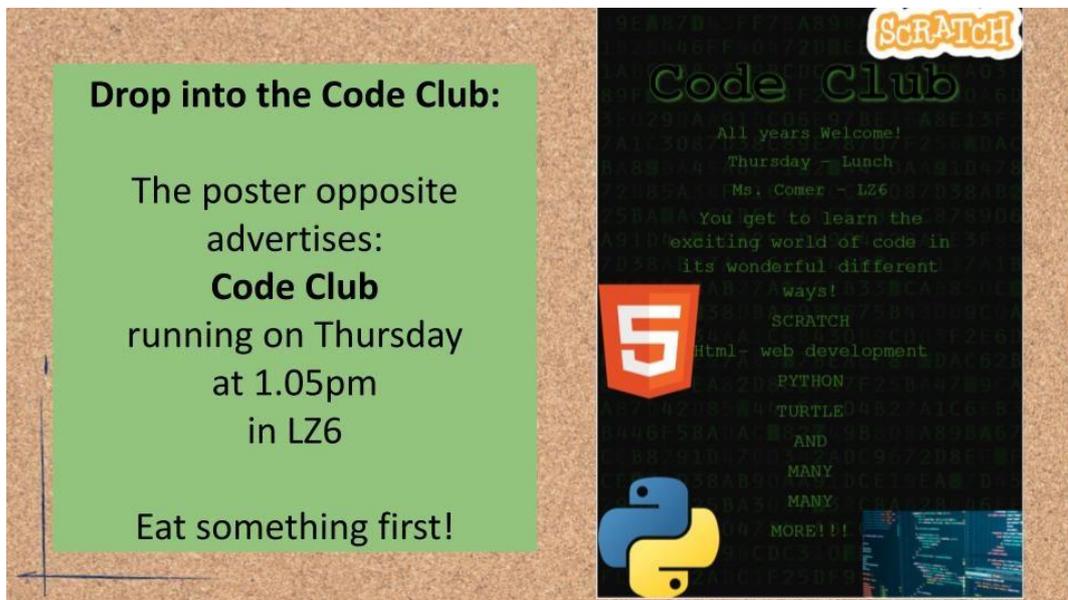
Reading Frequency	Words Known by Age Five
1–2 times per week	63,570 words
Daily	296,660 words

Source: [The Reading Framework](#)

Reading for Wellbeing

Getting lost in a book offers a powerful benefit to mental health, proving to be much better for your wellbeing than "doom scrolling" on a phone ([MHFA England](#)). The joy of reading is a pleasure your child can carry with them throughout their entire life.

NOTICE BOARD



Drop into the Code Club:

The poster opposite advertises:

Code Club

running on Thursday

at 1.05pm

in LZ6

Eat something first!

Code Club

All years Welcome!

Thursday - Lunch

Ms. Comer - LZ6

You get to learn the exciting world of code in its wonderful different ways!

SCRATCH

html- web development

PYTHON

TURTLE

AND

MANY

MANY

MORE!!!



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The Whitstable School

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T: 01227 931300

E: tws_admin@swale.at

www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr A Holmes BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

MODEL FEST  Charity No. 1179982

AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm

18TH-26TH OCTOBER 2025

Planes, Trains & Automobiles
A series of model displays including:

WARHAMMER 40,000 

BOLT ACTION 

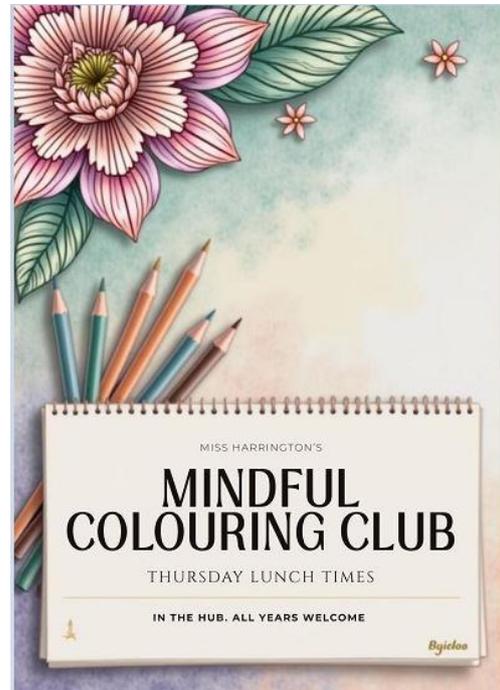
SCALEXTRIC 

& much more!

Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information

@RAF Manston History Museum
if you have any questions, please contact us at info@rafmanston.co.uk

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.



MISS HARRINGTON'S

MINDFUL COLOURING CLUB

THURSDAY LUNCH TIMES

IN THE HUB. ALL YEARS WELCOME

Bigjoe

ONE TO ONE MUSIC LESSONS

AVAILABLE AT



THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

FOR ENQUIRIES EMAIL: tws_musiclessons@swale.at



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HELPFUL SERVICES

-  **Kooth.com**
 Online mental wellbeing community
-  **Hopehub.com**
 Matches you with the closest local service to meet your needs
-  **Revival Cafe**
 Revival is somewhere to go to relax and feel safe and welcome
- Shout**
 text 85258 for 24/7 support for a range of mental health issues.
-  **Headspace App**
 A wellbeing app designed to help you be kind to yourself.

WHY ASK FOR HELP?

Mental health challenges are common, and seeking help is a sign of strength. Our services can assist with...

- Managing stress, anxiety, and depression
- Improving relationships
- Building coping skills
- Enhancing emotional well-being!



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELBEING @TWS

At The Whitstable School we strive to create an environment where everyone's mental health and wellbeing is valued and cared for.

Use this flyer to find information about the services we offer.



WHO CAN I TALK TO?

-  **MR BREWSTER** :
 DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD
-  **MISS MOORE**.
 SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
-  **MR WALKER**
 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELBEING LEAD
- HEAD OF YEAR**
- PERSONAL SUPPORT MANAGER (PSM)**
- READY TO LEARN MENTOR**



SERVICES AT SCHOOL

Early help and preventative services at TWS

-  **Youth Worker**
 Struggling with school? Support for...
 - Attendance
 - Friendships
 - Peer-pressure
-  **Counselling**
 Serious concerns Support for...
 - Trauma
 - Bereavement
 - Self harm
- Emotional wellbeing Team**
 Students at risk.
 - Support for...
 - Anxiety
 - Low Mood
- We are with you**
 - Drugs
 - Alcohol
 - Peer pressure
- Sexual Health Nurse/Salus**
 Questions answered
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Pregnancy
 - Contraception
 - STDS/STIS
 - Safe sex

SUPPORT FOR STAFF @TWS

COUNSELLING employee assistance ADVISE HELPLINE

- ✓ Free & confidential
- ✓ Counselling support
- ✓ Legal & financial advice

Call free 24/7
0800 328 1437

Or go online:
employeeassistance.org.uk

You will need to use your organisation's access code:
SwaleAT

Swale Trust Events

2025 - 2026

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
EcoFest	10 th October	Peacehaven Community School
Post 16 Conference	13 th October	Meopham School
	14 th October	The Sittingbourne School
	15 th October	The North School
SwaleBot	14 th November	The Whitstable School
MicroStem	5 th December	The Whitstable School
ArtFest: Life drawing	14 th January	The Sittingbourne School
	15 th January	The Turing School
Maths Challenge	28 th January	The Holmesdale School
World Book Day	5 th March	
Swalestock	10 th March	Meopham School
Dance Fever	26 th March	The Turing School
Swale eSports	6 th May	The Turing School (or online)
Interhouse Debating	15 th May	The Whitstable School
Swalefeast	16 th June	Peacehaven Community School
Swale SportsFest	23 rd June 2026	Peacehaven Community School
Linguafiesta	26 th June 2026	The Westlands School
ShakesFest	9 th July 2026	Birley Centre



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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as difficult or lazy. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialist help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.10.2025



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REMINDERS

**** Respecting Accessible Parking Spaces ****

We kindly remind all parents and visitors to respect our designated accessible parking spaces. These spaces are reserved for individuals with disabilities who require close proximity to the school entrance.

Please remember:

- **Not all disabilities are visible:** Please remember that many individuals with disabilities may not show outward signs.
- **Permits must be displayed:** If you have a valid permit, please ensure it is clearly visible in your vehicle's windscreen. Some individuals may have valid permits that are not always displayed.
- **Cooperation is key:** We rely on everyone's cooperation to ensure these spaces are available for those who need them.

We understand that parking can be challenging, but we ask that you be considerate of others and refrain from parking in accessible spaces unless you have a valid permit.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in making our school accessible for everyone.

**** Engines Off ****

To help reduce air pollution, noise levels, and respect our neighbour's, please remember to turn off your engine while waiting to drop off or pick up your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

For more updates and events, please visit our website and follow us on X and Facebook.

<https://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheWhitstableSchool>

<https://x.com/TheWhitSchool>

Best Wishes

The Whitstable School Team



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