

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Mr Rumball's Christmas Message



As we come to the end of this school term, I am pleased to share all of the amazing achievements and goings on of the children and staff here at ISP School Whitstable.

It was a wonderful start to the school year, with new book bags, an updated school menu, renewed energy across the board and we were especially pleased to welcome new pupils and staff to our school community. Every individual at our school brings something special to us which makes the atmosphere here at school inclusive and caring.

Across this term, children have worked particularly hard, and they should all feel very proud of everything they have achieved. I have been pleased to hear children engaging in thoughtful discussions, proud to see children producing creative, high-quality work across the curriculum, and have been witness to the enthusiasm that has been evident each day.

For me, a standout moment this term was the children's involvement in the Kent and Medway Baton of Hope initiative, which you can read more about later in this newsletter. The attitudes that children approached this with showed remarkable maturity and empathy. Their reflections and contributions were truly inspiring. Seeing the children's pride as they placed their artwork along the shoreline was a memorable moment for all involved, and a lovely way to share something meaningful with the wider community.

The past few weeks and the run up to Christmas have been busy, festive and filled with glitter! I have had the great pleasure of seeing the magic of Christmas surround the children as they have made wonderful wreaths and decorations, learnt carols and shared festive moments. I hope that the joy of Christmas fills your homes over the break.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all parents and carers for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and happy holiday and I look forward to welcoming children and staff back in January for an exciting new term.

School Council News

We have an active and effective school council which consists of 6 pupils from across the school. Each term the children meet to discuss an area for development.

Scrumptious School Lunches!

At their first school council meeting of the year, children met with Mrs Rumball, our new lunch manager, to discuss healthy eating and school meals. Children shared ideas on how they felt we could improve our school lunches.



Thoughtful and realistic suggestions on healthy food were made by the children and so it was possible for Mrs Rumball to action their requests and revamp our school lunch menu.

Alongside the usual sandwiches, we now offer children wraps with a greater range of fillings, pasta, pizza, plus additional fruit and vegetables, including peppers, tomatoes and carrot sticks. The 'try something new' option on the menu has given the children a chance to sample pomegranate, watermelon and green 'hulk' pasta – mac and cheese with hidden spinach. These additions have been very popular, and it has been rewarding to see children have the confidence to try foods they may not usually eat.

Baton of Hope

At the beginning of September, the whole school took part in a creative community project to promote positive mental health and kindness in support of the charity, Kent and Medway Baton of Hope. Children painted colourful stones with uplifting words and designs with the intention of sharing these quiet messages of support along our local beach. Each stone carried a personal message of encouragement and positivity.



The stones were then placed along Whitstable's beaches for people to find, keep, or pass on, helping to spread the message of hope and remind others that support is always available.

This heartwarming project encouraged pupils to reflect on empathy, wellbeing, and the power of small acts of kindness. The project was one we were glad to be part of, showing how creativity and compassion can bring people together.

Congratulations!

Earlier this term Miss Blake and her family welcomed a beautiful baby girl! Both children and staff were overjoyed to hear of the arrival of baby Bodhi-Mai in late November. We were all very pleased to meet her, when Miss Blake recently visited the school. We wish Miss Blake and her family every happiness with their new arrival.



Neptune Class News

Why did Santa go to music
school?

To improve his wrapping skills!

A big welcome to all our new children in Neptune Class.



This term, Neptune Class have been busy exploring a wide range of exciting topics. We began with the Stone Age and discovered how early humans survived, where they lived, what they wore, and how they created tools. The children made their own Stone Age jewellery using salt dough and experimented with recreating cave paintings.

In Maths, we have partitioned, added and subtracted numbers up to 10,000. We explored mixed numbers by recognising whole and fractional parts and placing them accurately on a number line. The children also practised their multiplication using arrays, grouping and sharing to find multiples of 2, 5, 10 and 3, and we have been learning to identify different types of triangles and quadrilaterals.



In Science, we have investigated friction and magnets, testing how a toy car moved on different surfaces to find out which created the least friction. This half-term, our focus has shifted to the human body and how to care for our teeth. We carried out an investigation using eggs placed in orange juice, water, cola and milk to see how sugary drinks can affect tooth enamel. The class predicted that orange juice would have the biggest effect... and they were right!

In English, we have enjoyed reading the poetry of Michael Rosen, exploring rhyming words and writing poems of our own. We also learned how to write clear instructions using bossy verbs and followed a set of instructions to bake gingerbread cookies.



Next term, we are looking forward to learning alternative versions of traditional stories, telling the time, learning all about mountains and light. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with great fun and learning.

Welcome Ms Pugh and Miss Tritton

Neptune class has been joined by two brilliant new members of staff. Whilst Miss Blake is on maternity leave, Miss Tritton will be covering as class Progress Engagement Guide. She brings to the class lots of experience of working with young children in various environments. Arts and crafts are a talent of Miss Tritton, and the children have received a special arty Christmas present from her this year.

Ms Pugh will be working as a 1:1 Progress Engagement Guide, she is highly experienced in working with children with a range of additional needs. Her fabulous and joyful personality has brought fun and laughter to the classroom. She has a special ability to raise a smile from all the children even at more challenging moments. Both Ms Pugh and Miss Tritton are welcome additions to the Neptune Class team.

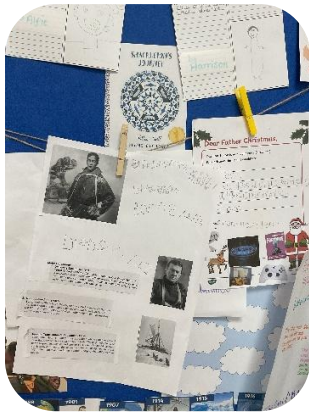


Atlantis Class News

What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet!

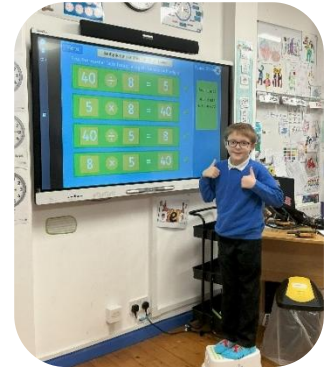
Atlantis Class have had a great start to the year!



This term, in our Topic lessons, we have learnt about the Stone Age. Children enjoyed making Stonehenge from biscuits - I think they enjoyed eating the biscuits too! We also looked at the Great Fire of London and how firefighting equipment has changed over the last 400 years. More recently, we have traced Ernest Shackleton's journey to Antarctica on the Endurance and thought about how it would feel if we were travelling for nearly 3 years to somewhere freezing cold!

In Maths, we have worked on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills; children created pictures with shapes, including Christmas decorations.

Maths lessons have been a lot of fun! In Science, we've learnt how our bodies change as we grow, and looked at how different forces act on objects - we tested the effect of friction by racing toy cars down the corridor and through the classroom to see what effect the floor had on their distance. We made paper parachutes and dropped them from the fire escape stairs to see how air resistance slows falling objects.



In addition to all this amazing learning, we have made new friendships, played about fifty thousand games of snakes and ladders, laughed lots and bonded as a class.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Bangar who is working in Atlantis class this term.

Next term, we're going to be looking at fantasy stories and African folk tales in English. Mountains and Mayans in Topic, light and evolution in Science and revisiting fractions, multiplication and division and looking at measurements in Maths. There will be lots of learning and lots of fun!

Swimming Super Stars!

Our Friday swimming sessions are a highlight of the week for children across all year groups. The lessons are led by qualified instructors at Whitstable Pools with a focus on water safety and developing strong swimming techniques.

The lessons are great fun and staff have been impressed by the progress children have made since the start of term. The growth in both confidence and independence in the children has been a notable joy to watch.

At the end of this term each child received a certificate in recognition of their swimming achievements. We are especially pleased to congratulate the children who achieved their Level 2 and 3 badges. What an outstanding achievement. Well done to you all!



Poseidon Class News



What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Ice Crispies!

Wow, what a busy few months Poseidon Class have had!



It has been an excellent start to the new school year, and all the children have settled beautifully into Poseidon Class. We would also like to welcome Miss Afrifah who is working as a 1:1 Progress Engagement Guide in our class.

This term we have enjoyed a wide range of fun and engaging learning activities across our topics, from creating cave paintings and building our own Stonehenge out of biscuits to crafting clay pots!

During our cultural days children have focused on Mexico and Finland. We enjoyed learning about both locations with a wealth of interesting facts, tasty food to try and new music to listen to.



In English, the children have explored characters' emotional and physical traits through adventure stories. In Maths, we have focused on place value and even used our Christmas wish lists to practise addition—great fun all round!

We also celebrated Odd Socks Day to embrace diversity during Anti-Bullying Week, took part in Children in Need and a festive baking session – which was yummy!

Next term, we are excited about the wonderful learning opportunities coming up in the new year. In English, we will explore fantasy fiction and persuasive writing. In Maths, we will focus on measurement, time, and multiplication. In Science, we will be investigating light, and in Topic we will explore Earth matters such as mountains and climate change.

Remembrance Day 2025

On the 11th of November, the children at ISP School Whitstable took part in a Remembrance Day with Wreath-Laying Ceremony.

Children respectfully paid tribute to local heroes this by creating poppy wreaths and placing them on the town's war memorial. The touching ceremony, led by Mrs Forman, encouraged pupils to reflect on the bravery and sacrifices made by those who served in past conflicts. Children in Poseidon class also wrote thoughtful poems.



All of the children worked hard to design their own wreaths using poppies, messages of gratitude, and symbols of peace. The children then gathered at the Whitstable memorial, where they observed a respectful silence before laying their creations.

All the staff at the event commented on how respectful the children were and that they were able to connect personally with the meaning of remembrance and understand the importance of honouring those who gave so much.

Our Festive Celebrations

*We wish you a restful Christmas
and a happy New Year!*

Santa Claus has been to ISP School Whitstable!

Christmas festivities at ISP School Whitstable brought warmth, creativity and joy to the end of term, with a range of activities that helped pupils celebrate the season together.



The celebrations began with wreath making as part of Land Based Studies. Pupils enjoyed working outdoors, using natural materials to create their own festive wreaths. This hands-on activity encouraged creativity, teamwork and practical skills, while also helping pupils connect with the natural environment. The finished wreaths added a lovely seasonal touch to the school.

Music played an important role in the festivities, particularly during singing sessions where pupils learned “Jingle Bells” alongside sign language. This inclusive approach allowed everyone to take part, supporting communication and confidence while making the performance engaging and fun. The pupils were proud to sign and sing together, creating a joyful atmosphere.

A highlight for many was the Christmas lunch held at a local restaurant which we had all to ourselves! This special outing gave pupils the opportunity to enjoy a delicious festive meal in calm surroundings, while practising social skills in a real-life setting. The children and staff loved choosing from the Christmas menu and sharing the experience together.



Christmas Jumper Day added extra excitement, with pupils and staff wearing colourful and creative festive jumpers. Laughter and compliments filled the school as everyone admired the wide variety of designs.

The celebrations concluded with a Christmas party, complete with music, games and festive treats. The surprise visit from Santa was a magical moment, bringing huge smiles and excitement to the children. Overall, the festive season at ISP School Whitstable created wonderful memories and a strong sense of togetherness.



Term Dates

Term 3 – Tuesday 6th January 2026 to Friday 13th February 2026

Term 4 - Monday 23rd February 2026 to Thursday 2nd April 2026 @ 12 noon finish



CONTACT US

T: 01227 771172

E: whitstable@ispschools.org.uk