

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

'On a voyage of discovery: flourishing together in God's love'



Weekly Newsletter Monday 27th March 2023



In what seems no time at all, we have reached the final week of Term 4. I am always immensely proud to share our school with visitors. In the past two weeks, we have enjoyed sharing our school with several different visitors. They all commented on the great levels of engagement children displayed within their classes and were impressed with the ambitious resources and content children were using to support their learning.

Our children impressed yet again at our Rocksteady Music Concert on Friday. It was wonderful to see many of our children coming together to perform as bands; showcasing the skills they had persevered in practicing over the past two terms. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us to celebrate: it really was a great way to end our week.

It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm for our extra-curricular clubs offer. We look forward to seeing the children flourishing in these new avenues of opportunity and hope to continue to add to this provision across the coming months and terms. There are still a few spaces available in the Gardening club and Sports club, so please get in touch, or complete the booking via School Cloud if you would like to reserve a space for your child.

We look forward to celebrating the success of our children with you all at our parent consultations this week. As you can see from our weekly newsletters, it has been a busy time at school, and there is lots to look forward to in Term 5.

Thank you all for your continued support this term, I wish you all a safe and joyful Easter break with your families.

Attendance

Whole school: 94.3%

Target: 95%

Year Group	Attendance %
EYFS	93.7%
Yr 1	92.5%
Yr 2	95.3%
Yr 3	94.8%
Yr 4	94.7%
Yr 5	94.2%
Yr 6	94.3%



'We are not built to be alone'

Last week in worship we took inspiration from the Garden of Gethsemane to explore the idea of what to do when we feel stressed or alone.



Using the story of Jesus speaking to God when he was at his lowest and most anxious point, each of us placed stones in our prayer space. These stones represented any worries or stresses we may have been feeling, and by placing them with the cross we invited God to support us with these and to show that no matter how we might feel, we are never alone.

This week we continue to with our discussions around Holy Week: focussing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Respect

Kindness

Self-Worth/Perseverance

Forgiveness

Love



Online Harms Workshop

On the 20th April 2023, our Year 5 and 6 children will be taking part in an 'Online Harms' workshop facilitated by Kent Police. The aim of the workshop is to support young people, aged 9 to 14 years, in having a healthy online life, whilst avoiding potential threats and dangers.

Our children will initially take part in an interactive assembly. Following this, Year 6 children will take part in a challenge to produce a short podcast, which highlights the key messages they have acquired in their sessions. These will be entered in a competition with other schools and may be used to inform other young people about the important issues discussed in the workshop.

If you have any further questions or would like to know more about supporting our young people with using online platforms, please contact Mr. Hawkins via the school office, or class dojo.



A reminder that the last day of Term 4 is **Friday 31st March**.

We then return for Term 5, after the Easter break, on **Monday 17th April**

Pick up and drop off parking

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who are making a conscious effort not to park on our yellow zig zags outside the school gates. This is helping to ensure our children can arrive and leave school safely. Thank you

We have received a number of messages from local residents over the past two weeks who have been unable to leave their homes as they have cars blocking their driveways during collection and drop off times.

Please can we ask parents to ensure they are not blocking driveways at this time. If you are struggling to find a parking space, we are able to use the facilities at the rear of the village hall.

Thank you

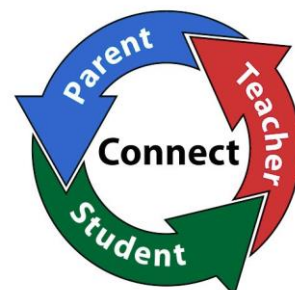


Parent Consultation Evenings

A reminder that our parent consultation evenings will take place on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March.

Thank you to those who have booked an appointment via school cloud.

We look forward to seeing you there.





Dear Parents and Carers



We have certainly crammed a lot in to this term, cakes sales, quizzing, a shopping event plus the two events to come this week. The weather isn't looking too good for the Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday but hopefully we will be able to use the hall if it's raining. Thankfully the weather won't be an issue for the Bags2School collection on Friday 31st March as we are collecting in the Clubroom at the Village Hall between 08.00-09.00. For information on what you can and cannot donate please see the flyer that was sent home last week or visit: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

We have now sold 59 tickets to the Dinner Dance in October which is a great start and leaves just 41 spaces left so if you are thinking about coming don't think too long as the tickets might all be gone.

Coming up after the Easter break the WSA are having stalls at both the Lambing Day at Hope Farm on 23rd April and then the Coronation Event on the Sports Field on 7th May. There will be a Non-Uniform Day on 21st April where children can come in their own clothes in return for a donation of a sweets, chocolate, wine etc for the games at the two events. Look out for more information after the Easter holiday.

Don't forget to save your plastic milk bottle tops as we need a lot for one of the games at the Coronation Fayre. You can either leave them in the office or give them to me if you see me at school.

On Friday 5th May the WSA will also be running a Coronation Tea Party for the children. If it is half as much fun as the one for the Platinum Jubilee, then it will be a great success! You never know, the King might join us if we are lucky, but even if he can't make it there will be a small gift for all the children from the WSA.

Together we can make a difference so please do get in touch with me if you have any questions or suggestions or are able to help at an event! annchairwsa@gmail.com

Ann (WSA Chair).

Top Performers!

We are incredibly proud of the ways in which children are engaging with some of our remote and online platforms.

The following children received certificates on Friday as they are the most improved over the last 7 days! Well done to all our winners. I wonder who will be at the top of the leader board next week?

MathShed



Spelling Shed

1st Delaney

1st Poppy

1st Aiya

2nd Luke

2nd Eddie

2nd Edward

3rd Freddie W

3rd Nikolas

3rd Dominic

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Rocksteady Music Concert

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our RockSteady concert on Friday afternoon. It was an event filled with joy and proud smiles from everyone in our school community.

Each band played and/or sang brilliantly; it was clear the amount hard work each of them put into rehearsals.

We must also thank Donald for all of the support, patience and guidance he showed our children during the sessions.

There are still some slots available in some of the bands. If this is something you are interested in, please use the following link to explore the available spaces or instruments.

[Rocksteady Band Slots Link..](#)



Dinosaur Dome Workshops!



On Monday 24th April we will be visited by Science Dome UK, who will provide all our children with an engaging Dinosaur Dome Workshop! Children will all have the chance to examine bones from a range of different dinosaurs before moving inside the dome for a 360-degree interactive experience of the Jurassic period.

This is all funded through your generous donations to our class cake sales, in addition to a £100 donation from Jempsons Superstore. Thank you all for your contributions in providing us with what promises to be an exciting and inspiring day for our children.

School Shoes

Over the past two weeks, we have noted several children coming to school wearing incorrect footwear.

Please can we remind parents that children should be wearing black school shoes: boots, trainers or shoes with logos are not appropriate. If you are unsure, please retain your receipt and ask the school.

If you are having any issues with ensuring your child comes to school in appropriate footwear, please let us know.



Thank you

Kent Fire and Rescue Safety Talk



On Thursday 27th April we will be joined by Kent Fire and Rescue Service who will deliver a talk to each class, explaining to them how to react and stay safe during a fire and how they can support parents at home with managing fire risk hazards.

Forest School Sessions

Friday 24th March

This week's sessions are for Windmills and Smugglers (Year 1).

Please ensure children are dressed appropriately and have their wellington boots in school.



Kent & Medway 100 km ride for Wittersham School Association



We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive parental community here at Wittersham.

On the 2nd of April 2023, Jacopo Pavesi is taking part in the Kent and Medway 100km bike ride in support of the WSA school environment fund.

Thank you to those who have already sponsored Jacopo so far, we are incredibly grateful for this. If you would like to support him with this, please follow this link to his just giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jacopo-pavesi>

Thank you for your support.

Online Safety: Parental Controls



Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content online, such as pornography or other adult content.

These controls can be used in a number of ways, e.g. to help ensure that your children access only age-appropriate content, to set usage times and to monitor activity.

Where can I find them?

There are four main places you can find parental controls, and it can help to set up a combination of these:

Internet provider: You can set up filters to help block access to inappropriate content on any device that connects to your home WiFi.

Mobile operator: Filters are often automatically set up on mobile contracts, especially if the user is under the age of 18, but you can double-check with your provider.

Devices: Many devices have parental control settings, for example, to help restrict spending in apps, reduce screentime, or disable location functions.

Online Services: Sites like BBC iPlayer and YouTube have parental control settings to help restrict access to inappropriate content.

Further support and advice with implementing parental controls can be found here:

[Parental controls support link](#)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask Mr. Hawkins on the gate, via dojo or through the school office.

Wittersham School Association
Glitz and Glamour

DINNER DANCE



SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

AT LONDON BEACH RESORT

3 COURSE MEAL

LIVE DJ

£45 per ticket

Scan the QR code to book your place



★
Arrival: 7pm
Meal 7:30pm
Carriages 11:45pm

Raffle and games on the night (cash only)

★
For more information:
annchairwsa@gmail.com

★
Wittersham School Association Registered
Charity No. 1059824

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Easter Egg Picture Hunt

Friday 7th to
Monday 10th April

I'm Horace!

Find me in 10 windows around
Tenterden to win one of the following
prizes!

1st Prize KESR Family Ticket
for 4 & Mega Easter Egg
2nd and 3rd Mega Easter Eggs
and 5 Runner Up Prizes

£1 per entry leaflet with clues from
2n6, EC30, WUD or
This Ancient Boro

Closing date 12th April.

Enjoy this wonderful Picture Hunt!

All proceeds for
The Big Wrap



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 27th March	First Gardening Club Session
Wednesday 29th March	WSA Easter Hunt
Wednesday 29th March	Parent Consultation Evening 1
Thursday 30th March	Parent Consultation Evening 2
Friday 31st March	Windmills and Smugglers (Year 1 only) Forest School Sessions
Friday 31st March	WSA Bags to School Collection
Friday 31st March	End of Term 4
Monday 17th April	Start of Term 5
Thursday 20th April	Year 5/6 Online Harms Workshop
Monday 24th April	Dinosaur Dome workshops for all classes
Thursday 27th April	Kent Fire and Rescue Safety talks for all classes
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday (Coronation)
Monday 22nd –Thursday 25th May	Year 5/6 Residential Trip
Friday 26th May	Last Day of Term 5



Further WSA Events for your diaries!

Saturday 15th July	WSA Summer Fayre
Saturday 7th October	WSA Charity Dinner Dance

A huge thank you to John Simmons and Jez Paxman who have donated a whopping £1,366.38 to our School Environment Enrichment fund. On the 11th of March, John and Jez undertook a gruelling sponsored kayak around the 25km loop of the Isle of Oxney. The money raised will go directly towards supporting the refurbishments of the swimming pool. I know you will all join me in thanking them for their generosity and those who sponsored them too. Thank you.



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