

# Wittersham Church of England Primary School

*'On a voyage of discovery: learning and growing together in the light of God'*

## Weekly Newsletter Friday 15th September 2023



Week two has flown past! This week saw our forest schools' sessions begin. It was fantastic to see our children out in the wild-life area, using band saws to create new areas for wildlife to flourish, looking for signs of toads and newts whilst also creating campfires and using the flames to cook s'mores.

Elsewhere this week, I have seen some fabulous phonics in Windmills and Oast, Vikings have been excellent geographers: discovering how mountains are formed, Smugglers have been applying their knowledge of place value to partition numbers. Further up the school, Oxney began comparing types of sculptures and investigated how to create 3D shapes using 2D shapes whilst many children in Rother have been working hard on their pupil leadership speeches.

This afternoon we were fortunate enough to hear manifestos from 10 children in Rother hoping to be elected as our new Headboy and Headgirl this year. All impressed with their passion for our school and impact they hoped to have in the role. Following the speeches each child voted for their two chosen candidates. After a competitive round of voting, Brody and Sophie were elected. Congratulations to them both and all involved. I look forward to seeing our pupil leadership structure completed next week, with our House Captain and School Council elections.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming parents to our phonics workshops and seeing our children flourish beyond the curriculum as our school led clubs begin.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

### This week in worship...

This week in worship we are exploring the thought of growing together in a growing world. This will support us as we build towards our Harvest Worship on Monday 25th.



*I wonder what 'seeds' you will plant today. I wonder if you will sow generously*

### A prayer for Harvest

*Creator God, thank you for the food that grows all around the world which we eat from our tables at school and at home. Help us to be thankful for those who produce, harvest and transport our food. May we never forget to use the world's resources wisely and for the good of everybody.  
AMEN.*

Whole School: **96.9%**

### Attendance

Whole School Target: **96%**

Class	Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
Attendance	96.7%	96.3%	98%	96.5%	96.3%	97.5%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

## Harvest Worship

We would like to invite our families to join us for our annual Harvest Worship on Monday 25th September.

Our service will be led by our children and held in St John the Baptist church at 2:30pm.

Please note the change in time to accommodate children who wish to attend the Homewood Open Day.

We hope to see you there.



## Harvest Food Donations



This year, as part of our Harvest celebrations, we would like to create a local community foodbank for all to access.

To help with this, we are asking for any donations of any longer lasting items such as tinned/canned foods, dry pasta and rice, coffee, tea or spreads.

There will be a point to drop any contributions at the school gate at drop off and pick up from next week (week beginning 11th September).

Thank you for your continued support.

## Friday Forest School



Forest school sessions this week are for:

**Friday 22nd September:**  
Oast and Oxney

Children will be outside in all weathers, so please make sure they come to school dressed appropriately for the session (in clothes they are prepared to get muddy in). Children should also bring a change of footwear for the sessions, particularly when it is muddy underfoot.



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## Mental Health Awareness Day

On the 11th October, we will be celebrating world mental health awareness day in school.

As part of the day we are welcoming back Chef Darren from Roots To Food, who will instruct children how to prepare and cook a mentally nutritious meal, as well as Mentally Healthy Schools who will perform a short show and workshop for each of our classes designed to support children in gaining further understanding of their own mental health.



## Our Buddy Bench: Compassion in action!

It has been great to see children already applying our Wittersham Way across school.

This has been particularly evident with our buddy bench, which has had a bit of a makeover!

It has been great to see children using this at break and lunchtimes to support them in finding others to play with.



## Bookwaggon Book Fair

It has been great to see so many children fully embodying our Wittersham 'love of Reading' since we have returned. I always enjoy hearing children discuss the different books they have read in the corridors and at lunchtimes.

On Wednesday 27th September, we will welcome Bookwaggon book fair to our school.

During the day, Bookwaggon will lead a workshop with children, exploring a range of new and exciting texts, each hand picked for specific age groups. Children will have the chance to explore them further and ask questions about the characters, genre and plot lines.

Following this, Bookwaggon will provide the opportunity for parents to explore and purchase books with children afterschool. This will be held in the hall until 4pm.

Books are sold at a reduced rate and the school receive a small commission of each sale, which we can put towards to further enhancing our reading offer for children in school.



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# WSA Update

Dear Parents and Carers



The first fundraiser of the year will soon be upon us. We do still have tickets available for the Dinner Dance on 7th October but these need to be ordered and paid for by Thursday 21st September. Please get in touch ASAP if you want to join us.

The Christmas Fayre is likely to be towards the end of November. If you would be able to help at this event, even for a couple of hours on the day or at set up the afternoon before, then please let us know. The more hands the merrier. It will be a mix of traditional games and stalls along with a raffle and hopefully the return of Bailey's Hot Chocolate a popular new edition from last year!

An easy way to raise funds for the WSA is by signing up to Easy Fundraising – raise money while you shop without costing you any more than what you are buying <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> Big donations are available when buying things like insurance or holidays but a regular online shop from Asda also raises a small amount with each shop. So far the WSA has raised £157.93

Look out soon for the dates of our popular Cake Sales and the Christmas Card order form!

You can also keep up to date with WSA activities via our Facebook page – Wittersham School Association News so please do like our page for all the news.

If you are new to Wittersham School and want to know more about what volunteering might involve before committing to anything just drop me an email [annchairwsa@gmail.com](mailto:annchairwsa@gmail.com)

Ann (Chair WSA)

## Join us for coffee and cake: 9:30 in the school hall

Following our parents phonics workshop on Thursday 21st September, the WSA will be holding a coffee morning for parents to find out more about the work of the committee and how we can all help to contribute towards the great work they do for our children and community.

This would be a great opportunity for many of our new families to meet others and share experiences.

With many of our members coming towards the end of their tenure at the school, we are keen to invite others to learn more about our objectives for the year and the positions required to ensure the WSA continues to provide children with a range of memorable experiences and opportunities.



We look forward to seeing you there.

Mr Hawkins



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Week beginning 18th September	School led clubs begin
Wednesday 20th September	Phonics workshop for parents at 2:30pm
Thursday 21st September	Phonics workshop for parents at 9am
Friday 22nd September	Forest School for Oast and Oxney
Wednesday 27th September	Bookwaggon Travelling Book Fair in School
Friday 29th September	Forest School for Windmills, Rother and Smugglers
Monday 25th September	Harvest Service in church at 9am
Wednesday 11th October	Mental Health Awareness Day in School
Friday 13th October	Break the Rules Day!
Friday 20th October	End of Term 1
Monday 30th October	Start of Term 2

### Further WSA Events for your diaries!

Saturday 7th October 7pm	WSA Charity Dinner Dance
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## Phonics Workshop for Parents

At any age, reading is a crucial skill. Learning this, starts for our children with phonics teaching. To strengthen the partnership between home and the classroom, we are holding a phonics workshops for parents.

These will be held on Wednesday 20th September at 2:30 -3pm and again on Thursday 21st September at 9-9:30am.

Attending these sessions will give parents a greater insight to how children are taught to read at Wittersham and enable you to share these strategies when supporting children to read at home.

If you can join us, we would love to see you there.



# Wittersham Way



## COURAGE:



WE TRY OUR BEST AND  
NEVER GIVE UP

## COURAGE:

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE  
CITIZENS



## COMPASSION:

WE SHOW LOVE FOR OUR SCHOOL  
AND ALL THOSE IN IT



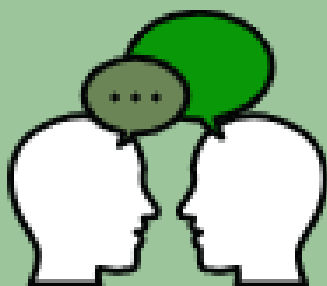
## COMPASSION:

WE RESPECT OURSELVES  
AND OTHERS



## COOPERATION:

WE TAKE TIME TO  
LISTEN TO OTHERS



## COOPERATION:

WE SUPPORT EACH  
OTHER ON OUR  
JOURNEY



*On a voyage of discovery; learning and  
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