

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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

Weekly Newsletter Friday 3rd November 2023



As we step into Term 2, I wanted to extend a warm welcome back to all of you and express how wonderful it is to see our children returning with such enthusiasm and energy. They have certainly made a fantastic start to this term; it's been great to witness so much purposeful and enjoyable learning happening across the school.

While the first few days of the week brought us some rather windy weather, our students have shown the resilience and courage we've come to expect from them. It's a true testament to their character and adaptability.

This term, we continue to embrace our new values of compassion, courage, and cooperation, which we introduced at the beginning of the academic year. Our students are demonstrating these values in various ways, including through our 'Wittersham Way', and it's a joy to see them making a positive impact in their school community.

Speaking of community, it was great to see so many parents at our SEND coffee morning this week. These gatherings are vital for parents to connect and share experiences, and it's wonderful to see the support and camaraderie that has developed among our parents.

Additionally, we recently held consultation evenings, and your presence and participation were invaluable. Please remember that our doors are always open, and we are here to listen and communicate. Should you have any further questions or queries about how to support the development of your children, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your involvement in your child's education is a crucial part of their success, and we are here to provide any guidance or assistance you may need.

As we venture further into Term 2, let's continue working together to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. With your support and our shared commitment to their growth, there's no doubt that they will continue to flourish.

Thank you for being a part of our school community, and here's to a successful and enriching Term 2!

Have a good weekend.

Whole School: **96.2%**

Attendance

Whole School Target: **96%**

Class	Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
Attendance	98.2%	98.4%	95.4%	98%	96.8%	97.7%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

This week in Worship:

In this week's worship sessions, we explored how individuals like Florence Nightingale, Dr. Thomas Barnardo, William and Catherine Booth, and Robert Raikes made extraordinary contributions by living out their beliefs.

We reflected on their compassion, courage, and cooperation, linking their actions to our school values. We discussed their significance in transforming healthcare, social support, and education systems, guided by the words of Proverbs 31:9: **"Speak up, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."**

We encouraged students to think about the changes they can make and celebrated those who have made our school a better place.

We invite you to continue these conversations at home, inspiring your children to follow these exemplary examples.

No Sweets in Lunchboxes



In line with our commitment to promoting a healthy and balanced diet, we kindly request that you continue to avoid including sweets or sugary treats in your child's lunch box. While an occasional treat is perfectly fine, frequent consumption of sweets can have a negative impact on their health and focus.

We genuinely appreciate your support in creating a school environment that fosters healthy habits and learning. Nutrient-rich options such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins are fantastic choices to provide your child with the energy they need throughout the day.

If you have any questions or need assistance in preparing nutritious lunches for your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our school staff. We're here to help you make delicious and healthy choices for your child's lunch.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation in ensuring the best possible learning experience for your child.

Learn Together Sessions

We are looking forward to the upcoming Learn Together Sessions, a fantastic opportunity to join us in the classroom and experience the exciting world of your child's education. Here are the dates for your diaries:

- **Monday, November 6th:** Oast Class
- **Tuesday, November 7th:** Oxney Class
- **Wednesday, November 8th:** Smugglers Class
- **Thursday, November 9th:** Rother and Windmills Classes
- **Friday, November 10th:** Vikings Class

These sessions are a chance for you to witness the magic of learning in action and share in your child's school experience. Our sessions will run from 9 am to approximately 10 am, giving you a glimpse into the way in which we teaching the skills of reading across the school.

For the safety and security of our students, we kindly ask that only those who have registered attend these sessions. This is an essential measure to ensure that all safeguarding procedures are followed.

We're looking forward to these sessions and can't wait to have you join us. It's going to be a fun and enlightening week of learning, and we hope to see you there!



Please continue to spread
the word!

WITTERSHAM CEP SCHOOL

On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.

OPEN DAYS

IS YOUR CHILD DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024?

If you are looking for a wonderful school for your children to learn and grow, Wittersham could be the school for you! We warmly invite parents/carers to take a guided tour of our school. Dates are available during October, November and December.

Please call us on 01797 270329 to book your appointment.
We look forward to meeting you and your child.



📞 01797 270329

✉ office@wittersham.kent.sch.uk

🌐 www.wittersham.kent.sch.uk

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Forest School

Please see below dates for Forest School this term.

Friday 3rd November	Windmills and Vikings
Friday 10th November	Oast and Oxney
Friday 17th November	Windmills, Smugglers and Rother

As always, please ensure children come to school dressed in appropriate forest school clothing and bring a change of shoes. Children will be outside in all but extreme weathers.



Term time holidays

So far this academic year we have been really impressed with the attendance of our children. Current statistics show we are above the national average and figures at the same point last year.

We are keen to continue this trend throughout the remainder of the academic year. We've noticed an increase in families requesting term time holidays this year, as you are aware we are unable to authorise the vast majority of these.

Whilst we understand that having a family holiday is an important and memorable experience, the Department for Education are clear that **absences can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances (family holidays do not count as an exceptional circumstance).**

As a school, we are duty bound to inform the Local Authority of unauthorised absences, who may then issue a penalty notice to families.

Our Attendance policy can be found on the school website and as always, we are happy to discuss these matters with you should they arise.

A poster for a football match. At the top, it says "FREE FOOTBALL TICKETS" in large white letters on a red background. Below this, it shows the Charlton Athletic Women logo (a red circle with a white 'C' and a black 'A') and the Sunderland Women logo (a red shield with a white 'S' and a black 'W'). Between the logos is a large white 'VS'. To the right of the logos is a photo of a smiling woman in a red Charlton Athletic jersey. Below the logos, it says "SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH", "KICK-OFF 12PM", "AT THE OAKWOOD (VCD ATHLETIC STADIUM) DA1 4DN", and "GATES OPEN 10.30AM". At the bottom left, there are two icons: a family icon with the text "FAMILY FRIENDLY" and a checkmark, and a food and drink icon with the text "FOOD & DRINK" and a checkmark. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and the text "SCAN HERE FOR YOUR FREE TICKETS".

Free Football Tickets

Charlton Athletic would like to invite children and parents to The Oakwood Stadium for their next home match against Sunderland Women on Sunday, November 19th (KO 12pm)!

Parents can have up to 16 tickets for free per scan of the QR code.

All you need to do is:
Scan the QR code
Fill in your details and select how many tickets you need.

Then, on matchday, tickets can be collected from 10am at the stadium turnstile.

We hope you enjoy!

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Whole school pantomime trip!



As the end of Term 1 draws near, we have some exciting news to share with you about an event at the end of Term 2!

In the spirit of celebration and to mark the close of next term, we have organised a wonderful outing for our entire school.

On the last day of term, Friday, 15th

December, we will be taking all our students to enjoy a fantastic pantomime performance of Cinderella at the White Rock Theatre. This promises to be a day filled with laughter, joy, and the magic of the season!

Further information can be found in the letter shared on class dojo.

ARE YOU IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY AND STRUGGLING TO FEED YOUR CHILDREN?

IF YOUR CHILDREN ATTEND PRIMARY SCHOOLS OR NURSERIES IN TENTERDEN, ST MICHAELS, ROLVENDEN, BIDDENDEN, HIGH HALDEN, BETHERSDEN, WOODCHURCH OR WITTERSHAM, THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE LARDER IS HERE TO HELP

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE A SMALL SELECTION OF BASIC GROCERIES, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

THIS INCLUDES CHILDREN WHO DO NOT RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR WHOSE FAMILIES DO NOT RECEIVE STATE BENEFITS.

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE LARDER

OPEN AT EC30, RECREATION GROUND ROAD, TENTERDEN TN30 6RA - FRIDAYS 9-12

CHARITY NO. 1007058

We're supporting Children in Need

Wear something spotty to school
(suggested donation £1 per child)

Friday 17th November



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday 3rd November	Windmills and Vikings Forest School Session
Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November	Learn together week
Friday 10th November	Oast and Oxney Forest School Session
Friday 10th November	WSA Non-School Uniform Day
Friday 17th November	Children in Need – Wear Something Spotty
Friday 17th November	Windmills, Smugglers and Rother Forest School Session
Saturday 25th November	WSA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 5th November	Flu Vaccinations in School
Wednesday 6th December	Windmills, Smugglers and Oast Nativity Performance
Thursday 7th December	Windmills, Smugglers and Oast Nativity Performance
Friday 8th December	Rocksteady Music Festival 2:30pm
Friday 15th December	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Friday 15th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 2nd January	Term 3 begins

Further WSA Events for your diaries!

Saturday 25th November	WSA Christmas Fayre
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Parking, Dropping off and Pick-up.

Parking or stopping on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school is strictly prohibited, and for a very good reason. This practice endangers our children and increases the risk for those walking to and from the school, especially during inclement weather.

The yellow zig-zags are there to ensure clear visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, allowing for a safe entry and exit for our families. When these areas are blocked by parked or stopped cars, it creates a hazardous situation and increases the risk of accidents.

We understand that parking can be challenging, especially during busy school hours, but we kindly ask for your cooperation in finding alternative parking spots and walking a short distance if necessary. The safety of our children is of the utmost importance, and it's a shared responsibility that we all must uphold.

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E-Safety 2 Minute Read: Use of mobile devices

In today's digital age, mobile devices play a significant role in our lives, especially for our primary school-age children. Ensuring their safety and responsible device usage is crucial. Here are some concise tips:

1. Open Communication:

Encourage open talks about online activities and experiences. Let your child know they can come to you with concerns or questions.

2. Set Ground Rules:

Establish clear guidelines on device usage, including device-free times, like during family meals and before bedtime.

3. Parental Controls:

Utilise parental control features to limit access to inappropriate content and monitor your child's online activity.

4. Education on Online Risks:

Teach your child about online risks and how to respond to them.

5. Be a Role Model:

Model responsible device usage and appropriate online behaviour.

6. Limit Screen Time:

Balance screen time with other activities like outdoor play, reading, and creative hobbies.

7. Resources and Support:

Visit organisations like Common Sense Media, NSPCC, and Internet Matters for valuable tips and guidance.

Our primary goal is to create a safe and supportive digital environment for our children. Follow these guidelines, stay informed, and reach out for support when needed. We're here to help ensure a positive and secure online experience for your child.



Wellbeing and SEND Coffee (and cake!) Morning

A huge thank you to all who were able to join us for our Wellbeing and SEND Coffee Morning on Tuesday, embodying our school values of cooperation, courage, and compassion. Your active engagement and support were truly appreciated.

The compassion shown throughout the event highlighted the warmth and understanding that characterises our school community. We are excited about our next Coffee Morning, where we can continue these vital conversations.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out with any concerns or queries, as your input is invaluable in our shared mission to ensure the well-being and success of all our children.

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