

# Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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

## Weekly Newsletter Friday 17th November 2023



As we navigate our way through this season, it seems Mother Nature has decided to treat us to a fair share of rain, turning our beloved school field into a bit of a mud haven. This has not stopped us though! It has been great to see children embracing the muddy adventures with gusto. Thank you to parents who have ensured children have a pair of wellingtons in school, as this ensures they can make the most of break and lunchtime all year. Please let us know if we can support with suitable alternative footwear for your child.

This week, we gathered as staff for our Pupil Progress Meetings. During these sessions, we discussed how each child has started the academic year, the progress they have made so far and how we can support them further. I always enjoy these meetings as it is great to celebrating victories, big and small, whilst also brainstorm ways in which to sprinkle a bit more magic into each child's learning journey.

Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun for 'Spots Day' today. Your enthusiasm and generosity in supporting Children in Need truly warmed our hearts. As a school we donated over £200 for a great cause. During the morning we were also joined by the Homewood Dance Dash that had us all tapping our toes throughout the day.

It has been great to see tickets for our Key Stage One and EYFS Nativity being snapped up by our families. The children and staff have been working hard to learn their songs and lines. I am sure it will be a great show. Please remember that tickets are allocated at three per family, due to capacity restrictions in the hall. We hope that in providing a number of different performances, families will all have the chance to share this moment with their children.

Now, looking ahead to the coming week, excitement is building as we prepare for the visit of Bishop Rose. It's sure to be a momentous occasion for our school, and we can't wait to share the warmth of our community with such a special guest. And, of course, the WSA Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 25th November, is on the horizon. Get ready for some festive fun and holiday cheer - I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you all a good weekend.

Whole School: **95.8%**

### Attendance

Whole School Target: **96%**

Class	Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
Attendance	95.2%	96.4%	95.1%	96.6%	95.9%	95.6%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

## This week in Worship:

This week's worship sessions centered on our school values of compassion, courage, and cooperation, drawing inspiration from Ephesians 4:29, II Timothy 1:7, and Matthew 7:12.

We explored Fair Trade principles (Matthew 25:14-30), considered the global impact of education (Proverbs 16:16), and reflected on the universal value of children (Matthew 19:13-15). Prayers extended to fairness, disrupted learners, and those in need.

The week concluded with a celebration of compassionate actions in our community, marking Children in Need and expressing gratitude for kindness, fostering a sense of unity and positive impact. How can we, as a community, continue to embody these values and make a positive difference in the lives of others?

## Forest School

Please see below dates for Forest School this term.

Friday 1st December	Windmills, Smugglers and Rother
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Unfortunately, our Forest School session for Windmills, Smugglers and Rother was postponed on Friday due to our instructor being ill.

These sessions have been rearranged for Friday 1st December. 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.

A festive poster for a Christmas Open Day at Homewood School Farm. The background is red with white snowflake patterns. At the top, it says "Meet the animals and Santa this Christmas at" with a cow icon on the left and a Santa's Grotto icon on the right. Below this, the text "Homewood School Farm" is written in a white cursive font. The main title "Christmas Open Day" is in a large, white, elegant script. Underneath, it says "Saturday 9th December" and "12noon - 6pm". A list of activities follows: "Meet the Animals ~ Tombola ~ Games ~ BBQ Raffle ~ Merchant Stalls ~ Carol Singing ~ Santa's Grotto". Entry fees are listed: "Adults: £2 Children: £1 (under 3s go free)". At the bottom, contact information is provided: an email "farm@homewood.kent.sch.uk" and a Facebook icon with the text "Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre Young Farmers".

Meet the animals and Santa this Christmas at

*Homewood School Farm*

*Christmas Open Day*

*Saturday 9th December*

*12noon - 6pm*

Meet the Animals ~ Tombola ~ Games ~ BBQ  
Raffle ~ Merchant Stalls ~ Carol Singing ~ Santa's Grotto

Entry Fees  
Adults: £2 Children: £1 (under 3s go free)

✉ farm@homewood.kent.sch.uk  
f Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre Young Farmers

## Nativity Dates

A reminder that children in Windmills, Oast and Smugglers will be performing their nativity on the following dates:

Wednesday 6th December 9.30am AND 4PM  
Thursday 7th December - 1.45pm

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Please continue to spread  
the word!

# WITTERSHAM CEP SCHOOL

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## 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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## E-Safety 2 Minute Read: YouTube



In today's digital age, YouTube has become a vast and captivating landscape for children, offering a plethora of content ranging from educational videos to entertaining cartoons. However, it's essential for parents to be aware of the potential dangers lurking in this online world and take proactive steps to ensure their primary school children's safety.

### Understanding the Risks:

**Inappropriate Content:** YouTube's vast library may contain videos that are not suitable for young audiences, including explicit language, violence, or mature themes.

**Privacy Concerns:** Children might inadvertently share personal information, opening the door to privacy issues and online predators.

**Addictive Nature:** The constant stream of engaging content can make it challenging for children to set healthy screen time boundaries.

### Tips to Keep Your Child Safe:

**Enable Restricted Mode:** YouTube offers a Restricted Mode that filters out potentially mature content. Activate this feature on your child's account to create a safer viewing environment.

**Supervise and Co-view:** Spend time watching YouTube with your child. This allows you to guide them towards age-appropriate content and opens the door for discussions about online safety.

**Set Usage Limits:** Establish clear guidelines for screen time, ensuring that YouTube and other online activities don't overshadow other crucial aspects of your child's life, such as homework, outdoor play, and family time.

**Educate on Privacy:** Teach your child about the importance of not sharing personal information online. Make them aware of the potential risks associated with interacting with strangers on the internet.

**Create a Dedicated Account:** Set up a separate YouTube account specifically for your child. This allows you to have more control over the content they access and the comments they can make.

**Regularly Review History:** Periodically check your child's YouTube viewing history. This helps you understand their online activities and ensures they are not exposed to inappropriate content.

While YouTube can be a valuable tool for education and entertainment, it's crucial for parents to take an active role in guiding their children's online experiences. By implementing these safety measures, you empower your child to explore the digital world responsibly, fostering a healthy relationship with technology from a young age. Remember, open communication is key to addressing any concerns and ensuring a safer online environment for your primary school children.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Saturday 25th November	WSA Christmas Fayre
Friday 1st December	Windmills, Smugglers and Rother Forest School Session
Tuesday 5th December	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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### A spotlight on our values: Courage

In our school community, courage stands as a guiding value, echoing the transformative journey on the Road to Emmaus. Much like the disciples who found courage in unexpected places, we encourage our students to embrace challenges with determination and resilience. This value underpins our commitment to fostering an environment where every child feels empowered to try their best in all aspects of school life.

As we navigate our voyage of discovery together, instilling courage is not only a part of our ethos but is deeply embedded within our Wittersham Way. Our whole school approach emphasizes the importance of courage as a cornerstone in building a supportive, inclusive, and respectful community.

As Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Through the lens of courage, both on the Road to Emmaus and within our Wittersham Way, we aim to guide our students on a path of personal growth, kindness, and impactful citizenship.



# COURAGE

Compassion

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