

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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

Weekly Newsletter Friday 24th November 2023



As we wrap up another busy and positive week at Wittersham, we have much to celebrate and reflect upon:

This Tuesday was marked by a special visit from Reverend Bishop Rose. She took the time to bless our Nurture Room, and I was pleased to hear her positive observations about the compassion and care demonstrated by our children and staff throughout the day. It's always affirming to receive such feedback about the character of our school community.

In addition to Bishop Rose's visit, we've had the pleasure of hosting several visitors this week. Among them were potential parents and individuals from the education field. The recurring theme in their comments was the purposeful and calm learning environment here at Wittersham. It's heartening to know that our commitment to creating a conducive learning atmosphere is making an impact.

Our preparations for the Nativity are well underway, and we're excited to showcase the hard work and creativity of our students. Stay tuned for further details about this heartwarming performance.

Looking ahead, our Key Stage Two children are gearing up to host an Advent service in the church on Friday, December 1st, at 2:30 pm. We extend a warm invitation to all parents to join us for this reflective and festive occasion.

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for our Christmas Fayre at the school tomorrow from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. It promises to be a lively event, and I'm eager to see many of you there, enjoying the festive spirit together.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Whole School: **95.6%**

Attendance

Whole School Target: **96%**

Class	Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
Attendance	97.3%	95.1%	94.6%	96.3%	95%	95.2%

Did you know that having 90% attendance over 5 school years is the same as missing half a year of school?

If you are concerned about or struggling with your child's attendance, please let us know. We are here to help.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

This week in Worship:

Alongside our visit from Bishop Rose, in our worship this week, students delved into the themes of hope, peace, love, and joy, preparing for the Advent season. Inspired by Romans 8:24-25, they symbolically built their Advent wreaths, representing God's people, Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, and Mary. Contemplating John 14:27, students reflected on the significance of peace and its absence in various aspects of our lives. The message of John 13:35 prompted a thoughtful prayer session, where students considered those who may feel lonely during festive times, expressing love through messages on symbolic baubles.



A visit from Bishop Rose

Last week brought us a truly special and blessed occasion as we welcomed the esteemed Reverend Bishop Rose of Dover to our school. It was a highlight that left a lasting impact on our entire community.



Reverend Bishop Rose took the time to tour our school, and her observations were both heartening and affirming. She noted the genuine compassion that permeates every corner of our school community. Her words reflected the warmth and kindness that our students, staff, and parents bring to Wittersham.

One of the key moments of her visit was the official blessing of our Nurture Room. We consider ourselves fortunate to have received the spiritual guidance and blessings from Reverend Bishop Rose, which will undoubtedly enrich the supportive and nurturing environment we strive to provide.

Later in the day, Reverend Bishop Rose, along with Reverend Lindsay, Reverend Andrew, and Reverend Jeanette, joined us for a worship session. The message centred around the parable of the lost sheep, emphasizing the importance of acting as shepherds for one another in the spirit of Jesus and the disciples.

The powerful message resonated deeply, highlighting the significance of compassion, support, and unity within our school family. As we reflect on their words, we can use them to inspire us, becoming shepherds in our own right, ensuring that no one in our community feels lost or alone.

Our whole school pantomime trip is fast approaching. Thank you those who have confirmed their wish for children to join us by completing the required permission slip. A reminder that contributions for the Cinderella pantomime outing are due by 1st December please.

If any families are struggling to make payment, or you have concerns about your child attending this trip, please talk to Mr Hawkins or the school office in confidence.

Rocksteady Music Festival



Rocksteady is the UK's leading provider of rock and pop lessons for primary school children and we're proud that their fun, inclusive band lessons take place at our school. As well as teaching new musical skills through contemporary rock and pop songs, Rocksteady has a proven significant, positive impact on wellbeing, confidence and life skills.

Lessons are open for children from year 1 to 6 and they can choose to play either vocals, electric guitar, drums, bass, or keyboards in their very own band. All instruments are provided, and no previous experience is necessary. [Click here for more information.](#)

Each term, we host a Rocksteady concert so that parents and carers can see the progress that the children have made. The next concert date is:

Friday 8th December at 2:30pm

Key Stage Two Advent Service

As we embrace the spirit of the holiday season, we cordially invite you to join us for a special Key Stage Two Advent Service at the church on Friday, December 1st, at 2:30 pm.

This special service will not only celebrate the Christian values that underpin our school community but also focus on the core themes of the Advent season - hope, love, peace, and joy. Through hymns and readings from children in Vikings, Oxney and Rother, we aim to kick start the festive season, filling our hearts with the true essence of Christmas.

If you can join us, we look forward to sharing this special afternoon with you.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, **December 1st, at 2:30 pm, in the Church** and join us in celebrating the joy of the season.



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

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2024

Starting Primary School
in September 2024?

Apply online at

kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Opens Friday 3 November 2023 and closes at
midnight on Monday 15 January 2024

For children born between
1 September 2019
and 31 August 2020,
Transferring to Primary school
in September 2024

What to do

Choose a school

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.

Read the guide to Primary admissions at www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

You can name up to three Primary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Friday 3 November 2023** and closes at midnight on **Monday 15 January 2024**.

You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been correctly submitted.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

Receiving your offer

On offer day (**Tuesday 16 April 2024**) an email will be sent after **4pm** informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Tuesday 30 April 2024**. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

Key dates

Friday 3 November 2023	Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.
Monday 15 January 2024	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk
Tuesday 16 April 2024	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
Tuesday 30 April 2024	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Tuesday 14 May 2024	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk or kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Full information booklet can also be viewed online at kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

E-Safety 2 Minute Read: Mobile Phones

In an age where technology is an integral part of our daily lives, ensuring the safety of our children in the digital space is of paramount importance. As parents, it's crucial to be mindful of our children's use of mobile phones and equip ourselves with the knowledge to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

Here are a few essential e-safety tips to consider:

Open Communication:

Foster an open and honest dialogue with your children about their online activities. Encourage them to share their experiences, both positive and negative, and be a supportive presence in their digital lives.

Set Boundaries:

Establish clear guidelines for screen time and appropriate content. Create a balance between online and offline activities to ensure a healthy lifestyle. Setting boundaries helps children understand the importance of responsible device use.

Privacy Awareness:

Educate your children about the importance of protecting their personal information. Stress the significance of privacy settings on social media platforms and apps to control who can access their information.

Cyberbullying Awareness:

Discuss the concept of cyberbullying with your children and emphasize the importance of treating others online with kindness and respect. Encourage them to report any incidents of cyberbullying and assure them that they can confide in you.

Stay Informed:

Keep yourself updated on the latest apps, games, and online trends. This knowledge allows you to guide your children effectively, ensuring their online experiences are positive and secure.

Remember, being actively involved in your child's digital world helps create a safe and supportive environment. By staying informed and maintaining open communication, we can empower our children to make responsible choices in the digital realm.

Stay connected and stay safe!



ParentShield
The Child-Safe Mobile Network



Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to announce our participation in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on December 7th! This festive occasion is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, spread joy, and make a positive impact.

On this special day, we invite all students to wear their usual school uniform paired with a Christmas jumper or a creatively decorated top. Let's add a touch of holiday cheer to our school day and show our support for Save the Children's essential work. In the spirit of giving, we kindly request that children bring a suggested donation of £1. This contribution will go directly to supporting the Save the Children appeal and the incredible work this charity does for children around the world.

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day is not only a fun and festive tradition but also a chance for us to make a difference in the lives of children in need. Your generosity will contribute to vital initiatives that bring hope, joy, and brighter futures to those who need it most.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in this meaningful event. Together, let's make December 7th a day to remember as we spread festive cheer and support a great cause!



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

<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 9:30am and 4pm	Windmills, Smugglers and Oast Nativity Performances
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December 1:45pm	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



WSA Update

Dear Parents and Carers



One more sleep until the Christmas Fayre, we hope that you will come along and join us for some festive fun from 12-3pm at the school. There will be hot food from the Lovejoy's BBQ outside, and then vegetarian food available in the hall as well as a cake stall. If you can donate nut and peanut free cakes, cupcakes or tray bakes we would be really grateful. Donations can be dropped off at the school on Saturday morning. The elf came into school this morning and will be going home with one of you tomorrow! There are lots of other games to play and there will be baubles to decorate too. If you can crack the code to the box then there is a cash prize to be won – Mr Hawkins is in charge of that and is keeping the code a closely guarded secret!

Thank you to those of you who have already returned your raffle tickets. There are lots of great prizes on offer. If you haven't been able to buy your tickets yet then they will be on sale tomorrow. If you haven't managed to return your sold tickets you can bring them in tomorrow. If you have any unsold tickets bring those in tomorrow too.

Our gift shop 'Elfridges' will be based in Windmills classroom. Prices will mostly range between £1-£5 so that children (and adults) can buy gifts for loved ones. If you would like it wrapped or have a Christmas bag we can do that too for 50p extra.

As always thank you for all your support.

Ann (Chair WSA)

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation