

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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

Weekly Newsletter Friday 8th December 2023



We hope this newsletter finds you all in good spirits as we wrap up an exciting week filled with incredible performances and rock and roll vibes!

Our stars in Windmills, Oast, and Smugglers have truly outdone themselves this week with not one, not two, but THREE amazing shows of "The Big Little Nativity"! A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us in the audience, and a massive round of applause to our dedicated staff who supported our children in bringing joy to the stage. Every performance put a smile on our faces, and we couldn't be prouder!

Today was a real rock and roll experience as some of our talented students took centre stage in our Rocksteady Festival. The energy, enthusiasm, and **cooperation** on display were nothing short of spectacular. A heartfelt thank you to our rockstars and to everyone who made the festival a hit!

As our performance theme continues, we are preparing for more excitement next week. On Friday, our children are in for a treat as we head to the pantomime for a magical day out. And mark your calendars for Thursday at 2:30 pm – the entire school will gather for our Christmas worship in the church. It's going to be a heartwarming celebration of the festive season!

Get ready for a week of learning, celebrating, and sharing experiences as our festivities kick into high gear. We're capping it all off with a delicious Christmas lunch. It promises to be a week filled with joy, laughter, and cherished memories.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend, thank you for your continued support towards all our Christmas events. Our community is what makes this school such a great place for children to learn and grow together.

Whole School: **95.2%**

Attendance

Whole School Target: **96%**

| Class | Windmills | Oast | Smugglers | Vikings | Oxney | Rother |
|------------|--------------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Attendance | 96.8% | 93.5% | 96.1% | 95.2% | 95% | 94.4% |

Well done to those in Windmills and Smugglers who have managed to maintain your attendance above our school target despite a wave of coughs and colds moving through the school. We understand that it can be difficult to decide whether you should send your child to school; the NHS have put together a helpful guide for families: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>, you might find that reassuring.

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Courage

Cooperation

This week in Worship:

In this week's worship, we delved into Proverbs 3:5-6, reminding ourselves to *"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."*

The focus was on trust and surrender, highlighting the need for faith in challenging times. As families take the message home, we challenge children and our families to consider: "How can we actively trust in the Lord and seek His guidance in our daily lives?"

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Whole School Pantomime Trip

CINDERELLA

We are all looking forward to our Whole School Pantomime trip to the White Rock Theatre in Hastings on the 15th of December! It promises to be a great day, with every child able to join us for our trip. To ensure a smooth and enjoyable day for all, please note a few key details below.

Details for the Day:

- **Date:** Friday 15th December
- **Uniform:** Children should all attend school wearing full school uniform.
- **Departure Time:** 9 am from the school – *please ensure children arrive promptly.*
- **Coaches:** Four large coaches will be parked near the school - *please be mindful of this when traveling to school.*
- **Early Registration Available:** Friday, December 15th, from 8:20 am – 8:40am *for a smoother start*
- **Packed Lunch:** All children need to bring a packed lunch and drink; *details for free school meal recipients will be shared next week.*
- **Return Time:** Approximately 2:30 pm, with *regular collection at 3:10 pm*

Thank you for your support with all of the above. If you have any further questions regarding the trip, please let us know.

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Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day



A huge thank you to all for supporting our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children! Your enthusiasm and generosity have made a significant impact, and we are thrilled to announce that together, we raised an incredible £130. This will go directly to the supporting Save the Children's vital work, making a positive difference in the lives of children in need. Your participation has not only spread holiday cheer but has also demonstrated the power of our community coming together for a great cause!

#valuesinaction

Cooperation

Term 3 Clubs Booking

The time has come for our Term 3 Club Booking. We are really pleased that the number of children attending our clubs continues to rise and hope that this will continue next term too.

Clubs in Term 3 will commence in the week beginning 8th January (2nd week back) and will run for 5 weeks (finishing on the 9th February). This will follow a similar pattern to previous terms with the booking link going live at 8pm on Tuesday 12th December.

The booking link can be found here: <https://wittershamcep.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please remember that this link will not go live until 8pm on Tuesday 12th December. Until that time, you will not be able to access the link fully. All clubs currently running in school will continue into Term 3. Further details of this will be shared on class dojo before the Tuesday booking link goes live.

As always, if you have any further questions, suggestions or if financial challenges are an issue in securing your child's place, please do let Mr Hawkins know. We are here to support.



WSA Update

Dear Parents and Carers

That's a wrap now for WSA fundraising activities for 2023.



The Wreath Making Workshop on the 30th November was a great night and some lovely (and big) wreaths were made. Thank you to all who came along and helped raise £600 for WSA Funds. The final Christmas Fayre profits have now been calculated and we made a profit of £2400! So that's a staggering £3000 raised in a week! Look out for an updated total in the WSA School Enrichment fund in the New Year.

Attention is now moving to the 2024. We will be holding our AGM towards the end of January and would love to see you there. Whilst many of the committee are happy to continue there will be vacancies and now is the time to prepare for the future. It would be great to have someone shadow the role of Chair so they can take over in January 2025 as I will be stepping down from the committee then as my son will be in year 6.

In the new year we will be running a school disco, kindly sponsored by Cranbrook Fishmongers and Hell4Leather Cricket. We haven't got the date confirmed but do look out for further information here, on the WSA Facebook page and via flyers in the book bags.

We will be holding a Quiz Night with Mr Hawkins as quizmaster on Saturday 10th February in Wittersham Village Hall. More news on how to book etc in January. If the last one is anything to go by it will be a great night.

I want to say a big thank you to all of the WSA Committee members who together help make all our fundraising activities such a great success. Thank you also to all the school staff who without many of the events could not happen. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all of the families of Wittersham School for coming along and supporting all that we do.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.

Ann (Chair WSA)

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Still tours available!



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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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.



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2 Minute Read:

Supporting your child with reading at home

One of the key features in our school is our children's love of books. It is great to see them discussing the texts they are reading, making suggestions about potential characters and plot lines. Although this is honed and developed whilst children are in school, reading at home is an essential element in securing a lifelong love of reading.

Why Reading Matters Across the Curriculum:

Reading isn't just about books. It's like a superpower that makes maths, science, and everything else more interesting and accessible. Whether it's decoding word problems in maths, comprehending scientific texts, or immersing in the world of literature, strong reading skills are essential. By supporting your child's reading at home, you contribute significantly to their growth in every subject area!

Simple Steps to Support Your Child's Reading:

As a school, we encourage all our families to dedicate 5-10 minutes each night to reading with their child. This small but consistent commitment can make a significant impact on your child's literacy development. Here are a few simple tips to make the most of this time:

Create a Reading Routine: Set aside a specific time each evening for reading. Consistency helps establish a routine and makes reading a natural part of your child's day.

Explore Various Genres: Introduce your child to a variety of reading materials, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. This exposure broadens their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Ask Questions: Engage your child in conversations about what they are reading. Ask open-ended questions to encourage critical thinking and deeper understanding.
Visit the Library Together: A visit to the local library can be an exciting adventure for both you and your child. Allow them to choose books that capture their interest and curiosity.

Your Invaluable Role:

As parents, your involvement is invaluable in shaping your child's academic journey. By dedicating a few minutes to reading each night, you not only enhance their literacy skills but also create a positive and nurturing environment for learning.

Thank you for your continued partnership in fostering a love for reading at Wittersham School. Together, we can empower our students to grow as learners and thrive across the curriculum in their journeys with us.



Parking



We'd like to take a moment to kindly remind everyone about the importance of conscientious and safe parking when picking up or dropping off children at school. In recent weeks, we've received several calls from residents who have encountered difficulties accessing their driveways due to parked cars.

To address this concern, we encourage parents to consider utilizing the village hall car park as an alternative parking space. While we understand that it may require a bit more of a walk, especially in inclement weather, this small inconvenience contributes significantly to the safety and well-being of our community.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a smooth and considerate drop-off and pick-up experience for all.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Christmas Lunch

A reminder that our Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 13th December.

All children will be eating in the hall together.

A huge thank you to Korkers Sausages for sponsoring this event and showing great compassion to ensure all students can enjoy a delicious meal without any financial barriers. #valuesinaction



Christmas Service

As we prepare for the holiday season, we'd like to invite you to our Whole School Christmas Service, where we'll be marking the true meaning of Christmas.

Date: Thursday, 14th December

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: St John the Baptist Church, Wittersham

During the service, our students will be presenting readings, carols, and performances centred around the traditional Christmas story. It's an opportunity for our school community to come together and reflect on the spiritual significance of Christmas.

If you are able to join us, we would love to see you there to celebrate together.



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| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Friday 8th December | Windmills, Smugglers and Rother Forest School Session |
| Friday 8th December | Rocksteady Music Festival 2:30pm |
| Wednesday 13th December | Christmas Lunch |
| Friday 15th December | Whole School Pantomime Trip |
| Friday 15th December | Last day of Term 2 |
| Tuesday 2nd January | Term 3 begins |
| Week beginning Monday 8th January | Clubs resume this week |
| Wednesday 17th January | Young Voices Concert – Choir Club performing at the O2 |
| Friday 9th February | End of Term 3 |

School Games Mark

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold LEVEL Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a range of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks to: Mr Hawkins for all his hard work in arranging these fixtures and events and to all the parents and children who have supported them over the past year. Next year, we look forward to furthering the number of children who represent the school at an even greater range of events.

Thank you.



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