

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



Newsletter Friday 19th April 2024



Welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term ahead. It has been a busy start back at school, with lots of exciting things happening in our classrooms.

Rother class had a fantastic visit from experts at Tenterden Museum, who brought with them a workshop and artefacts from WW2 focusing on the homefront. The children were engaged and eager to learn more about this important period in history. Our love of reading continues to thrive at school, with children delving into their new class books this term. Oast class has been inspired by 'Monkey Puzzle' to explore conflicts and resolutions, while Oxney class has embarked on a magical quest with their text 'Malamander'. I had the pleasure of listening to Vikings class perform 'The River is Flowing' beautifully this week. It's always wonderful to see the children enjoying their music lessons and growing their skills. In maths, Smugglers and Windmills classes have been hard at work developing their multiplication and subitizing skills. It's great to see them tackling new challenges with enthusiasm.

This week, we launched our new school menu. We have really enjoyed sharing this with the children with many different successes across the week, with children particularly enjoying our new pasta dishes and desserts. Once we have completed a three week cycle of the menu, we will gather some further pupil voice to shape and tailor choices to suit children's tastes.

I was delighted to welcome a fellow Headteacher from East Sussex to our school this week. He was very impressed with our Wittersham Curriculum and the level of engagement displayed by our children. It fills me with pride to showcase our school and all the wonderful things happening here.

I wanted to remind you that Forest school sessions are back, with a focus on permaculture and growing. As always, this will be a great opportunity for the children to make the most of the outdoors as the weather improves.

Lastly, don't forget about Smugglers class cake sale on Thursday. It's sure to be a delicious treat for all!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can make this term a successful and enjoyable one for all.

Whole School: **94.5%**

Attendance

Target: **96%**

Class	Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
Attendance	95.7%	93.5%	94.7%	94.6%	94.5%	94.2%

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Courage

Cooperation

This Week In Worship

In this week's worship, we reflected on the post-resurrection encounters Jesus had with his disciples as told in John 20:19-29 and John 21:1-14.

Jesus' appearances brought peace, showed his wounds, and offered both spiritual and practical support to his disciples. These moments highlighted Jesus' understanding of our needs and his unwavering love for us. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-18 reminded us of our mission to spread the Gospel and make disciples in our community.

This call to action inspired us to embody Jesus' love, kindness, and truth in our interactions with others and reminded us all of how we share this everyday through our Wittersham Way.

As Proverbs 3:3 encouraged us to "never forget kindness and truth," we considered the impact we could have by wearing these virtues like a necklace, reflecting them in our daily lives and enriching our community with compassion and understanding. Through our actions and reflections, we aimed to make a meaningful difference in our community, shining God's love wherever we go.



Spiritual Development

At Wittersham, we believe that nurturing the spiritual well-being of our students is a fundamental aspect of their holistic growth and academic success. As this is a key element of our Church School offer, I would like to share with you how we support children to grow and develop the skills of spirituality.

Golden Threads of Compare, Reflect, and Discover: Our curriculum is carefully designed with golden threads of Compare, Reflect, and Discover, which not only enhance academic learning but also foster spiritual growth. Through these guiding principles, your child is encouraged to explore, question, and connect with the world around them, sparking moments of awe and wonder that ignite their spiritual curiosity.

Nurturing and Empowering Every Child: We value each child as a unique individual, and our commitment to their well-being is woven into the fabric of our school culture. Our dedicated Nurture Room provides a safe space for emotional support, resilience building, and a sense of belonging within our school community. By prioritising the holistic development of your child, we create an environment where they can flourish spiritually, emotionally, and academically.

Awe and Wonder in Every Experience: The concept of awe and wonder is seamlessly integrated into all aspects of our educational practises. Through engaging activities and experiences, we aim to spark moments of awe that inspire your child to appreciate the beauty and complexity of the world, fostering profound spiritual insights and connections.

As partners in your child's educational journey, we invite you to engage with us in supporting their spiritual development. Your involvement, encouragement, and support play a vital role in nurturing a sense of wonder, curiosity, and spiritual fulfilment in your child. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our approach to spiritual development, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your partnership is invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to support your child's growth and well-being.

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Locks and Switches

Mrs Catt would love to create a new resource for our Windmill's outside space similar to this one below.



If you have any spare, bolts, locks, plugs/plug sockets, handles, switches etc and you could donate them to Windmills, we would be very grateful.

Thank you!

Parent Governor Election



A huge thank you to all who contributed to our Parent Governor Election.

We are pleased to announce that, following a round of voting prior to the Easter break, Harry Lingfield has been elected as our new parental representative on the governing body.

We look forward to welcoming him at our next governing body meeting later in the term.

Forest School Dates

This term's forest school focus is permaculture and growing.

Dates for this term are as follows:

Friday 19th April
Windmills and Vikings

Friday 26th April
Oast and Oxney

Friday 3rd May
Windmills, Smugglers and Rother



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WSA Update



Dear Parents and Carers

There are two important issues on my mind this week. Firstly, is the fact that we need to recruit a new treasurer ASAP and secondly, we need to start the hunt for a new Chairperson to take over from me when I step down from the role in January 2025.

Without volunteers to take on these posts the WSA will fold. This will have major implications for the school and the activities that they are able to offer because of the funds the WSA raises. If you do think you could take on these either of these roles please join us now so we can support the transition into them.

There is a Bags2School collection on Tuesday 30th April and will be collecting donations from 08.00 – 09.00 in the Clubroom in Wittersham Village Hall, see the flyer for what we can accept. Later that day there will be a stay and play in the playground after school where you can have coffee and cake and meet some of the committee members.

This summer we are trying something new and instead of a usual summer fayre we are organising a Colour Run alongside some of the regular stalls, a raffle, refreshments and a bar. We think the children will love this and I expect many of us parents will too. The event will be on Saturday 13th July. To help cover some of the costs we will be approaching local businesses for sponsorship. If you know of a business who would be interested in sponsoring part of the event, please get in touch with me or one of the committee members. There will be a couple of non-uniform days leading up to the event for tombola and raffle.

The WSA Dinner Dance at London Beech Hotel is booked for Saturday 5th October, tickets will be on sale soon! Last year was such fun and raised such an amazing amount we hope to see you all there again this year.

As always if you have any ideas, please do get in touch annchairwsa@canterbury.ac.uk

Have a good weekend.

Ann (Chair WSA)

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 15th April	Start of Term 5
Friday 19th April	Windmills and Vikings Forest School Sessions
Wednesday 24th April	Year 5 Eco Ambassador Training Event
Thursday 25th April	Smugglers Cake Sale
Friday 26th April	Oast and Oxney Forest School Sessions
Tuesday 30th April	Bags2School Collection at Village Hall
Tuesday 30th April	Handball Festival Sports Event
Friday 3rd May	Rother, Windmills and Smugglers Forest School Sessions
Monday 13th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 24th May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 3rd June	First Day of Term 6
Thursday 6th June	Class Photos
Monday 10th-Thursday 13th June	Year 5/6 Residential
Friday 19th July	Last Day of Term 6 - End of Academic Year

Term Time Holidays

As we approach the upcoming term, we would like to remind you of the importance of planning family holidays around school breaks. We kindly ask that you avoid seeking permission to take your child out of school during term time unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic progress and overall well-being. Each school day offers valuable learning opportunities that contribute to their growth and development.

When considering a leave of absence, please note that it should be requested in advance by the parent the child normally lives with. The school will assess each application based on exceptional circumstances that justify the leave. If a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days your child can be away from school.

We appreciate your cooperation in prioritising your child's education by planning family holidays during designated school breaks. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child's consistent attendance

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