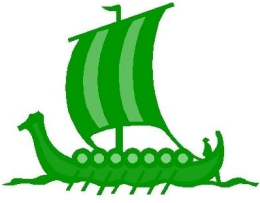


# Wittersham Church of England Primary School

*'On a voyage of discovery: flourishing together in God's love'*



## Welcome to the Wittersham Weekly! Friday 7th February 2025



We've certainly had some dramatic weather this week—hail was an unexpected addition to the day, sparking plenty of excitement among the children!

### **Express Yourself Day – Celebrating Mental Well-being**

Tuesday's Express Yourself Day was a fantastic opportunity for children to showcase their creativity and individuality while also reflecting on the importance of mental well-being. During worship, we further explored the Zones of Regulation and discussed strategies for recognising and managing our emotions. It was truly inspiring to see children speaking so openly and courageously about their feelings, sharing personal experiences of what helped them move into the green zone—where they felt calm, focused, and ready to learn. Moments like these highlight the incredible empathy and emotional intelligence developing in our school community.

### **Number Day – Building Resilience and Independence**

Number Day was another great success, filled with exciting problem-solving challenges. Children worked collaboratively and independently to tackle tricky maths puzzles, applying their reasoning skills and perseverance to find solutions. Developing pupil autonomy is a key focus in our School Improvement Plan (SIP), and it was fantastic to see so many children embracing challenges with enthusiasm and resilience. Their determination to push themselves beyond their comfort zones was a true reflection of the Wittersham Way in action.

### **WSA Meeting – Exciting Plans Ahead!**

On Thursday evening, I had the pleasure of meeting with the wonderful Wittersham School Association (WSA) committee. It was great to hear about their exciting plans for the upcoming academic year. The dedication and enthusiasm of the WSA continue to be invaluable in creating enriching experiences for our children. We look forward to sharing more details about upcoming events and initiatives soon!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable weekend - please make sure that you wrap up warm!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Coulson

**Compassion**

**Courage**

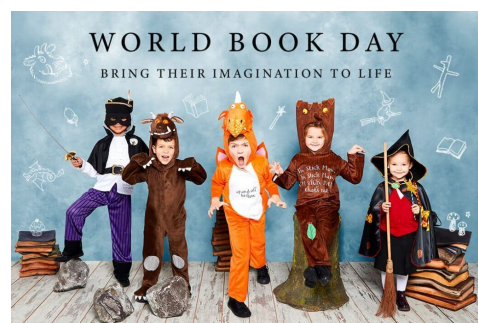
**Cooperation**

## Safer Internet Day – Tuesday, 11th February

Next week, we will be marking *Safer Internet Day*, a global initiative that promotes safe and responsible use of digital technology. At Wittersham, we believe it is vital to equip our children with the skills and awareness they need to navigate the online world safely and confidently. With technology playing an increasing role in learning and everyday life, our focus will be on how we can make the internet a safer and more positive space. Through discussions and activities, we'll explore topics such as online kindness, protecting personal information, and thinking critically about what we see and share online.

## World Book Day – Friday, 7th March

We are excited to celebrate *World Book Day* on Friday, 7th March! This is always a fantastic opportunity to inspire a love of reading and bring books to life in creative ways. Children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters, but there is absolutely no pressure to do so—what matters most is celebrating the joy of reading. There will be plenty of fun activities throughout the day to encourage storytelling, imagination, and a shared love of books.



## Term 3 Week 5 Wittersham School Prayer

### Loving God,

Thank You for making each of us unique, with our own thoughts, feelings, and talents. Help us to express ourselves with confidence, knowing that our voices matter.

Give us the courage to share our emotions and the kindness to listen to others.

When we feel worried or unsure, remind us that we are never alone.

Fill our hearts with peace and our minds with strength,

So that we may support one another with compassion and understanding.

Guide us to be brave in expressing who we are,

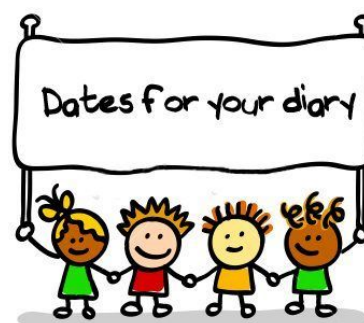
And to celebrate the beauty of being ourselves.

Amen.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



- **Tuesday, 11th February** – Safer Internet Day
- **Thursday 13th February** - Oxney WSA Valentines Day Cake Sale.
- **Friday, 14th February** – Last Day of Term 3
- **Monday, 17th - Friday, 21st February** – Half Term
- **Friday, 7th March** – Wittersham Book Day
- **Wednesday, 12th March** – Parents' Evening
- **Friday, 28th March** – Rocksteady Concert
- **Thursday, 3rd April** – Last Day of Term 4
- **Friday, 4th April** – INSET Day

## Attendance

Here are the latest attendance figures for the school:

Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
96.9%	96%	95.4%	92.8%	95.1%	92.9%

**Whole school: 94.7%**

**Whole School Target: 96%**

At Wittersham Church of England Primary School, we are committed to supporting every child's learning and development. Regular attendance and punctuality play a vital role in ensuring children can make the most of their time in school and achieve their full potential.

We understand that sometimes challenges can make it difficult to get to school on time or attend consistently. If you're experiencing any difficulties, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our School FLO, Mrs. Sterriker-Rhodes, is here to offer support and guidance to help overcome any barriers you may face.

Together, we can work to ensure every child has the best possible chance to thrive.

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, 7 - 8PM

eduthing.co.uk

SCREEN SAFE

In conversation with...

**eduthing**  
IT Services for Education

We are excited to be celebrating the upcoming Safer Internet Day by hosting a virtual parent & carer support session with Anna Sarjantson, Liam Buggs, Tim Barette and James Fraser. Join us in conversation as we explore the best ways to support our children and young people navigating the online world covering topics such as:

- Top Tips for Parents & Carers
- Resources to facilitate discussion with children and young people on online safety
- Particular Apps or Features to be aware of!
- Interactive Q&A Session

ABOUT SCREENSAFE

I started Screen-Safe to help more parents, carers, teachers and anyone working with children, have access to support, the information they need now and the tools they need for the future when it comes to keeping our children and young people safer online. As a parent myself, I know just how challenging and sometimes, overwhelming it can be to navigate the digital world our children are growing up in. The online world can provide incredible opportunities but also some serious risks, especially where children are concerned.

We want them to be able to recognise the risks, be able to call out fake profiles or misinformation and have the confidence to say NO and get away from anything or anyone online that doesn't feel right or safe to them.

ABOUT EDUTHING

eduthing are a leading technology provider to schools across the UK. As well as providing technical support to ensure teaching and learning runs smoothly, eduthing work with teachers, parents, carers and students with Computing, EdTech and Online Safety support and workshops.

We are passionate about ensuring the safety of children and young people when they experience the online world and immerse themselves in a safe and measured way.

SESSION REGISTRATION

Click here to register for the upcoming session:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7V8KEcRR2e0f6tPjHy8Q>  
 Please note that this is a live session.

BE SMART ONLINE

S

**SAFE** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M

**MEET** Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

A

**ACCEPTING** Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R

**RELIABLE** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T

**TELL** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

❤️

**BE SMART WITH A HEART** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



# Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.



Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

[kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](https://kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)



# Support and guidance in the local area



Empowering people on the autism spectrum and with learning disabilities.

South East Hub



Autism Central

## FREE DROP-IN SESSION



Join us for our free Drop-in Morning at The Willow Family Hub in Kent on Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 10:00-11:30.

This is a themed session on Education and EHCP's staffed by Roisin our experienced Family Wrap Around Coordinator. It will include a workshop and discussion. There will be time for questions on Education and SEND specific content. This session is aimed at local families.

The Autism Central South East Hub aims to help families to learn more about autism and the support available to them.

The Willow Family Hub address is: Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent, TN23 4EY. We hope to see you there!

- We are here to listen to you
- We are here to offer guidance
- Increase your knowledge
- Help you through challenges
- Increase your confidence
- Help you navigate services
- Provide you with skills that last
- Offer a FREE 1:1 appointments

# CONNECT!

Group activities for neurodiverse young people aged 9-18  
across Kent\*



Creates fun opportunities in an Autism Friendly environment



Allows young people to connect through shared interests to  
develop social skills

Empowers young people to build their confidence, resilience and wellbeing

Gives parents and carers the chance to have a break and meet others  
with shared experiences

\*Eligibility Criteria will apply.



## Who is this service for?

- Young people aged between 9 and 18
- Young people who struggle to access universal or mainstream clubs and services
- For young people who are keen to meet others, have fun and try new things

\*There may be fees and additional costs for some activities.

## To refer a young person to Connect!

Email: [youth@involvekent.org.uk](mailto:youth@involvekent.org.uk)

Call: 07474 708132

Web: [www.involvekent.org.uk](http://www.involvekent.org.uk)



# Ashford Borough Council – Play Train naming competition

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## Help us choo choo-se a name for our new play train

Younger visitors to Ashford Town Centre will soon be able to get on board a new dedicated play space, as plans for a new train themed play area have been unveiled by Ashford Borough Council (ABC).

The project will see the installation of play equipment in the raised area in front of the bandstand creating a fun, attractive space for young children and families to enjoy in town.

The equipment will be specifically designed to reflect Ashford's unique heritage, incorporating elements related to the town's railway history, like locomotives, carriages, and platforms.

The type and style of the play equipment has been chosen with sustainability in mind as well as considering things like maintenance, damage, anti-social behaviour in the design process. It has also been designed with accessibility and access for children of all abilities.

## Help us name the new play area

Only one thing is missing – a name! We are launching a naming competition in all primary schools in the borough asking pupils to come up with a name for our new area.

Something which is fun, train themed or Ashford-related!

The requirements are simple – all ABC needs is your suggestions emailed to us, and we will choo-choo-se the best one. All entrants must be aged between 4-11 and it must be their own idea (so no cheating from parents).

Entries can be submitted via email to [media@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:media@ashford.gov.uk)

ABC also asks that the name of the child, their age and their school are included with every submission, as well as a parent or guardian's contact details, so we know who to contact if they win.

The winner will have their idea for a name officially adopted and included on a plaque in the new play area and be invited to unveil the sign at the official opening of the play area with The Mayor of Ashford this Spring (exact date to be confirmed).

They will also win a family ticket from Kent and East Sussex Railway and some train themed goodies from Kompan.

**The competition opens on Monday 3 February and the closing date for entries is 5pm on Monday 17 February.**



**KOMPAN**  
Let's play



# BUZZERS ACADEMIES

## February half-term 2025

Fencing • Circus Skills • Gymnastics • Sports • Archery • Boxing  
Sand Art • Taekwondo • Dance • Science • First Aid • Cooking

### Where?

**BALHAM** - Telferscot Primary School, Telferscot Road, Balham, SW12 0HW

**BECKENHAM** - Clare House Primary School, Overbury Avenue, Beckenham, BR3 6PY

**BEXLEYHEATH** - Upland Primary School, Church Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 4DG

**BROMLEY** - St Mark's Primary School, Aylesbury Road, Bromley, BR2 0QR

**CHISLEHURST** - St Nicholas Primary School, School Road, Chislehurst, BR7 5PQ

**CROYDON** - Gresham Primary School, Limpsfield Road, South Croydon, CR2 9EA

**LEE** - St Winifred's Primary School, Newslead Road, Lee, SE12 0SJ

**SEVENOAKS** - Chevening Primary School, Chevening Road, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, TN13 2SA

**WEST WICKHAM** - Oak Lodge Primary School, Chamberlain Crescent, West Wickham, BR4 0LJ

### Who?

Boys and Girls aged 4 (Reception class) to 12

### When?

**Monday 17th to Friday 21st February**

8.30am-5.30pm (Extended day) or 10am-4pm (Camp day)

### Price?

£37 per day (Camp day)

£7 morning extended hours & £7 afternoon extended hours

We accept CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

**BOOK:** [www.buzzersacademies.co.uk](http://www.buzzersacademies.co.uk) **ENQUIRE:** [camps@buzzers.org.uk](mailto:camps@buzzers.org.uk)



## WHEN?

February half-term

Easter holiday

May half-term

Summer holiday

October half-term

Christmas



Our Buzzers Camps are aimed at children aged 4 to 12 years and are tailored to suit all sporting interests and abilities. All our Camps are based around **Sports** and **Multi-Activity Team Games**.

Each day of our Camps are tailored to ensure, inclusion and maximum participation in a **fun** and **safe** environment. Our team will ensure that all children make **new friends**, **are physically active** and **have their say** on the Camp day-to-day activities.

Throughout the Camp week, there will also be various '**Special Events**' such as Archery, Science, Pottery Painting, Fencing, Taekwondo, Cooking, Sand Art, Circus Skills, First Aid and Inflatables.

All Buzzers Camp staff hold enhanced DBS certificates and are trained in First Aid, Safeguarding Children and Child Protection. All senior (Lead) Buzzers staff come from a school based PE teaching background, therefore each Camp day will have a 'learning outcome' focused around:

- **ABC's** (Agility, Balance & Co-ordination)
- **Communication Skills**
- **Leadership**
- **Team Building**

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** & **TikTok** - @BuzzersAcademies

Download the Buzzers **APP** - search 'Buzzers Academies' on your App Store

**Ofsted**  
Registered