



Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



Welcome to the
Wittersham Weekly!
Friday 13th December 2024



This week has been the busiest yet this term, filled with joy, creativity, and festive cheer!

We were treated to three outstanding KS1 Nativity performances, where the children demonstrated remarkable courage and creativity. Their enthusiasm and talent truly shone, leaving us all immensely proud. A huge well done to everyone involved—including our hardworking staff—for making the Wriggly Nativity such a wonderful success!

Another highlight was our festive Christmas meal, made extra special by the incredible efforts of our kitchen team and midday staff. The beautifully decorated hall added a magical touch to the celebrations. Thank you all for making it such a memorable event!

The week ended on a high note with the Rock Steady concert, showcasing the amazing musical talents of our pupils. It was fantastic to see their confidence and passion on stage—bravo to all our performers!

As we look ahead to the final week of 2024, we are excited to celebrate together at our much-anticipated Christingle service. If your child would like to attend, please ensure you've completed the form on Dojo, and don't forget to bring in an orange if you haven't already.

I couldn't be prouder of our entire school community this week—children, staff, and families alike. Thank you for your continued support and for making this such a special time of year.

Wishing you all a restful and festive weekend!



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Exciting News: Clubs and Breakfast Club Bookings Are Now Open!

We are thrilled to let you know that bookings for **Clubs in Terms 3 and 4** and **Breakfast Club for Term 3** are now live on Dojo!

This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to engage in fun, enriching activities or to enjoy a warm and welcoming start to their school day.

Please remember to complete your bookings before the deadline next week to secure your child's place.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we can't wait to see the children enjoying these fantastic opportunities in the upcoming term!

Attendance

Here are the latest attendance figures for the school:

Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
96.06%	97.4%	96.69%	92.7%	95.6%	92.5%

Whole school: 95%

Whole School Target: 96%

A gentle reminder that the school gates close promptly at 8:45am.

We kindly ask that all children arrive at school before this time.

Any arrivals after 8:45am will be marked as late.

We're delighted to see attendance steadily improving—well done to you all for making such a great effort! A special shout-out goes to everyone who is arriving at school on time, ready to start their day before the gates close. Punctuality sets such a positive tone for the day and helps children settle quickly into their learning.

Our new signing-in system has also been a valuable addition, enabling us to better track and support families who may be struggling with lateness. We're here to help, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you need support with getting to school on time. Let's keep up this fantastic momentum—every day in school makes a difference!

Term 2 Week 6 Wittersham School Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the joy and excitement of this festive season. Help us to be kind, to share happiness, and to make the most of the special moments with our friends and families.

As we head into the last week of term, give us strength to do our best and finish the year with smiles and pride. Help us to support and care for each other, especially when things feel busy or hard.

Thank you for all the good things You bring into our lives. Please guide us to shine brightly and share Your love with everyone around us.

Amen.



Just a
reminder...



Reminder: Safety After School

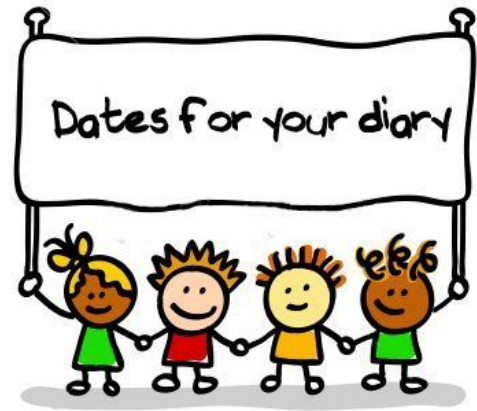
Please do not use the trim trail after school, and kindly ensure that children and siblings stay off the field. This is important to keep everyone safe at the end of the day.

Thank You for your cooperation.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



- **Tuesday 17th December - KS2 Christingle and Carol Concert @5pm.**
- **Thursday 19th December - Christmas Service for the whole school @2:15pm.**
- **Friday 20th December - End of Term 2**
- **Monday 6th January 2025 - Start of Term 3**

Parent Information Session 'Coping at Christmas'

For parents/carers of 0 - 18 year olds (up to 25 with SEND)

**Monday 16th December
10am - 11.30am**

Waterside Family Hub
Turner Close,
Ashford, TN24 0PQ

Christmas can be a hard time to cope for our children with SEND and we want to help.

Come along to our session which will include talks, information sharing and resource making.

There will also be a play area for pre-school children too.

No booking needed just come along.

For more information please call 03000 418700

Email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk



E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent
Police**

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety

Online safety information for parents and carers

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at school.

All of our pupils are taught how to be safe and behave appropriately online, but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work together.

It's important that as adults, we take an active interest in our children's online lives and show a willingness to engage in the digital world with them.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, always contact 999 for police assistance.



Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

The National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA-CEOP) have a website which is suitable for children aged 5-16 and has a section just for parents/carers with advice and information.



NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

The NSPCC have produced resources for parents. Their website covers excellent advice for parents about issues such as online grooming, nude image sharing and cyberbullying, as well as specific advice for children with special educational needs and disabilities.



Childline: www.childline.org.uk

The Childline website has a wide range of information and advice on both online and offline safety for children. There is information about online gaming, grooming, and the Zipit App which helps children feel empowered when confronted with inappropriate chat online. They also provide a helpline for children to get advice over the phone: 0800 1111



UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre provides a wide variety of advice and guidance to help you discuss online safety with your children. There are useful checklists for privacy settings on social networks and suggestions to consider before buying devices for your children.



Childnet: www.childnet.com

Childnet has resources, including videos and storybooks, to help you discuss online safety with your children. It includes advices on setting up parental controls, cyberbullying and setting up a family agreement for safer internet use.



Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org

Internet Matters bring you all the information you need to keep your children safe online. It has a tool which guides you through how to set up parental controls on all the different devices in your home to protect your children.



**Kent
Police**

**THE EDUCATION
PEOPLE**

GOLDen rules for parents and carers

Ground advice

- Discuss and agree as a family how the internet will be used in your home. Let your children tell you what they think is and isn't acceptable for them to do online, such as not being nasty to people, keeping personal information private and speaking to an adult when they are worried. Then add your own rules such as how long they can spend online and when and where webcams can be used.
- You might find it helpful to write these 'ground rules' down as a visual reminder.
- Make sure your child understands that their actions and behaviours online can have offline consequences.
- Remember these are whole family rules, so consider your own use of the internet and think about how much information you are sharing on your social networks about your children and who can see it, such as school photos.
- Agree on what will happen if they don't follow your family rules.

Online safety

- Make sure you apply parental controls to all internet enabled devices in your household, including tablets, phones and games consoles. They can restrict access to inappropriate content and can help you manage how much time your child spends online.
- Make sure your child understands the parental controls are in place to protect them, not restrict them; some children will actively work around parental controls if they feel constrained without knowing why.
- Set up filters on internet search engines to limit the likelihood of your children accidentally coming across inappropriate content when searching online.
- Be aware that internet history can be hidden and deleted, so talk to your children and supervise their online use appropriately.
- Remember filters and parental controls are not 100% effective so you cannot rely on them alone to protect your children. It is important your children understand they should tell you straight away if they see something inappropriate or upsetting online.

Listen

- Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk openly with them about the things they do. Talk to you child about which websites and apps they like to use and why; engage in their online world with them.
- Be aware of any changes in behaviour, language and attitude in your child. These behaviour changes can indicate something is upsetting your child online. Children who are groomed, radicalised, abused or exploited online will often be pressured to withdraw from family and friends.

Dialogue

- Talk to your children – be open and positive when talking about the internet.
- Make sure your child knows they can come to you for help if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable. Many children won't disclose online worries because they are scared adults will blame them or remove their access to the internet.
- Ask your child if they know where to go for help, where to find safety advice, information about privacy settings and how to report or block users on their games and websites.
- Explore their games and websites together to ensure your child knows how to block and report anyone who is nasty or inappropriate. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply and to keep any evidence. If the game/app has a 'parent section', explore the parental controls and reporting systems yourself.
- Ensure your child understands pictures, videos or comments posted online can be very difficult to remove and rarely remain private.
- Discuss the pressures for young people to send inappropriate or nude(indecent) images to each other. How might this behaviour affect their relationship? Do they know what they would do? Young people need to be aware images can be copied, saved and shared without their knowledge and if they are under 18, they may also be breaking the law by making an indecent image of themselves.



**Kent
Police**

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PEOPLE**



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





THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE LARDER

FREE Grocery, household and
hygiene products for all local
families with children under 11
years old

EVERY TUESDAY EVENING

5.15PM-6.15PM

**EC30, Recreation Ground Road,
Tenterden, TN30 6HT.**

Email beth.rice@themildredtrust.org for info



**IF WE CAN HELP JUST TURN UP, BRING A BAG
AND CHOOSE WHAT YOU NEED!**

Charity No:1097210



The Church of England in
Tenterden, Rother and Oxney
Appledore - Ebony - Newenden - Rolvenden - St Michael's
Smallhythe - Stone - Tenterden - Wittersham



Christmas Fun & Crafts

St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden,
Saturday 21st December
10am - 12pm

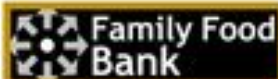
Drop in to create a bag full of
Christmas crafts and goodies!

£2 per child

Refreshments included

All children must be supervised
by their grown-up(s).





The Family Food Bank

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024

SPARKLE & SHINE

Christmas can be an expensive time for everybody but for those already on a tight budget, the added expenses of increased winter fuel bills, and the pressure to buy Christmas presents, can plunge many people into crisis, leading them to make difficult choices.

How you can help...

From the **4th November until 16th December 2024** we are asking you to **'SPARKLE & SHINE'**

to sing out loud and donate to our Christmas appeal!

The food listed is very important to us, as these products are key to making our food boxes.

If you are planning to donate advent calendars please can these be delivered by the 22nd November so we can give these out for the 1st December.

Once you have finished collecting, all the key information to make your donation can be found on our website: www.familyfoodbank.org/christmas-2024

To find out your nearest distribution centre, you can also get in touch by calling [01233 500477](tel:01233 500477) or emailing familyfoodbank@children-families.org.

To find out more please follow us on [Facebook!](#)

This year please take the decision to donate and together we can make this Christmas a time to remember for all the right reasons!

Donate with
JustGiving

The Family Food Bank is part of Children & Families Charity Group.

Registered Charity No: 1115459

Donate with
JustGiving

Please click on the Logos



Please click on the Logos



Please Like & Follow Us On Facebook—Search 'Family Food Bank'



The Family Food Bank

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024

SPARKLE & SHINE

The Collection List

4 x TINS OF MEAT (CURRY, CHILLI, MEATBALLS)	4 x TINS OF VEG (POTATOES, PEAS, CARROTS)	2 x LUCKY DIPS (BISCUITS, XMAS CHOCOLATE, MINCE PIES, XMAS PUDDINGS, HYGIENE PRODUCTS)
1 x RICE (500g)	1 x PASTA (500g)	1 x CEREALS (500g)
1 x TEA/COFFEE	2 x TINNED FISH	2 x TINS OF TOMATOES
4 x TINS OF SOUP	1x UHT MILK	1 x JAR OF COOKING SAUCE
4 x TINS OF BAKED BEANS/ SPAGHETTI	1 x PRESERVES (JAM, MARMITE)	4 x TINS OF DESSERTS (CUSTARD, FRUIT, RICE PUDDING)

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ITEMS IN A BAG / BOX AND DELIVER TO OUR WAREHOUSE OR VIA A DISTRIBUTION CENTRE PARTNER. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND BY VISITING:

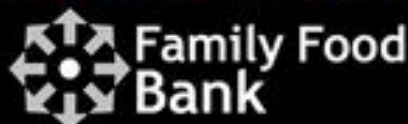
www.familyfoodbank.org/christmas-2024

If you don't have time to collect food, have you thought about giving?

A donation of £20.00 would enable us to help feed a family this Christmas!

Please use the Just Giving Link or visit our website to find out more:

www.familyfoodbank.org/christmas-2024

Please click the image to be more like Mr. Poppy, and get in the festive spirit.

Donate with
JustGiving

Please click on the Logos



The Family Food Bank is part of Children & Families Charity Group.

Registered Charity No: 1115459



Please Like & Follow Us On Facebook—Search 'Family Food Bank'

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