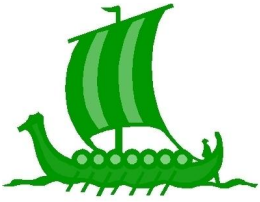


Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



**Welcome to the
Wittersham Weekly!
Friday 23rd May 2025**



Wow – what a week, and what a term!

I'm not sure we could have squeezed in anything more if we had tried! This week, our classes have been focusing on a wide range of global issues – more on that below – and we've ended the term on a real high.

One of the week's highlights was a visit from Governor Jane Burnett, who met with our School Council and Eco Ambassadors. Jane was incredibly impressed and shared the following reflections in her report:

- The pupils feel heard
- The pupils feel they have had an impact
- The pupils feel they can speak out if needed

Jane noted the care shown by our older pupils as they helped the younger ones up the staffroom stairs, holding hands and ensuring everyone was safe. When asked, pupils confidently found their council members, and a chair had even been thoughtfully left for Jane when she arrived. The groups meet every Monday to discuss ideas and suggestions from their class boxes, and they recently chose the RSPCA as their school charity.

Some of the most successful initiatives this year include:

- The class pet – a fish tank!
- The ever-popular Card Trading Club
- New outdoor play equipment like balls and games

It's always so lovely to hear such positive feedback, and we remain incredibly proud of the strength of pupil voice across the school.

We know this time of year can feel a little unsettling as we begin to look ahead to transitions and the next academic year. Last night's full Governing Body meeting was an important one, as we formally ratified the budget for 2024–25. While funding continues to be tight nationally, I am pleased to say that we were able to agree a budget that protects the strong and well-rounded provision we offer our children. Governors were also happy with the proposed staffing structure, which means we will be able to share both the class allocations and teaching teams for September with you after the half term break.

As I write this, our newly qualified swimming teachers are diligently completing their final exam after days of intense training and late-night revision. To say they have gone above and beyond would be an understatement. They have taken part in formal training sessions each morning, followed by practical lessons in the pool every afternoon. Having our own qualified staff will truly transform our swimming provision and enable every child to make fantastic progress in this vital life skill. A huge thank you to Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes, Mrs Beaney, Mrs Channon and Mrs Ely for their commitment, courage, and determination this week – we are so very proud of you all.

Thank you, too, to every member of Team Wittersham who has supported behind the scenes, stepped in for cover, and ensured that this professional development could go ahead. Not just this week, but all term long, I continue to feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such dedicated and passionate people who always put the children first – and care for one another too.

Wishing you all a glorious half term break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 2nd June** for the final term of the academic year! Warmest wishes, Mrs Coulson.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation





GLOBAL ISSUES AT WITTERSHAM

The graphic contains several icons: a factory with smoke, a globe of the Earth, a yellow warning sign with an exclamation mark, two stylized human figures with a double-headed arrow between them, and a white donation box with a red heart on top and the word 'DONATE' written on it.



Exploring the world beyond our classroom – raising awareness, building empathy, and inspiring action

The Global Goals



This week, every class at Wittersham has been exploring global issues and what it means to be *global neighbours* and *courageous advocates*. The children have embraced the opportunity to learn about real-world problems with great enthusiasm, showing curiosity, compassion and a real drive to make a difference.

Inspired by the week's focus, a group of thoughtful children in **Vikings** took it upon themselves to organise a litter pick during lunchtime – a fantastic example of caring for our environment and leading by example. In class, they also designed and built habitats for animals at risk of extinction, combining creativity with a strong sense of environmental awareness.

Oast and Windmills explored the problems caused by rubbish on land and in the sea. Activities included sorting recycling by identifying labels and logos, reusing materials to make "litter bugs", and even cleaning up 'dirty' water! Their learning was brought to life through the powerful texts *The Tin Forest* and *Someone Swallowed Stanley*.

Rother focused on the vital role that food plays in global issues such as poverty, hunger, good health and wellbeing, and sustainability. Their discussions helped them understand the challenges faced by others around the world and how small changes in our choices can contribute to a healthier, fairer future for all.

In **Smugglers**, the children enjoyed a reflective Forest School session, decorating jars in the colours of the Ukrainian flag as a symbol of peace and unity. Their discussions around sharing and global responsibility were thoughtful and sincere, as they also immersed themselves in our whole-school text, *The Tin Forest*, exploring its themes of hope, change, and caring for our world.

Oxney demonstrated their passion by taking part in a peaceful protest, sharing their views and ideas about global challenges and how we can respond as a school community.

This week, we continued our important work through a creative art project inspired by *The Tin Forest*. Children from across the school used materials such as foil, silver paper, and pipe cleaners to recreate elements of the forest. Many classes contributed vibrant birds and flowers, bringing a burst of colour and creativity to the scene.

The result is a striking whole-school display in the entrance hall, proudly showcasing how our children are growing as thoughtful, informed, and courageous global citizens.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Attendance

Here are the latest attendance figures for the school:

Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
95.8%	95.9%	95.7%	92.8%	94.7%	92.9%

Whole school: 94.6% (an increase this week - woohoo!)

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 are essential in helping children make the most of their time in school and achieve their full potential.

We recognise that there can sometimes be challenges that make regular attendance or punctuality difficult. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our School Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes, is available to offer support and guidance to help overcome any barriers.

Year 6 Trip Evacuation Experience

On Monday, 19th May, Rother Class took a trip to Tenterden Railway Station to experience an evacuation very similar to the ones that had taken place back in the Second World War. Everyone dressed up in authentic clothing. We even had a gas mask box each that we had made at school.

When we arrived, we took a marching lesson with the Home Guard, later followed by a train ride to 'Wales' (but really Northiam) to learn about the children's experiences when they were evacuated. As soon as we had got back, we spoke to Viv the Spiv and found out all about what he would have done in World War II.

We learnt that women would run out to collect the remains of the silk parachute for them to make into underwear. We also had a talk about rationing where we made chocolate spread using mashed potato!

Tenterden Railway Museum was very interesting and we sat in a Victorian carriage. Finally, we were spoken to about the Land Army where we could look at a display.

I was interested in the doodlebug craters that we saw on the train ride back. I learnt that they were from where the Germans were trying to bomb the railway!

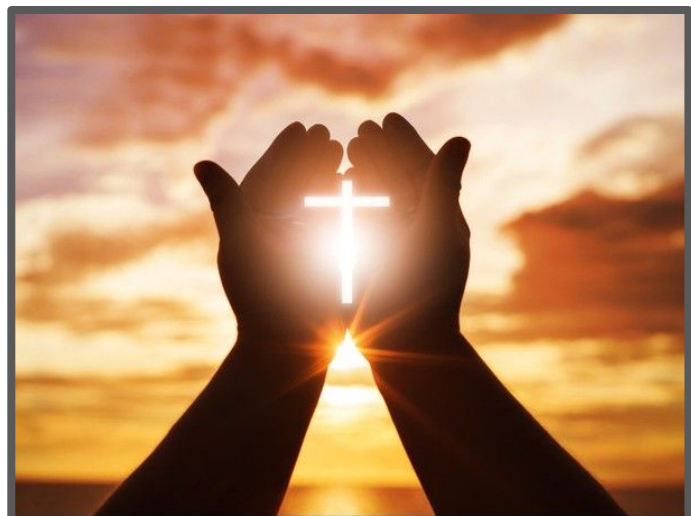
I thought that the trip was really useful for my understanding of World War II.

Written by Poppy Lovejoy

Dear God,

As we begin this half term break, we thank You for the time to rest and recharge. Please watch over our families and friends—keep them safe, healthy, and happy. May our days be filled with joy, peace, and moments of laughter.

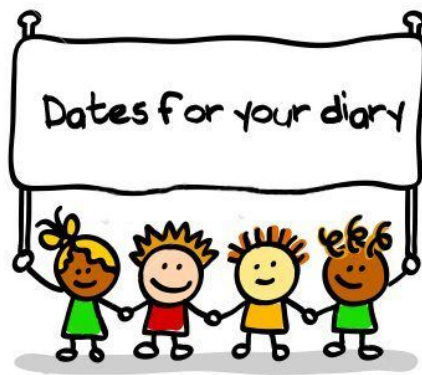
Amen.



Compassion

Courage


Cooperation

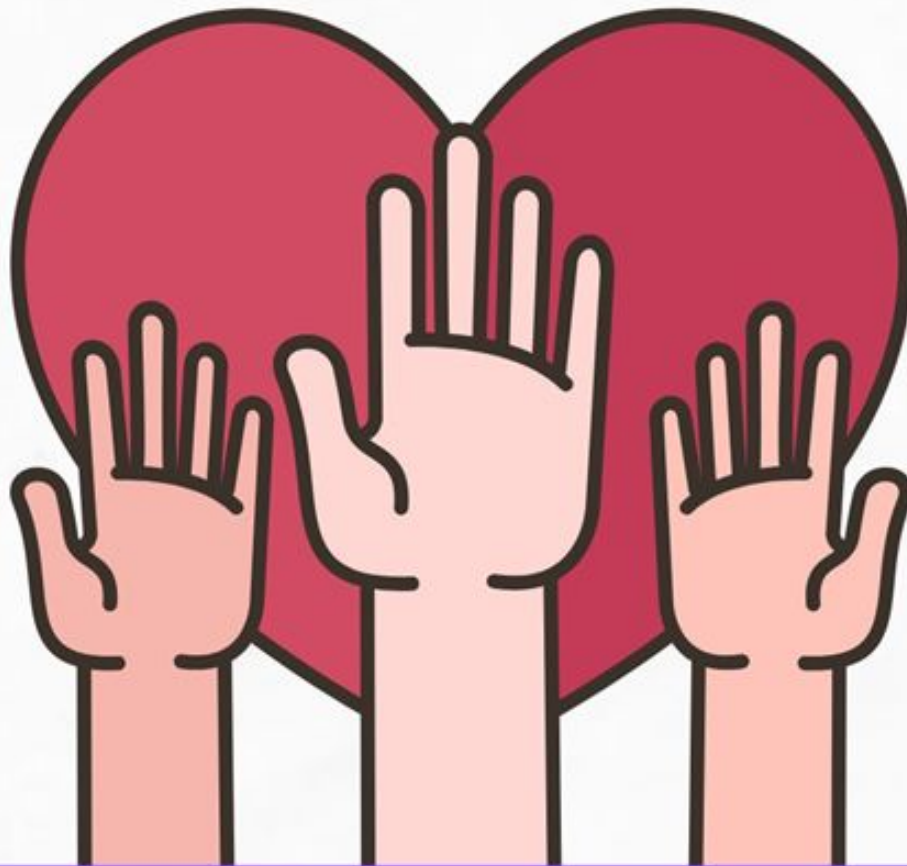


Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Friday, 23rd May** – Final Day of Term 5
- **Monday, 26th May** – **Bank Holiday** (School Closed and half term)
- **Monday, 2nd June** – First Day of Term 6
- **Monday 2nd June** - Swimming begins
- **Tuesday 3rd June** - New Year R Parent Meeting @4pm
- **Wednesday 4th June** - WSA Fathers Day Sale
- **Thursday, 5th June** – Rother Forest School Begins
- **Thursday 5th June** - Whole School Class Photos
- **Thursday 5th June** - KS1 Meeting for Windmill and Oast Parents @2:30pm
- **Tuesday 10th June - Friday 13th June** - Year 5/6 School Residential.
- **Thursday, 19th June** – Windmill & Oast Cake Sale and WSA Stay and Play event
- **Friday 20th June** - Non-uniform day - please see below flyer for donation information
- **Friday 27th June** - Sports Day and Parent Picnic - this will begin at 9:30am and all parents are invited to join us for a whole school picnic at 1pm.
- **Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July** - Transition Week
- **Friday 4th July** - WSA Summer Festival
- **Tuesday 8th July** - Oast and Smuggler School Trip
- **Thursday 10th July** - Year 6 End of Term Pool Party @3pm
- **Wednesday 16th July** - Year 6 Production
- **Friday 18th July** - Year 6 Leavers Service @9:30am
- **Friday 18th July** – Last Day of Term 6
- **Monday, 21st July** – **INSET Day (School Closed for Pupils)**
- **Tuesday, 22nd July** – **INSET Day (School Closed for Pupils)**

 *Please mark these dates in your calendars as we look forward to a busy and exciting term ahead!*



Volunteers NEEDED

COME & JOIN IN!

We need help with

- Help with cake sales
- Summer Event - stalls, setting up & clearing away
- Father's Day Sale

Get in touch

-  Grab one of the WSA Committee on the school run
-  Drop us a message on WhatsApp
-  Pop a comment on one of our Facebook posts

Non-Uniform – Friday 20th June

On Friday 20th June children can come into school in their choice of outfit for the day. In return for not wearing school uniform, we ask each class to come in with a donation for something that we can use as a prize at the School Summer Festival on 4th July. Members of the WSA will be at drop off to collect your kind donations.

LOOK COOL
in school!
in exchange for...

20th June

Rother class - bring any bottled item.

Smugglers and Oxney classes - bring bags of sweets

Windmills and Oast classes - donate a teddy or some form of soft toy.

Second hand is fine as long as it is in good condition

Viking Class - Bring something in a box - chocolates, biscuits, pasta, even a box of wine etc.

Non-School Uniform Day!!

We are so looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Summer Festival held on the 4th of July.

With best wishes
Wittersham School Association



Reg Charity No:1059824



PLEASE JOIN THE WSA FOR A

FATHER'S DAY

Sale

WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE

**GIFTS FOR DAD
OR A SPECIAL
MAN IN YOUR
LIFE!**



**ALL GIFTS WILL BE GIFT
WRAPPED.**

**£3.50 PER GIFT.
PLEASE SEND MONEY IN A
NAMED ENVELOPE.
ONE GIFT PER CHILD.**



WITTERSHAM PRIMARY
SCHOOL'S

BIG

SUMMER

**£5 PER TICKET
PER PERSON**

**FRIDAY 4TH JULY
5PM - 8PM**

BBQ

**STALLS &
GAMES**

**FACE
PAINTING**

BAR

FESTIVAL

**AMAZING
RAFFLE**

**LIVE
PERFORMANCES**

DJ COLOSSAL





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





Kent
Family
Hub



Half Term Timetable

Ashford Family Hubs

27th May 2025 - 30th May 2025

Contact us

Ashford North Family Hub 03000 417567

Bockhanger Family Hub 03000 418600

Waterside Family Hub 03000 418700

The Willow Family Hub 03000 418800

Tenterden Family Hub 03000 418400

or email:

ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk



Find us on Facebook or Instagram at
[Ashfordfamilyhubs](#) or
[Ashfordfamilyhubs11to19](#)

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Ashford Family Hubs

27th May 2025

Baby Play

Tenterden Family Hub
Recreation Ground Road
Tenterden
Kent
TN30 6RA

12.30pm - 2.00pm

For pre-walkers only

Drop In



27th May 2025

Compass Gardening Group

Ashford North Family Hub
Mabledon Avenue
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8BJ

10.00am - 2.00pm

For 11-19 year olds who currently attend one of our compass groups

Requires Booking



28th May 2025

Geocaching and Hot Dogs

For 11-19 year olds only.
Meet at Victoria Park Ashford,
TN23 4QA by Harpers Cafe.

To book a place please call
03000 417567 as places are
limited

12.00pm - 4.00pm

Requires Booking



29th May 2025

Baby Play

Waterside Family Hub
Turner Close
Willesborough
Ashford
Kent
TN24 0PQ

1.00pm - 2.30pm

For pre-walkers only

Drop In



30th May 2025

Baby Play

Bockhanger Family Hub
Belmont Road
Kennington
Ashford
Kent
TN24 9LS

1.00pm - 2.30pm

For pre-walkers only

Drop In