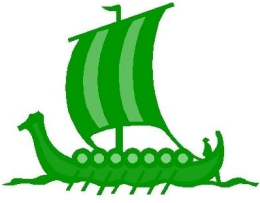


# Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



**Welcome to the  
Wittersham Weekly!  
Friday 31st January 2025**



## **Farewell to the Longest Month of the Year!**

We hope you've all had a wonderful start to the year. As we approach the end of January, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the positive steps forward we've made as a school community. It has been a busy and exciting start to 2025, and we are grateful for the continued support and enthusiasm of everyone involved in our school life.

This week, we were fortunate to have a member of the KCC Specialist Teaching and Learning Services (STLS) visit us to provide support for our SEND learners. Their visit was incredibly positive, and they were impressed with the progress and provision here at Wittersham, particularly highlighting the work in our Orchard Nurture Classroom. It's always a joy to hear such encouraging feedback and see our learners thriving in a supportive and nurturing environment!

Looking ahead, next week marks **Children's Mental Health Week** —a crucial opportunity to focus on the well-being of our students and recognise the importance of mental health. For more information, please follow this link: [Children's Mental Health Week](#).

On **Tuesday, 4th February**, we encourage all children and staff to **come in wearing their own clothes** to express themselves. This is a chance for children to showcase their unique personalities and bring joy to their day through what they wear. Since we don't have PE on Tuesdays, this will make it easier for children to participate comfortably. However, please note that heels, short tops, and makeup are not allowed, as we want all students to feel comfortable and confident in a way that makes them feel good.

On this day, we will also be participating in live yoga sessions, so please ensure your child is dressed in clothes that allow them to move freely and comfortably.

Additionally, on **Friday, 7th February**, we will celebrate **NSPCC Number Day**, providing our students the opportunity to engage in problem-solving activities designed to enhance their mathematical thinking and promote greater autonomy in the classroom. This fun and interactive day will also encourage collaboration and teamwork, key skills that will benefit all our learners.

We also have the exciting **Oxney Class Valentine's Day Cake Sale** coming up soon—keep an eye out for more details and be sure to check the 'Upcoming Dates' section below.

Thank you for being such a supportive part of the Wittersham community. We wish you all a wonderful start to a new month, and we look forward to everything February has in store for us!

**Compassion**

**Courage**

**Cooperation**

## Attendance

Here are the latest attendance figures for the school:

Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
96.8%	96%	95.4%	92.9%	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.

### Term 3 Week 4 Wittersham School Prayer

Dear Lord,

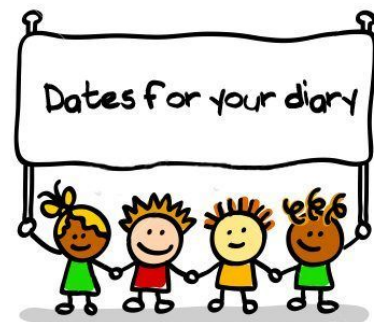
As we journey through this week, we thank You for the gift of our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. We ask that You help us to nurture and care for our mental well-being, just as we care for our bodies.

May we remember that it is okay to take a break, to ask for help, and to share how we are feeling. We ask for the strength to face challenges with courage and resilience, knowing that we are never alone.

We pray for kindness to ourselves and others, that we may lift each other up, listen with compassion, and offer encouragement in times of need.

May Your peace fill our hearts and guide us to take positive steps for our well-being, trusting in Your love and support.

Amen.



- **Tuesday 4th February** - Express Yourself Day!
- **Friday, 7th February** - NSPCC Number Day
- **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

**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



# RYE CRICKET CLUB

**Here are the ways to start playing cricket.**



## SPRING CRICKET SESSIONS

### RYE SPORTS CENTRE

Wednesday 5th March for 8 Weeks

6.00 – 7.00 pm School Years 4-6

7.00 -8.00 pm School Years 7-9

With Fully Qualified ECB Coaches

Cost is £50 / £35\*

**FOR NEW ATTENDEES THE FIRST 2 WEEKS ARE FREE\***

**FOR NEW ATTENDEES CRICKET EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED**

These Sessions are Supported by

**THE RYE FUND & THE TED BAKER TRUST**

Contact Martin Blincow to sign up.

Mobile: 07535482006

blincsfamily@aol.com

[www.ryecc.play-cricket.com](http://www.ryecc.play-cricket.com)

## SUMMER JUNIOR CRICKET

### AT THE RYE CRICKET SALTS



**All Stars** All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so. Every child that registers will receive a personalised t-shirt with their name on it.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>



**Cricket Dynamos** Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport. Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental

skills required to play cricket. We know how important it is to look like the heroes of the game, so every child who registers will receive their very own Dynamos Cricket New Balance t-shirt, personalised with their name and number.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos-cricket>

**These Courses Start Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**All Stars 10am – 11am Dynamos 11am -12pm**

**We offer Hardball games of Cricket.**

We run two Under 11 Teams, and Under 13 and Under 16 teams.

The Summer Coaching Programme starts Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 6-8pm for Under 11s and Under 13s

Under 16s have Nets on Friday Evening 6-8pm

Under 11s play on Monday Evenings

Under 16s play on Tuesday Evenings

Under 13s play on Thursday Evenings

**The Cost is £70**

**This Covers:** 12 weeks of Nets / All Junior Matches / Club Shirt /Family Membership of Rye Cricket Club

