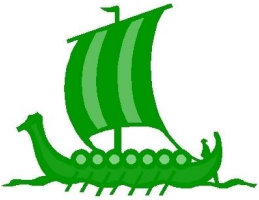


Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



Welcome to the
Wittersham Weekly!
Thursday 16th October 2025



Wittersham Weekly – Term 1, Week 8

What a final week it's been! Just four short days, but goodness me, we've certainly packed a lot in.

We've welcomed new children into our Wittersham community, and in a lovely turn of events, we were due to say goodbye to Mrs Melanie Mills as a member of our cleaning team — but she has decided to stay with us! Melanie will now be part of our wraparound care team, which is hugely exciting. We're also delighted that Mrs Louisa Packham has taken on the Friday role, meaning that our wraparound care will now be led by Ms Sarah Bailey (Monday–Wednesday), Mrs Melanie Mills (Thursday), and Ms Louisa Packham (Friday). We are thrilled to have all three officially on board and are continuing to develop this provision with their wonderful ideas and energy.

On Tuesday, Mr Hawkins and Jack M in Year 6 were invited to the Houses of Parliament as part of our continued commitment to *Fishing for Schools*. Mr Hawkins, Jack, and his parents attended the Fishing for Schools Champions Event at the House of Commons. They were expecting an afternoon of updates and networking, but were amazed to discover that Wittersham had been awarded an Excellence Award for its participation in the scheme over the past two years.

What an achievement for the school! It's a real testament to the passion and dedication that Mr Hawkins puts into everything he does. He is also close to qualifying as a fishing instructor, which means we can continue to offer fishing opportunities for even more children across the school — something we are very proud of.



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Our School Council also had an important job this week: reviewing the school menu as we move into the winter months. They were very keen to see a greater choice of hot meals — and it's safe to say that jacket potatoes have been a huge success! With their feedback, we've modified our new three-week menu, which will begin with Week 3 when we return after half term.

During tomorrow's INSET Day, contractors will be on site to begin some key development work across the school, which will continue for the next two weeks. A new gate will also be installed, so the building may look a little different inside and out when we return.

Finally, a reminder to all families that it's essential you let us know if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness or other reasons. If we haven't heard from you by 10am, despite contacting all available numbers, we will carry out a home visit to make sure children are safe. Please make sure to call or email the school office — not class teachers — on the day your child is unwell.

We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest over the break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 3rd November for the start of Term 2.

Stay safe and enjoy the weekend,
Mrs Coulson

Exciting News! 🐾

We're thrilled to announce that we will soon be welcoming a *reading dog* to Wittersham! Daisy is currently completing work experience as part of her training to become a fully qualified therapy dog. In the meantime, she will be visiting our school to help encourage and support our more reluctant readers.

This initiative ties in beautifully with our new whole-school reading incentive, and we're hoping to begin sessions next term on **Friday afternoons** .



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End of Term 1 Prayer

Dear God,
As this first term comes to an end, we thank you for all that we have shared and learned together.

For the friendships made, the laughter and joy, and the courage shown when things felt new or challenging.

We thank you for our teachers and staff, for their care, patience, and guidance, and for every child in our Wittersham family who has tried their best and shown kindness along the way.

As we begin our half-term rest, we pray for peace and refreshment for everyone — for time to play, to smile, to spend with those we love, and to feel your presence in all we do.

May we return renewed in spirit, ready to keep learning, growing, and shining brightly, living with courage, compassion, and cooperation — walking always in the light of your love.
Amen.

Attendance and Punctuality

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.

The school gate closes at 8:45am. Any child arriving after this time will need to sign in at the office, and this will be recorded as late. Being consistently late not only disrupts learning for the child but also for the class as a whole. Over the coming weeks, we will be arranging meetings with families of pupils who are persistently late to explore ways we can work together to improve punctuality.

Remember, our Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am and is a great way to ensure children arrive on time and are settled, ready for the day ahead. We do understand that challenges can sometimes make regular attendance or punctuality difficult. If you are experiencing 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. Together, we can make sure every child has the very best start to each school day.

Here are the latest attendance figures for the school:

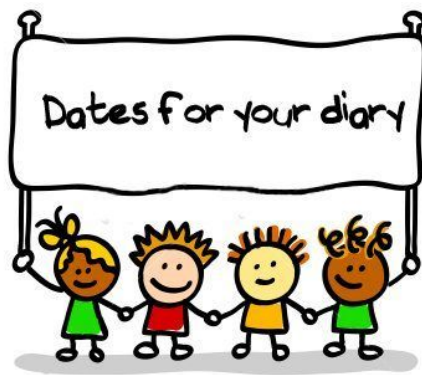
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
95.5%	96.9%	93.9%	91.4%	96.6%

Whole school: 94.7%
Whole School Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Thursday 16th October** - Last day of Term 1
- **Friday 17th October** - INSET Day (School Closed for Pupils)
- **Monday 20th - Friday 31st October** - Half Term.
- **Monday 3rd November** - Start of Term 2
- **Wednesday 5th November** - Parents Evening
- **Thursday 6th November** - Forest School Oxney Sessions begin
- **Thursday 6th November** - WSA School Disco and Non-Uniform Day (all children to bring in a sweet based donation)
- **Thursday 13th November** - Special Bonfire School Meal - Hot Dog/Veggie Hot Dog, wedges and baked beans.
- **Friday 14th November** - Children in Need Homewood Dance Dash - info to follow
- **Thursday 20th November** - Year 2 Trip to Godinton House
- **Thursday 27th November** - WSA Wreath Making @7-9pm
- **Tuesday 2nd December** - Whole School Pantomime in school
- **Tuesday 9th December** - EYFS and KS1 Nativity @13:30 (ticket info to follow)
- **Wednesday 10th December** - EYFS and KS1 Nativity @9:30(ticket info to follow)
- **Wednesday 10th December** - EYFS and KS1 Nativity @4:30pm(ticket info to follow)
- **Friday 12th December** - Rock Steady Christmas Concert
- **Tuesday 16th December** - KS2 (but all are welcome) Christingle Event at the Church @5pm
- **Friday 19th December** - Final day of Term 2

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

BONFIRE BONANZA

ON: Thursday 13th NOVEMBER

Sizzling specials and
tasty treats for Bonfire.

But remember to
stay safe on
November 5th

FRESH



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



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

Local competitions and events



*Design Ashford Borough Council's
Christmas Card!*

Children aged 4 to 11 can enter

Deadline: Sunday 9 November 2025

Submit entries to christmascardcomp@ashford.gov.uk

WIN £30 worth of Waterstones vouchers and
10 printed cards to send to family and friends.