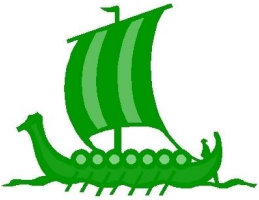


Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



**Welcome to the
Wittersham Weekly!
Friday 7th November 2025**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 2, Week 1

What a first week back it has been! From the excitement of the fantastic WSA Disco to the buzz of Parents' Evening, our first visit from the Reading Dog, a non-uniform day, and so much incredible learning – it has been wonderful to be back together. We hope you all enjoyed the two-week break; both adults and children have returned full of energy for an exciting Term 2.

Over the half term, I am thrilled to share that Mr Hawkins qualified as a Level 2 Angling Event Lead Coach and is now able to take children fishing throughout the academic year. This is a fantastic opportunity, and we are hoping to secure a regular fishing slot so that as many children as possible can experience this calming and rewarding activity.

The WSA Disco was a huge success, and I can only hope all that singing and dancing led to an early bedtime for everyone – I know it certainly did for the adults! A big thank you to the WSA, all the staff who attended and supported the event, and everyone who donated sweets.

It was also fantastic to see so many of you at Parents' Evening this week. The café was a real highlight, with plenty of tea, coffee, and delicious treats enjoyed. We hope you found your meetings valuable and enjoyed hearing about how your child has settled into the new year and the progress they have already made. These meetings are an essential opportunity to celebrate successes, discuss next steps, and work together to ensure every child continues to thrive. If you were unable to attend, please do make an appointment with your child's class teacher as soon as possible. We are aiming for 100% attendance at these meetings, as strong home-school partnerships make such a difference to children's learning and well-being.

We were also delighted to welcome two new children to Wittersham this week and are thrilled to have their family join our school community. This brings our total number of pupils to 137 – meaning we now have just three spaces left until we are full! It has been a particularly busy week with Reception tours for next year, and it has been wonderful to hear such positive feedback from visiting families. Many have commented on our calm and purposeful atmosphere, the children's excellent behaviour for learning, and the warmth and professionalism of our staff team, as well as how inspiring our learning environment feels.

You'll also find all the Christmas dates included in this newsletter – please do make a note of them on your calendar.

Apologies for the bumper newsletter this week – there's a lot happening, and this term promises to be full of excitement and opportunity. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the fireworks if you're going to see any, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday. Mrs Coulson

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Children in Need – Friday 14 November

Next Friday, we will be supporting Children in Need. Our School Council have decided that all children can wear their own clothes for the day, with the option of crazy hair too. Children are welcome to wear something yellow or spotty if they wish.

All money raised will be donated through Homewood School as part of their annual Dance Dash event.

Please remember: clothing choices should be suitable for school – no crop tops, short shorts, flip-flops, heels, or make-up. Oxney Class should wear clothing appropriate for PE. Crocs may be worn but must be in sports mode. No hoop earrings please. Hair may be worn down if children wish. Dress-up clothes or pyjamas are welcome, as long as they are suitable for learning.

Thank you for supporting this fantastic cause.

Shoebox Appeal for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Shoebox Appeal for Ukraine. This appeal, led by RM Cycles in Tenterden, is a wonderful way to support others and share kindness beyond our community.

Families are invited to contribute in any way they can – you do not need to fill an entire shoebox. Smaller donations of individual items are very welcome, and we will use these to create boxes here in school. Empty shoe boxes are also greatly appreciated.

Our aim is to fill one shoebox per class to send as part of the appeal. You may wish to donate items suitable for soldiers on the front line, newborn babies, or children. Each box includes small, thoughtful items such as something to wear, something to eat, something fun or creative, and a Christmas card. Items can be new or preloved, as long as they are clean, good quality, and in excellent condition.

Please ensure all items or boxes are brought into school by Monday 17 November. They will then be collected and sent to Ukraine as part of the wider community effort, organised through RM Cycles.

It is so important that, as a school community, we continue to show compassion and support for those beyond our local area. Opportunities like this help our children to understand the power of kindness, empathy, and the difference small acts of generosity can make to families across the world.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness in supporting this appeal – together we can help make Christmas a little brighter for others.

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PRAYER

Start of Term 2 Prayer

Dear God,

As we begin this new term together,
we thank you for the warmth and kindness of our school community.

Help us to open our hearts to others,
to notice those in need both near and far,
and to remember the importance of giving, sharing, and caring.

May our actions reflect your love,
and may our generosity bring comfort and hope
to families in other communities who need our support.

Guide us to give not only our things,
but also our time, our patience, and our compassion.
Let this term be one filled with kindness, gratitude, and joy. 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:

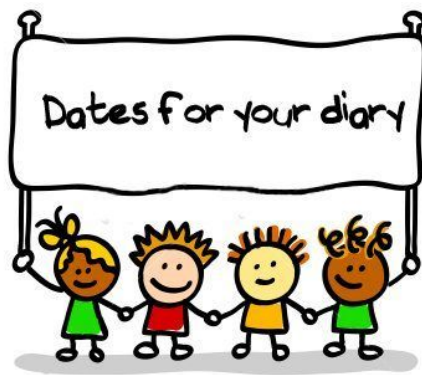
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
95%	96%	94%	92%	96%

Whole school: 94.7%
Whole School Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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
- **Monday 17th November** - Deadline for shoebox donations
- **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)
- **Thursday 11th December** - Christmas Jumper Day
- **Friday 12th December** - Rock Steady Christmas Concert
- **Tuesday 16th December** - Whole School Christmas Lunch
- **Tuesday 16th December** - KS2 (but all are welcome) Christingle Event at the Church @5pm
- **Friday 19th December** - Final day of Term 2 - Christmas Outfits welcomed!
- **Monday 5th January 2026** - INSET Day - School closed
- **Tuesday 6th January 2026** - First Day of Term 3

 *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.