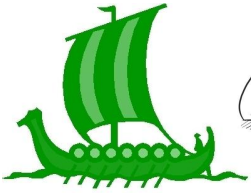


Wittersham Church of England Primary School

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



**Welcome to the
Wittersham Weekly!
Friday 16th January 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 3 Week 2

Now, I know I say this every week, but I simply cannot believe that another Friday is upon us – where has the week gone? I do hope you have all managed to stay warm and dry despite the very wet weather we have been experiencing. While we have had several indoor breaktimes and lunchtimes this week, this certainly has not slowed the pace of learning and activity inside school.

We have been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors into school this week, beginning with PCSO Ricky Apps. Ricky led a whole-school worship and also spent valuable time with our Year 6 pupils, supporting them to develop their understanding of the wider world beyond our village. He helped to address and clarify misconceptions around laws, responsibilities and societal expectations in a clear and age-appropriate way. Following our recent Ofsted visit, inspectors commented on the importance of continuing to develop pupils' understanding of life beyond Wittersham, and Ricky's visit was an important and purposeful part of this work.

Ricky also shared his own personal journey with the children, explaining that he is dyslexic and that he overcame a number of barriers to achieve his role. He recently received the award for PCSO of the Year, which was incredibly inspiring for the children to hear. Hearing real-life stories like this helps the children to understand that challenges do not define them and that perseverance and self-belief truly matter.

Later in the week, we were visited by Andrea, our link Speech and Language Therapist, as part of the Kent Balanced System. This system supports schools to identify and respond early to speech, language and communication needs, ensuring children receive the right level of support at the right time. Andrea worked alongside staff to review provision and discuss next steps, helping us to continue strengthening our inclusive practice.

We were also visited by a representative from Ashford Borough Council's Environmental Health team for our routine kitchen hygiene inspection, which typically takes place every two years. These visits are unannounced, meaning we do not know in advance when inspectors will attend. I am delighted to share that our amazing kitchen team were awarded a 5-star hygiene rating. This grading reflects the highest standards of food safety, cleanliness and organisation. I never doubted the outcome for a moment, and the inspector was extremely impressed with both the kitchen environment and the team's professionalism.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

In the classroom, Bible Explorer sessions began in Year 5 this week. These sessions allow pupils to explore biblical texts in greater depth, encouraging thoughtful discussion, questioning and reflection. Arabella, who leads these sessions, has visited us many times over the years and commented once again on how much she enjoys returning to Wittersham each year – which was a real joy to hear.

Thursday brought our special meal day, and it was a true pizza extravaganza, followed by sponge cake that not only looked delightful but tasted unreal! It was certainly the talk of the afternoon, especially in Smuggler class. Meals like this enable all children to enjoy a freshly cooked, hot school meal together, and we are always careful to ensure that children with dairy and gluten intolerances are fully included and catered for. Please do take note of the Term 4 'Come Dine With Me' sessions, which are included in the dates section of the Wittersham Weekly. Further information, including how to book your meal, will follow shortly.

As you can see, it has been a jam-packed week. As I write this on Thursday evening, I have no doubt that Friday will be just as busy and wonderful.

Wishing you all a glorious weekend, and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday for another fabulous week ahead.

Take care,
Mrs Coulson ❤️



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Courage

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On **Tuesday 11th February**, our school will be taking part in **Safer Internet Day**, which promotes the safe and responsible use of technology.

This year's focus is the safe use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This aligns with national safeguarding guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, which recognises AI as part of schools' wider online safety responsibilities.

All pupils will take part in age-appropriate learning. EYFS and KS1 pupils will not be taught about AI explicitly; instead, they will explore familiar technologies such as voice assistants and focus on simple online safety messages. Older pupils will explore AI in more detail, including how to use it safely and responsibly.

If you have any questions or would like more information, **please contact Miss Robinson.**

Parking and Road Safety Reminder

We would like to gently remind all families to take extra care when driving and parking around the school, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times and especially in wet weather.

The roads and pavements leading to the school are very narrow, and when they become busy, pedestrians can be particularly vulnerable. Large puddles often gather along the road by the church in heavy rain, and vehicles passing at speed can cause water to splash onto the pavement. We are also increasingly aware of cars mounting the kerb in order to pass, which is especially concerning for children, families with pushchairs and those walking to school.

We kindly ask all drivers to:

- slow down near the school and through the village, particularly in poor weather
 - be mindful of puddles and pedestrians on narrow pavements
 - avoid mounting the kerb when passing other vehicles
- park considerately and legally, keeping pavements clear for those walking

Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe and for continuing to show care and consideration for one another. A small pause or reduction in speed can make a big difference.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

PRAYER

A prayer for a busy week of visitors and lots of rain!

Dear God,

Thank you for a full week of learning,
even when the rain kept us indoors.

Thank you for our visitors
and for those who help keep us safe.

Help us to show courage when learning feels tricky,
cooperation as we learn and play together,
and compassion in the way we treat everyone.

As we rest this weekend,
help us return ready to learn again.

Amen.



Attendance and Punctuality

At Wittersham Church of England Primary School, regular attendance and punctuality are vital in helping children learn well and feel secure in their daily routines.

The school gate closes at 8:45am. Children arriving after this time must sign in at the office, and this will be recorded as a late arrival. Persistent lateness affects your child's learning and also disrupts the start of the day for the whole class.

Over the coming weeks, we will be arranging meetings with families of pupils who are regularly late so that we can work together to improve punctuality. Please also look out for your attendance and punctuality letter, which will be sent to all families next week. This will be emailed to the address provided when your child joined the school.

We have recently seen our attendance drop below 94 percent for the first time this year, which is concerning. Every day in school makes a real difference.

If you are experiencing any difficulties, please get in touch. Our School Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes, is available to support families and help address any barriers.

By working together, we can ensure every child has the best possible start to each school day

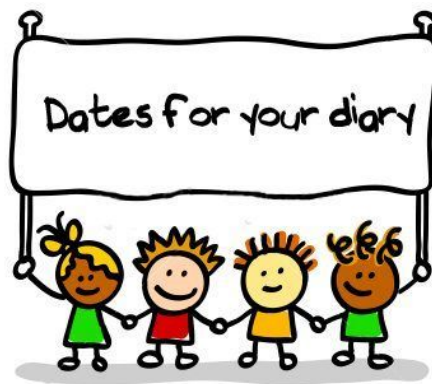
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
92.5%	94.2%	92.8%	92.5%	94.4%

Whole school: **93.2%**
Whole School Target: **96%**

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday 26th - 30th January** - Wittersham Anti-Bullying Week
- **Tuesday 27th January** - Year 5 and 6 Multi-Skills Event
- **Thursday 29th January** - Godinton House Trip for Year 3
- **Wednesday 4th February** - WSA Vikings Cake Sale
- **Tuesday 11th February** - Safer Internet Day
- **Friday 13th February** - WSA Valentines Disco
- **Friday 13th February** - Last day of Term 3
- **Monday 23rd February** - First day of Term 4
- **Monday 23rd February** - Young Voices Concert @ The O2
- **Thursday 26th February** - Author visit for KS2
- **Tuesday 3rd March** - Windmill Class Come Dine with Me @11:45am
- **Thursday 5th March** - World Book Day 2026
- **Friday 6th March** - WSA Quiz Night
- **Tuesday 10th March** - Smuggler Class Come Dine with Me @11:45am
- **Tuesday 17th March** - Viking Class Come Dine with Me @11:45am
- **Tuesday 24th March** - Oxney Class Come Dine with Me @11:45am
- **Tuesday 31st March** - Rother Class Come Dine with Me @11:45am
- **Wednesday 1st April** - Whole School Easter Service (everyone is welcome) @9:00am
- **Thursday 2nd April** - Last Day of Term 4
- **Friday 3rd - Sunday 19th April** - Spring Break
- **Monday 20th April** - First day of Term 5
- **Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May** - Year 6 KS2 SATs Week
- **Monday 11th, 12th and 13th May** - Year 5 Bikeability Training

WE NEED YOU!

HAVE YOU HAD A CHRISTMAS SORT OUT?

Do you have any spare...



JUMPERS



JOGGERS



T-SHIRTS



LEGGINGS



Please **DO NOT** send them to the charity shop or clothes bank!

ANY SPARES YOU MAY HAVE
**PLEASE BRING THEM
INTO SCHOOL!**



This will benefit any child who may get muddy or dirty in the school day! *Thank you!*



WITTERSHAM PRIMARY GYMNASTICS

NEW TERM booking is open now

MONDAY 12TH JANUARY

3.15PM - 4.15PM

GIRLS AND BOYS

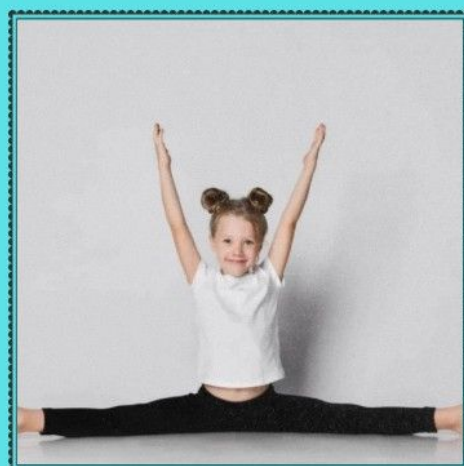
From rolls & handstands to
cartwheels, jumps, balance,
strength, & flexibility.

Together we build skills,
confidence, smiles & have
plenty of FUN!

TO SIGN UP

WWW.BOOMACTIVE.CO.UK

FOLLOW, WITTERSHAM PRIMARY



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