

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 30th January 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 3 Week 4

I write this newsletter with a warm cup of tea beside me, having just returned from the loveliest day with Year 3 at Godinton House.

I think it is safe to say that every single Year 3 child is now far more confident at map reading than I am — and goodness knows where I would be without Google Maps! The children spent the day developing their map reading and grid referencing skills in the most beautiful surroundings, working alongside the fantastic Helen and her team, who made every activity engaging, purposeful and great fun.

These enrichment opportunities have been carefully organised by Mrs Scott so that each year group can access them across the school year. They provide such a valuable chance for children to build team skills, develop practical geographical knowledge and, most importantly, learn through experience in simply gorgeous grounds. The children demonstrated extraordinary levels of cooperation and compassion throughout the day, and I was incredibly proud of them all. It was certainly a wonderful way to spend a Thursday.

Earlier in the week, on Wednesday, Miss Perrian arranged for Steve from Humanists UK to join us for collective worship. He shared a short talk followed by a question and answer session, helping the children to understand more about Humanism. This is currently an area of exploration for Smugglers within their RE learning, and they were able to work with him afterwards to deepen their understanding as part of their curriculum.

As a Church of England school, it is incredibly important that our children learn about a wide range of faiths, beliefs and cultures. Our role is not only to teach children about Christianity, but to help them develop respect, understanding and curiosity about the diverse world in which they live. This is a key focus within our School Improvement Plan this year as we continue to strengthen pupils' understanding of wider cultural and religious diversity. Opportunities such as this help our children to ask thoughtful questions, challenge stereotypes and develop a respectful awareness of different worldviews.

As I now turn my attention to preparing for this evening's Full Governing Board meeting, I will be sharing our recent assessment data, an update on attendance, developments within our School Improvement Plan, the ongoing day-to-day running of the school, and looking ahead to budget setting for the year ahead. In doing so, I am reminded how fortunate I am to work alongside 139 wonderful children and 23 dedicated adults who go above and beyond for our school community every single day.

Wishing you all a fabulous final weekend of January, and I look forward to seeing you all next month — or on Monday if you will!

Take care,
Mrs Coulson

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Anti-Bullying Week



This week, we have marked Anti-Bullying Week across the school. This is an important opportunity for children to develop a clear understanding of what bullying is, how it can make people feel, and what to do if they are worried about themselves or others.

We have spent time helping children understand that bullying is not the same as falling out or having a disagreement. Bullying is behaviour that is repeated, intentional and designed to hurt someone physically or emotionally. We explored the different types of bullying, including physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying and online bullying, in age-appropriate ways.

At Wittersham, we are very clear that we are a zero-tolerance school when it comes to bullying. Children are taught that they are never bystanders. Instead, they are encouraged to be 'tellers' – children who seek adult support when they are worried about something they have seen or experienced. This is an important part of keeping everyone safe.

Across the week, children in KS1 used BBC Bitesize resources to help them understand what bullying is and how to be kind and supportive friends. In KS2, children watched and discussed a BBC learning video which included a clear definition of bullying and a memorable song to reinforce the message. In RE, we explored the story of David and Goliath, reflecting on themes of courage, standing up for others and not misusing power.

There were many opportunities for discussion throughout the week, often through Community Circle time, where children used discussion prompts to talk openly about bullying, kindness and friendship.

Some examples of the activities children took part in included:

- Children created leaves for a Kindness Tree, sharing kind actions they had done or seen. These will form a display in our entrance area over the coming weeks.
- Compliment Circles, where children gave genuine compliments to one another, helping them to recognise strengths in their peers.
- Team-building games that required cooperation and inclusion rather than competition.
- Daily class discussions to build understanding and confidence in talking about worries.

Anti-Bullying Week is a focused opportunity for us to bring this important message to the forefront. However, the principles behind it are woven through everything we do at Wittersham through the Wittersham Way, restorative approaches and our focus on compassion, cooperation and courage all year round.

We know that this is most effective when school and home work in partnership. Talking with your child about kindness, friendship and what to do if they are worried helps to reinforce these important messages and ensures children feel confident to speak up and seek help when they need it.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the opportunity to step outside, explore the world around us and learn through the beauty of your creation. Thank you for the fresh air, open spaces and the joy that comes from discovering new places together.

We are grateful for the chance to learn not only about the land and environment around us, but also about the many beliefs, cultures and communities that make up our wider world. Help us to grow in understanding, curiosity and respect for others.

Guide us to care for the world you have given us and to show compassion and kindness to everyone we meet.

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.

Firstly, thank you to families. We have seen a clear improvement in punctuality across the school and many of you are working hard to ensure children arrive on time each day. This really helps create a calm and purposeful start to the morning.

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

It is also important to remember the impact of absence. Missing just one day each week adds up to around 39 days of learning lost across the year — nearly eight weeks of school. Even one day every fortnight results in around 20 days missed.

We have recently seen our overall attendance drop below 94 percent for the first time this year, which is a concern. Every day in school makes a real difference to children's progress, confidence and sense of belonging.

If you are experiencing any difficulties, please do 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.

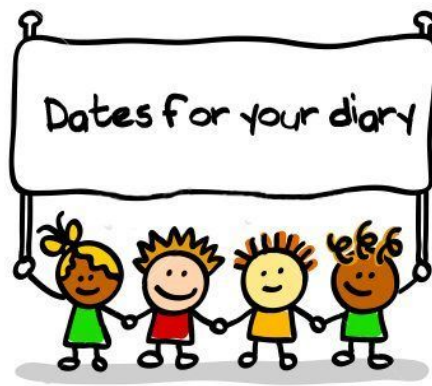
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
92.9%	94.2%	92.8%	92.6%	94.7%

Whole school: 93.4%
Whole School Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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

 Please mark these dates in your calendars.

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!

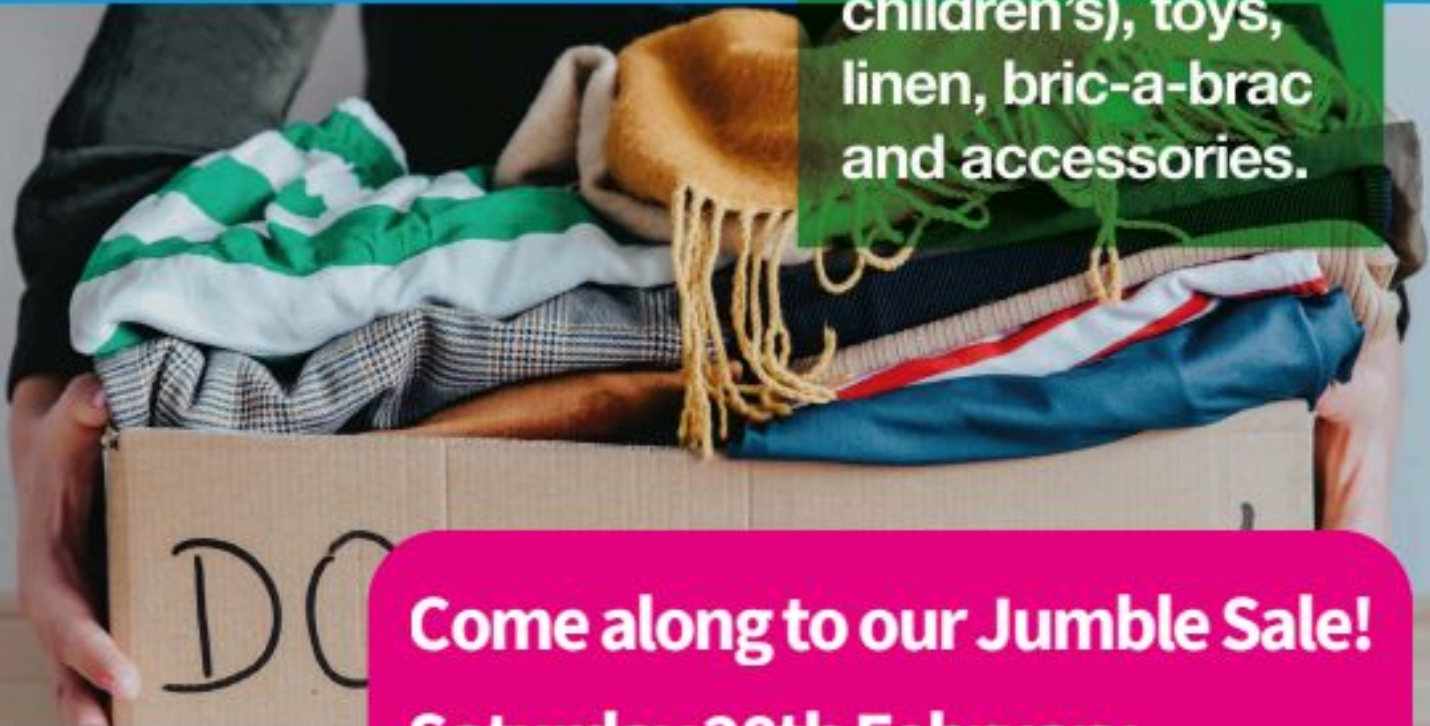
ANY SPARES YOU MAY HAVE
**PLEASE BRING THEM
INTO SCHOOL!**



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

Donations needed

Good quality second hand items including clothes and shoes (ladies, men's and children's), toys, linen, bric-a-brac and accessories.



Come along to our Jumble Sale!
Saturday 28th February
10am – 2pm at Age UK Hythe

**These can be dropped off at the following
Community hubs, from
Monday 16th – Wednesday 25th February**

Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, TN23 5RF
Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, CT21 6BD

For further details please contact

01303 269602

vc@ageukhla.org.uk

