

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 27th February 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 4 Week 1

Welcome back to a brand new term and to the end of our first week, which has quite simply flown by. I honestly cannot believe how quickly it has gone. From the absolutely spectacular moment of wonder that was the O2, to finishing the week with our fantastic whole-school Chinese theatre workshop kindly funded by the WSA, it has certainly been an action-packed start to Term 4. Add to that a playground disco and a brilliant author visit for Key Stage 2, and it has been a week full of excitement and memorable experiences.

I shall begin with Young Voices, which was truly wonderful. Mrs Catt has written a detailed account below, but I would like to say just how incredibly proud we are of our school choir.

Our school choir have spent the last five months practising and rehearsing for the national event, Young Voices, where thousands of children unite to perform as one incredible collective. On Monday 23rd February, the choir travelled to the O2 to perform alongside hundreds of other schools.

The atmosphere was truly electric, and it is safe to say the children gave 100% throughout the entire experience. They embraced both the length and excitement of the day, and this certainly did not stop them from showing off some impressive dance moves along the way. We hope the children enjoyed the experience as much as the adults and parents did!

A huge thank you to Mr Hawkins for accompanying us on the trip, as well as to Giles and Graham, our dedicated choir volunteers, whose support helped make the day such a success.

I was fortunate enough to attend and was immensely proud of how the children represented Wittersham School. Congratulations to all of the performers, and particular thanks to Mrs Catt for the many hours of organisation, ticket management, song planning, rehearsals and sheer passion she brings to this event each year. It really is something special, and we will certainly be returning in 2027!



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

On Wednesday, our Vikings and Oxney classes took part in a High Weald walk. This is a local walk rooted in our geography curriculum and designed to help children understand the unique landscape, history and natural features of the High Weald area in which we live. The children explored the local environment, observed changes in the landscape and discussed how people have interacted with the land over time. Experiences like this help to bring classroom learning to life, deepen children's sense of place and strengthen their connection to the local community.

We were also very fortunate this week to welcome an author visit for Key Stage 2. David Fuller spent time sharing his work with the children and spoke openly about his own schooling, the challenges he has faced and the resilience he has shown throughout his journey as an author. His passion for football and reading shone through, and the children were completely captivated by his story. Many pupils were inspired to purchase a book, and I very much look forward to hearing their thoughts and reviews in the coming weeks.

We ended the week with an incredible Chinese New Year workshop delivered by West End in Schools. The Great Race: The Chinese Zodiac dance workshop offered all children a rich cultural experience, blending dance and storytelling. Each class explored the origin story of the Chinese Zodiac and created a short dance piece together. Opportunities like this are vital in helping children to learn about, respect and celebrate cultures beyond their own, supporting their understanding of the wider world and encouraging curiosity, empathy and open-mindedness. We are extremely grateful to the WSA for funding this experience and making it possible for every child to take part.

The sun also finally made a long-awaited appearance this week and helped to kick off the first playground disco of 2026, which was a very welcome return for us all. As the weather improves, we are able to make greater use of our outdoor spaces, including our brand new playground equipment, such as the ten new scooters that have now been added to our bike track. We are very much looking forward to seeing the children enjoying active play together in the sunshine and making the most of these new resources in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to begin our Come Dine With Me experiences, alongside Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4th, which will be complemented by our Wittersham Café. Families are warmly invited to come along, enjoy a drink and a biscuit, and take time to look through your child's books while you are in school. Please do ensure you have booked a Parents' Evening appointment, as this is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far this year.

On Thursday, we will be welcoming governors into school for a whole-school visit. Friday 6th will see both World Book Day and our WSA Quiz Night taking place. Children are welcome to dress up for World Book Day if they wish, though there is absolutely no pressure. Comfortable reading clothes are also perfectly fine; please note that pyjamas should only be worn if they are linked to a book character. I will be sure to share some photographs from the day next week.

The next three terms are famously very busy, so please do keep a close eye on the dates list below to stay up to date with all upcoming events.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Take care,
Mrs Coulson

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing us safely back together after our break. As we begin this new term, help us to settle calmly, to be patient with ourselves and with one another, and to find joy in learning again.

Give us courage to try new things, cooperation as we work together, and compassion in the way we speak and act each day.

Help us to notice those who may need a little extra kindness or encouragement, and guide us to be a community where everyone feels safe, valued and loved.

Bless our classrooms, our friendships and our learning, and be with us in all that this week brings.

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.

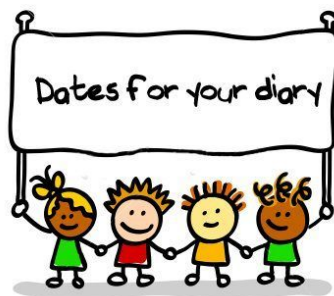
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
93.1%	94.1%	92.9%	93.2% (on the up!)	94.5%

Whole school: 93.5%
Whole School Target: 96%

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Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Tuesday 3rd March** – Windmill Class Come Dine With Me @ 11:45am
- **Wednesday 4th March** – Parents' Evening
- **Friday 6th March** – World Book Day 2026 All children are welcome to dress up as a book character
- **Friday 6th March** – WSA Quiz Night
- **Tuesday 10th March** – Smuggler Class Come Dine With Me @ 11:45am
- **Thursday 13th March** – Rocksteady Concert
- **Tuesday 17th March** – Viking Class Come Dine With Me @ 11:45am
- **Wednesday 18th March** – Scootability (Year 1/2)
- **Wednesday 18th March** – Coffee, Cake and Chat
- **Thursday 19th March** – Godinton House Visit (Year 4)
- **Friday 20th March** – Red Nose Day (details to follow)
- **Tuesday 24th March** – Oxney Class Come Dine With Me @ 11:45am
- **Wednesday 25th March** – Viking and Oxney Museum Trip
- **Monday 30th March** – Fire Safety Visits
- **Tuesday 31st March** – Rother Class Come Dine With Me @ 11:45am
- **Wednesday 1st April** – Year R Hearing and Vision Screening
- **Wednesday 1st April** – Whole School Easter Service @ 9:00 am (everyone welcome)
- **Wednesday 1st April** - KS2 Touch Rugby Event
- **Thursday 2nd April** – Last Day of Term 4
- **Friday 3rd April** – **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 – Thursday 14th May** – Bikeability (extended dates)
- **Thursday 21st May** – Last Day of Term 5
- **Thursday 21st May** – Carmel Jane School Photos
- **Friday 22nd May** – Whole School INSET Day
- **Monday 1st June** – Whole School INSET Day
- **Tuesday 2nd June** – First Day of Term 6
- **Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th June** – Residential Visit

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

AGED BETWEEN 9-15 AND WANT TO GIVE
YOUR BAKING SKILLS A GO?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



LAST CHANCE TO APPLY 15TH MARCH 2026



Young Carers Action Day



Wednesday 11th March 2026

#fairfuturesforyoungcarers



We support young carers to reach their full potential in education, training and employment to ensure a brighter future!

**CARERS
TRUST**



www.imago.community

RYE CRICKET CLUB

START PLAYING CRICKET



SPRING CRICKET SESSIONS 2026

RYE SPORTS CENTRE

Thursday 5TH March for 8 Weeks

SOFT BALL 6.00 – 7.00 pm School Years 2 -6

Cost is £30 (£20)* Only need PE Kit.

HARD BALL 7.00PM -8.00PM SCHOOL YEARS 4-9

Cost is £40 (£30)*

With Fully Qualified ECB Coaches

FOR NEW ATTENDEES THE FIRST 2 WEEKS ARE FREE*

These Sessions are Supported by

THE TED BAKER TRUST

Contact Martin Blincow to sign up.

Mobile: 07535482006 blincsfamily@aol.com

www.ryecc.play-cricket.com

What Our Parents say.....

"His experience at Rye CC this year has improved his general self-confidence"

"Many thanks again for all your time and efforts with these youngsters. We are deeply grateful."

Discovery Day

For pupils in years 5, 6, 7 & 8



ASHFORD SCHOOL
Inspiring Minds

Saturday 28 February 2026

Our Discovery Day gives pupils the chance to dive into the excitement of the CCF and to try a fantastic range of sports.



CCF and Sport Discovery Day

09.00 – 09.30: Arrival and parent tea with the Headmaster

09.30 – 11.00: CCF

11.00 – 11.30: Break

11.30 – 13.00: Sports



Ashford Senior School
East Hill, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8PB



Reserve your place at:
www.ashfordschool.co.uk/discovery-day

♥ feeling free

♥ rugby



TRY RUGBY WITH US!

Visit findrugby.com

LOVE RUGBY SERIES

A nationwide series of **girls-only** festivals, joining up girls new to rugby with those already playing for a fun, friendly and positive experience

Key Information

- Girls aged 7-12 (Y3-Y7)
- All abilities welcome
- Contact and no-contact rugby options
- Coaching workshops and game play

Ashford RFC

Kinneys Fields,
Kinneys Lane, TN24 9QB

Saturday 21st March 1030-1300

[Click to register](#)

Sign up as a group or as an individual or
Email vickyalexander@rfu.com



ASHFORD
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SUPER LEAGUE

BASKETBALL

PLAYOFF FINALS

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2026

O2 ARENA • LONDON

Subject - Super League Basketball Playoff Finals, Sunday 17 May 2026 | O2 Arena, London

We're pleased to share access to **specialty discounted tickets (50% off)** for the upcoming **Super League Basketball Playoff Finals**.

The Finals will see the two top teams from the Men's and Women's Super League Basketball battle it out to become the last teams standing in the 2025/2026 season, earning the ultimate bragging rights, and waltzing off into the summer with the Playoff title to show for their efforts.

With both the women's and men's Playoff Finals taking place in a spectacular double bill, a capacity crowd of over 16,000 is expected to, once again, pack out the O2 and witness some of the best ballers in the country do battle, as well as enjoying first-class entertainment from some of the biggest artists in the world.

You can find out more on the event, including our promotional video, by visiting <https://www.superleaguebasketballm.co.uk/2026playoffs/>

Ticket Offer & Booking

Our school has secured tickets for just **£10 per person** — a saving of at least 50% (normal prices: £28 Adult/ £20 Child).

Book your tickets here:

<https://www.britishbasketballshop.com/products/2026playoffprimary>

Simply click **"Add to Cart"** and adjust the quantity as needed. Tickets will be dispatched directly by Super League Basketball.