

# 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 24th April 2026**



## Wittersham Weekly – Term 5 Week 1

Well, goodness me – the first week back has simply flown by, and I cannot believe I am already writing the Wittersham Weekly again!

I do hope you all had a wonderful Spring break and have returned to school well rested and ready for a very busy few weeks ahead. Although this is a short term, it is certainly a full one. We have SATs week for our Year 6 cohort, a bank holiday, the introduction of Picnic Mondays, preparations for the Year 5/6 residential, an INSET day, the TCS Mini Marathon, Come Learn With Me sessions, class photos, cake sales, fishing sessions and Forest School for Windmills. As you can see, it is another action-packed term ahead.

Although the excitement and (hopefully!) sunnier days of Terms 5 and 6 are just around the corner, I did want to take a moment to reflect on a real highlight from the end of Term 4 that I have not yet had the chance to share with you.

At the end of Term 4, we welcomed visits from members of our Governing Board, as well as our School Improvement Advisor. John Collins (Chair of Governors) and Helen Farmer visited to continue their monitoring of our School Improvement Plan. Helen joined our governing body at the start of this academic year, so it was particularly valuable for her to see the school in action, alongside John who had previously visited in October for the same focus area. This allowed us to clearly see the progress that has been made across the school.

During their visit, they observed well-planned and structured lessons, with clear learning questions consistently displayed and referenced by teachers. Relationships between staff and pupils were highlighted as a real strength, creating a calm and purposeful learning environment. They noted how engaged pupils were in their learning, working cooperatively and responding thoughtfully during paired talk and feedback opportunities. Teaching approaches ensured that pupils were active participants, with teachers skilfully balancing input so that children could take increasing ownership of their learning. A range of strategies, including talk partners, mind maps and scaffolded sentence stems, supported pupils effectively across the curriculum.

Helen commented particularly on the high levels of engagement seen across all classes and the strong relationships between adults and learners. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on how successfully our whole-school priorities are being embedded in everyday practice.

Following this, we also welcomed our School Improvement Partner, Adi, for his first visit to Wittersham. As part of his role, Adi worked alongside school leaders to provide both support and challenge, helping us to reflect on our practice, celebrate strengths and identify next steps as part of our ongoing improvement journey.

**Compassion**

**Courage**

**Cooperation**

**These visits are an important part of ensuring that we continue to grow as a school and provide the very best for all of our children.**

**During his visit, Adi recognised the school's inclusive and nurturing ethos, noting that pupils felt safe, supported and ready to learn. He also highlighted the positive impact of the Zones of Regulation in helping pupils to understand and manage their emotions.**

**He further noted that leaders had responded thoughtfully and strategically to the recent Ofsted inspection, with clear and purposeful priorities in place to strengthen the school's provision. In particular, he recognised the ongoing work to deepen pupils' understanding of diversity and the wider world, highlighting that this was being carefully and meaningfully woven throughout the curriculum rather than delivered as a standalone or tokenistic approach.**

**Adi confirmed that he would return in Term 6 to continue working alongside us and to gain a deeper understanding of our school as we move forward on this improvement journey. One area he identified for further discussion was attendance, which is something that has been very much on my mind in recent weeks.**

**We regularly share attendance snapshots and include data in the Wittersham Weekly, but I do ask for your continued support in ensuring children attend school as consistently as possible. Every day in school matters, not only for academic learning but also for children's wider development and sense of belonging.**

**I fully understand, as a parent myself, the increasing cost of holidays outside of term time and the challenges this brings. However, where possible, I kindly ask that holidays are taken during the school holidays. The 190 days that children spend in school each year are incredibly important, and maximising this time makes a significant difference to their learning and overall experience.**

**We have yet to have a single school day this academic year where every child has been in the building, and this is something I would very much like us to achieve together by the end of July. Let's work together to continue improving attendance over the summer months. With the winter bugs hopefully behind us, this gives us a great opportunity to ensure children are in school, enjoying all of the wonderful experiences that Terms 5 and 6 bring.**

**Thank you, as always, for your continued support.**

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

**Take care,  
Mrs Coulson**



**Picnic Mondays have already got off to a really lovely start – it has been fantastic to see the children enjoying their lunch together outdoors. We would love to build on this, so if you have any unwanted picnic blankets at home, we would be very grateful for any donations to help make the experience even better for everyone.**

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**Courage**

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REMINDER

# REGISTER FOR CLASS PHOTOS



**Don't miss out!**

Pre-register today for instant access to your child's photos once they are ready.

**EASY • QUICK • ESSENTIAL**

*Thank you!* 



Pre-register  
today!



**Important – register to view school photos**

We are pleased to share that Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our school on Wednesday 21st May to take class group photographs.

To ensure you can view your child's photographs as soon as they are ready, all parents and carers are asked to pre-register. Please note that pre-registration is required for every photo shoot.

Register in three simple steps (it takes less than a minute):

- Visit [www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk](http://www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk)
- Enter your unique code: JR4XBYMABT
- Add your child's full name as it appears on the school register

Don't miss out – please make sure you pre-register today.

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**Cooperation**

# PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing us safely to the start of a new term and for the chance to begin again.

Help us to learn with courage, show compassion and work together with kindness.

As we grow this spring, guide us to do our best, support one another and make the most of every opportunity.

Help us to be thoughtful in our words and actions each day.

May our school be a place of joy, peace and belonging for all.

Give us strength when things feel challenging and patience as we learn.

Help us to appreciate the beauty of the world around us and care for it well.

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 really positive improvement in attendance and punctuality across classes this week, with whole school attendance now standing at **93.8%**. National attendance currently stands at around **94.8%**, so we are still slightly below where we would like to be, but the improvement we have seen this week is very encouraging. Thank you to everyone for your efforts.

A quick reminder that 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 impacts your child's learning and can disrupt the start of the day for the whole class.

Please also remember that **all messages regarding absence, medical appointments, late arrival or early collection must be sent directly to the school office via the office email address**. This ensures that registers can be updated promptly and collections coordinated safely.

Missing school quickly adds up. Just one day each week across the year equals around 39 days of learning lost – nearly eight weeks of school.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with attendance, please do get in touch. Our School Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes, is available to support families and help address any barriers. By continuing to work together, we can ensure every child has the best possible start to each school day.

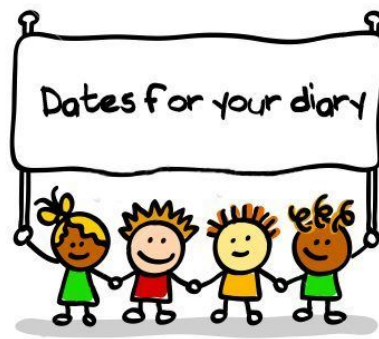
| Windmills | Smugglers | Vikings | Oxney | Rother |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|
| 94.0%     | 94.4%     | 92.7%   | 93.8% | 94.1%  |

**Whole school:**  
**93.8%**  
**Whole School Target: 96%**

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



## Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Friday 24th April** - Vikings Come Learn with Me @14:15 - 15:00
- **Tuesday 28th April** - Smugglers Come Learn with Me @14:15 - 15:00
- **Wednesday 29th April** - WSA Smuggler Cake Sale
- **Thursday 30th April** - Oxney Come Learn with Me @14:15 - 15:00
- **Thursday 7th May** - Year 5 Godinton House Trip
- **Thursday 7th May** - WSA Stay and Play after school
- **Friday 8th May** - Year 5/6 Residential Drop in Session in Oast @14:00 - 15:15
- **Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May** – Year 6 KS2 SATs Week
- **Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May** – Bikeability (extended dates)
- **Thursday 14th May** - Windmills Come Learn with Me @14:15 - 15:00
- **Thursday 21st May** - Rother Come Learn with Me @14:15 - 15:00
- **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
- **Wednesday 10th June** - Mobile Library Visit
- **Thursday 11th June** - Rother Forest School Begins
- **Friday 12th June** - WSA Non-Uniform Day
- **Wednesday 17th June** - Vikings Experience Day @Tenterden Church
- **Friday 19th June** - Kent County Cricket Trip (Years 5 and 6 only)
- **Friday 26th June** - WSA Summer Festival
- **Friday July 10th** - Whole School Sports Day and Parent Picnic
- **Monday 29th June - 3rd July** - Year 6 Transition Week
- **Friday 17th July** - Rocksteady Concert
- **Thursday 23rd July** - Last Day of Term 6 and the academic year

WITTERSHAM SPORTS CLUB PRESENTS

Wittersham

PICNIC

CHARITY EVENT

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 2PM



BBQ & BAR

GAMES & FUN

TEAS & CAKES

In Support of Local Charities

Bring Your Picnic & Join the Fun!

# **RYE CRICKET CLUB**

**1754**

## **Junior News April 2026**



**Hello everyone!**

**We are looking forward to the 2026 Cricket Season.**

**Dates for the Diary:**

**HARDBALL CRICKET:**

**Signing On Night:**

**Monday 27th April at the Cricket Pavilion 6-8pm. The Cost for the Summer is £80 per Junior. This covers 12 weeks of Junior Practice, all Matches, a Club Shirt and Family Membership of Rye Cricket Club. The new Junior Shirts will be available on April 27th.**

### **Junior Practice Nights:**

- **Under 11s and Under 13s – Wednesday Nights starting Wednesday 29th April 6-8pm.**
- **Under 16s – Friday Nights starting Friday 17th April 6-8pm.**
- **Under 11s: Two teams, A and B play on Monday Evenings**
- **Under 13s: Play on Thursday Evenings**
- **Under 16s: Play on Tuesday Evenings.**

### **Softball Cricket:**

**On Sunday mornings starting May 17th we will be offering All Stars 5-8 year olds 10am – 11am and Cricket Dynamos 9-1 years 11am – Noon. The perfect way to get into cricket. To sign up go to:**

**<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Search?location=rye>**

**Kind regards Martin Blincow Junior Manager**

# KESTREL



## GYMNASTICS ACADEMY

AFFILIATED TO



**Unit 1 Counter Buildings**

**Woodchurch**

**Ashford**

**TN263SP**

**Email: [kestrelgymnastics2009@gmail.com](mailto:kestrelgymnastics2009@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 01233861441**



**Regional Grades NDP 2026**

EST in 2009

## **Timetable**

All abilities welcome

### **Open Playgym (toddlers)**

Monday and Friday 12:15-13:15 (pay on day)

### **Preschool 3years +**

Monday and Friday 13:30-14:30

### **Adult Gymnastics**

Tuesday 19:00-20:30 (pay on day)

### **Beginner's classes General/Recreational gymnastics**

Monday to Friday 16:00-17:00 And Saturday 9:00-10:00

### **Advance Gymnastics**

Tuesday to Friday 17:00-19:00 and Saturday 10:00-12:00

### **Tumbling/Acro**

Friday 17:00-19:00

### **Teen Gym**

Saturday 12:00-14:30

### **Squad Development**

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 16:00-17:30

### **Floor and Vault Squad**

Tuesday, Thursday 17:00-19:00 and Saturday 10:00-12:00

### **Women's and Men's Artistic Squad**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 17:00-20:00

Tuesday and Thursday 17:00-19:00

Saturday 12:00-15:00

### **Trampolining**

Wednesday 17:00-18:00

Friday 16:00-17:00

New member limited time offer valid till end of June 2026

15% of your first month please use code **Welcome15** to be used at reception on arrival

To book please Email: [kestrelgymnastics2009@gmail.com](mailto:kestrelgymnastics2009@gmail.com)



Reg Charity 285800



• **Ashford & District Young Farmers Club** •

# LAMBING DAY

**Sunday April  
26th 2026  
10am - 4pm**

*Lambing &  
farm animals*

*Craft stalls*

*BBQ & local  
food & drink*

*Tractor &  
trailer rides*

*Have a go at  
spinning*

*Sheep shearing  
demo's*

**Hope Farm, Wittersham, Kent TN30 7NP**

● **£5 per head (Under 2's free)** ●

*Tickets on the gate only - cash only    Sorry no dogs  
This is a working farm with limited disabled access*

**Supporting:**



# 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:

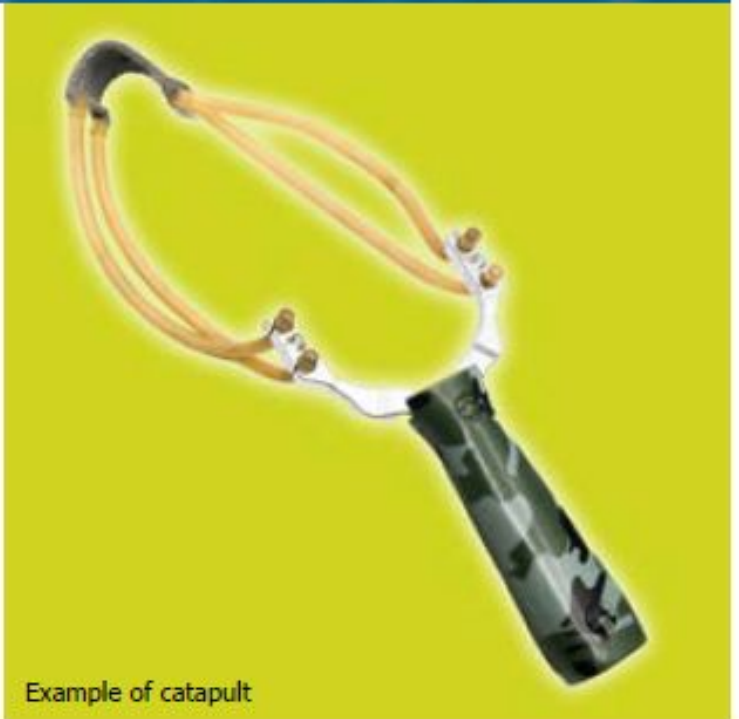
<https://www.britishbasketballshop.com/products/2026playoffprimary>

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

# Catapults – Know the law

Catapults can be classed as offensive weapons.

If you **carry one in public** without a reasonable excuse, you could face up to **four years in prison**.



Example of catapult

If you use it to **threaten** or **injure someone**, or **damage property**, the penalties could be even higher.

## Is it worth it?

**Remember** – A criminal record can change your life.

- You may not be offered a college or university place.
- Getting a job will be more difficult.
- It can even prevent you from travelling to some countries.



**Kent  
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk) 