

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 5th June 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 1

Welcome back to not only a brand-new term, but the final term of this academic year!

It seems completely bonkers that I am writing that, if I am honest. Yet here we are in June, and the next two months have a magical habit of disappearing at an alarming rate. I have no doubt that the final day of term will arrive far quicker than any of us would like!

All of the children have returned to school refreshed from their break and ready for what promises to be an incredibly busy term ahead. It has been wonderful to see such positive learning attitudes, both here at camp and back at school. Although it has only been a short week, it has certainly been action-packed.

As I write this, I am sitting in the dining hall at our Year 5 and 6 residential, looking out towards the abseiling wall and indoor climbing area as the children prepare for their campfire and final evening activity. I would be lying if I said the weather had been our friend this week, but, as ever, that has not held back the Wittersham crew one bit.

They have climbed, danced, ventured through forests, cooked popcorn over fires they built themselves, constructed shelters, abseiled, shot arrows and built crate towers higher than most buildings before launching themselves off them – all whilst safely harnessed, of course! Their resilience, courage and determination have been absolutely astounding, and it has been a privilege to spend this week with them.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes and Mr Hawkins, who have been utterly incredible. They have thrown themselves into every activity whilst dripping wet, battling thunderstorms, torrential rain and even hail, yet somehow still smiling and loving every moment. They truly embody the Wittersham Way, and I am so grateful for the time and energy they dedicate to our children. Residential trips like this simply would not be possible without staff willing to give so much of themselves, and I know our whole community joins me in thanking them both.

Alongside the residential, our lower school children enjoyed their visit to Bedgebury Pinetum this week. Once again, neither the weather nor the road closures could dampen spirits! Staff, volunteers and even the coach driver commented on how incredible the children were throughout the day. For some, this was their very first school trip – such an important milestone and memory.

Thank you to all the adults who planned, facilitated and attended the visit, providing such memorable experiences for our children.

The learning certainly did not stop when the coach returned to school. Smugglers were quick to draw upon their experiences from the trip in their writing this week, using time conjunctions to sequence events and recount their day. It is always wonderful to see real-life experiences inspiring such purposeful and enthusiastic learning in the classroom.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

This links nicely to a survey Mrs Scott has shared this week, which I would strongly encourage all families to complete. As part of our commitment to providing a rich and diverse curriculum and personal development offer, we would like to understand more about the experiences our children currently access beyond school.

Please take a few moments to complete one survey per child using the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLScTr8gqw8uiu1zm4OE4ePHsoBJ8evst8SKO7B4wNo1I2BHjRw/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=116774503876166569512>

The information gathered will help us identify opportunities, experiences and areas of personal development that we may be able to further enhance for our children.

Back at base, swimming began this week and sounds like it has been a resounding success. Reception had their very first Wittersham swimming pool experience and I have been reliably informed that they absolutely loved every moment of it! We are incredibly proud to offer such a comprehensive swimming programme for all children. As mentioned in my recent letter, we ask families to make a voluntary contribution of £15 per child for Term 6 towards the cost of this provision. Thank you to everyone who has already made a contribution; your support is greatly appreciated.

Although Key Stage 2 numbers have been slightly reduced this week due to the residential, fantastic learning has continued back at school. Miss Robinson has been keeping me updated on the brilliant coding work taking place in Vikings using Scratch, whilst Miss Larter has shared some of the exciting adventure stories being created across Oxney and Rother. I cannot wait to get back and see some of the finished pieces for myself.

One of the things that makes Wittersham so special is the way our children work together across year groups and classes. Whether they are in Reception or Year 6, they support one another, celebrate each other's successes and demonstrate the Wittersham Way each and every day. This week has been no exception, and every child has made us incredibly proud.

Next week is looking a little quieter – I think and hope! We are very excited to be welcoming the Mobile Library to Wittersham for the very first time. We hope this will be the start of a wonderful partnership that helps to further foster a love of reading across our school community. Our Year 4 children will also be completing their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). I know they will approach this with the same confidence and determination they show every day in class, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have put into practising their times tables throughout the year.

Please do not forget to sign up for the cricket trip, which is open to pupils in Oxney and Rother. We are very grateful to Kent Cricket for providing this fantastic opportunity and I know it will be a brilliant day for those attending. Opportunities such as these help to broaden our children's experiences and create memories that last long after they leave Wittersham.

As we head towards the WSA Non-Uniform Day next Friday, now might be a good time to start planning those outfits. As always, clothing should be appropriate and suitable for a day at school.

Please remember that heels, crop tops, belly tops and other overly revealing clothing are not permitted. Crocs should be worn in sports mode only, hair may be worn down if children wish, but hoop earrings, necklaces and make-up should not be worn. Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone safe whilst still enjoying the fun of a non-uniform day.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all next week after an exceptionally long, hot shower and a few nights in my own bed! Wishing you all a wonderful, rain-free weekend.

Take care, Mrs Coulson

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PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for bringing us safely to the final term of this school year.
 Thank You for the adventures, challenges and achievements of this week.
 We are grateful for the courage and resilience shown by our children.
 Thank You for the friendships that help us learn and grow together.
 Thank You for the staff and volunteers who give so much to our school.
 Help us to live out the Wittersham Way every day.
 Give us courage when things are difficult.
 Give us compassion for those around us.
 Give us cooperation as we learn and play together.
 Help us to make the most of every opportunity this term.
 Guide us as we continue to learn, explore and discover.
 Keep our school community safe and happy.
 Bless our families and those we care about.

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 **93.9%**. 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.

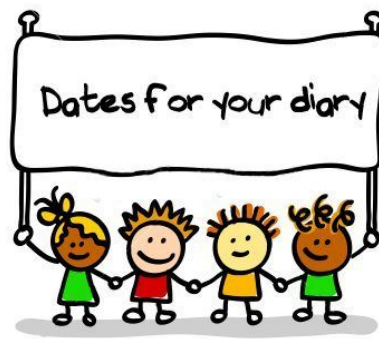
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
94.2%	94.4%	92.9%	94.2%	93.8%

Whole school:
93.9%
Whole School
Target: 96%

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Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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
- **Thursday 18th June** - Year 6 Meal with Parents (info to follow)
- **Friday 19th June** - Kent County Cricket Trip (Years 5 and 6 only)
- **Friday 26th June** - WSA Summer Festival
- **Monday 29th June - 3rd July** - Year 6 Transition Week
- **Monday 6th - Thursday 9th July** - Whole School Careers Week
- **Friday 10th July** - Whole School Sports Day and Parent Picnic
- **Tuesday 14th July** - Whole School Summer Concert @2pm
- **Thursday 16th July** - Year 6 Production @6pm
- **Friday 17th July** - Rocksteady Concert
- **Thursday 23rd July** - Last Day of Term 6 and the academic year

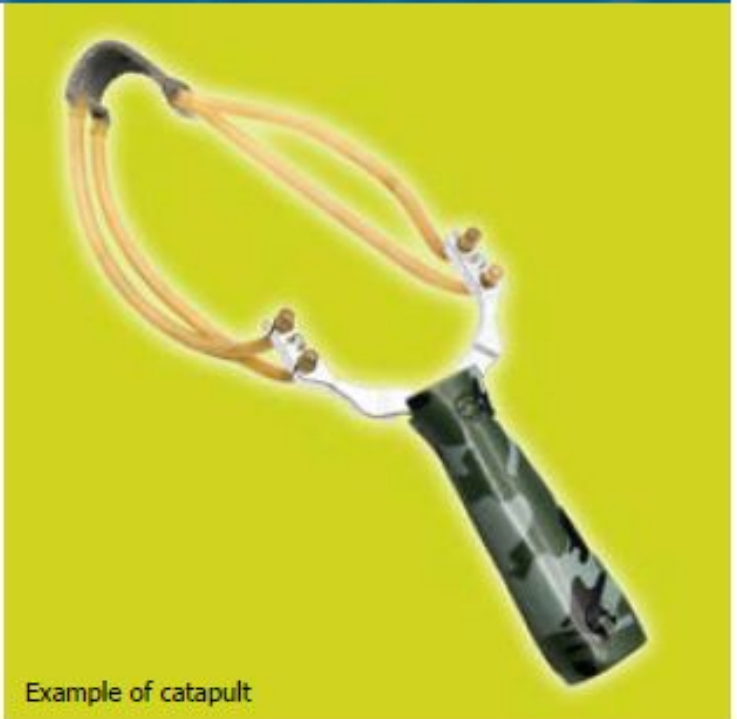


Please mark these dates in your calendars.

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

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 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   