

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 19th June 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 3

Week three here at Wittersham has welcomed back the sunshine and, by all accounts, it is going to be even hotter next week! As part of our ongoing building developments, we are delighted that new windows complete with solar glass will be installed over the summer. These improvements will help to regulate temperatures in classrooms and manage the heat more effectively from the new academic year onwards. In the meantime, I apologise in advance for any rather sweaty children collected at 3:15pm! We have certainly experienced two extremes this term – from very wet residential children to now very warm ones. Thank you to everyone who has sent their child to school with a hat and sun cream this week.

Our Vikings class enjoyed a wonderful visit to Tenterden Church this week as part of their Religious Education learning and wider personal development. The children were particularly excited to travel on a large double-decker bus before taking part in an interactive Eucharist workshop, enjoying lunch together and even squeezing in a bonus visit to the park. Experiences such as these are invaluable in broadening children's horizons and helping them to understand the world around them. We were especially proud to receive a telephone call from a member of the public praising the children's exemplary behaviour whilst travelling. Feedback like this always brings a smile to our faces and reminds us what wonderful ambassadors our children are for Wittersham.

This week also marked Drowning Prevention Week, and the whole school came together for a special worship focused on staying safe around water. With many families enjoying swimming pools, beaches, rivers and lakes during the summer months, it was a timely reminder that water can be both fun and dangerous. Children learned the Royal Life Saving Society UK's key message, "Float to Live". They discussed how, if they unexpectedly find themselves in difficulty in the water, they should fight the instinct to panic, lean back, spread out their arms and legs and float until they are able to control their breathing and call for help. They also explored what to do if they see somebody else in trouble, learning that they should never enter the water themselves but instead shout for help, call 999 and, at the coast, ask for the Coastguard. These simple but powerful messages could one day save a life, and we are grateful for the opportunity to equip our children with these vital life skills.

We have also been delighted to welcome Lucy Hayler into school this week. Lucy has been working with the children on ways to engage themselves positively at the start of the school day, drawing on some of the same techniques used by actors before stepping onto the stage. These sessions have provided a new and exciting way to begin the day and have encouraged children to think carefully about their breathing, focus and readiness to learn. Class teams are already beginning to incorporate these approaches into our daily mindfulness and focus sessions, helping children to develop self-awareness and create calm, purposeful starts to each day.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Year 6 also showed off their culinary skills this week by preparing tortillas and cheesecakes for their families as a way of thanking them for their support throughout their time at Wittersham. It was a wonderful event and one of the many special moments that mark the end of the children's primary school journey. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Scott and Mrs Spencer for coordinating the event, planning the activities and, I suspect, chopping more red onions than they care to remember! We are also incredibly grateful to all of the family members who joined us for this lovely celebration. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and to reflect together on the many memories made over the years.

Looking ahead to next week, we have our incredible WSA Wittersham Festival on Friday evening and I am really looking forward to seeing many of you there. Already, the list of stalls, entertainment and raffle prizes looks extraordinary and I feel pretty confident that it is set to be even bigger and better than last year. A huge thank you in advance to the WSA and the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event possible.

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

Take care,

Mrs Coulson



Football Team Reach the Final!



A huge congratulations to our Wittersham football team, who represented the school brilliantly at the tournament held at Ditton Aylesford this week.

The team were outstanding throughout the day, remaining unbeaten in all six of their group games and earning themselves a well-deserved place in the final. 🏆

Although they were defeated 3-0 in the final, we certainly do not see this as a loss. Reaching the final of such a competitive tournament is a tremendous achievement and one that the whole team should be incredibly proud of.

The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day and were wonderful ambassadors for Wittersham. Well done to everyone involved – what a fantastic achievement! 🏆👏🏅

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PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of sunshine and the light that brightens our days. As the warm summer sun shines upon us, help us to remember that Your love and kindness shine even brighter.

May we be like rays of sunshine to those around us, bringing hope, joy and compassion wherever we go. Help us to make the most of these longer days, appreciating the beauty of Your creation and taking time to rest, laugh and enjoy the company of family and friends.

As we look forward to the weeks ahead, may Your light guide us, Your peace surround us and Your love fill our hearts.

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 **94.9%**, 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.

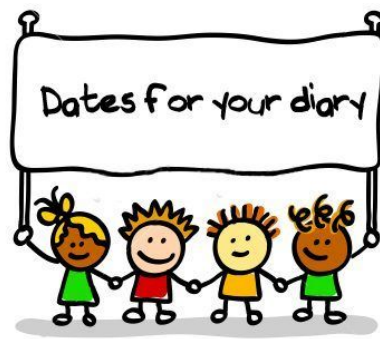
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
94.2%	94.5%	93.1%	94.2%	93.7%

Whole school:
93.9%
Whole School
Target: 96%

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Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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**
- **Monday 20th July - Internal Whole School Transition Afternoon**
- **Thursday 23rd July - Year 6 Leavers Service @9:30am**
- **Thursday 23rd July - Last Day of Term 6 and the academic year**



Please mark these dates in your calendars.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS IMPORTANT UPDATE



Could your child be eligible?

Recent changes mean more families may now qualify for Free School Meals — even if you haven't been eligible before.

WHY APPLY?



Free, healthy school meals every day



Saves money on food costs



Extra funding for the school to support your child
(Pupil Premium)



Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, it is **still important** to apply so the school can receive extra funding.

WHAT'S CHANGED?



More families may now qualify



Eligibility is based on household income



If your circumstances have changed, please check again



Or contact the school office if you would like a hard copy of an application form for the school to then process on your behalf.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF YOU RECEIVE:

- Universal Credit
(within income thresholds)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related ESA (Employment and Support Allowance)
- Child Tax Credit
(low income, not receiving Working Tax Credit)

HOW TO APPLY

Applying is quick and easy online:



Visit the Kent County Council website to apply:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals



DON'T MISS OUT – APPLY TODAY!

You could be entitled to support that could benefit your child and our school.



WATER SAFETY CODE



STOP AND THINK



Take time to assess your surroundings.



Look out for dangers and always follow local signs and advice.



STAY TOGETHER



When around water always go with friends or family.



Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



CALL 999



If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.



Don't enter the water to rescue.



FLOAT TO LIVE



If you fall in or become tired:

- ✓ Stay calm
- ✓ Float on your back
- ✓ Spread out your arms and legs
- ✓ Control your breathing
- ✓ Call for help

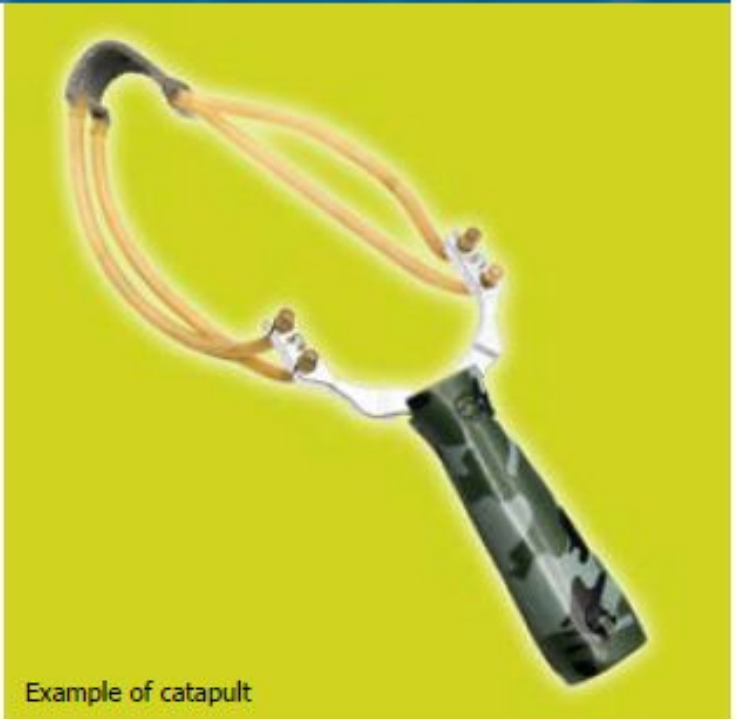


If you see someone in the water that needs help, throw them something that floats to hold onto.

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   