

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 26th June 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 4

Well, it has certainly been a hot week! The weather has been a consistent topic of conversation across the school and throughout the media, yet it certainly hasn't held us back. Our staff and children have been absolutely incredible and have continued to approach every day with positivity, resilience and determination despite the soaring temperatures.

To celebrate a fantastic week, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved ice lolly after lunch today, which was certainly appreciated! We also held our very first outdoor Celebration Worship, and what a wonderful success it was. It was lovely to gather together in the sunshine to celebrate the many achievements of our children in such a special setting.

The forecast for next week looks much more like the June and early July weather we would usually expect. However, please continue to send your child to school with a named water bottle every day and remember to apply sunscreen before school. Hats are also essential as we continue to make the most of outdoor learning and play whenever possible.

We have also had another fantastic sporting week. Mr Hawkins led our Year 5 and 6 girls' cricket team, who finished in an outstanding second place. Meanwhile, Miss Robinson accompanied our Year 3 and 4 children to a Multi-Skills Festival, which was a huge success and provided a wonderful opportunity for so many children to experience representing their school in a sporting event. As always, every single child represented Wittersham with pride, demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and showcased the Wittersham Way for all to see. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

In the school office, the team has been extremely busy entering our end-of-year statutory assessment data whilst also preparing attendance information ahead of a visit from our Kent Attendance Officer next week. The role of the Attendance Officer is to support schools in promoting excellent attendance, ensuring that statutory guidance is followed and working alongside school leaders to help remove barriers that may prevent children from attending school regularly. Attendance remains one of our key priorities because we know that every day in school matters. Good attendance gives children the very best opportunity to build friendships, develop confidence and achieve their full academic potential.

As we prepare for the new academic year, we will be introducing some updates to our attendance procedures. These changes reflect updated national expectations and will help ensure greater consistency, transparency and, most importantly, safeguarding for all children. Like many schools, we have reviewed our current systems over the past year to ensure they remain robust and fit for purpose. From September, there will be a small number of changes to the way attendance is reported and managed. These are intended to strengthen communication between home and school, ensure we can account for every child as quickly as possible each day, and support our shared commitment to excellent attendance.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

We will share full details with families over the coming weeks so that everyone is aware of the new procedures well before the start of the new academic year.

As we enter the final few weeks of this academic year, I would like to thank every family who has continued to prioritise attendance. We know that children do become genuinely unwell, and we will always support families to make the right decisions. However, when children are well enough to attend school, every day really does count.

Finally, I simply could not end this week's newsletter without mentioning the excitement surrounding the WSA Wittersham Festival, which begins in just a few short hours! The field has once again been transformed into a magical festival venue and it already looks absolutely fantastic. I am so looking forward to seeing many of you there later today.

Tickets can still be purchased on the gate. Please remember to enter via the rear gate at the back of the school field and, if you are driving, please park considerately on the main street and avoid blocking access for our local residents.

The WSA's support extends far beyond today's festival. Thanks to their incredible fundraising, they have recently funded a fresh delivery of sand for our EYFS sandpit, ensuring our youngest children continue to benefit from high-quality outdoor play, as well as a brand-new set of football goals for the field.. If you are attending the festival this evening, you may even spot the new goals on one of the stalls before they make their way onto the field! Every pound raised by the WSA goes straight back into enriching the experiences of our children, and these latest purchases are another wonderful example of that commitment.

Although I will, of course, report back properly next week, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank every incredible member of the Wittersham School Association. Events of this scale simply do not happen without an enormous amount of planning and preparation. Daisy, Lacey and the entire WSA team are true heroes of our school community. Their commitment creates such wonderful opportunities and lasting memories for our children and families, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. I look forward to seeing many of you in just a few short hours!

Take care, Mrs Coulson



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Cooperation

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for being with us throughout another busy and exciting week at Wittersham. We are grateful for the sunshine, the opportunities to learn, play and celebrate together, and for the kindness shown by our school community.

As the warm weather continues, help us to make wise choices, look after ourselves and care for those around us. Give us resilience when things feel difficult, patience when we are tested, and compassion to notice when someone needs our help or encouragement.

May we continue to live out the Wittersham Way each day, showing courage, cooperation and compassion in all that we do. Help us to be thankful for one another and to always be a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued and loved. 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 **94.9%**, 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.

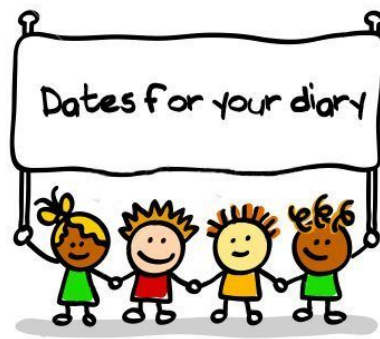
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
93.9%	94.5%	93.1%	94.1%	93.4%

Whole school:
93.8%
Whole School
Target: 96%

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Courage

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Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday 29th June - 3rd July** - Year 6 Transition Week
- **Thursday 2nd July** - Year 1 Trip to Godinton House
- **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.



Back to School with Clarks

As we approach the summer holidays, our friends at Clarks Ashford Outlet are getting ready to help families prepare for the new school year.

To avoid the busiest times and ensure children get the perfect fit, parents are encouraged to book their shoe fitting appointments early. Clarks also offer Quiet Time appointments for children who may find busier shopping environments overwhelming, helping to make the experience as calm and comfortable as possible.

Booking early can help take some of the stress out of Back to School preparations and ensure your child is ready to step into September with confidence!

Thank you to Ricky Bessent and the team at Clarks Ashford Outlet for supporting our school community.



LOVED BY KIDS,
TRUSTED BY PARENTS.

With our famous fit and unbeatable comfort in every step, parents can trust Clarks to deliver perfectly fitting, ultra-durable school shoes, that empower kids to be their very best selves - *all day, all term, and all at a price you'll love.*

Our in-store experts are available to help with professional measuring and personalised advice, to ensure your child leaves with school shoes that fit perfectly and feel comfortable all term long.

We also offer Quiet Time appointments, with fewer crowds, less noise and gentler lights in store. For Quiet time appointments, simply get in touch with your local store and the team will be happy to help.



FUNKY BUNCH SPECIAL

THE FUNKY BUNCH FESTIVAL

A DAY OF FUN, FRIENDS & FESTIVAL FEELS! ♥

31ST
JULY

10.00 - 2.00

£25
PER CHILD



LUMINA DANCE COMPANY, ASHFORD

BOOK NOW & JOIN THE FUN!

www.thefunkybunchkent.com



FOR CHILDREN
AGED
5-11
YEARS

DANCE ★ PLAY ★ CREATE ★ CELEBRATE



In association with

HOTSHOTZ

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
FROM 9:00AM

Everyone Welcome!
Young & Old, Beginners
& Experienced.

- **FREE COACHING**
- **FREE DEMO'S**
- **BBQ & BAR**

Sports to include...

TENNIS
PADEL
SQUASH
TABLE TENNIS
CROQUET
ARCHERY



For more information, please visit ryelawntennisclub.org.uk
or email us at info@ryelawntennisclub.org.uk

📍 **115 MILITARY ROAD, RYE, TN31 7NY**

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.



ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK

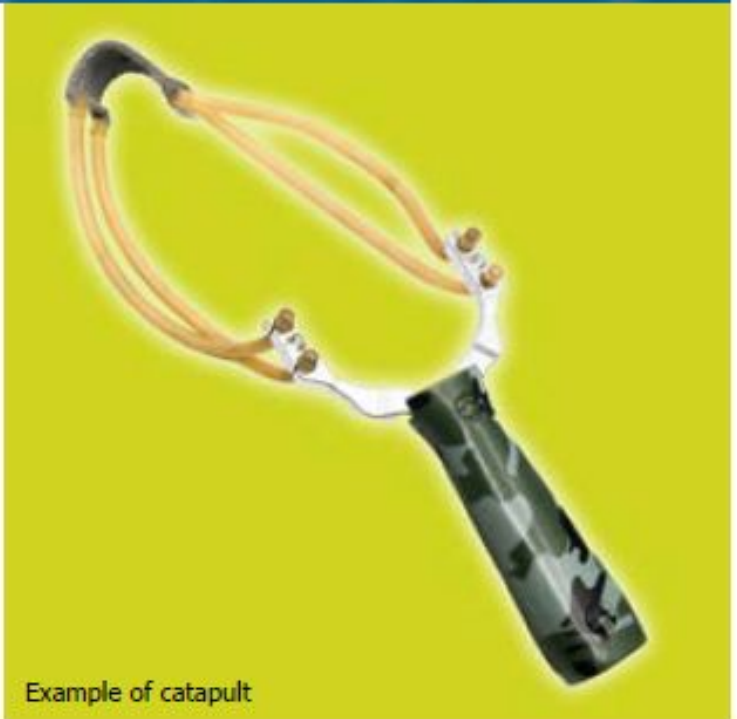
ENJOY WATER SAFELY!
DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**RESPECT
THE WATER**

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   