

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 3rd July 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 5

Another week has flown by and somehow we have already reached July! I honestly cannot believe how quickly this academic year is passing. Where has the time gone?

Although the weather has been much cooler this week, temperatures are set to rise again over the coming days. Please can I ask that all children continue to come to school with a named hat, a named water bottle and sun cream already applied before arriving at school. We will once again be returning to our heat-relaxed uniform arrangements next week. Children are welcome to wear either their PE kit or a plain white school shirt with black or grey shorts and trainers. Please note that coloured T-shirts and coloured shorts should not be worn; children should continue to wear school colours only. We will continue with these arrangements throughout next week and review the situation again after Sports Day, once temperatures begin to settle.

Talking of Sports Day, we are keeping everything crossed for the wonderful weather that is currently forecast! It is always one of the highlights of our school calendar and a day that brings our whole community together. We are all very much looking forward to seeing you there.

Next week also sees the launch of our very first Wittersham Careers Day. We are incredibly excited to introduce this new event and would like to say a huge thank you to every single volunteer who is giving up their time on Monday to share their career journeys with our children. Opportunities like this are invaluable in helping children understand the many different pathways available to them, and I look forward to sharing how the day went in next week's newsletter.

This week has once again been full of wonderful opportunities. Our Lower School Cricket Team represented the school brilliantly, finishing in an outstanding second place at their recent tournament. It was lovely to see so many children proudly wearing their medals around school this week. We are incredibly proud of every member of the team for their determination, teamwork and sportsmanship.



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Our Year 1 children also enjoyed a fantastic visit to Godinton House this week. This means that every child across the school has now had the opportunity to visit the beautiful house and gardens during this academic year, further developing their geography skills through first-hand experiences beyond the classroom.

You will also have received information this week regarding teaching staff and class placements for September. As a reminder, we will be holding our whole-school transition afternoon on Monday 20th July. This gives every child the opportunity to spend time with their new teacher before the summer holidays. Families are then warmly invited into school after the end of the school day to meet your child's new class teacher and say hello before September arrives.

I also cannot write this newsletter without mentioning the absolute triumph that was last week's Wittersham Festival. Although the final figures are still being counted, I have absolutely no doubt that our school community has once again excelled itself with its generosity and support.

As I mentioned during the festival, school budgets continue to become increasingly stretched and the fundraising organised by our wonderful WSA has never been more important. Next year, the WSA will be funding our Forest School provision, ensuring that every single child across the school continues to benefit from regular Forest School sessions. This is such an important part of our wellbeing and nurture offer, and something we are incredibly passionate about protecting. Without external fundraising, opportunities like this simply would not be possible.

The WSA has also funded so many additional experiences and resources for our children, including goalposts, Chinese dance workshops, sporting opportunities, swimming pool covers and equipment, and so much more. Every raffle ticket purchased, every hot dog enjoyed, every drink bought and every stall visited helps to provide these opportunities for our children.

A huge thank you must also go to everyone who donated raffle prizes, food and drinks, as well as to the incredible WSA team who begin organising this event many months in advance. Your hard work, commitment and dedication never go unnoticed and we are enormously grateful for everything you do for our school.

It was wonderful to see so many members of our local community and prospective families joining us at the festival too. Continuing to strengthen our place within the local community is something we value enormously, and events like this showcase exactly what makes Wittersham such a special school.

Finally, our Year 6 pupils spent time visiting their secondary schools this week and taking part in transition activities. It has been lovely hearing all about their experiences and seeing their excitement grow as they prepare for the next chapter of their educational journey. We know they will all continue to make us incredibly proud.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful first weekend of July. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday and seeing many of you at Sports Day next week. Full details of the event were shared via Class Dojo earlier this week, so please do check back if you think you may have missed the information.

Take care, Mrs Coulson

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for the many opportunities to learn, grow and support one another each day.

Help us to embrace the exciting experiences and challenges that lie ahead with confidence.

Keep us safe, happy and healthy as we enjoy the warmer weather together. Bless our Sports Day, Careers Day and every opportunity to celebrate our gifts and talents.

Guide us as we prepare for new beginnings, helping us to face each change with courage.

May our school always be filled with kindness, compassion, cooperation and hope.
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 **93.5%**. 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.

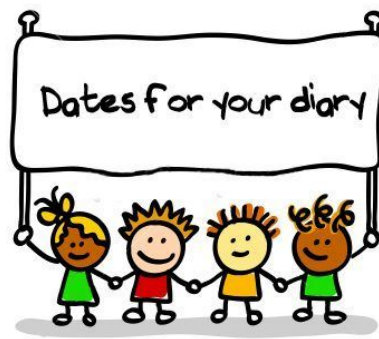
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
93.8%	94.4%	93.2%	94.2%	91.9%

Whole school:
93.5%
Whole School
Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday 6th - Thursday 9th July** - Whole School Careers Week
- **Monday 6th** - Wittersham Careers Fair
- **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
- **Tuesday 21st July** - Whole School Reports Issued
- **Thursday 23rd July** - Year 6 Leavers Service @9:30am
- **Thursday 23rd July** - Last Day of Term 6 and the academic year
- **Wednesday 26th August** - Whole School Inset Day - no children in school
- **Thursday 27th August** - First day of Term 1 2026/2027
- **Monday 31st August** - Bank Holiday
- **Friday 16th October** - Last Day of Term 1
- **Monday 2nd November** - Whole School Inset Day - no children in school
- **Tuesday 3rd November** - Start of Term 2
- **Friday 18th December** - Last Day of Term 2

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.



**SKIP THE QUEUE
SAVE TIME
BOOK A
FITTING**

POP INSTORE OR
BOOK ONLINE
BY SCANNING
HERE:



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FINAL CELEBRATION

THE MOTE CRICKET CLUB, MAIDSTONE | SUNDAY 5 JULY



KENT CRICKET
FOUNDATION

WATCH THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FINAL
LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CRICKET 'WORLD CUP'
COMPETITION

CRICKET ACTIVITY STATIONS & STALLS

TRAIN WITH THE KENT WOMEN

BBQ & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



ICC
WOMEN'S T20
WORLD CUP

2019-2023 & 2025-2029

ARRIVE FROM 10:30AM

WORLD CUP FINAL STREAMED FROM 2:30PM



SCAN TO REGISTER FOR FREE ENTRY
£5 PER PERSON ON THE GATE



COLOURING COMPETITION

Hi all,

We're pleased to confirm the details for the upcoming Wards 'Design The House' Colouring Competition, which will be launching this summer.

The competition invites children to get creative by helping our Wards hound feel at home. Children should colour in the dog illustration and design a house around the hound using pencils, pens, paints, collage, crayons or any other creative materials.

The printable activity sheet/template is attached for you to print and use in branch once you are ready to launch.



Printed template attached



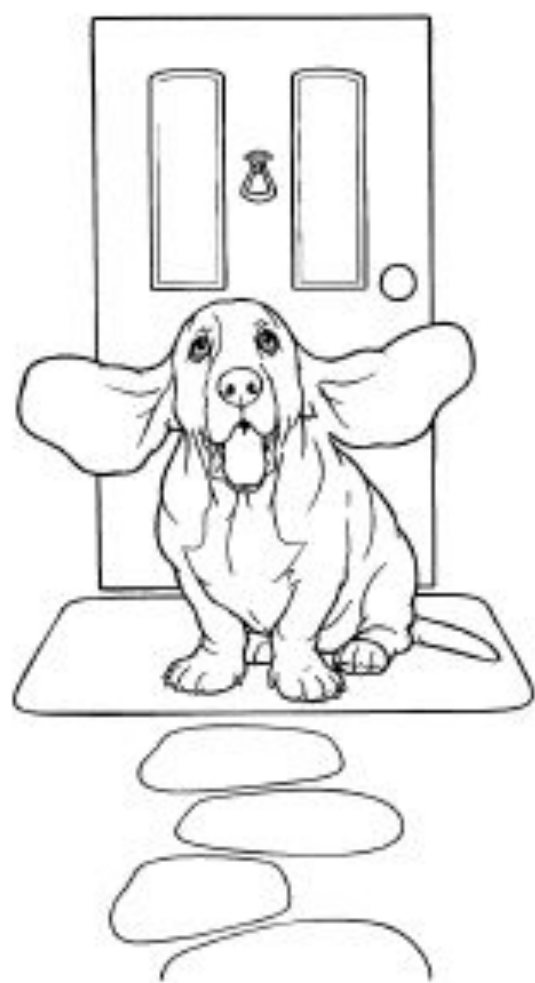
Competition Details

- ✓ Open to children in Reception & Year 1 Only
- ✓ Open Wednesday 1st July 2026
- ✓ Closes Tuesday 28th July 2026
- ✓ One winner per branch
- ✓ Completed entries must be handed into a local Wards branch by the closing date



Important Notes

- ✓ One entry per child
- ✓ Artwork must be created by child
- ✓ Parent/Guardian details and consent must be completed on the form
- ✓ Winners will be contacted using the details provided on the form
- ✓ Entries may be used for advertising, marketing and promotional purposes



Wards
estate agents

COLOURING COMPETITION

Wards
estate agent

Child's Name and Age:

Parent's Name:

Branch:

Parent's Email Address:

Parent's Phone Number:

Help our hound feel at home this summer 2026! We're inviting children to get creative by designing a house around our hound, who is sitting outside a front door waiting for their new home to be drawn.

Children can use pencils, pens, paints, collage, crayons or any other creative materials they like. The aim is to have fun and create the most imaginative home.

Competition "Design The House"

This competition is organised by Arun Estates Agencies Ltd (Arun Estates) trading as Wards, whose registered office is at St Leonards House, North Street, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RJ.

'Design The House' for Wards, by colouring in a picture of one of our beautiful dogs and getting creative by designing a house around our hound. There will be one winner per branch, and will receive an art activity pack. The winner will be contacted using the parent/guardian contact details provided and prizes will be available to collect from their local branch.

The following Terms and Conditions apply:

- The competition is open to children in Reception and Year 1 only. No entry fee or purchase is necessary.
- The competition opens on **Wednesday 1st July** and closes on **Tuesday 28th July**. All entrants must hand their entries in to a local Wards branch by no later than this date - no entries will be accepted after this date. Wards cannot accept responsibility for entries that do not reach us on time for any reason.
- Only one entry is permitted per child and the artwork submitted must be created by your child. Whilst entrants retain the Copyright to their artwork, you agree to Wards using the artwork for advertising, marketing and promotional purposes. Our designers reserve the right to enhance or edit the quality of artwork as necessary for this purpose. Entries will be shared on social media to allow people to vote, before then making the final decision in branch.
- Your child's artwork and your contact information will be sent to the Wards marketing team. Wards will not share your personal information or use it for future marketing purposes. Your data will be stored securely, in line with current Data Protection legislation.
- The competition will be judged by a member of the Wards branch team who will review each entry and decide on the winner. The winner will be contacted using the contact details provided below/on the entry form and you consent to us contacting you by these methods. If no contact information is provided, Wards reserve the right to select replacement winners.
- To reward your child's artistic talent (and stock up on art supplies!), we'll award the parents of our winner an exciting art pack, including lots of goodies to get creative with!
- Wards reserves the right to cancel or amend the competition where circumstances outside of our control prevent us from using the artwork submitted. In this event, notification will be posted on our website.
- This promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. The decision of Wards is final and binding in all matters relating to this competition.

Parental Consent

If my child is a chosen winner, I am happy for them to take part in publicity for the promotion, as reasonably requested by Wards. This could include using their name, artwork and/or video footage on the Wards website and social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

YES/NO

Signature _____ Parent Name _____ Date _____

For enquiries about this competition or the above terms and conditions please contact: marketing@arunestates.co.uk

www.wardsofkent.com

Skirmish At The Museum

11th - 12th
July 2026

...breathing new life into history
10am to 4pm



SKIRMISHES
THROUGHOUT THE DAY!



INTERACTION
ENCOURAGED!



ALL ERAS
WELCOME!



OPTIONAL PRE-
BOOKING AVAILABLE



VEHICLE RIDES
AND AIRCRAFT

Bar available

All proceeds to the museum
and local Veteran's
Association

Some re-enactors may fire
blank guns
and cannons, which can be
loud!

Normal museum entry prices apply.

If you have any questions,
please contact us at:
info@rafmanston.co.uk
www.rafmanston.co.uk

BOOK HERE



What3Words: remarried.mornings.pave

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.



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

A DAY



IN THEIR SHOES:

FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE
AGED

14-17

INSIDE MENTAL HEALTH CAREERS



**FRIDAY
31ST JULY**



**ASHFORD NORTH
FAMILY HUB**

Optional
reptile experience



**Meet a bearded
dragon and a snake**

**Find out what it's really like
to work in mental health**



Meet real psychologists



**Explore different
mental health careers**



**Try out interactive
activities**



**Ask questions & hear
honest experiences in a
safe space**



**Lunch and
refreshments provided**

SIGN UP NOW!

Scan the QR code
or go to below address

<https://forms.office.com/e/EnSrjG8gA1>



NHS

**Kent and Medway
Mental Health**

NHS Trust

**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



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

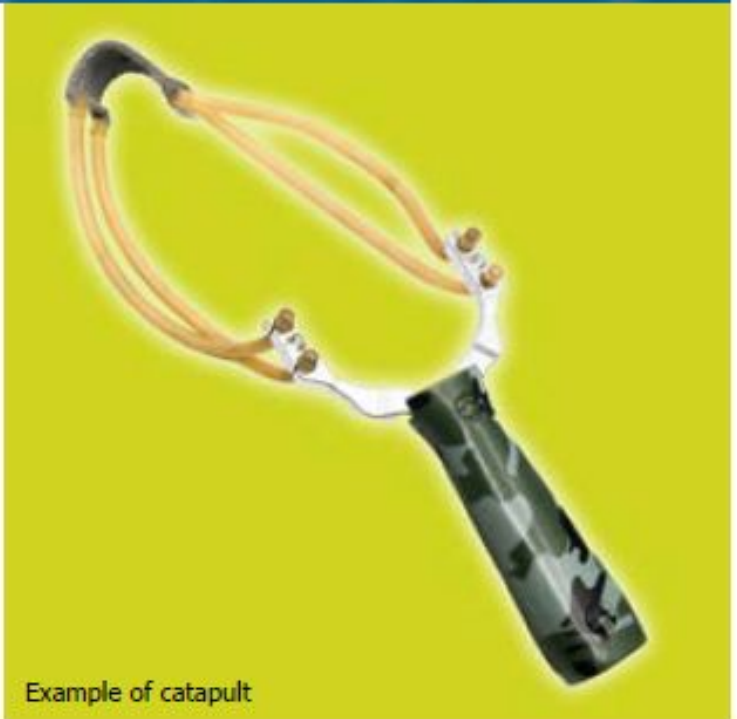
ENJOY WATER SAFELY!
DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**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   