

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 10th July 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 6

Hello everyone! As I write this on Thursday evening, Friday's Sports Day is still to come, so you'll have to wait until next week's newsletter for a full round-up of what I'm sure will be another fantastic Wittersham event! As I type, I'm watching the World Cup quarter-final between France and Morocco (currently 2–0 to France) and, sandwiched between another incredible Wimbledon fortnight and tomorrow's Sports Day, it certainly feels like a summer of sport!

Events such as Sports Day are firmly embedded in the Wittersham calendar and remain one of the highlights of the year. I am incredibly proud that we continue to celebrate as a whole school, with every child taking part and every family able to come together to cheer them on. Many schools have understandably moved towards much smaller, class-based events, but for us there is something incredibly special about the whole school community coming together. It has been a feature of school life since I was a child and is one tradition I hope continues for many years to come. Thank you to all of you for making events like this so special and for embracing everything that makes Wittersham such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

The week began with another exciting first for our school as we welcomed a fantastic range of visitors for our inaugural Careers Fair. I shared more details with you earlier in the week, but I would once again like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who generously gave up their time to inspire our children. The excitement around the school was infectious and it was wonderful to hear the children asking such thoughtful questions.

Careers education has never been more important. With young people beginning to make option choices as early as Year 8, it is essential that we continue to broaden our children's understanding of the world around them and introduce them to the huge variety of careers available. As technology continues to evolve, particularly with the rapid development of artificial intelligence, many of the jobs our children will one day do may not even exist yet. Giving them opportunities to meet people from different professions helps them to dream big, challenge stereotypes and understand the many different pathways available to them.

Reading was also a real focus across the school this week as we welcomed librarians from Kent Libraries to launch the KCC Summer Reading Challenge. Alongside this, our Key Stage 2 pupils also enjoyed their visit to the Mobile Library. Reading throughout the holidays is one of the very best ways to maintain progress and foster a lifelong love of books.

To add a little extra incentive, I'd like to set all of our children a Wittersham Summer Library Challenge! Any child who visits three different KCC libraries over the summer holidays and sends or shows me a photograph from each visit will receive 50 house points when they return in Term 1. I'd love to see where your summer reading adventures take you!

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

On Thursday morning, I had the pleasure of joining seven enthusiastic and incredibly knowledgeable members of Year 5 on a walk to the Wittersham Community Garden. What the volunteers have created there is nothing short of spectacular. I was completely blown away by the children's knowledge of plants, wildlife and sustainability – Mrs Channon has certainly taught them well! I quickly realised there is far more to gardening than I ever knew, and the children from Oxney certainly put me to shame with their expertise. We are very much looking forward to launching our new Eco Council in Term 1 and working closely with the Community Garden volunteers as we begin developing our own school community garden outside School House. Watch this space!

Next week marks our final full week of the academic year and there is certainly plenty to look forward to. We are excited to welcome you to our whole-school Summer Concert at St John the Baptist Church on Tuesday at 2.00 pm, followed by our Year 6 production on Thursday evening as we celebrate the end of their primary school journey.

Following the Summer Concert, children will return to school with their classes before being dismissed from the playground at the usual time. We kindly ask that families make their way back to school after the performance, where we will open the gates once all of the children are safely back on site and ready for collection.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for our final full week of the academic year. And finally... come on England! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿🏆

Take care,
Mrs Coulson



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for the exciting opportunities we have shared this week through Careers Week and Sports Day.

Thank You for the many talents and gifts You have given each one of us. Help us to discover the things we enjoy and to use our abilities to help others. Remind us that success is not just about winning, but about showing kindness, perseverance and courage.

Thank You for the people who inspire us through their work and service to others.

Help us to encourage one another and celebrate each person's unique strengths.

Guide us as we continue to learn, grow and dream about our futures.

May we always do our best and show Your love in all that we do.

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.

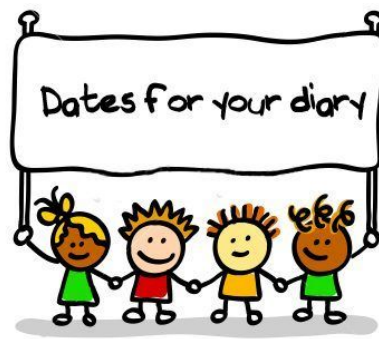
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
93.7%	94.4%	93.2%	94.2%	91.9%

Whole school:
93.5%
Whole School
Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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
- **Wednesday 23rd September - Visions and Values Evening @5pm (new event!)**
- **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.





*Enter our FREE
family
competition*



Enter at Prize Draws
on our home page -
good luck!



A great activity for the summer holidays!

We're a Mum and two daughters team
creating educational, history based fun
Kent Quiz Trails!

They liven up a healthy
family walk!

FREE TO ENTER!



WHAT'S ON?
IN KENT.COM

WIN

Download
the WOIK
app here!



WHAT'S ON?
IN KENT.COM



Download the app
to discover
hundreds of
activities and
events going on
in Kent!

Special offers too!

www.QuizTrail.co.uk



Quote Discount Code
DISCOUNT10
at our checkout

**We've teamed up with
What's On In Kent to give away a
'The Kent Summer Holiday Adventure Pack'!**

 **Top Prize:** One lucky winner will win a wicker picnic hamper with plates, cutlery and glasses, a picnic blanket, one each of the Quiz Trails short stories books, three Quiz Trails of your choice **PLUS** a selection of sweet treats!

**Three runner-up winners will each win
3 Quiz Trails of your choice!**

**Enter on our website
www.QuizTrail.co.uk**

*Closing date 31st July 2026 at
11:59pm. Free to enter - no purchase
necessary.



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:



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



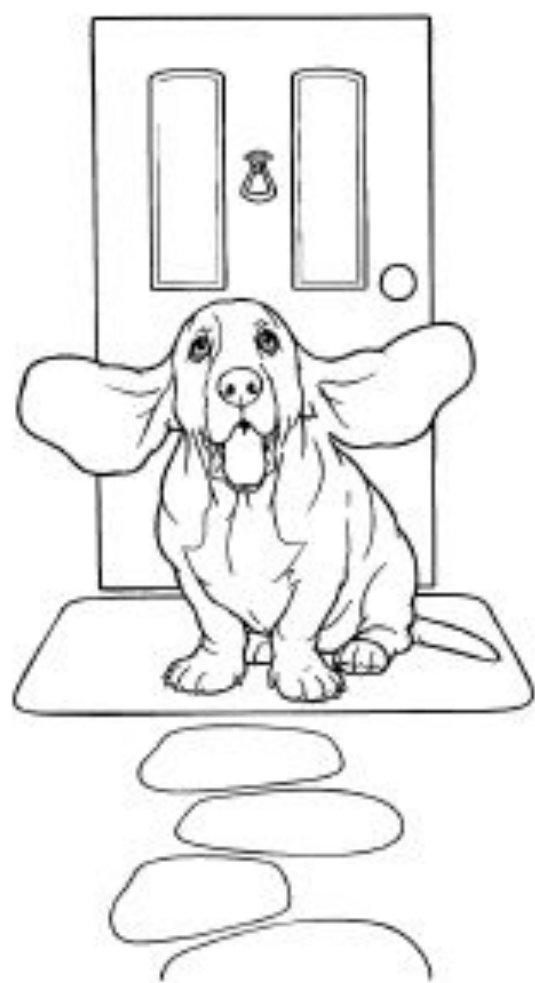
Competition Details

- ✓ 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.wardsof Kent.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**

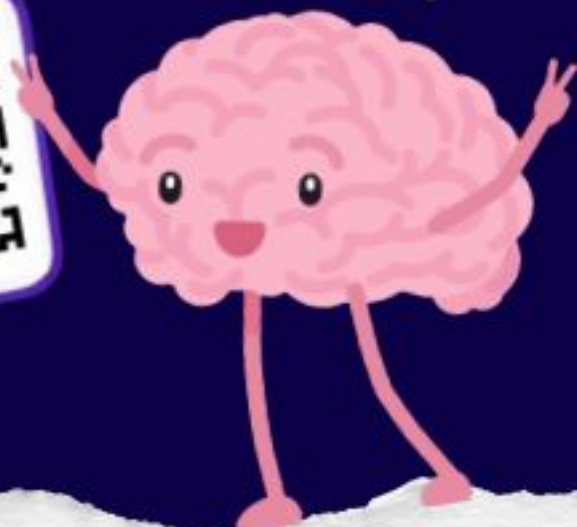


**Lunch and
refreshments provided**

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

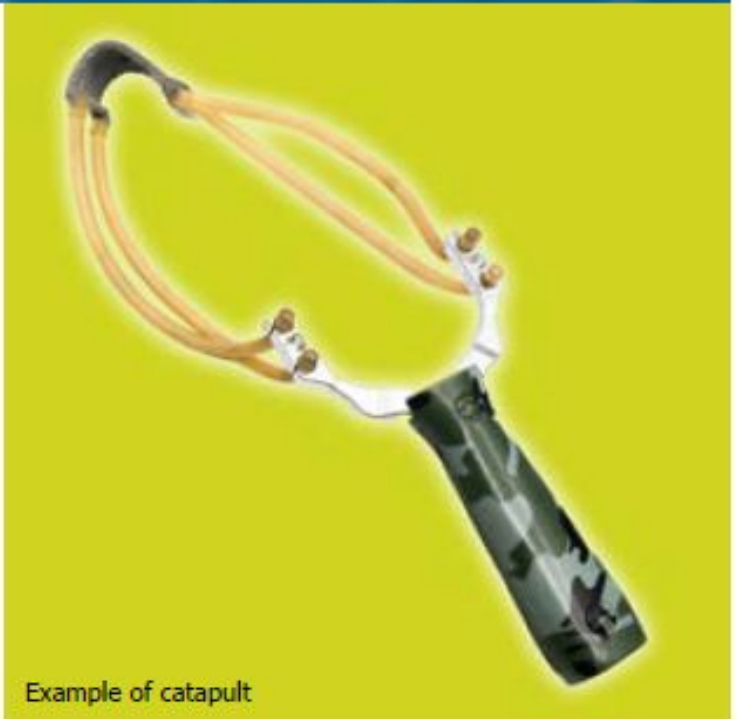
ENJOY WATER SAFELY!
DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**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   