

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 17th July 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 7

As we reach the end of the final full week of the academic year, I honestly couldn't be prouder of what our wonderful school community has achieved. It has been another truly fabulous week at Wittersham, full of memorable moments, celebration and the incredible spirit that makes our school so special.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the week was our spectacular Year 6 production on Thursday evening. What an absolute triumph it was for everyone involved, both on the stage and behind the scenes. Our children sang their hearts out, performed with confidence and enthusiasm, stepped into roles at the very last minute, learnt extensive lines, embraced multiple characters and truly embodied The Wittersham Way from beginning to end.

As I mentioned to the families watching, a Year 6 production is a significant milestone for children across the country. With just 23 children in our Year 6 cohort, bringing together a production of this scale during an already incredibly busy Term 6 is no small achievement. Many of our children doubled up on roles, transforming from a good witch to a giant in a matter of moments, and they did so with professionalism, resilience and huge smiles throughout.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Scott and Mrs Spencer, who make quite the production team! From adapting the script and rehearsing tirelessly to supporting every child and no doubt singing the songs all the way home each evening, they created memories that our children will treasure forever. I am incredibly grateful for the time, dedication and passion they invest, not only in leading Year 6 throughout the year but also in bringing these magical performances to life.

A special thank you also goes to Mrs Channon and Mrs Beaney, who generously gave up so much of their own time to support the production. From ensuring every song was sung with confidence and enthusiasm to making sure every child stepped onto the stage at exactly the right moment, their calm organisation and support behind the scenes were invaluable. Productions like this are only possible because of the commitment of such an incredible staff team, who continually go above and beyond to create unforgettable experiences for our children.

Our celebrations continued with our utterly wonderful Summer Concert. Once again, our children amazed us with their confidence, musical talent and joy. Mrs Catt's vision, which began several months ago, truly came to fruition and provided another unforgettable Term 6 highlight. I have no doubt that this event has firmly secured its place in the Wittersham calendar for many years to come.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

We rounded off our performance-filled week with our Rocksteady Concert, once again showcasing the confidence, creativity and talent of our children. It really has been a week that perfectly demonstrates everything Wittersham is about – providing children with opportunities to shine, build confidence and create memories that will stay with them long after they leave us.

This week also saw our final New Starters session for our September Reception children. They enjoyed a lovely picnic with Windmill Class and, unsurprisingly, many of them were rather disappointed when it was time to go home! I have a feeling there will be some very excited children counting down the days until they officially join our Wittersham family in September.

As we head into our final four days, I do have to be the summer Grinch for just a moment! We have noticed an increase in late arrivals recently. I completely appreciate that we are all feeling tired and that this stage of the year can be incredibly busy and cognitively demanding.

However, I would kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring that children arrive in school on time. The school gates close at 8.45am and our expectations remain exactly the same right until the final day of term. Thank you, as always, for your support.

A few reminders for next week:

- Relaxed uniform will continue for the remainder of term.
- Our Transition Afternoon takes place on Monday. Parents are warmly invited to come into school until 4.00pm to visit your child's new classroom and meet their class teacher. There will not be work on display; this is simply an opportunity for children to proudly show you their new learning environment and begin looking forward to September.
- Our final swimming and Fishing for Schools sessions will also take place next week.
- Our Year 6 Leavers' Service will be held on Thursday at 9.30am in church. This is a very special service focused on celebrating and saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. Families and members of our local community are, of course, very welcome to join us.

As always, thank you for your continued kindness, encouragement and support throughout another wonderful week. I am looking forward to seeing you all on Monday as we enjoy our final four days together and celebrate another incredible year at Wittersham.

Enjoy your weekend, and I'll see you all next week as we celebrate the final chapter of another amazing year together. Take care, Mrs Coulson.



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for walking with us throughout another wonderful school year and for bringing us safely to these final few days together. We are grateful for the learning, friendships, laughter and memories we have shared, and we thank You for the joy of our Summer Concert, where our children used their gifts to bring happiness to others.

As we finish the year, help us to continue showing kindness, courage and compassion in all that we do. Bless our Year 6 children as they prepare for new adventures, and watch over every member of our school family in the days ahead. May we finish this year with grateful hearts, proud of all that has been achieved and thankful for the many blessings You have given us.

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.

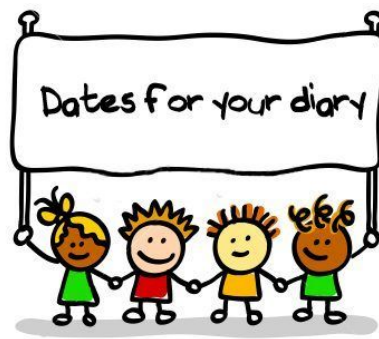
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
93.8%	94.5%	93.2%	94.1%	91.5%

Whole school:
93.5%
Whole School
Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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



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.





*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 WOLK
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.





WITTERSHAM AFTER-SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

TUESDAY 3.15PM - 4.15PM

Age, reception - yr6, Girls & Boys

Our gymnastics classes help children develop strength, flexibility, balance, and confidence while having a great time. With structured sessions and enthusiastic coaching every gymnast is supported to progress at their own pace.

£6 per class, term time only.
Start date 1st September
2026

SIGN UP VIA EMAIL,
INFO@BOOMACTIVE.CO.UK



ROLL, CARTWHEEL, HANDSTAND, VAULT , BOUNCING, SWINGING



RAF
MANSTON
HISTORY
MUSEUM



Spot the LEGO for £1.50
with prize at the end!



Valid from 20th of July to
7th of September 2026

Summer savings

**Children's Lunch Box
and museum entry only
£5**

**at the Museum
10am - 4pm**

7 days a week

Lunch Box at NAAFI Cafe served until 3pm

Ages 5 - 15

All other attendees must pay admission.

At least 1 adult per 4 children

Other competitions and activities
available. Please speak to shop staff.

See website for details.

BOOK HERE



Why not go and visit our
donation funded
neighbouring museum?

info@rafmanston.co.uk www.rafmanston.co.uk

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.



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



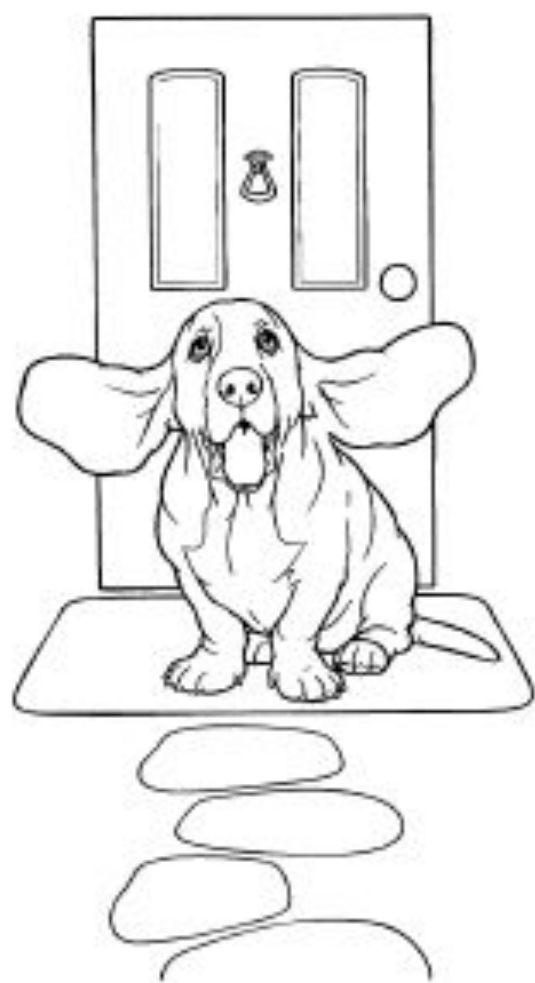
Competition Details

- ✓ 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

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**

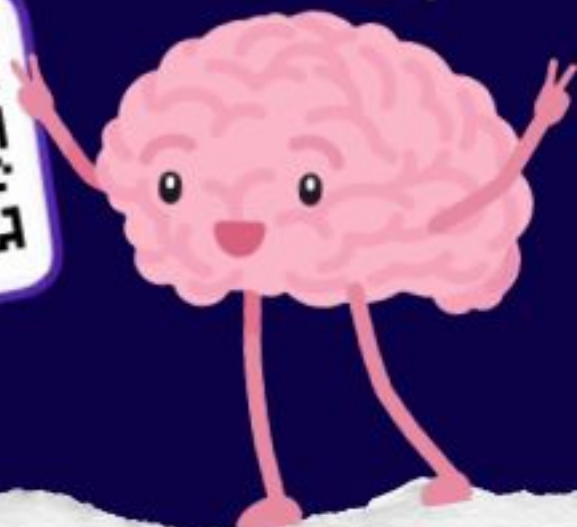


**Lunch and
refreshments provided**

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

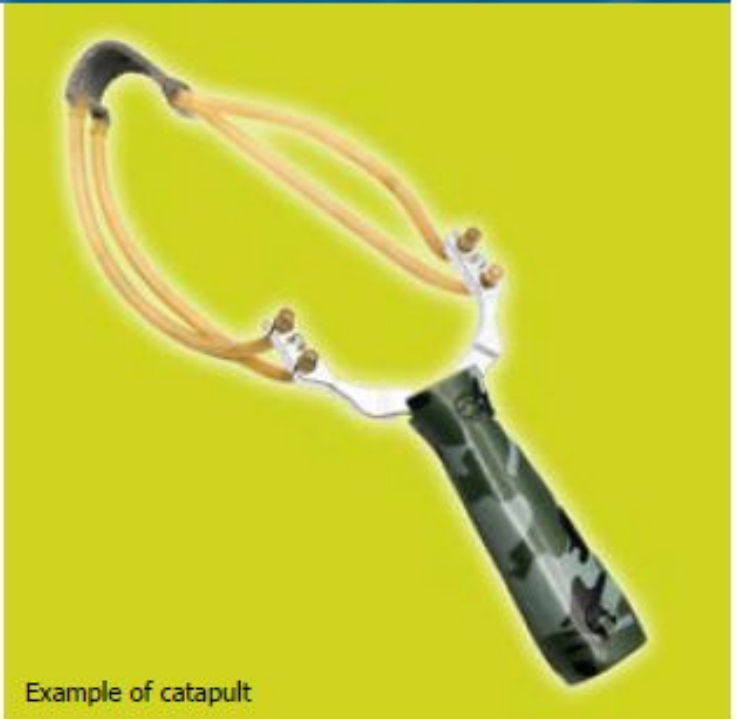
ENJOY WATER SAFELY!
DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**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   