

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 23rd July 2026**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 6 Week 8

Hello everyone! Can you believe that we are writing the final newsletter of this academic year?

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing to you all, welcoming everyone back for the start of another exciting year, and now here we are at the very end. I simply cannot believe how quickly time has flown. I remember people always saying that time goes faster as you get older, and I never quite believed them. Now, I couldn't agree more!

Although it has only been a four-day week, it has certainly been one filled with celebration, reflection and, of course, a few tears. It has been a particularly special week for our wonderful Year 6 children who, by the time you read this newsletter, will have completed their final day at Wittersham and embarked upon an exciting new chapter in their lives.

We wish every one of them the very best as they begin their secondary school journey. They leave us with so many wonderful memories and with the values of The Wittersham Way firmly embedded within them. We have no doubt that they will continue to grow, flourish and achieve incredible things, showing courage, compassion and cooperation wherever life takes them.

Good luck, Year 6 – we are so incredibly proud of you.

To the families who are also leaving us after many years as part of our school community, thank you. Thank you for your kindness, your support, your encouragement and the trust you have placed in us over the years. You have all played an important part in our Wittersham family, and although your children may now be moving on, you will always remain part of our community. Please don't be strangers—come back and visit us, share your successes and let us know how your children are getting on. We love hearing what our former pupils go on to achieve.

Alongside celebrating our Year 6 children, we have also enjoyed a fantastic final week together. Our Key Stage 2 Rounders Tournament was a huge success, with wonderful teamwork, sportsmanship and plenty of smiles throughout the afternoon. A huge thank you to Mr Hawkins and Miss Robinson for organising such an enjoyable event.

I was also fortunate enough to visit the fishing lake yesterday with some of our Year 6 children. It was a wonderful opportunity to simply embrace the peace and tranquillity that this experience provides. The children were completely focused, patiently waiting and hoping for that next bite, and it was lovely to see them so calm, engaged and immersed in the moment.

Mr Hawkins commented that it had been his best group yet, and I have to say I completely agreed! Perhaps, after such a busy and memorable final term, they were simply grateful for a little peace and quiet before embarking on their next adventure. It was a lovely reminder that some of the most valuable learning experiences take place beyond the classroom walls.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

A huge thank you to Mr Hawkins, whose passion and enthusiasm for fishing have provided so many of our children with a unique opportunity to learn new skills, develop patience and resilience, and enjoy the great outdoors. His commitment to sharing his hobby with our pupils has created memories and experiences that many of our children may never otherwise have had, and we are incredibly grateful for everything he does.

Although this week marked our final Fishing for Schools session of the academic year, this is certainly not the end of the programme. Please keep an eye out for further information in September, as any children who registered but have not yet had the opportunity to take part will be invited to future sessions as they become available.

Speaking of memorable experiences, yesterday evening also saw another Wittersham first! Following the incredible success of our choir performing at Young Voices earlier this year, we were fortunate enough to secure tickets for the West End production of Wicked. What began as an exciting opportunity several months ago finally became a reality as a group of Wittersham families came together at the Apollo Victoria Theatre to enjoy this spectacular musical. From the breathtaking performances to the incredible music and staging, it was truly a magical evening. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Catt for organising this wonderful opportunity for our families. We hope everyone who attended had a fantastic time and created memories that will last for many years to come.

This week also saw our whole-school transition afternoon, where every child had the opportunity to spend time with their new classmates and teachers ahead of August. It was wonderful to see so much excitement as children began looking ahead to the new academic year. We were also delighted to welcome two children who will be joining Team Wittersham in August, and we know they will receive a very warm Wittersham welcome.

You should also have now received your child's end-of-year report via Insight. As mentioned in previous Dojo messages, reports have been issued electronically and will not be sent home as paper copies. Please take the time to access your child's report and save a copy for your own records. I hope it provides a wonderful snapshot of everything your child has achieved this year and becomes something you can look back on in years to come as a reminder of their journey at Wittersham.

As another academic year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank every single member of our school community. To our incredible staff, thank you for your unwavering dedication, professionalism and care. You go above and beyond every single day to provide the very best opportunities for our children, and I couldn't be prouder to lead such an exceptional team.

To our governors, thank you for your continued support, challenge and commitment to ensuring Wittersham continues to flourish. To our incredible Wittersham School Association (WSA), thank you for the endless time, energy and enthusiasm you have given throughout the year. Through the events you've organised and the funds you've raised, you have provided countless additional opportunities and experiences for our children, and we are so grateful for your unwavering support. To our wonderful volunteers, thank you for giving your time so generously to enrich the experiences we provide for our children. Whether you've supported reading, accompanied trips, helped with clubs, singing, shovelled sand or the many other activities that take place throughout the year, you have all played an invaluable part in making Wittersham such a special place. We are incredibly grateful for everything you do.

Finally, to you, our families, thank you. Thank you for your continued encouragement, your partnership and your trust. Education works best when school and home work together, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive community standing alongside us.

Together, we have celebrated successes, overcome challenges, created lifelong memories and watched our children grow into confident, kind and courageous young people. It truly has been another remarkable year at Wittersham.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer filled with laughter, adventure, rest and precious time with family and friends. To our Year 6 children and families, we wish you every success as you begin your next chapter. To everyone returning on Thursday August 27th, we cannot wait to welcome you back for another exciting year of learning, growth and opportunity.

Until then, have a fantastic summer, stay safe, and thank you once again for making Wittersham such a very special place to be.

Take care,

Mrs Coulson



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for another wonderful year at Wittersham. Thank You for the friendships we've made, the lessons we've learned, the challenges we've overcome and the memories we've created together.

We pray especially for our Year 6 children as they begin an exciting new chapter. Fill them with courage, kindness and confidence, and help them to shine wherever they go.

Keep us all safe over the summer holidays, bless our families with rest and happiness, and bring us back together in September ready for another year of learning, laughter and growing together.

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.

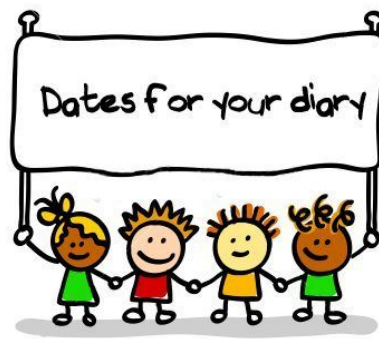
Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
93.8%	94.6%	93.3%	94.2%	91.5%

Whole school:
93.5%
Whole School
Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **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



**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.



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



Holiday Clubs

Ages: 5 - 7 years

**£20 per day
(sibling half £10)**

Where: Rye Rugby Club

When:

Wednesday 29th July

Wednesday 5th August

Wednesday 12th August

10am - 3pm

(Earlier drop offs available)

FUN NON-CONTACT

**Tag Rugby Games,
Team Work,**

**Learn New Skills,
Arty Fun, Sing A long,
Problem Solving Activities
Waterfights!!**

Bring?

**Water Bottle, Lunch & Snacks,
Extra Clothes, Towel!
(we will have a water fight!)**



**To Confirm Please Contact
theo@rugbytots.co.uk
07888822667**



FREE!! SUMMER Touch Rugby Tuesdays Camps

28 July, 4 Aug, 11 Aug

3.30pm-6.30pm

AGES 8-16

*** All Abilities Boys & Girls ***

**Fun, Fast, Learn New skills,
Make Friends!**

**Bring a towel & Extra Clothes!
We have a Slip n Slide & Water fights**

Give Touch Rugby a TRY!

**Contact Theo
07888822667**



Rye Cricket Club – Get Involved This Summer!

If your child is interested in giving cricket a go or developing their skills, Rye Cricket Club has some fantastic opportunities coming up!

On Wednesday 26th August, the Sussex Cricket Foundation is hosting a fun-filled cricket day at the Rye Cricket Salts from 10:00am–3:00pm. It's a great opportunity for young people to try cricket, learn new skills and enjoy a day of sporting fun.

To find out more and book a place, please visit:
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sussexcricketfoundation/>

Looking ahead, the 2027 indoor season begins on Friday 9th October at Rye Leisure Centre, with sessions available for all abilities:

Softball Cricket (4:00pm–5:00pm)

- 8 fun-filled sessions designed for younger players and beginners
- £30 for all 8 sessions

Hardball Cricket (5:00pm–6:00pm)

- Indoor net sessions for more experienced players
- £50 for all 8 sessions

For further information or to register your interest, please contact:

Martin Blincow

 **07535 482006**

 **blincsfamily@aol.com**

Why not give it a go? It promises to be a fantastic way for children to stay active, make new friends and enjoy the game of cricket over the coming months.





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.



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

POP INSTORE OR
BOOK ONLINE
BY SCANNING
HERE:



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

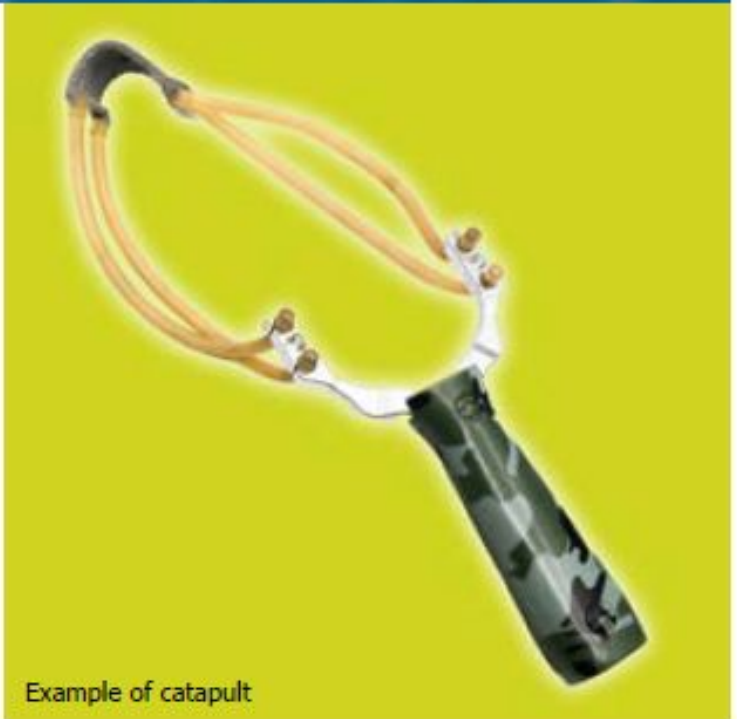
ENJOY WATER SAFELY!
DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**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   