

# 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 11th September 2027

TERM 1 • WEEK 3

Welcome to the first Wittersham Weekly of our first full week of the new academic year! Despite being back together since the end of August, we have only just completed our first full week of the new academic year – and what a busy week it has been!

As ever, it has been another incredibly busy week at Wittersham. Some of our Year 6 children have been sitting the Kent Test, Forest School and our nurture sessions have begun, and across the school the children are really settling back into the routines of school life. It already feels as though we have been back much longer than a week!

One of the real highlights was our first whole-school visit to church of the academic year. Everybody joined us, including our wonderful new Reception children, who were absolutely incredible. Our Year 6 buddies collected them and walked them over to church, and they sat beautifully throughout the service. So many of the adults at church commented on how wonderfully they behaved. They have settled into Wittersham life incredibly well and already feel very much part of our school family. We are incredibly proud of them.

Last week also saw our Year 6 pupils putting themselves forward for the important roles of Head and Deputy Head Students. We are thrilled to announce that our Head Students for this academic year are Orla and Charlotte, with Emily and Olivia taking on the roles of Deputy Head Students. Congratulations to all four!

Leadership is such an important part of the Year 6 journey at Wittersham. During their final year with us, we want our oldest pupils to develop their confidence, independence and sense of responsibility as we begin preparing them for the different opportunities and expectations that Key Stage 3 will bring.

Our pupil leaders are a key part of school life: supporting our younger children, representing the school and playing an important role in events including our Friday Celebration Worships, Harvest Festival, Christmas celebrations and much more. I am really looking forward to working alongside this year's team and know that they will make a fantastic contribution to our school.

**Compassion**

**Courage**

**Cooperation**

Today, we also heard speeches from children hoping to become our new House Captains. It was fantastic to see so many children having the courage to nominate themselves and stand in front of their peers to explain why they would be right for these important roles. More information about our new House Captains will follow very soon!

Last week, I shared our staffing overview to help families see the different members of staff working across the school and perhaps identify who they may need to speak to. This week, I have decided to introduce our Governing Board.

Our governors play an incredibly important role in the life and strategic leadership of Wittersham. They work alongside me and the wider leadership team to support the school's development, while also providing appropriate challenge and ensuring that the decisions we make are firmly focused on achieving the very best outcomes for our children.

Our Chair of Governors, John Collins, has worked alongside Wittersham for many years and is a familiar face around school. John meets with me regularly, works directly with our Year 5 and 6 pupils to develop their comprehension skills and, importantly, provides both support and challenge to me as Headteacher. A strong governing board helps to ensure that we are doing what we say we are doing and that we continue to reflect, improve and move our school forward.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed Governing Board, and it is a privilege to continue developing Wittersham with them by our side. Please do familiarise yourselves with the names and roles of our governors in the overview below. Just as our partnership with you as parents and carers is so important, our relationship with our governors is another essential part of the team around our children.

After a very busy first full week, I hope everyone has a wonderful and restful weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing everyone again next week.

Take care, Mrs Coulson

# Attendance Matters

Be here. Belong. Achieve.



**WITTERSHAM**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Courage | Compassion | Cooperation



**Better  
learning and  
progress**

Being in school  
helps children build  
knowledge and skills.



**Stronger  
friendships**

Regular attendance  
helps children stay  
connected and be part  
of our school community.



**More  
opportunities**

Being in school means  
children can take part  
in all the exciting  
experiences we offer.



**Greater  
confidence**

Routine and consistency  
help children feel safe,  
happy and ready  
to learn.



**Happier  
and healthier**

Good attendance  
supports children's  
wellbeing, both now  
and in the future.



Good attendance today builds brighter tomorrows.

SAFE | HAPPY | RESPECTED | READY | SUCCESSFUL

**Compassion**

**Courage**

**Cooperation**



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# Our Governing Board

Working together to support, challenge and develop our school.

## Chair of Governors



John Collins

## Local Authority Governor



Fran Rusbridge

## Foundation Governors



Jane Burnett  
(Vice Chair)



Helen Farmer



Kerry Dean

## Parent Governors



Harry Lingfield



Sean Solly

## Staff Governors



Stella Coulson  
(Headteacher Governor)



Carly Catt  
(Staff Governor)

## Clerk to the Governors



Jane Phillips

Our Governing Board is made up of people with different roles, ensuring a range of voices and experience are represented:

- Chair of Governors – leads the Governing Board and works closely with the Headteacher.
- Foundation Governors – support and protect our Church of England vision, values and ethos.
- Parent Governors – elected by parents and bring a valuable parent perspective.
- Local Authority Governor – nominated by the Local Authority and brings additional skills and experience.
- Staff Governors – bring the perspective and experience of those working within our school.
- Headteacher Governor – provides information about the school's performance, priorities and development.
- Clerk to the Governors – organises meetings, records minutes and supports the Governing Board.

Our Full Governing Board meets once each term,  
and meeting minutes are available on our school website.

**Compassion**

**Courage**

**Cooperation**



WITTERSHAM  
Church of England  
Primary School

WITTERSHAM



# Dates for Your Diary



Keep up to date with what's happening  
at Wittersham!



- **Wednesday 23rd September - Visions and Values Evening**
- **Friday 16th October** - Last Day of Term 1
- **Monday 2nd November** - Whole School Inset Day - no children in school
- **Friday 13th November** - Children in Need Day - more info to follow.
- **Tuesday 3rd November** - Start of Term 2
- **Thursday 10th December** - Christmas Jumper Day
- **Friday 18th December** - Whole School Pantomime Trip
- **Friday 18th December** - Last Day of Term 2
- **Monday 4th January** - Whole School Inset Day - no children in school
- **Tuesday 5th January** - Start of Term 3

# 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](http://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.



# WINGS & WHEELS WEEKEND 2026

| 12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER | 10AM TO 4PM |  
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM CT12 5DF



Climb in the Cockpits



CHARITY NUMBER: 11799482



BOOK HERE



Fire Engine Rides



Tank Rides



Loads of Vehicles



Museum Entry

**OPTIONAL PRE-BOOKING AVAILABLE**

**USUAL MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICES APPLY | RIDE ADMISSION SEPARATE**

[info@rafmanston.co.uk](mailto:info@rafmanston.co.uk)

[www.rafmanston.co.uk](http://www.rafmanston.co.uk)



What Three Words - [remarried.mornings.pave](https://www.what3words.com/remarried.mornings.pave)



**Refreshments available**

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

# **RYE CRICKET CLUB**

## **START PLAYING CRICKET**



### **AUTUMN CRICKET SESSIONS 2026**

**RYE LEISURE CENTRE**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> FOR 8 WEEKS**

**4-5 PM SOFTBALL SESSIONS 5 – 10 Years**

**Cost £30**

**5-6 PM HARDBALL SESSIONS 9 Years and Up**

**COST £50**

These Sessions are Supported by

**THE TED BAKER TRUST**

Contact Martin Blincow to sign up.

Mobile: 07535482006    blincsfamily@aol.com

[www.ryecc.play-cricket.com](http://www.ryecc.play-cricket.com)

What Our Parents say.....

"His experience at Rye CC this year has improved his general self-confidence"

"Many thanks again for all your time and efforts with these youngsters. We are deeply grateful."



# KATE'S

## Swimming

**Helping your child build confidence in the water for life.**

### **What We Offer**

- ✓ Babies - from birth to 2 years
- ✓ Toddlers - from 2-4 years
- ✓ Children's - 4 years+
- ✓ Private 1:1 Lessons - All Ages
- ✓ Holiday Intensive Courses - 4 years+

### **Swimming Pools**

- 📍 Staplecross, East Sussex



So impressed with how my daughter has developed in just attending 4 days of the summer intensive course. She went from holding her nose and not being confident putting her head under water to swimming under water.

-Trust Pilot Review

**Book Now!**

**[www.katesswimming.co.uk](http://www.katesswimming.co.uk)**

