

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 25th September 2026

TERM 1 • WEEK 5

Another week has passed in the blink of an eye, and this week we have been treated to some wonderful sunshine! The welly boots have stayed firmly in the welly boot shed, and this little reprieve of summer has certainly been very welcome – although it has been incredibly warm at times. Even the fans have been back out!

Swimming has continued across the school this week, alongside lots of fantastic learning both inside and outside the classroom. It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of September and are well and truly into the rhythm of the new school year.

A real highlight for me this week was our first Vision & Values Evening. Thank you so much to everyone who came along and gave up their evening to hear a little more about who we are as a school, what is important to us and how we can continue to work together throughout the year. We have received some really positive feedback about the evening, which has been lovely to hear.

We also completely understand that family life is incredibly busy and that not everyone was able to join us. Please do not worry if you couldn't make it. All of the slides from the evening will be available on Dojo, including the individual class presentations. These contain lots of useful information about the curriculum, trips, home learning and expectations for the year, so please do take some time to have a look through them. We will certainly be holding the evening again next year too!

A quick attendance update as we head into the weekend! We ended the week with whole-school attendance at 96.7%, keeping us above our school target of 96%. Every day in school gives children the chance to build on their learning, spend time with friends and take part in everything school has to offer.

Thank you for helping us make attendance a priority and for letting us know promptly when your child is unwell. Let's keep up this positive start to the year!

Next week, we are really looking forward to coming together for our Harvest Festival at St John's Church on Tuesday at 2.00pm. Thank you to everyone who has already donated to our WaterAid fundraiser and also to the WSA for organising an additional food collection to support those closer to home.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

This combination of giving is particularly important to us.

As a school rooted in Compassion, Courage and Cooperation, we want our children to understand that community does not stop at the edge of our village. We can care deeply for the people around us while also recognising our responsibility to people living very different lives elsewhere in the world. Supporting one does not take away from supporting the other; there is room for both.

If you would like to make a donation to our WaterAid Harvest fundraiser, you can do so here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/stella-coulson-2>

Information about the WSA Harvest food collection, including details of what can be donated, can be found on the Whole School Class Dojo page.

Throughout this week, children have been learning more about the work of WaterAid and considering what everyday life can look like for communities without reliable access to clean water, toilets and good hygiene. For many of our children, discovering just how different life can be for other children around the world has been incredibly thought-provoking.

Part of our responsibility as educators is to help children look beyond what is familiar to them. We want them to understand their local community, contribute to it and value it enormously, while also developing curiosity, understanding and compassion for people, cultures and communities beyond it.

So this Harvest, we are doing a little bit of everything: celebrating together as a school and village community, supporting people locally through the WSA food collection, and looking further afield through our support for WaterAid. It is a wonderful opportunity for our children to see our value of Compassion lived out in different ways – caring for our neighbours, whether they are just down the road or much further away.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us at St John's Church on Tuesday as we celebrate Harvest together.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone.

Take care,
Mrs Coulson



WITTERSHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance Matters

Be here. Belong. Achieve.



Every day counts.

⇒ Every day in school helps children build learning, friendships and confidence. ⇒

Whole-school target

96%

Current attendance

96.7%



The Attendance Shop
is coming next week!



Regular attendance helps children keep up with learning, enjoy friendships and feel part of our school community. Arriving on time helps them settle and start the day ready to learn.



If you need support with attendance or punctuality, please contact Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes, our Family Liaison Officer.

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A Prayer for Our School Family

Loving God,

Thank you for our school family and for each
unique person who belongs here. Help us to be
a school where everyone is **welcomed, valued
and included**.

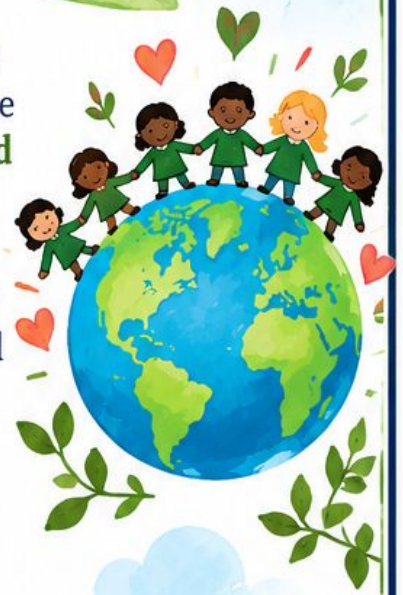
Teach us to show **compassion** in our words
and actions, to notice the needs of others and
to be kind and supportive every day.

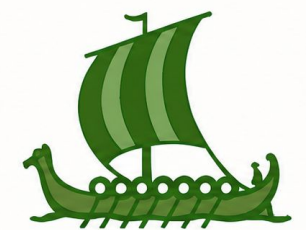
Help us to care for our **local community**,
working together to make a positive
difference where we live.

Open our hearts to the **wider world**, so that
we may learn about, respect and support people
in other communities, near and far.

Guide us to be people of **courage, compassion
and cooperation**, so that we can help to build
a fairer, kinder and more loving world.

Amen.





WITTERSHAM
Church of England
Primary School

WITTERSHAM



Dates for Your Diary



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



- **Monday 28th September** - WSA Stay and Play 3:15pm - 4pm
- **Tuesday 29th September** - Harvest Service @2pm - all families
- **Wednesday 30th September** - Flu Immunisation
- **Wednesday 30th September** - Smuggler and Vikings visit to the mobile library
- **Thursday 1st October** - Reception Tours for 2027 (please contact the office to book)
- **Wednesday 7th October** - Rother Godinton House Trip
- **Thursday 8th October** - Individual School Photos
- **Wednesday 14th October** - Reception Tours for 2027 (please contact the office to book)
- **Wednesday 14th October** - Mobile Library Oxney and Rother
- **Wednesday 14th October** - WSA Rother Cake Sale
- **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
- **Wednesday 4th November** - Parents Evening 2pm - 8pm
- **Wednesday 11th November** - Reception Tours for 2027 (please contact the office to book)
- **Friday 13th November** - Children in Need Day - more info to follow.
- **Wednesday 25th November** - Vikings Godington House Trip
- **Thursday 10th December** - Christmas Jumper Day
- **Friday 11th December** - Christmas Rocksteady Concert
- **Tuesday 15th December** - Christingle Service @5pm @St Johns Church
- **Wednesday 16th December** - WSA Cake Sale
- **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



Courage



Compassion



Cooperation

A
nurturing
place to
belong



Reception Places for September 2027

Come and discover Wittersham

A GOOD SCHOOL

OFSTED 2025

*"A warm, ambitious and inclusive school
where children are known, valued and
encouraged to flourish."*

At Wittersham, we combine the care and community of a small village school with high expectations for every child. Our children benefit from nurturing relationships, rich learning experiences, extensive outdoor space and an inclusive approach that helps every child to belong, achieve and thrive.



School Tours

Come and see our school in action!

Tours are led by our Headteacher with the opportunity to visit the school, look around classrooms, ask questions and meet the Family Liaison Officer (FLO) and SENCO.

	Thursday 24th September	morning
	Tuesday 29th September	morning
	Thursday 1st October	from 1.30pm
	Wednesday 14th October	morning
	Wednesday 11th November	from 1.00pm



Applications Open

Applications for transfer to primary school for reception year in September 2027 will open on

Friday 6 November 2026

and close on

Friday 15 January 2027.



To book a school tour

Please contact the school office:

 **01797 270329**

 **office@wittersham.kent.sch.uk**



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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.



RYE CRICKET CLUB

START PLAYING CRICKET



AUTUMN CRICKET SESSIONS 2026

RYE LEISURE CENTRE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9TH 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

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

