

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 2nd October 2026

TERM 1 • WEEK 6

Welcome to the very first Wittersham Weekly of October 2026!

I simply have to start with the absolute highlight of our week – Harvest. What a wonderful celebration it was and such a special occasion for our whole school community. It was lovely to see St John the Baptist Church full to the brim with children, families and friends, surrounded by beautiful Harvest decorations, flowers and the incredibly generous donations from our community.

As I said earlier in the week, events such as these do not simply happen. Behind the scenes there are singing rehearsals, poems to write and practise, children to prepare, decorations to arrange and lots of organisation from so many different people. A huge thank you to everyone at school who contributed to making our Harvest Festival such a success, as well as the WSA and Charles, Graham and everyone at the church who welcomed us so warmly and helped make the afternoon so special. Harvest is one of those wonderful occasions that really brings together our school, church and wider community, and it is certainly something we look forward to each year.

It has been another incredibly busy week at Wittersham. Alongside Harvest, we have enjoyed a visit from the Mobile Library, welcomed families for another of our Reception 2027 school tours and, of course, enjoyed our WSA Stay and Play. This week's school tour saw eight families come through our doors, and I genuinely felt so proud walking around our school and sharing with them everything that makes Wittersham such a special place.

I am exceptionally proud to be the Headteacher of a school filled with children and adults who come through the gates each day ready to do their best and contribute to the journey we are all on together. There is always so much happening, but underneath it all is that wonderful sense of community that makes our little school what it is.

This week I also had a great worship with the children where we introduced two exciting developments that will begin in Term 2. The first is our new Attendance Shop, where children will be able to earn tokens for excellent attendance and choose whether to spend or save them. We also introduced a new element of our restorative behaviour approach, which will place an even greater focus on recognising and celebrating our 3Cs – Courage, Compassion and Cooperation.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

From Term 2, we will be looking for children demonstrating these values through their choices, behaviour and interactions both in the classroom and around the school each day. This gives us another positive way to recognise those everyday moments when children are living out our school values and contributing positively to our Wittersham community. The children were incredibly enthusiastic about both this and our new Attendance Shop, and I am looking forward to seeing these become part of everyday school life next term.

You will also notice something a little different in this week's newsletter, with an update from Mrs Catt, our SENCO. Mrs Catt shares a little about The Nest and also reflects on how proud she was of our wonderful choir at Harvest. We hope to make these contributions a more regular feature of Wittersham Weekly, giving you the opportunity to hear from different members of our team and get an even greater sense of everything happening across our school.

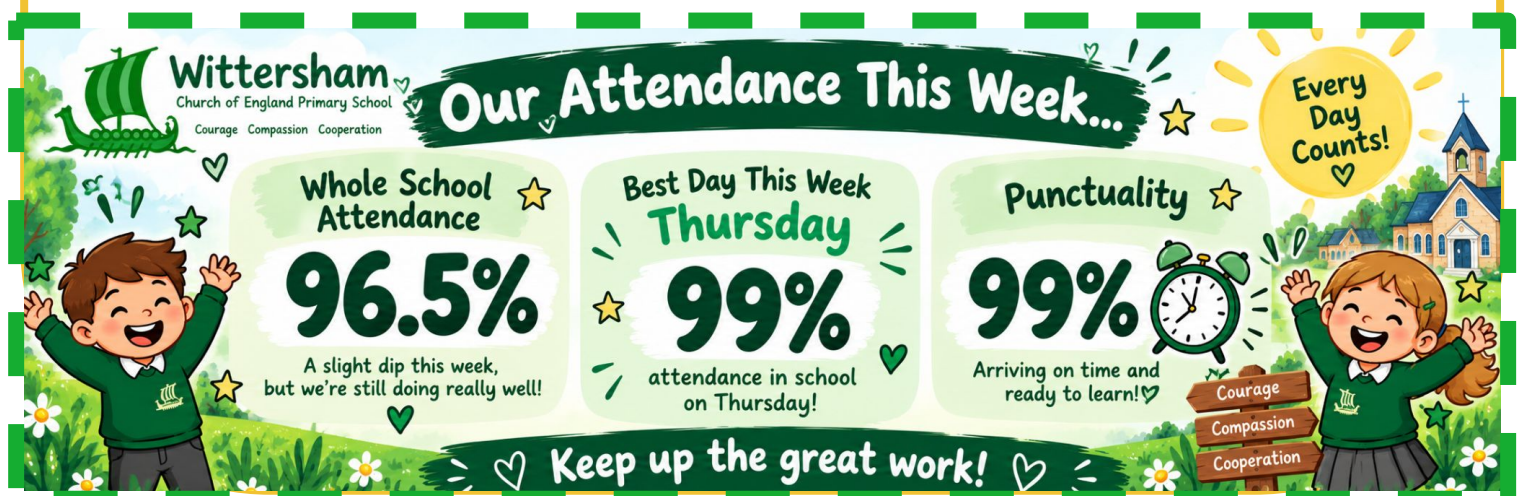
Looking ahead to next week, we have our first Godinton House trip of this academic year, with Rother Class heading out for their visit. We are incredibly fortunate to have opportunities such as these available to our children, and I know they will have a fantastic time.

The weather is definitely beginning to turn too! Please make sure children have their wellies in school and bring a suitable coat or raincoat each day. We will continue to make the most of our outdoor spaces as the cooler weather arrives and, unless the weather is particularly unpleasant, a little drizzle certainly will not stop us!

I genuinely cannot believe that we have just two weeks remaining of Term 1. The weeks seem to be getting quicker and quicker, and this one has certainly been no exception! I have no doubt the final two weeks will fly by too, with plenty still to look forward to before we reach the half-term break.

Wishing you all a fabulous weekend, and I look forward to sharing the final two weeks of our first term together.

Take care,
Mrs Coulson



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



I am delighted with how The Nest has started since launching at the beginning of this academic year. Children are already accessing the space for core subjects and targeted support, and we are beginning to see the positive impact it is having on their learning, confidence and engagement. It has been wonderful to see the space being used so positively, and we look forward to continuing to develop The Nest as the year progresses.

I am also thrilled to have Choir Club back on Tuesday lunchtimes! Our choir did an absolutely fantastic job at our Harvest Festival this week, and we were incredibly proud of them. After only a few weeks of rehearsals, they performed with such confidence and enthusiasm and were a wonderful part of our Harvest celebrations.

There is certainly no slowing down for our choir! As we move towards Term 2, our attention will turn to Christmas preparations alongside rehearsals for our annual trip to the O2 for Young Voices. We cannot wait to see their confidence continue to grow as they prepare to join thousands of children from schools across the country for what is always an unforgettable experience.

Looking forward to seeing you all next week!
Mrs Catt



Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



WITTERSHAM

Dates for Your Diary



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



- **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 Godinton 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
- **Friday 12th February 2027** - Term 3 ends
- **Monday 2nd February 2027** - Term 4 begins
- **Wednesday 3rd March 2027** - Parents Evening
- **Thursday 25th March 2027** - Term 4 ends
- **Monday 12th April 2027** - INSET Day
- **Tuesday 13th April 2027** - Term 5 begins for pupils
- **Monday 3rd May 2027** - May Day Bank Holiday
- **Friday 28th May 2027** - Term 5 ends
- **Monday 7th June 2027** - INSET Day
- **Tuesday 8th June 2027** - Term 6 begins for pupils
- **Friday 23rd July 2027** - Term 6 end



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**



On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.

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.

