

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 9th October 2026

TERM 1 • WEEK 7



It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the final week of Term 1. It seems only yesterday that we were welcoming everyone back at the beginning of September, and yet here we are, nearly at the end of our first term! It has been another incredibly busy week at Wittersham, filled with exciting opportunities, wonderful learning and plenty to celebrate. I often say how busy our weeks are, but it really does feel as though our school continues to go from strength to strength as the year progresses.

This week has been no exception. Rother Class enjoyed a fantastic art enrichment visit to Godinton House, Smugglers Class participated in a Guinness World Record attempt, and the whole school embraced Cycle to School Week with great enthusiasm.

We also welcomed a maths learning walk this week, with Mrs Scott and Mrs Robinson Weller visiting classrooms to observe mathematics teaching and learning across the school. Both were particularly impressed by the high levels of pupil engagement, with children demonstrating excellent focus, positive attitudes and a real enthusiasm for their learning. It was also encouraging to see the effective use of practical resources and manipulatives to support children's understanding of key mathematical concepts. This was a really positive opportunity to celebrate the high-quality teaching and learning taking place across our classrooms.

Despite Wednesday's rather wet weather, we continued to make the most of our outdoor spaces. As Mrs Catt reminded families earlier this week, please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies in school and, as the autumn weather becomes increasingly unpredictable, a suitable waterproof coat. We are keen for children to continue enjoying outdoor learning and play throughout the changing seasons.

Next week will mark our final week of picnic lunches and swimming as we move further into autumn. Our Reception children are particularly looking forward to their swimming taster session next week. It has been wonderful to have the swimming pool available throughout Term 1, providing additional opportunities for children to develop their water confidence and swimming skills.

Our Eco Council and School Council also held their first meetings of the academic year this week. It is wonderful to see our children taking an active role in school life, sharing their ideas and helping to shape the future of Wittersham. We look forward to sharing updates from both councils in next week's newsletter.

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

WaterAid Fundraising

I am delighted to share that our fundraising total for WaterAid, our chosen school charity this year, currently stands at an impressive £352!

This is a fantastic achievement and has already surpassed the £206 raised for the British Red Cross last year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously. There is still time to donate, and it would be wonderful to see our total reach £400 before the end of term.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/stella-coulson-2>

Cycle to School Week

What a fantastic response we have had to Cycle to School Week! As I write this on Thursday evening, we are still awaiting Friday's final tally to see whether we have achieved our pledge of 50 children cycling or scooting to school in a single day.

Regardless of the final result, I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown by our children, families and staff. We have seen children cycling to the bus stop, scooting from the Village Hall and travelling all the way from home, alongside members of staff joining in too.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative. Small changes to our daily journeys can make a meaningful difference to the environment, help reduce traffic and parking pressures around school, and encourage healthier, more active lifestyles.

Enrichment Opportunities

You will find a further update from Mrs Scott and Mrs Spencer below about Rother Class's visit to Godinton House. This valuable partnership began last academic year, and we are delighted to be continuing it. Opportunities such as these provide our children with memorable experiences beyond the classroom, enriching their learning and helping them develop new skills and interests. Miss Perrian has also shared an exciting update about Smugglers Class taking part in a Guinness World Record attempt this week! It is wonderful to see our children embracing such a wide range of opportunities, both within and beyond the classroom.

Finally, thank you to our whole school community for another wonderful week. It has been a pleasure to see so many happy, engaged children enjoying their learning and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Don't forget to take a moment to look at your child's school photograph, which I am sure you will enjoy. Our updated staff photograph will also be available very soon! 😊

I hope you all have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for our final week of Term 1. Take care, Mrs Coulson

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Rother Class were the first to visit Godinton House to enjoy some art enrichment, this academic year, Their focus was on collagraph printing. Initially, they experimented with the printing technique, colour and symmetry before visiting the house to look for design inspiration. Using simple symmetrical patterns, spotted in the house, the children created designs to make their printing plates. They used the collagraph technique to print their final piece: fantastic flags!

Rother Class at Godinton House!



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Smugglers Class Take Part in a World Record Attempt!



What an exciting morning for Smugglers Class, who took part in a Guinness World Record attempt organised by the National Literacy Trust as part of the Take 10 to Read initiative!

The children began by enjoying a reading of *Super Uma* by author Rashmi Sirdeshpande, before joining illustrator Nakul P for a fantastic draw-along activity.

As part of the world record challenge, the children were encouraged to spend 10 minutes reading, with Year 2 enjoying their books in the classroom and Year 1 participating during their guided reading session.

The children also created some wonderful illustrations featuring Chip, a character from the story, surrounded by things that would help them feel calm, happy and relaxed in their own quiet space. This provided a lovely opportunity to explore the importance of wellbeing alongside developing a love of reading.

We are incredibly proud of Smugglers Class for taking part in this exciting global initiative and celebrating the joy of reading!



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Attendance Percentage

Every day counts!



Whole School Attendance

96.6%



Windmills

96.0%



Smugglers

98.4%



Vikings

97.0%



Oxney

96.3%



Rother

94.1%



National

96.3%



Local Authority

96.3%

Let's aim for as many

100% days

as we can next week! ♥



WITTERSHAM

Dates for Your Diary



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



- **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 ends



Courage



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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.



Service of *Light*



**Sunday
25th October
at 6pm**



**St John The Baptist
Church,
Wittersham**



We would like to invite you to join us for a special service during which we will remember family members or special friends who have died.



Each person will be remembered by name, and you will have the opportunity to light a candle in their memory.



There will be a list available at the back of the church, by the rear-most pews, to add the name/names of the person/people you wish to be remembered.



Please pop-in as you go by the church and add their names. This should be done by **22nd October** please.



If that is difficult then please email Caroline Baker, Churches Co-ordinator at churchescoordinator@tentrox.org or phone **01580-765414** Monday - Wednesday to add a name to the list.

