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 16th October 2026

TERM 1 • WEEK 8

NEWS

Special Guest Editor: Mrs Spencer ♡

It has been another busy and productive week across the school. Pupils have continued to work hard in lessons and have shown great determination as they complete their learning for the term.

Adults have been particularly looking for children demonstrating our Christian Value of 'Courage' in school this week – well done to those of you who were recognised for this and given the 'Christian Value of the Week Award' this morning in Celebration Worship.

We were also pleased to welcome prospective parents on tours of the school for the next academic year. Tours, as always, are a lovely opportunity to showcase our school community, learning environment and the many opportunities available to our children.

In addition to the classroom learning, we have had many other exciting events this week. A particular highlight was our KS2 cross-country, where pupils showed fantastic determination, resilience and sportsmanship. Everyone involved gave their very best effort and represented the school brilliantly. It was wonderful to see children encouraging one another and cheering each other on throughout the event.





Another lovely opportunity this week was the mobile library visit for our Oxney and Rother children. On a termly basis, the mobile library visits Wittersham and Mrs Robinson-Weller has spent a lot of time organising the opportunity for our children to have access to this. The children enjoyed exploring a range of books and were excited to choose new reading material. Thank you to Mrs Robinson-Weller for organising this.

Compassion **Courage** **Cooperation**

A special thank you also goes to everyone involved in the WSA Rother cake sale. The event was a lovely success raising £205.60 and the cakes all looked delicious. We are very grateful for the support, effort and generosity shown by those who contributed and by our WSA who give up their time to organise and facilitate the class cake sales to help raise money for our school – thank you.

Our Reception pupils also enjoyed their taster swimming sessions this week. The children approached the experience with excitement and enthusiasm, and it was great to see them beginning to build familiarity with this important life skill

Thank you to the staff supporting the sessions for helping make the experience so positive and enjoyable and I'm sure the children are already looking forward to more swimming lessons later on in the year.

We also completed a successful fire drill this week. For our Reception children, this was their first fire drill and they did really well. They listened carefully, followed instructions and showed excellent calmness throughout.

With this being the final newsletter of Term 1, I would like to take the time to reflect on the past few weeks and reiterate what a fantastic start to the year we have had!

The children have settled in brilliantly and have worked incredibly hard across the curriculum. We are so proud of all they have achieved so far, from their enthusiasm in lessons to the kindness and resilience they have shown each day.

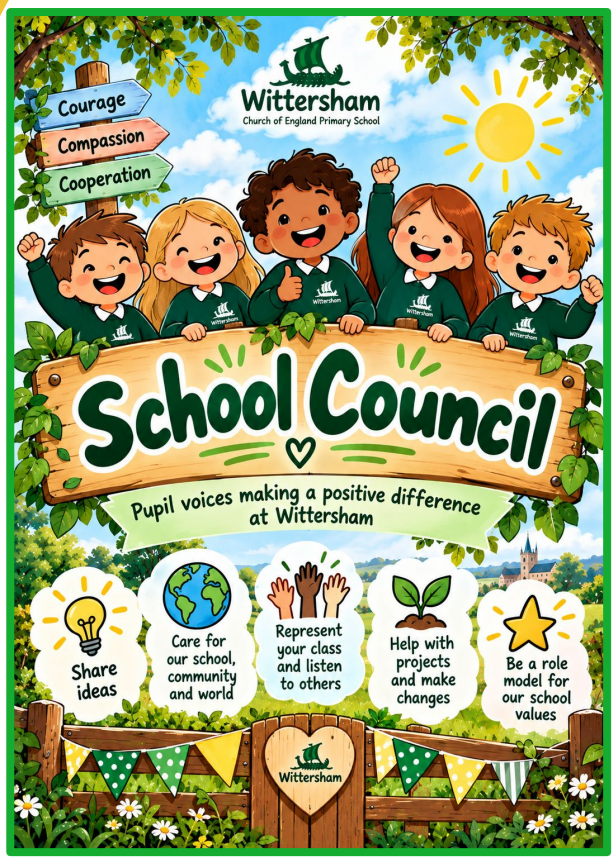
Thank you for your continued support at home - it really makes a difference.

We hope you all have a well-deserved and restful half term, filled with fun, family time and plenty of opportunities to relax and look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 3rd November refreshed and ready for an exciting Term 2.



Mrs Spencer

School Council Update from Miss Perrian



This week, our new School Council met for the very first time! We started by introducing ourselves and sharing why we wanted to be part of School Council. We also had a chat about when we would be meeting and what our meetings might look like.

Our first topic was playground equipment! The children came up with some brilliant ideas about what new equipment they would like to have at playtimes.

After our meeting, the councillors went back to their classes to share what we had discussed and find out what their classmates thought too. This means we can make sure everyone gets a chance to have their say and that we hear lots of different ideas from across the school!

It was a great first meeting, and we're really looking forward to seeing what our School Council can achieve this year!

Eco Council Update from Miss Larter



Our Eco Council is officially up and running, with our first meeting being completed last week. We have decided our target areas for the next few terms and have lots of exciting plans to tackle these together!

We are working towards becoming a 'Plastic Clever School' and are looking forward to taking steps to reduce plastic waste and make a positive difference to our environment.

We are enthusiastic about making Wittersham a greener, more sustainable school and can't wait to share our ideas and achievements with you.

We hope you will join us on our journey and help us make a difference!

Wittersham
Church of England Primary School

Term 1 Attendance

96.6%

This is brilliant!

Let's keep it up! ♡

Every day in school makes a difference! ♡

Windmills	96.4%
Smugglers	97.9%
Vikings	97.0%
Oxney	96.6%
Rother	94.2%
Whole School	96.6%
National	95.9%
Local Authority	95.7%

Higher than National and Local Authority! ♡

Let's aim for as many 100% days as we can next term! ♡

Attendance Shop opens in Term 2!

WITTERSHAM
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Primary School

WITTERSHAM Dates for Your Diary

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

- **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
- **Wednesday 9th December -** Viking Experience Advent @Tenterden Church
- **Wednesday 9th December -** Morning Nativity Performance @9:30 am.
- **Thursday 10th December -** Evening Nativity Performance @5pm
- **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

Wittersham
Church of England
Primary School

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.

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)

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.

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.



SANTA NEEDS YOU!



Can you help Santa deliver a magical Christmas as one of our team of Elves?

Are you aged 10 years or above and would like to help spread that magic?

Are you available to help on any weekends from Sunday 29th November or 22nd – 24th December?

If the answer to these questions is yes, do talk to your parents about joining us to help Santa deliver presents on our Santa Special trains.

We would love to hear from you.
Please contact marketing@kesr.org.uk for more details.

KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY

Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HE

www.kesr.org.uk • 01580 765155

Ashford Borough Council – Why I Love Ashford competition

What is the main reason you Love Ashford?

Ashford Borough Council (ABC) is launching a competition with school children and students to find out the best reasons why we Love Ashford!

Is there something you love doing, a place you like to visit, a special memory you have? To enter our competition either draw a picture or take a photo of that location, activity or moment along with a short explanation of why it is special to you.

Entries can be submitted via email to competition@ashford.gov.uk by the end of October.

There will be three age categories:

- Primary school children (under 11s)
- Secondary school children (11- to 16-year-olds)
- Further education students (six form, college students).

ABC also asks that the name of the child, their age and their school/college are included with every submission, as well as a parent or guardian's contact details, so we know who to contact if they win.

Winners will receive £100 of Love 2 Shop vouchers. (There are three prizes in total – one winner per age category).

The winners will also have their submissions included on hoardings displayed around the town as well as on the Love Ashford website and in a future edition of Ashford For You magazine. They will also be shared on Ashford Borough Council and Love Ashford's social media channels.

The competition opens on Friday 25 September and the closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 30 October.

Entries can be submitted via email or by post: Ashford Borough Council, Communications Team, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, TN23 1HU.

Competition guidelines

- Entrants must be within the specific age categories set out above
- It must be their own original image (no cheating parents!)
- It must be in landscape format and either A4 or A3
- It must be a jpeg or pdf attachment (not embedded in the body of an email)
- It must be supplied as a high resolution (at least 300dpi)
- ABC staff or direct family members cannot enter the competition

Good luck!