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 6th November 2026 | TERM 2 • WEEK 1

What a fabulous start to Term 2 we have had!

Although it has been a slightly shorter week, it has certainly been a wonderful one! It has been such a joy to welcome all the children back to school, looking so well rested and ready for another exciting term. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely two-week break, filled with fun, family time and, hopefully, some opportunities for rest and relaxation too!

Term 2 always seems to be such a bumper few weeks, with so much to look forward to, and we have certainly started as we mean to go on!

A Fresh New Look for Wittersham!

Without a doubt, one of the biggest highlights of the week for so many of our children has been returning to discover the wonderful improvements to our school environment!

Our Windmills, Smugglers and Vikings classrooms have all benefited from beautiful new windows, and what a difference they have made! The building looks so much fresher and more modern, and the classrooms feel incredibly light, bright and, somehow, even bigger than before!

We have also gained a fantastic new playground area following the removal of the old green fencing. On Tuesday morning, before the first playtime of the term, we met with the children to introduce them to the new gates and explain how they could enjoy their newly opened space. It was wonderful to see their excitement, and the difference this has made to our outdoor environment is already quite remarkable!

We are enormously grateful to all the contractors and everyone involved in supporting, organising and facilitating these improvements. Projects of this scale require a tremendous amount of planning and coordination, and we are so appreciative of everyone who has helped make these changes possible. Our school is looking absolutely wonderful!

Parents' Evening – Thank You!

Wednesday brought another highlight of the week with our first Parents' Evening of the academic year, and what a successful evening it was! We were delighted that 94% of our families booked and attended appointments, which is a fantastic level of engagement. Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to come along.

I absolutely love Parents' Evening! It is such a valuable opportunity to welcome families into school, share the wonderful learning taking place and celebrate just how much progress the children are making. I particularly enjoy the opportunity to chat with so many of you in our café, which always creates such a lovely atmosphere.

It was especially wonderful to hear so many positive stories about how brilliantly our youngest children in Reception have settled into school life and to see clear evidence of children thriving across all our classes.

One thing that really stood out was the incredible effort being put into handwriting and presentation across the school. The improvements are already so noticeable, and I have to say, some of our children now have handwriting that is considerably better than mine!

I hope you enjoyed seeing the children's books, celebrating their achievements and having those important conversations with their teachers. We are so proud of the progress they are making.

A huge thank you must also go to our wonderful staff, who work incredibly hard to prepare for these evenings, coordinate appointments, organise the café and ensure that all the information and documents are ready to share with families. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

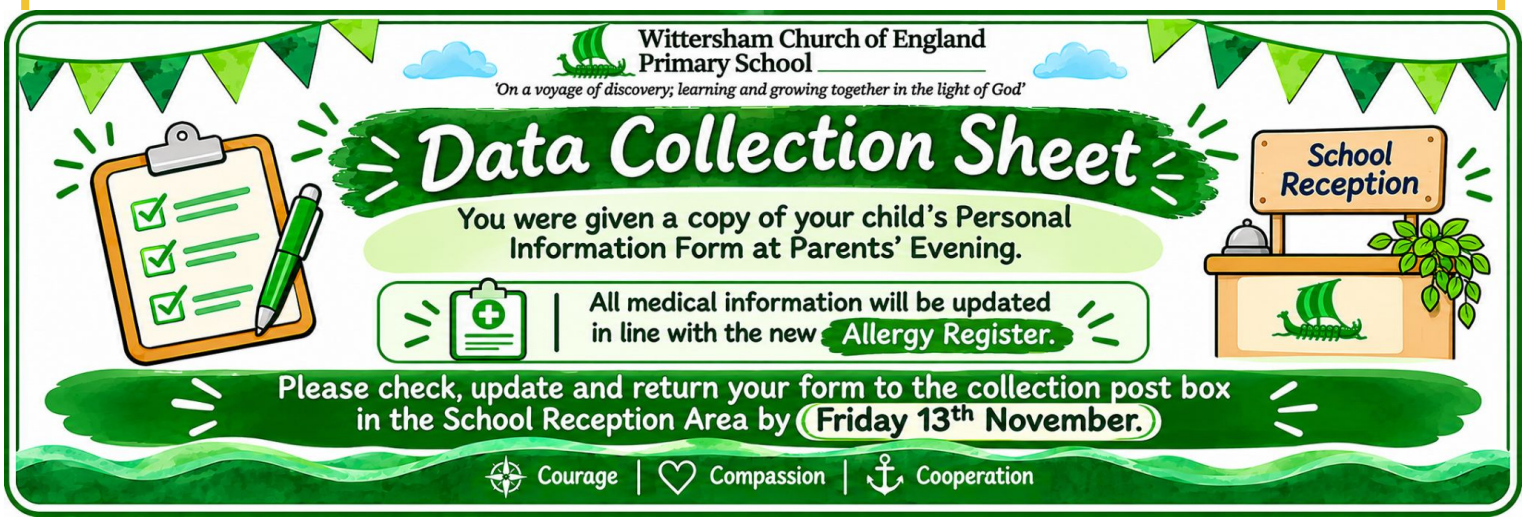
A Little Reminder – Data Collection Sheets

Following Parents' Evening, please can I remind all families to check, update where necessary and return their data collection sheets.

These forms are incredibly important in ensuring that we hold accurate and up-to-date information for every child, particularly emergency contact details.

Please return your completed sheets to the post box inside the school by Friday 13th November.

Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and ensuring we can contact you promptly whenever needed.



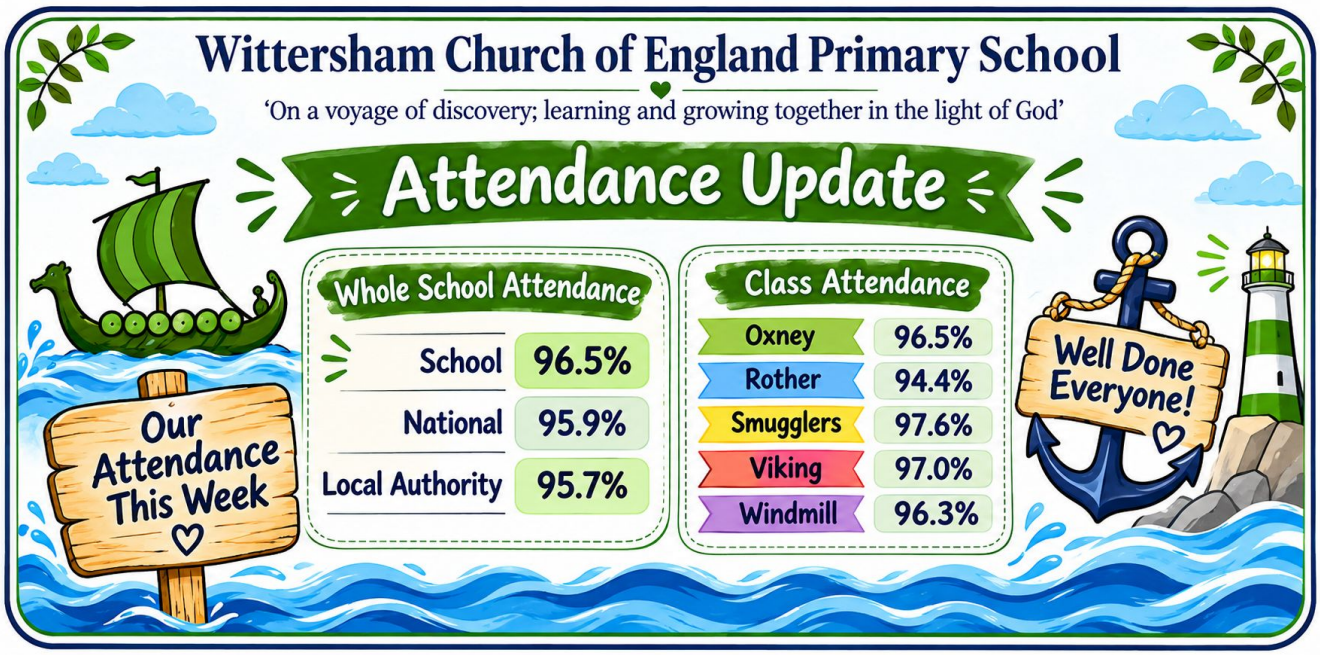
Attendance – Let's Keep Up the Fantastic Work!

Finally, I want to say another enormous thank you for your continued commitment to excellent school attendance.

We have started Term 2 exceptionally well, with our whole-school attendance currently standing at 96.5%, above both the national figure of 95.9% and the Local Authority figure of 95.7%. This is something we should all be incredibly proud of!

Regular attendance makes such a difference to children's learning, friendships, confidence and overall school experience. Every day really does matter, and your continued support in ensuring children are in school and ready to learn is hugely appreciated.

Let's keep working together to maintain those wonderful attendance figures in the high 90s as the term progresses!



Have a Wonderful Weekend!

As we come to the end of our first week back, I just want to say thank you once again for your continued support, positivity and enthusiasm for everything we are doing at Wittersham.

There is such a lovely feeling around school at the moment, and it has been wonderful to see the children return with such energy and excitement. With our refreshed learning environments, fantastic learning already taking place and so many exciting opportunities ahead, I have no doubt that Term 2 is going to be another memorable part of our Wittersham voyage of discovery!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for our first full week of the term!

Take care, Mrs Coulson

WITTERSHAM
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Primary School

WITTERSHAM Dates for Your Diary

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

- **Wednesday 11th November -** Remembrance Day - please see Dojo post regarding uniformed youth organisations
- **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 -** Whole School Christmas Lunch
- **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
- **Tuesday 18th May - Friday 21st May -** Year 5 and 6 Residential
- **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

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.

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.

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

Children in Need

Friday 13th November!



Ahoy, Wittersham! Are you ready for a SUPER FUN day for Children in Need?

Our amazing School Council and Head Students have been busy planning a fantastic day, and we need YOUR help to raise lots of money for children who need our support!



SPOTTY CLOTHES DAY – £1

Come to school wearing your spottiest outfit or your favourite own clothes for a £1 donation!

Remember our Wittersham rules:

- ✅ No short or revealing clothes.
- ✅ No make-up.
- ✅ No high heels or Crocs.
- ✅ No pyjamas (unless they are spotty and suitable for school!).
- ✅ Wear clothes and shoes that are safe for playing outside.
- ✅ Make sure you can still take part in PE if it's your PE day.
- ✅ Bring your coat – we'll still be going outside!



DESIGN A PUDSEY T-SHIRT!

Calling all **Wittersham artists!**

Can **YOU** design the most amazing **Pudsey T-shirt?**



- ⭐ Get creative with spots, colours and fantastic ideas!
- ⭐ Win **HOUSE POINTS** for your design!
- ⭐ Our winning designs will go into a **WHOLE-SCHOOL COMPETITION!**

Taking part is completely optional, but we'd love to see your brilliant creations!



THE GREAT HOUSE POINT RAFFLE!

Want to win **some extra house points for your team?**

- ✅ Tickets cost just **50p** each.
- ✅ You could win some fantastic house points for Bodiam, Leeds, Hever or Scotney!
- ✅ Tickets will be available to buy during the school day.

GET READY FOR THE DANCE DASH!



Our friends from Homewood are coming to Wittersham with their Dance Dash crew!



Get ready to...

- ✅ Dance to some brilliant music!
- ✅ Show off your best dance moves!
- ✅ Have lots of fun with your friends!
- ✅ Raise money for a wonderful cause!

All money raised will be donated to BBC Children in Need through Homewood!

A HUGE thank you to our School Council and Head Students for organising this special day!

So, Wittersham...

- ARE YOU READY TO GET SPOTTY?
- ARE YOU READY TO GET CREATIVE?
- ARE YOU READY TO DANCE?

LET'S MAKE THIS OUR BEST CHILDREN IN NEED DAY YET!

The BigWrap

www.thebigwrap.co.uk

HOW YOU CAN HELP

amazon

Gifts for children

Brand new for ages from baby to 11. For ages 12 upwards toiletry and cosmestic gifts or Amazon Gift Cards value of £15.

Amazon Wishlist

The above QR code takes you to our Wishlist which should be helpful for gift ideas.

Big Wrap Day 28th November 2026 in St Mildred's church

Gift and other donations welcome from 9am and wrapping from 1pm to 3pm

Supporting local families at Christmas



The Hygiene Bank Tenterden & Cranbrook

THE MILDRED TRUST
RURAL COMMUNITY COMPASSION IN ACTION

Other Items

We also appreciate any items to support families for everyday living essentials.

Because you never know what troubles the person next door is going through....

Lovejoy FARM PARTNERSHIP

Lovejoy Farm Partnership

Christmas Fair



Fresh meat from our farm shop





Meet the animals



Craft stalls

Mince pies and mulled wine



Children's Christmas crafts



AND MUCH MORE !!!!

Find us at Hope Farm, Wittersham, TN30 7NP

10am - 3pm Saturday 28th November



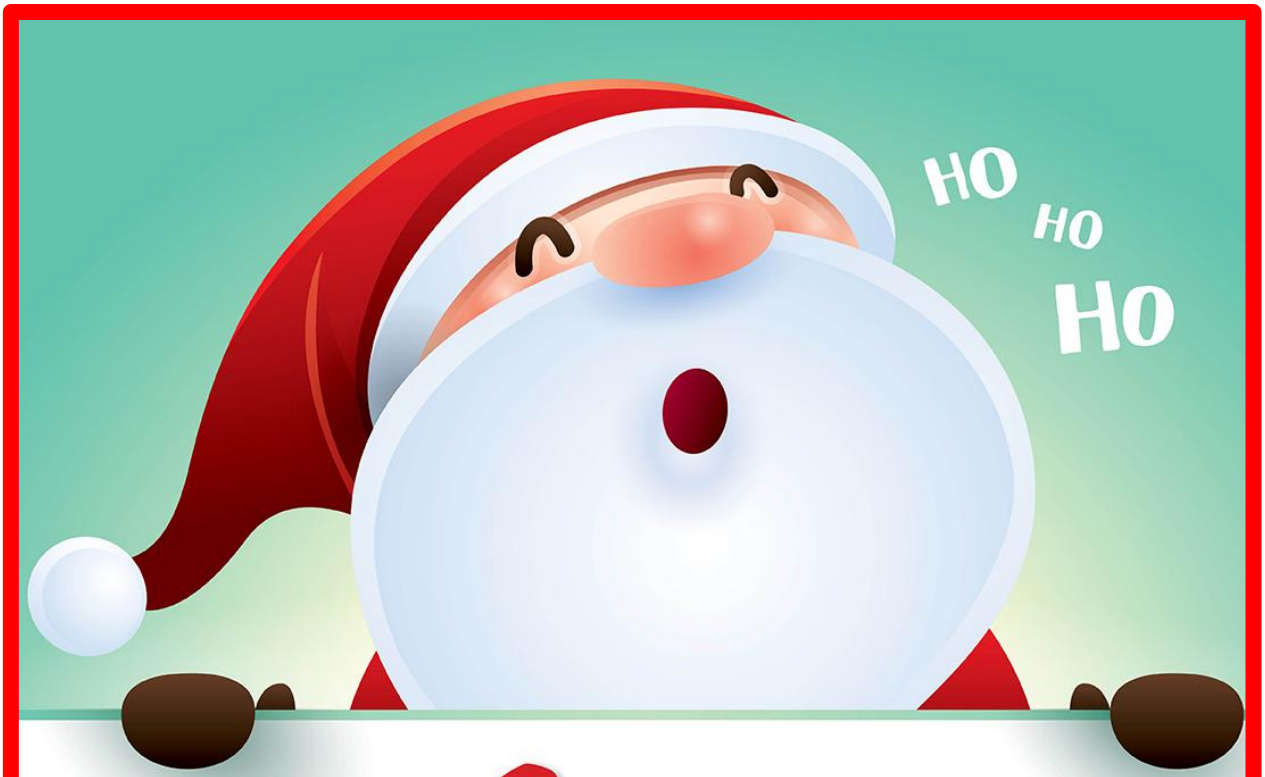
Meet Santa with Ashford Young Farmers

£10 per child to meet Santa and his elves

Follow us on Facebook to see what's in store:

@LovejoyFarmPartenership

@AshfordanddistrictYFC



Ashford Borough Council

Design Ashford Borough Council's Christmas Card!

Children aged 4 to 11 can enter

Deadline: Wednesday 18th November 2026

Submit entries to
christmascardcomp@ashford.gov.uk

WIN £30 worth of Waterstones vouchers and 10 printed cards to send to family and friends.



Ashford Borough Council | LOVE ASHFORD | Kent Community Foundation | The Whitehead Monckton Charitable Foundation | SPONSORED BY Ashford Designer Outlet | Hallett & Co solicitors · since 1830


Ashford's
CARNIVAL OF
THE BAUBLES
The Day of the Dance
FOOD & DRINK STALLS
IN MIDDLE ROW
SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 10AM–7PM
Featuring: Cane's Pizza - Newdewlz
- Hops & Hampers + more
MARKET
loveashford.com

Ashford's

CARNIVAL OF THE BAUBLES

The Day of the Dance

FESTIVE MAKERS MARKET

3 DAYS / 25+ STALLS

Location: Old H&M Unit

Local Food & Handmade Gifts

Friday 20 November - 9:30am–5:30pm
Saturday 21 November - 9:30am–5pm
Sunday 22 November - 10am–4pm

loveashford.com

