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 20th November 2026 | TERM 2 • WEEK 3

These weeks seem to be going quicker than ever, and this one really has flown by! It has been another wonderfully busy week at Wittersham, filled with learning, reflection, celebration and some rather exciting arrivals!

We began the week by welcoming Harry Lingfield, one of our Parent Governors, into school for a general learning walk. It was a real pleasure to share the wonderful learning taking place across our classrooms, and Harry was particularly impressed by the improvements in English across the school. From the use of high-quality modelling and questioning to the developing consistency in children's books and the opportunities for pupils to become increasingly independent in their learning, there was much to celebrate. Our governors play such an important role in the life of Wittersham, providing both support and challenge as we continue on our school improvement journey. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed Governing Board who take a genuine interest in our children, staff and school community. Their visits provide valuable opportunities to reflect on our progress, celebrate successes and identify our next steps.



This week has also been Anti-Bullying Week, which we kicked off on Monday with Odd Socks Day! It was wonderful to see so many colourful, mismatched socks around school as we celebrated what makes each of us unique. Throughout the week, children have been exploring the importance of kindness, respect, inclusion and standing up for others through their PSHE learning. These are messages that sit so closely alongside our school values of Courage, Compassion and Cooperation, and although Anti-Bullying Week provides a particular opportunity to shine a spotlight on them, they remain at the heart of everything we do throughout the year.

We have also had some very exciting arrivals this week! Following our successful Cycle and Scoot to School initiative last term, our brand-new scooter and bike pods have now been installed! Secured through our work with the Kent County Council School Travel Plan, these fantastic additions will provide much-needed storage and help us continue encouraging children and families to choose active and sustainable journeys to school. We are absolutely delighted to see them in place and cannot wait to see them being put to good use!



And talking of exciting arrivals, we had a rather unusual visitor to the playground this week – a tractor! Following the delivery of a new shed to store our Wraparound Care resources, we found ourselves with the rather tricky problem of getting it into school. Thankfully, our wonderful friends at Lovejoy Farm came to the rescue! Within 24 hours, their tractor was making its way onto the school grounds to help us move and position the shed. It certainly caused some excitement, and what a wonderful reminder of the incredible community we are so fortunate to be part of. A huge thank you to Lovejoy Farm for their generosity, time and willingness to help. Our local heroes!

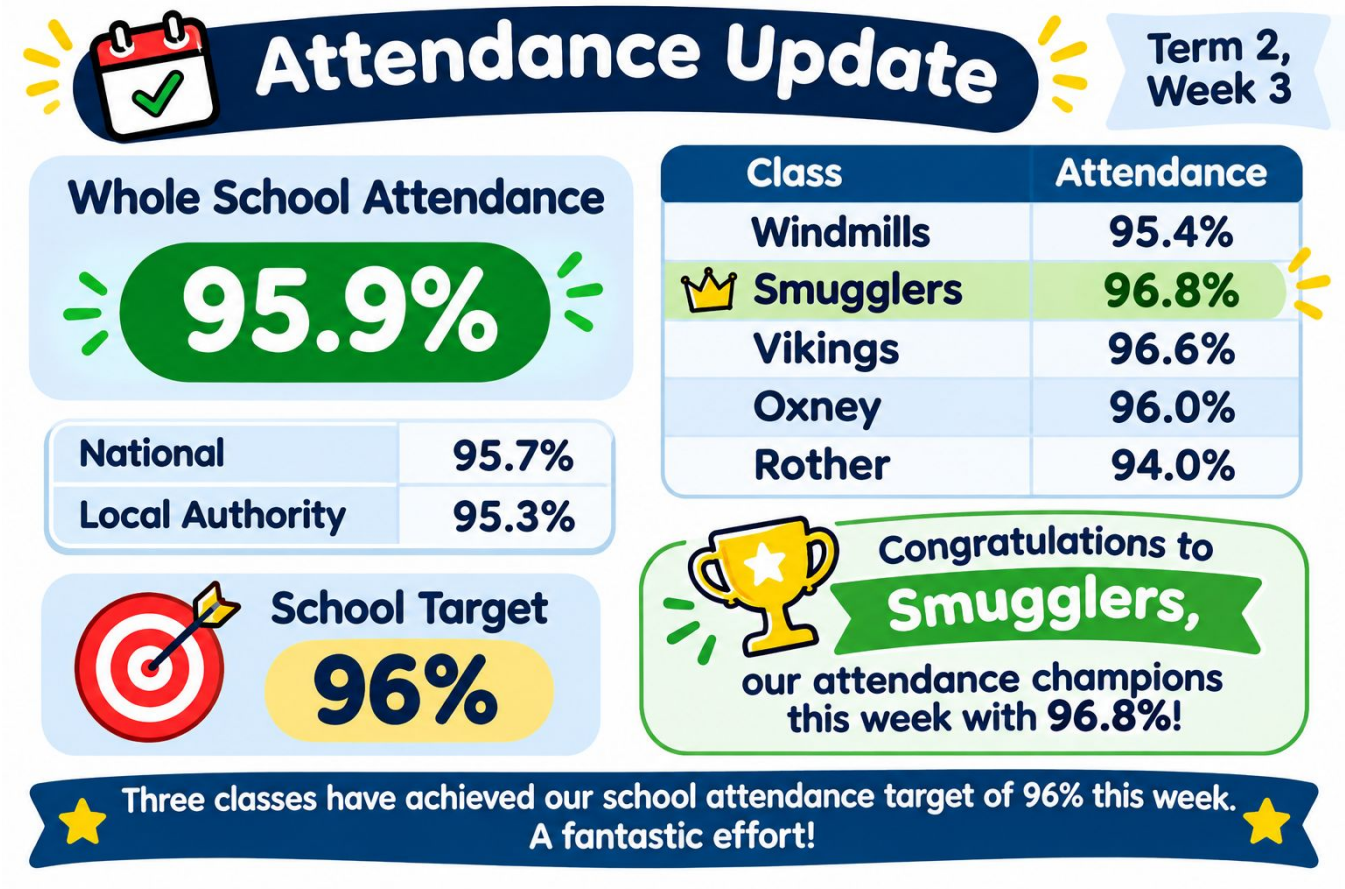
I also wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic fundraising efforts from last Friday's Children in Need Day. Between our spotty outfits, fabulous T-shirt designs, catwalk celebrations, Dance Dash and house point raffle, we managed to raise over £200 for this wonderful charity!

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make the day such a success. Once again, our Wittersham community has demonstrated just how much can be achieved when we come together.

As I write this on Thursday evening, we are looking forward to our Road Safety Worship tomorrow morning, another important opportunity to remind our children about keeping themselves safe, particularly as the mornings and evenings become darker. We will also be celebrating our wonderful readers at the end of worship!

Reading remains one of the most important things children can do to support their learning, and those five reads each week really do make such a difference. Whether it is sharing a bedtime story, reading aloud together or enjoying a few pages independently, every opportunity counts. We are currently on the lookout for a class that achieves 100% of children completing their five weekly reads! What a fantastic achievement that would be, and I wonder which class will be the first to reach this milestone?

Finally, a little word about attendance. We have seen a slight dip this week, and I know only too well how many bugs are circulating at the moment. As a mummy with a poorly daughter myself this week, I completely appreciate how challenging it can be when our little ones are unwell. It is, of course, important that children have the time they need to rest and recover when they are genuinely poorly. However, when children are well enough to attend, we really do encourage them to be in school. Every day matters, both academically and socially, and we always look forward to welcoming our children back as soon as they are feeling better.



We have another exciting week ahead at Wittersham! Vikings will be visiting Godinton House, whilst Vikings and Oxney will be enjoying their Greek Day. Thursday marks the final day for our Big Wrap donations, and a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously. We will also be welcoming our Vice Chair of Governors, Jane Burnett, into school to celebrate the wonderful learning taking place across Wittersham. Another busy week awaits!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, kindness and encouragement. Wittersham really is a special place, and weeks like this remind me just how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful school community.

Wishing you all a fabulous weekend as we head towards the final full week of November. Where is the time going?!

Take care,
Mrs Coulson

WITTERSHAM
Church of England
Primary School

WITTERSHAM Dates for Your Diary

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

- **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

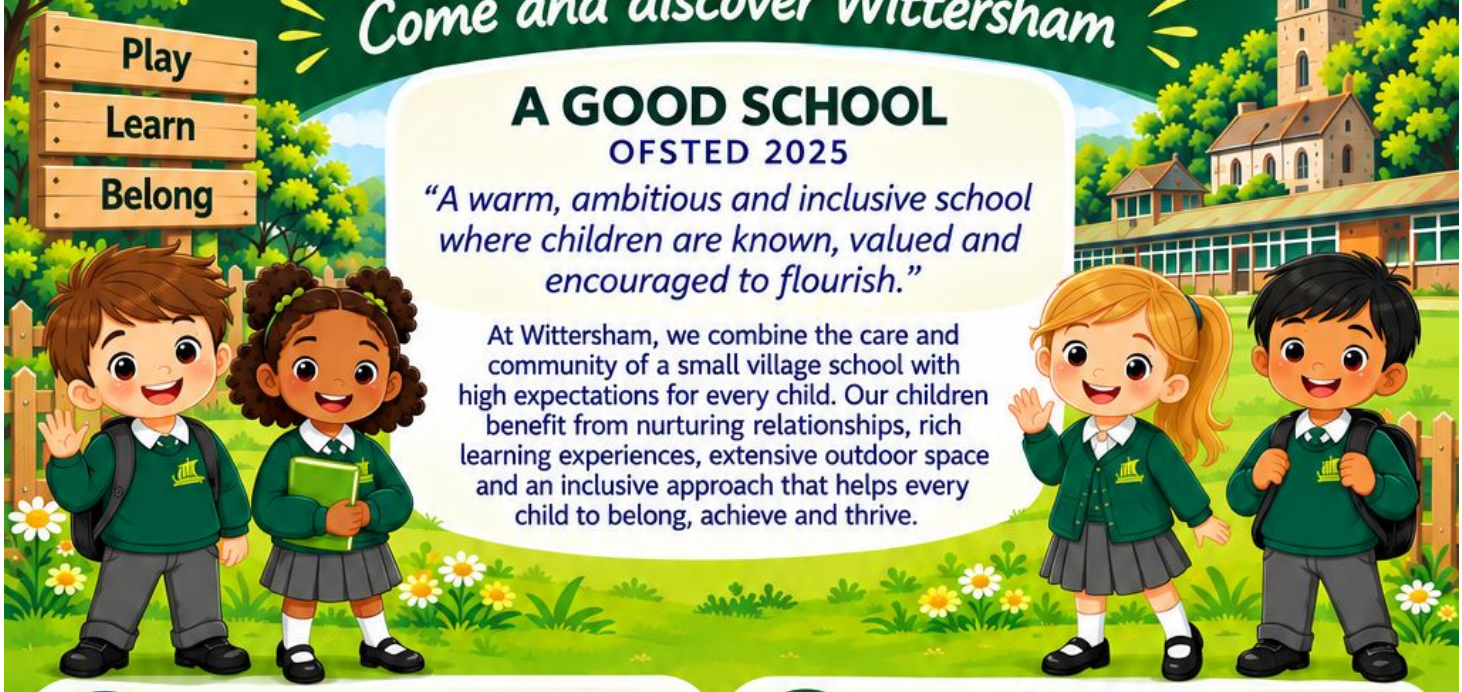
Wittersham
Church of England
Primary School

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.

Visit Our Wonderful School

School tours are still available!

Contact the school office to book a convenient time to come and see our wonderful school in action.

Apply for a Reception Place

Applications for a Reception place for September 2027 are now open.

Apply between:
Friday 6th November 2026 and **Friday 15th January 2027.**

Apply online at:
kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions

To book a school tour or for more information, 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.

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....

Christmas fun singing for children and students



A Young Choir takes place in Rye and we are currently singing lots of Christmas songs and carols, and having great fun! It's free!

We welcome new Christmas singers who'd like to join us, aged 5 – 16 years. It is a fully inclusive Young Choir and everyone is warmly welcome.



Our Christmas singing dates are:



Monday 7th December 4-5pm at St. Bartholomew's Court Retirement Community (TN31 7SQ) behind the Rye Memorial Hospital at the top of Rye Hill.

Friday 11th December 4-5pm at St. Bartholomew's Court's Christmas party!

Monday 21st December 4-5pm at Peasmarsh Place Care Home (TN31 6XE)

Hearing young children and students sing at Christmas Time brings great joy to the old folk at St. Barts and Peasmarsh Place, and we have lots of fun at these events. These are informal occasions, and the old folk sometimes like to sing along with us.

If your child/student would like to sing with us at these events, please email Marian, the leader, on dmham128@btinternet.com

We also meet once a fortnight throughout the year, and Marian is happy to email you these details in case your child/student may like to join our Young Choir in the New Year. The main focus is on having fun through singing and making new friends, and we meet in Rye. Our Young Choir open to all children and students in East Sussex and Kent.



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's
CARNIVAL OF
THE BAUBLES
The Day of the Dance
SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026
HUGE LANTERN PARADE | GIANT DISCO TURTLE
FESTIVE MARKETS | ALL DAY ENTERTAINMENT
Visit: loveashford.com
Ashford Borough Council
LOVE ASHFORD
Kent Community Foundation
Whitehead Monckton
SPONSORED BY Ashford Designer Outlet
Hallett & Co


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
MARKET


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
loveashford.com
MARKET


HO HO HO
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.









CREATE MAGICAL
MEMORIES ABOARD

THE

SANTA SPECIAL

STEAM TRAINS

A festive Wonderland awaits at Tenterden Town station

BOOK ONLINE

kesr.org.uk/santa-2026/

LOCAL SCHOOLS
LOCAL BUSINESSES
OUR COMMUNITY
One Magical Christmas

SUPPORT
LOCAL
SHOP LOCAL

TENTERDEN CHRISTMAS *Window Trail*



FIND THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS IN SHOP WINDOWS ACROSS TENTERDEN

Look out for the festive items from the traditional Christmas song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' displayed in participating shop windows.

Pick up your trail sheet from Tenterden Town Hall and search for the 12 items in the town's shops.

1 COLLECT YOUR TRAIL SHEET

Available from Tenterden Town Hall.

2 SEARCH THE SHOP WINDOWS

Find all 12 items from the Christmas song.

3 CONNECT EACH ITEM TO WHAT SHOP YOU SAW IT IN.

4 ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW

Return your completed sheet to Tenterden Town Hall and be in with a chance to win a fantastic prize, donated by our local businesses!

A fun, festive activity for all the family

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER
6PM – 9PM

TRAIL SHEETS AVAILABLE FROM
TENTERDEN TOWN HALL

Support Local ♥ *Shop Local* ♥

LOCAL SCHOOLS
LOCAL BUSINESSES
LOCAL COMMUNITY
One Magical Christmas

TENTERDEN CHRISTMAS *Window Trail*

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS TRAIL

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Write the shop(s) where you found each item.

1. *Partridge in a Pear Tree* _____
2. *Two Turtle Doves* _____
3. *Three French Hens* _____
4. *Four Calling Birds* _____
5. *Five Gold Rings* _____
6. *Six Geese a-Laying* _____
7. *Seven Swans a-Swimming* _____
8. *Eight Maids a-Milking* _____
9. *Nine Ladies Dancing* _____
10. *Ten Lords a-Leaping* _____
11. *Eleven Pipers Piping* _____
12. *Twelve Drummers Drumming* _____

Name: _____

Age: _____ School: _____

Contact: _____

ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW

Return your completed sheet to Tenterden Town Hall and be in with a chance to win a fantastic prize, donated by our local businesses!

Support Local ♥ *Shop Local* ♥

TENTERDEN

LATE NIGHT

OPENING

SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL. LOVE TENTERDEN.



AN EVENING TO EXPLORE, DISCOVER & CONNECT

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2026

6-9PM

WALK INTO TENTERDEN, EXPLORE OUR HIGH STREET & DISCOVER THE BUSINESSES THAT MAKE OUR TOWN SPECIAL.

COMPLIMENTARY DRINKS & NIBBLES AT PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

ORGANISED BY THE BUSINESSES & ORGANISATIONS OF TENTERDEN