

Wittersham Church of England Primary School

'On a voyage of discovery: flourishing together in God's love'



Weekly Newsletter Monday 24th April 2023



It has been a fantastic start to Term 5. Last week, it was fantastic to see children getting outside and enjoying the better weather; hopefully, Summer is on the way! We also took this opportunity to roll back the cover from our pool, in anticipation for swimming sessions to begin in Term 6. It has taken a huge amount of effort to make it to this point, and we are very grateful to all those involved.

We are all very proud and impressed with how the children have returned to school this term. Some visitors last week commented that the school feels 'very calm and purposeful with great learning taking place'. An example of this was seen in Oxney and Rother's Online Harm Workshops last Thursday, where they engaged brilliantly with the session; asking some great questions throughout. We look forward to sharing the online safety podcasts produced by Rother later in the term.

Our second week back kicked off with a bang as we welcomed the Dinosaur Show into school. Each class thoroughly enjoyed the immersive experience inside the dome where they travelled back to the Jurassic times for an interactive introduction to dinosaurs and the local Jurassic coast. Children then observed dinosaurs in their habitats and explored possible theories of dinosaur extinction. We were also joined by two 'dinosaurs' throughout the day. This certainly put a smile on our faces this morning! Thank you to Mrs Hicks for organising this for us all.

This week, we look forward to seeing many children and parents join us for our book at bedtime event on Wednesday evening and sharing the successes of our children during a day of remote learning on Thursday. Have a great week.

Attendance

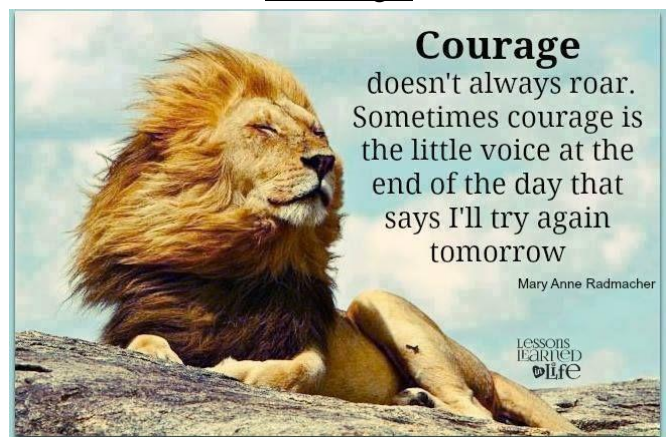
Whole school: **94.1%**

Target: **95%**

Year Group	Attendance %
EYFS	93.5%
Yr 1	92.6%
Yr 2	95.2%
Yr 3	94.4%
Yr 4	94.8%
Yr 5	93.6%
Yr 6	94.7%



Courage



This week in collective worship we are taking inspiration from the story of David and Goliath to consider how we see and use courage in the world around us today. We will use this to explore what God sees as courage before discussing how we can act justly, show mercy and walk humbly in our school and communities.

Respect

Kindness

Self-Worth/Perseverance

Forgiveness

Love

Forest School Sessions

Friday 28th April

This week's sessions are for Vikings and Smugglers
(Year 2).

Please ensure children are dressed appropriately and
have their wellington boots in school.



Online Harms Workshop

Last week our Year 5 and
Year 6 children took part
in an Online Harms
Workshop, provided by
Kent Police.

After an initial assembly,
focusing particularly on
the use of social media
and online gaming,
Rother were set the
challenge of producing
an informative podcast
using the knowledge they
had gained from the
morning.

We look forward to
sharing these on our
website and for other
children across the
school to further support
each other in using
online platforms safely.

It was great to see the
children collaborating to
deepen their
understanding of the
'Seven Ps of Staying Safe
Online'.

The final day of this term
is Friday 26th May. We
are back for Term 6 on
Monday 5th June.

**THE MUSIC WELL IN RYE,
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:**



**A FREE
CHILDREN'S SINGING CLUB**

**at the RYE CREATIVE CENTRE,
NEW ROAD, RYE
on MONDAYS, 4-5pm, term-time.**

**OPEN to all Children and Students in Years R – Y9,
attending local schools in the Rye area and beyond.**



*This is an exciting musical opportunity for children and young people, and is
fun, friendly and fully inclusive.*



**Singing Teacher is Mrs. Marian Ham,
a local music and piano teacher,
and a semi-retired Primary School Head Teacher.**

**For a joining form and more information, please email
Marian on dmham128@btinternet.com**

This opportunity is being supported financially by The Fairlight Arts Trust,
thereby enabling attendance at the club to be **FREE** for all children and students.

Reminder!



Dear Parents and Carers



We had an amazing response to the non-uniform day. Thank you so much for all your donations. The weather got the better of the event we were planning to attend this weekend so we have lots of stock for our stalls at the Coronation Event on 7th May on Wittersham Sports Field. I hope to see some of you there.

The committee are looking forward to holding a Coronation Tea Party for the children at school on Friday 5th May. King Charles III and Queen Camilla will be in attendance and there will be a small gift for all the children. There will be a competition for all to enter – you will hear more about this from Mr Hawkins.

We have now sold 62 tickets to the Dinner Dance in October which is a great start and leaves just 38 spaces left so if you are thinking about coming don't think too long as the tickets might all be gone. If you have reserved a ticket and haven't yet done so please get payment to us ASAP.

The Summer Fayre will be the focus of our efforts over the next weeks – if you are able to help at the event in any capacity, please let us know. It is a big event and can only be a success with help from the wider school community.

Finally thank you to everyone for all the donations for Bags2School – by sorting out our collective wardrobes we raised £240!

Together we can make a difference so please do get in touch with me if you have any questions or suggestions or are able to help at an event! annchairwsa@gmail.com

Ann (WSA Chair).

Top Performers!

A huge congratulations to our top performers this week. They have all made the biggest improvements in their scores over the past 7 days. It has been great to see so many of our children engaging with these platforms and the impact in their learning in school is clear to see.

Well done all! I wonder who will be at the top of the charts this week?

MathShed



Spelling Shed

1st Cora

1st Lacey and James

1st Primrose

2nd Louis

2nd Rex and Gracie

2nd Simona

3rd Lacey

3rd Jack H and Joey

3rd Suhaan

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We are pleased to announce that our rescheduled Book at Bedtime event will take place at 5:30pm-6:30pm on Wednesday 26th April.

This will be an opportunity for children and parents return to school at 5:30pm. Children are invited to attend in their pyjamas. Parents will then have the opportunity to explore the new library and the book fair, whilst the children will be able to listen to a range of stories read by their class teachers in their classrooms.

We look forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday evening.



Kent & Medway 100 km ride for Wittersham School Association



We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive parental community here at Wittersham.

On the 2nd of April 2023, Jacopo Pavesi was due to take part in the Kent and Medway 100km bike ride in support of the WSA school environment fund.

Unfortunately, this event was cancelled by the organisers at late notice. This however did not stop Jacopo, who still completed the ride from Reculver and Kingsgate.

We are incredibly grateful to Jacopo to raised £222 for the WSA Environment Fund.

Thank you to all who donated for your support.

Online Safety: Supporting young people with SEND online.



For many young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), the internet can be a place where they feel safe, calm and in control. Somewhere they can make friends without having to communicate face-to-face and build a community which they may not have in their offline life. Whilst recognising the internet is a great resource which young people enjoy using, life online for a child with SEND may pose additional challenges that require careful management and support.

A Family Agreement is a great way of talking about online safety and how to use the internet in a positive way. Establishing an agreement together can help your child understand how to communicate safely and appropriately online and learn what to do if they find themselves in a challenging or unpleasant situation. It will also provide an opportunity for your child to decide who they should go and tell if something confusing or unpleasant happens online. We refer to this person as a trusted adult. These are people they already know, and they could be another relative, teacher, a youth leader or key support worker. If clearly displayed with whatever communication method works best for your child, be it written form or symbol aids, a family agreement can really help to reinforce and remind your child of the important things they need to know.

For further information about supporting young people with SEND online, follow this link:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/supporting-young-people-with-send-online/>

Wittersham School Association

Glitz and Glamour

DINNER DANCE



SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

AT LONDON BEACH RESORT

3 COURSE MEAL

LIVE DJ

£45 per ticket

Scan the QR code to book your place



★
Arrival: 7pm
Meal 7:30pm
Carriages 11:45pm

Raffle and games on the night (cash only)

★
For more information:
annchairwsa@gmail.com

★
Wittersham School Association Registered
Charity No. 1059824

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Red, White and Blue Day Friday 5th May

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, we are looking forward to our WSA Coronation party.

Alongside these celebrations, we would like to ask children to wear red, white and/or blue clothing on Friday 5th May



Parent Information Sessions

For parents/carers of 0-18 year olds
(up to 25 with SEND)

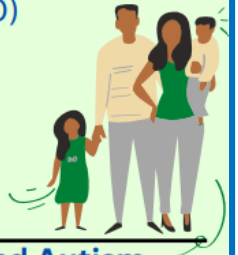
Ashford Youth Hub

Mabledon Ave

TN24 8BJ

10am-12pm

Refreshments
available



Tuesday 2nd May - ADHD and Autism

Tuesday 9th May- Behaviour

Tuesday 16th May - Anxiety and Wellbeing

no need to book just come along

Tuesday 13th June - ADHD and Autism

Tuesday 27th June - Behaviour

Tuesday 11th July - Anxiety and Wellbeing



Tel: 03000 417567
ashforyouthy@kent.gov.uk



Parent Mental Health Training



Supporting the mental health and well-being of our school family is vitally important for us at Wittersham.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting Mental Health training for our parental community on Tuesday 13th June at 7pm.

The session is facilitated by MIND and will be free for all to attend. Refreshments and nibbles will also be provided.

The aims for the sessions are as follows:

- To understand how to support your own mental health and wellbeing
- To recognise the impact that negative stressors such as debt can have on a person's mental health
- To have the confidence to support someone else who may be struggling with poor mental health
- To have a greater awareness of the range of services available in Kent & Medway that can support someone who is struggling with their mental health or experiencing financial difficulty

We hope this session is beneficial for our families and look forward to sharing this many of you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Hawkins or Mrs Coulson.

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The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

SATURDAY 6 MAY

& SUNDAY 7 MAY



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION IN VICTORIA PARK

Live screening of the Coronation ceremony followed by a community showcase of music and dance for all the family. Bring chairs, rugs and picnics and celebrate together.

**SATURDAY 6 MAY,
10am – 4pm
Victoria Park, Ashford**

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION FOR THE CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

Join the morning's service reflecting on His Majesty's role today and looking towards the future.

SUNDAY 7 MAY,

11am – 12.30pm

**St Mary the Virgin Church,
Ashford Town Centre**



CORONATION PARTY AT THE PIAZZA AT ELWICK

Enjoy food, drink, free children's crafts, live music and enter the best dressed King/Queen selfie competition to win Elwick Place prizes!

**SUNDAY 7 MAY,
12pm – 3pm**

Elwick Place, Ashford



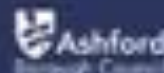
**CHILDREN'S
CORONATION THEMED
CRAFT WORKSHOP
AND FACE PAINTER
SATURDAY 6 MAY,
10AM – 3PM**

**Main Square, County Square
Shopping Centre**

**ALSO,
TAKE A LOOK AT
OUR GALLERY OF KINGS
AND QUEENS, CREATED BY
LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN,
WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED
AROUND THE TOWN
CENTRE!**



**ALL FREE EVENTS AND ALL WELCOME
WWW.ASHFORD.GOV.UK/ASHFORD-CELEBRATES**



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 24th April	Dinosaur Dome workshops for all classes
Wednesday 26th April	Book at Bedtime 5:30 – 6:30pm
Thursday 27th April	NEU Strike Day. School partially closed
Friday 28th April	Forest School Session for Vikings and Smugglers (Year 2)
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd May	NEU Strike Day. School partially closed
Friday 5th May	WSA Coronation Party
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday (Coronation)
Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 12th May	Forest School Session for Windmills and Smugglers (Year 1)
Friday 19th May	Forest School Session for Oxney and Rother
Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th May	Year 5/6 Residential Trip
Wednesday 24th May	Viking's Experience Pentecost Session in Church
Friday 26th May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 5th June	First Day of Term 6
Wednesday 7th June	Class Photos
Tuesday 13th June	Parent Mental Health Workshop (7pm)
Thursday 15th June	WSA Father's Day Sale
Thursday 20th July	Last Day of Term 6



Further WSA Events for your diaries!

Saturday 15th July	WSA Summer Fayre
Saturday 7th October	WSA Charity Dinner Dance



We are looking to further expand our Lunchtime Club and Board Game Club provision. To do this, we are asking if any families have old or no longer used board games (or similar) they would be willing to donate. Any donations would be gratefully received and can be left at the school office.

Thank you.

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