



# Wittersham Church of England Primary School

*"On a voyage of discovery: together we learn, grow and achieve"*

27th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is so important to all of the staff and the governors at Wittersham that we celebrate and make the most of our rural, village school environment. Equally as important is for us to always remain outward looking and to ensure that we not only prepare our pupils for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with relevant skills, knowledge and experiences but that our own professional practice and school development plans are informed by national and international research. As such, schools across the Tenterden Rural Alliance (TRA) have been part of a project called 'Spirals of Enquiry' led by two highly respected educators from British Columbia in Canada. This work is about ensuring success for every child in a school and the education of the whole child. This fits very well with our own school vision of excellence and equity for all. Schools across the world who have embedded the Spirals model have been shown to sustainably improve outcomes for all pupils, in particular for groups who have historically underachieved. It is based on gaining a deep understanding of learners' experiences of school and their learning processes and using these insights as a basis for evidence-informed action.

The TRA is part the Whole Education network which is a dynamic national partnership of schools and organisations. Through this membership, I have been invited on a Study Tour to visit Vancouver from Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>. During this time I will be working with nine other school leaders from across England to widen our understanding of how to successfully engage in the Spirals approach. We will visit a range of schools over the first part of the week and then be part of a two-day conference before flying home. The schools I will be visiting range in diversity from a First Nations Elementary school to a Farm Roots school that links children directly to agricultural industry for environmental teaching. What all the schools have in common is success in using the enquiry approach and starting from the voice of their pupils to achieve exceptional outcomes. There will also be opportunities to network with education professionals from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and America ensuring that Wittersham is part of on-going international research and enquiry.

As part of the week falls over two weekends and the Bank Holiday Monday, I will only be absent from the school for 4 days and will still be contactable by email or phone. It is probably important to add that this trip is at no cost to the school and so will not be funded out of the school budget in any way!

Closer to home this week is exciting news about the successes of pupils in Rother who entered the Tenterden Rotary Young Photographer competition last term. The theme was 'A Different Perspective' and children across all schools were encouraged to experiment with photography, use digital or traditional methods, express their ideas and interpretation of a given topic. We would like to thank Hannah from the Rotary club who came and presented certificates and prizes to our pupils in Celebration Worship this morning. Congratulations go to Molly T, Maisie P, Ruby N and Evie S for their entries, Niamh B for being Highly Commended, Isabel P for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and Hannah M for winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize. We will find a place to display their photographs so that they can be admired by the whole school.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Claire Frost Headteacher

### Parents and Carers

Whilst it may seem quiet on the WSA scene at the moment, rest assured we are hard at work organising various events at school. The second hand uniform sale was successful last week, giving you the chance to pick up some great bargains whilst raising money for the children. We had a very successful time at the Lambing Day, raising just shy of £200. We were only able to do this, with the incredible donations we received from the Sweeties For Books event and the kind invitation from the Lovejoy family to have a stand there. On another note, we have secured a donation of a full size basketball stand. Something the children have been very keen to have for a while now. We really need a couple of strong helpers to get it up to the school. If anyone can help us, we'd be very grateful, you can get in touch with me via the reception. Thank you for all your continuing support!  
Kate (WSA Chair)



Tidiest Cloakroom Award:  
**OXNEY**



Attendance cup last week went to:  
**ROTHER** with 100% Attendance—  
**WELL DONE !**

*Continued overleaf.....*

### **Our school Christian values:**

**"Respect, kindness, self-worth/perseverance, forgiveness and love"**



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## This Week's Golden Virtues Winners

Windmill— Simona and Sophie  
Smugglers— Lucy and Kitty  
Viking— Lacey and Alfie  
Oxney— Harvey and Tom  
Rother— Katie E and Tom

## Lunchtime Exemplary Behaviour Award:



KS1— Freya

KS2— Kevin

*Nominated by our Midday Leaders*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

<b>KEY STAGE 1 SATS</b>	May
<b>KEY STAGE 2 SATS</b>	14th—17th May
<b>YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING</b>	W/B 11th June
<b>Y5/6 RESIDENTIAL—MARLOW</b>	11th—15th June
<b>Y6 THEATRE TRIP</b>	Monday 18th June
<b>FIRE SAFETY TALKS</b>	Tuesday 19th June
<b>WELCOME MEETING FOR NEW PARENTS</b>	Tuesday 19th June 4pm
<b>SPORTS DAY</b>	Wed. 20th June pm
<b>WSA SUMMER FAYRE</b>	Saturday 23rd June
<b>INSET DAY</b>	Friday 29th June
<b>SMUGGLER PORT LYMPNE TRIP</b>	Friday 6th July
<b>OXNEY PRODUCTION</b>	Thursday 12th July Afternoon & Evening
<b>Y6 LEAVERS SHOW</b>	Thursday 19th July 6pm
<b>Y6 LEAVERS LUNCH</b>	Friday 20th July
<b>Y6 LEAVERS SERVICE ST JOHN'S CHURCH</b>	Friday 20th July
<b>Y6 POOL &amp; BBQ PARTY</b>	Friday 20th July 3-5pm

## INTERNET SAFETY



**Monitor them. Educate them. Keep them safe.**

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