



# Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Fore Street, Witheridge, EX16 8AH Tel: 01884 860518

[admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk)



‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	Compassion	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Friendship	Courage
--------------	------------	--------------	-------------	------------	---------

## Newsletter – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of our first half term of this school year at Witheridge Academy. I have been so impressed and proud of the fantastic learning that has been happening in school this half term and how quickly the children settled back in to their learning. I would like to say a huge 'WELL DONE' to our Reception children for their first full half term. We know that at this point the children will be starting to get tired, so I am sure they will be ready for a good rest over half term.

At Witheridge Academy, we have been enjoying the OPAL project at lunch times. The children have loved exploring different types of play and expressing themselves creatively through their play. After half term, as the weather begins to turn and we experience more wet days, we would like all children to bring in a pair of named wellies that they can keep at school so that they can still engage with messy/muddy play at lunchtimes. **Please send your child in with their named wellies after half term.** If anyone has any OLD wellies that they would be happy to donate for general use or as spares, please send them in as well.

We are also looking for resources to keep our play times varied and interesting. If you have any of the following items, please put them in the OPAL donations bin located by the big playground gate.



As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, please be aware of the amount of time your child is spending outside/away from your home in the evenings. Attached to this newsletter is a handy guide to help you to decide whether your child is ready to go out alone in the evenings or not. We recommend that children younger than Year 5 do not regularly go out alone in the evenings.

We have lots of exciting events happening after half term, so please keep an eye on the dates section of this newsletter.



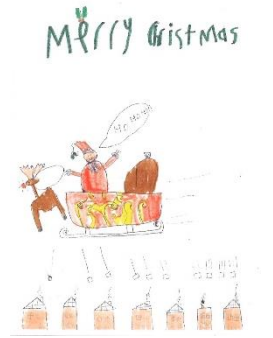
Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Building Community ~ Building Futures ~  
Building Learning Power ~ Building Self Esteem

Finally, a huge CONGRATULATIONS to Jack M in Class 3 for winning our Christmas Card Competition! Your Christmas card will be sent out to all our Friends of Witheridge Academy. Well done to all the children for their beautiful entries - Parents and Carers, I am sure you are very impressed with your child's design. Thank you to the PTFA for organising this.

Kind regards,

*Miss Ratcliffe*



### **Year 6 Parents – Secondary School applications**

If your child is in current Year 6 and born between 01/09/2012 & 31/08/2013 then please remember that applications for secondary school transfer must be submitted by midnight on the 31st October 2023. Information on open evenings and the application process can be found below <http://soc.devon.cc/6NNjn>



### **Reception - Sharing our Learning session**

I would like to invite you to share your Reception child's learning with them on Friday 3rd November from 8.45 – 9.15. The children would love to show you some of the wonderful work they have produced this half term. If you would like to attend but are unable to come at this time, please let me know.



We need your support!  
If you shop in Tiverton Tesco  
Please grab some tokens and vote for  
**Witheridge C of E Primary Academy PTFA**  
to get some additional funding for our  
brilliant school!

Thank you 😊



## Essebeare Farm School

Another wonderful visit to Essebeare Farm this week for our Reception children.

The children really enjoyed searching and digging for a wide variety of vegetables and had a wonderfully exciting time, picking lots of beautifully ripe and juicy tomatoes from their plentiful vines and collecting these in the wheelbarrow.

On our return to school, the children enjoyed tasting and sharing these with the rest of their class - some were washed and eaten cold, while other filled a roasting tin and were prepared by the children, with a little oil and salt, and roasted in the school kitchen in time to be enjoyed at snack time the following day. This promoted fantastic discussion about the difference in the appearance, taste and texture of the cooked and uncooked tomatoes as well as a valuable appreciation of our own individual preferences.

The Reception children would like to thank Farmer Olly, Seb and Emmeline for another fantastic visit at Essebeare Farm.



Find us on:

Website: <https://www.teamacademytrust.com/witheridge>

Facebook: @Witheridge CofE Academy

Email: [admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk)

Witheridge Blog: <https://witheridge.edublogs.org/>



## **Class 1 and 2 Trip to Coombe Martin**

This week, children in Class 1 and 2 had the opportunity of visiting Coombe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park. Despite the weather, the children had a wonderful time. We loved our Meerkat encounter and getting to meet the meerkats up close. We enjoyed going on the Dino Train and discovering the dinosaurs, which roared and spat at us!

We also went to watch the sea lion show and learnt how to tell the differences between sea lions and seals. Mr Booth and I were SO IMPRESSED with the behaviour of all the children on the trips. Well done, Class 1 and 2!

Miss Ratcliffe



More Photo's can be seen on the Witheridge CofE Academy Website



Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2023	
Week 2: W/B 30 <sup>th</sup> October	
Monday	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pasta Bake</b> V – Broccoli & Cheese Bake Vegetables or Salad & Garlic Bread Fresh Fruit Salad & Yogurt
Tuesday	<b>Cottage Pie</b> V – Quorn Sausage & Mash Mixed Veg Peaches & Ice-Cream
Wednesday	<b>Roast of The Day</b> V – Vegetarian Roast Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg Fruit Cocktail Platter
Thursday	<b>West Country Sausages</b> V – Vegetarian Sausage Mashed Potato, Vegetables & Beans Artic Roll & Strawberry Sauce
Friday	<b>Fish Fingers</b> V – Toasted Baguette Golden Fries, Baked Beans & Seasonal Veg Chocolate Cracknel

Also available every day: - Jacket Potato with Tuna, Cheese and/or Beans. Yogurt or Fresh Fruit.

Cost of School lunches: Nursery – £1.94 per meal.  
 Reception & KS1 children – Universal Infant Free School Meals, KS2 children £2.53 per meal.

**Payment to be made via The Arbor App**



A gentle reminder that we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** and we have a number of students, staff and visitors with serious nut allergies.

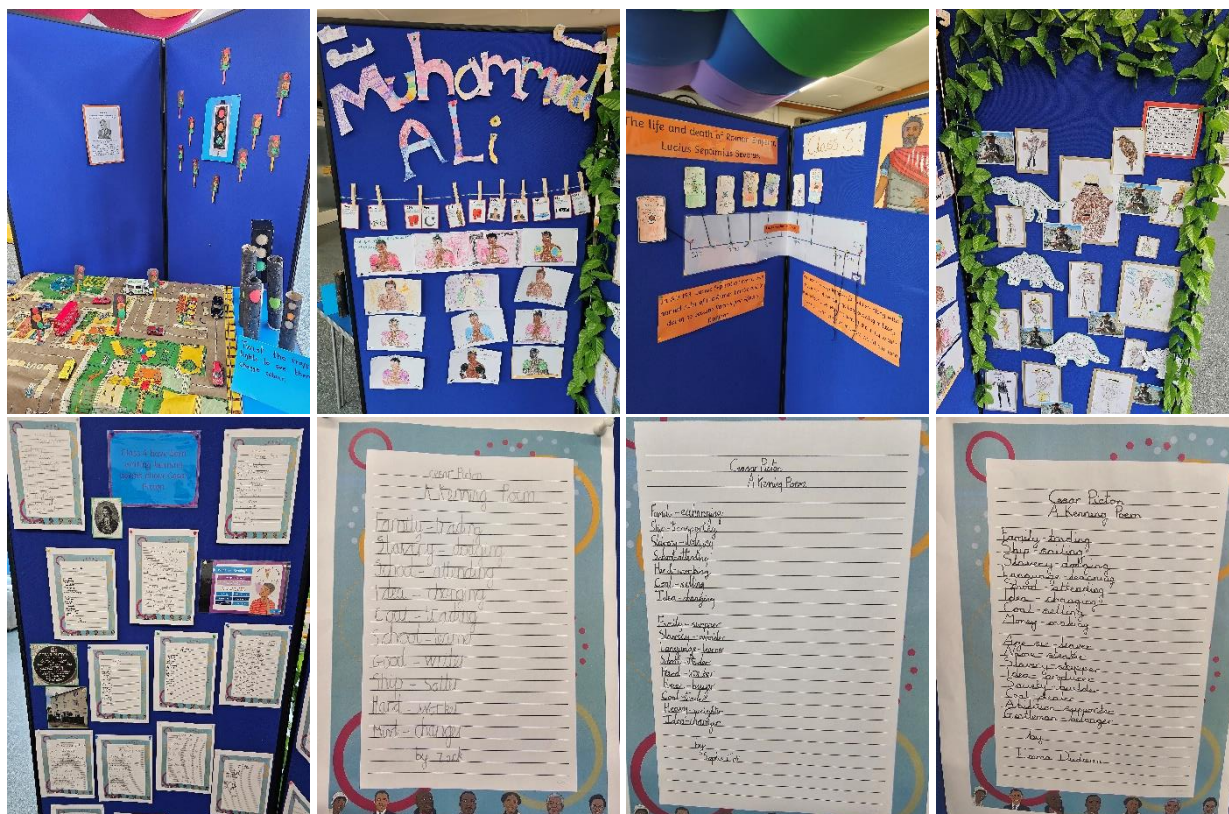
With this in mind, could we politely ask that NO products containing nuts be sent into school.

If you have any questions in relation to this, please contact the School Office.

Thank you for your consideration and for safeguarding our students.

## Black History Month

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who came to visit our Black History Month display this week - it was great to see the hall busy and bustling after school and for the children to have the opportunity to show off their learning.



## School Council Elections and UK Parliament Week

It is time to elect our new school councillors! Our School Council consists of our Head Boy, Head Girl and an elected representative of each Year Group from Reception up to Year 6. The elections will take place in the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November, to tie in with UK Parliament Week. In the past year, our School Council have achieved some fantastic things. You can find a summary of their work attached. If you would like the chance to become a school councillor this year, please complete your **application form** and give it to Mrs Nott or Mrs Eastman **by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. We have attached an application for which you can use, but you can complete your application on any piece of A4 paper. Remember to include your name, your year group and the reasons you think you would make a great School Councillor. For younger children, we would love parents and carers to help children to record their ideas. You can use words, pictures or photos on your application form. We look forward to receiving your applications and electing our new School Council in the coming weeks. Good luck, everyone!



## ***Celebration Assembly Well Done For receiving a Certificate of Achievement***



### **Class Award**

Nursery – Felicity for trying hard to do the right thing during focused activities  
Reception – Zara for her thoughtful contributions in RE and Music  
Class 1 – Olivia for a fab first half term back and putting lots of effort in across the board.  
Class 2 – All of Class 2 for their fantastic behaviour on our school trip 😊  
Class 3 – Scarlett for really thoughtful contributions in class this week.  
Class 4 – Molly for superb division using the bus stop method

### **Writer of the Week:**

Reception – Chester for trying really hard to use his Fred talk to write words.  
Class 1 – Libby for persevering with writing and making exceptional improvement in her letter.  
Class 2 – Ava for persevering with her handwriting this term.  
Class 3 – Jack M for using all of the skills we have learnt in his hot task biography.  
Class 4 – Charley for making a huge effort to improve presentation.

### **Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar**

Rosalie, Toby, Monty, Amelia, Felicity and Jack

### **Contribution::**

All our School Councillors for 2022-2023 for doing such a great job!  
Library Reading Challenge

### **House Points**

**Discovery 27**

**Endeavour 25**

**Enterprise 27**

**Voyager 20**





Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	100%
Nursery 2	98%
Reception	98%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	93%

### Every Day Counts

Attend and achieve.

Absences add up and have a detrimental effect on your learning.



## Attendance Update

It is great to see everyone working so hard to achieve or beating our **96.5%** target.

We can only do this if we all work together!

Our attendance for the week is **97%**

Our attendance for the year to date **96%**

Together Each Achieves More!



Please inform the school office if your child has a medical appointment during school time, giving as much notice as possible in advance of the appointment.

Also please let us know by phone 01884 860518, In-App Messages or email of any sickness absences by 9.20am.

Thank you

## Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Go Beyond Residential Parent Meeting @ 9am with Mrs Arnold Reception Autumn Walk – Consent on Arbor Class 3 – PE Class 3 Group 2 – Forest School Teacher Led Club – KS2 Football & KS2 Jambie Jams PTFA AGM 19:30
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – Film Club
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Class 4 visiting Tiverton Museum Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	TEAM Cross Country Competition @ High Bick Class 2 – PE Infant B Group 2 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Teacher Led Club – Class 4 Christmas Craft & KS1 Story Cub
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Reception Class – Share our Learning 8.45-9.15 Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am Reception Class – PE (AM) Class 1 – PE (PM) Infant A Group 2 - Forest School

### Dates for your diary

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Wales vs Barbarians Rugby Trip
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	KS2 Football Match 4pm @ Exmoor Link
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Teacher led Club - Times Table Club
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Farm School Class 4 Group 1
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Afternoon 1:30 & Evening 18:00 for new Reception Starter 2024
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Go Beyond Residential
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>NO ASC OR TEACHER LED CLUBS ALL CANCELLED</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	PTFA Jumble Sale
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – Wear something spotty
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Teacher Led Club - Times Table Club
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	NO Teacher Led Club – No Film Club
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Farm School – Class 4 Group 2
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	NO PE Today

**These dates are intended as a guide and you will be notified of any changes.**

## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023 / 2024

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
First Day <del>6th September 2023</del>	First Day 3rd January 2024	First Day 15th April 2024
<b>Half-term</b> <b>23rd - 27th October 2023</b>	Half-term 12th - 16th February 2024	Bank Holiday 6th May 2024
Last Day 15th December 2023	Last Day 28th March 2024	Half-term 27th - 31st May 2024
		Non Pupil Day 3rd June 2024
		Last Day 23rd July 2024

Non-pupil days and occasional holiday days: ~~4th & 5th September 2023~~, 2nd January 2024, 3rd June 2024, 24th, 25th & 26th July 2024





Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association

Thank you for everyone's support to help raise funds this term. Our first treat Friday made £60 and the disco made over £500! Worth it for the absolute mayhem of two hours of excited children full of sugar and loud music. Can you guess what dance is in the photo? If there is anyone who would be interested in helping lead a mini dance session or able to help out a bit more at the next disco we would greatly appreciate it. Volunteer sign ups get circulated for events and it makes it much easier to organise if there are people signed up to help.



The flyer to buy your child's personalised Christmas cards and gifts has been sent home in book bags. Use your unique code to place your order direct with the company. **The online shop closes 30/10.** Once the online shop is closed then all items will be printed and despatch in up to 4 deliveries. This is typically Cards, tags and wraps, Mugs, Tea towels and bags, Gifting products.

The whole school tea towel is now available to **pre order before 15/11** from

<https://witheridgeptfa.sumupstore.com/>

- £5 for one tea towel - £12 for three tea towels

Inevitably, one or two pupils may have been absent when this was completed at school. There will be a picture of the tea towel posted our Facebook group and circulated in WhatsApp chats if you want to check your child is on there before ordering. Tea towels will be distributed at the Christmas Square Market 1st Dec or via school beginning December.

**No obligation to buy cards or a tea towels! Any questions just get in contact with a PTFA member or via our Facebook group.**

**Keep putting your blue tokens in our slot at Tiverton Tesco and we could be in with a chance of getting £1500!!**

Key dates:

- PTFA AGM 30/10 7.30pm at school
- Kids jumble sale 13th Nov after school
- Bags2school 15th Nov, including children's and adults clothes

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



PARENT TEACHERS  
FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

**30.10.2023**

Monday, 7.30 PM - 9 PM  
at Witheridge CofE Academy

### Our Agenda

- Previous year reports
- Elect committee
- School's funding requests
- Fundraising plans



FOLLOWED BY TRIP TO THE PUB



### Celebration News

This week, Rosie and William brought in their trophies from the National Dexter Show to share with us in Celebration Assembly this week. We were blown away with the amount of trophies they had won - we needed another table!



Rosie and William attended the Dexter Cattle UK AGM last weekend in Warwickshire where they were presented with the following awards:

Rosie won the Best young handler under the age of 12years old in the UK

(she competed for this and won it at the New Forest and Hampshire County Show)

Rosie and William were nominated by breeders across the UK, and then voted for by the Dexter Council for the Lisa Kemmish Trophy.

This is awarded for achieving a standard of merit throughout the whole show season.







## LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB

### October Half-term

**Wednesday 25th, 10am - 3pm**  
**at Witheridge Parish Hall**

Come and join us for...

- Fun, craft and Bible stories
- All Children Reception to Yr 6 welcome
- Packed lunch and water bottle required.
- Afternoon snack provided.
- The site has security all day & all leaders are DBS checked.

Please register at [tinyurl.com/thelighthouseclub](https://tinyurl.com/thelighthouseclub)

For further info please contact [lighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:lighthouse@gmail.com)

## WITHERIDGE Christmas Market

Enjoy school lantern parade and performances, market stalls, santas grotto, mince pies, mulled wine, BBQ.

Colouring competition winner to switch on the lights!

Parade leaving school at 4.15pm.

Stalls open from 4.30pm

**Dec 1st .**

**in Witheridge Square**



### Unite Carers Support Groups – October 2023

Who's it for?	Group Name	Location	With	Date	Time
All Carers	Bampton Carers' Coffee Group	Spelt, Bampton	Denise	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.30 am - 11.30 am
All Carers	Crediton Carers' Coffee Group	@100 Café, High St, Crediton	Tracy	19 <sup>th</sup> October	11.00 am - 12.30pm
All Carers	Cullompton Carers' Coffee Group	The Hayridge, Cullompton	Jean	11 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am - 12 noon
All Carers	Tiverton Carers' Coffee Group	Unite Carers, 4 Bridge St, Tiverton	Denise & Fiona	24 <sup>th</sup> October	2 pm
All Carers and Former Carers	Uffculme Support Group	Locations change monthly – Please call the office	Jackie	23 <sup>rd</sup> October	12.30 pm
Cared-for-people	Tiverton Safe Stop Group	Cherith Church, Tiverton	Jenny	11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am - 12.30 pm
Cared-for-people	Witheridge Safe Stop Group	Witheridge Parish Hall, Witheridge	Jenny	17 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Carers of adults and teens with additional needs	Carers of Adults and Teens with Additional Needs	Unite Carers, 4 Bridge St, Tiverton	Jenny	18 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am - 12 noon
Carers of school-aged children with additional needs	Let's Unite Outdoors	Wilcombe School, Tiverton	Katie	21 <sup>st</sup> October	Please call the Office
Carers of school-aged children with additional needs	Let's Unite at Number 4	Unite Carers, 4 Bridge St, Tiverton	Jenny	4 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am - 11.30 am
Dementia Carers	Culm Valley Oasis	Padbrook Park Hotel, Cullompton	Audrey & Veronica	16 <sup>th</sup> October	2.30 pm - 4 pm
Dementia Carers	Exe Valley Oasis	Unite Carers, 4 Bridge St, Tiverton	Denise & Fiona	12 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am
Dementia Carers and Cared-for-people	A Different Journey Support Group	Unite Carers, 4 Bridge St, Tiverton	Fiona	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.30am – 12 noon
Dementia Carers and Cared-for-people	Tiverton Forget Me Not Cafe	Cherith Church, Tiverton	Denise & Fiona	17 <sup>th</sup> October	2 pm - 3.30 pm
Former Carers	Tiverton and Cullompton Ex-Carers Lunch Group	Locations change monthly – Please call the office	Veronica	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	12 noon