



# Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

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**‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’**

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	Compassion	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Friendship	Courage
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## Newsletter – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are managing to stay dry on these very soggy days that we have been experiencing. Thank you so much to all the Parents and Carers who have been sending wellies in to school for children to wear at lunchtime. It is so important that we are able to get outside even on those very wet days and enjoy our OPAL Project playtimes. If anyone has any old wellies that they would be happy to donate, that would be very much appreciated.



This week we have been finding out about the important jobs that take place in both House of Lords and the Houses of Parliament as part of UK Parliament week. The children also voted for their new School Council representatives from Reception up to Year 6. I would like to say a huge thank you to our outgoing School Councillors - Monica, Sam, Khalid, Betsy, Tate and Gladys. Thank you for all your hard work - it has been very much appreciated. I would like to say a big CONGRATULATIONS also to our new School Councillors: Lorcan, Archie, Ronnie, Taya, Scarlett, Jack and Lena. As Head Boy and Head Girl, Reggie and Kyah automatically join our School Council as the Chair and Vice Chair.

On Tuesday, the Reception children braved the elements to complete their Autumn Walk. By the sounds of it, the rain did not dampen their spirits and they all had a wonderful time.

Next week, it is anti-bullying week. The theme for anti-bullying week is: Make a noise about bullying. On Monday, it is 'Odd Socks Day'! Children can come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate that we are all unique and different and to launch our anti-bullying week. The children will be finding out more about bullying and what they can do if they are worried about themselves or a friend being bullied throughout the week. Please find the guide for Parents and Carers attached to this newsletter.

Alongside this newsletter, you have also been sent our special Christmas Newsletter. This is a handy reminder of all the exciting things that are happening in school over the upcoming Festive Period. I would suggest printing a copy and popping it up at home, so you don't forget any of the upcoming events. If you would like a printed copy, please pop in and speak to Mrs Eastman in the office.

With best wishes,

*Miss Ratcliffe*



**Life, Love and Learning to the Full**  
Building Community ~ Building Futures ~  
Building Learning Power ~ Building Self Esteem



Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	93%
Nursery 2	92%
Reception	98%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	99%

### 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 **96%**

Our attendance for the year to date **96.2%**

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



## REMINDER

There will be no After School Club with Jayne & Laura  
Or  
Teacher Led Clubs this Monday (13<sup>th</sup> November)



**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**Non School Uniform Children**  
**can come into School wearing**  
**something spotty.**

The children will also have the opportunity to find out more about the good work that Children in Need do and to participate in an activity.

If you would like to donate to this cause, you can do so via our Just Giving page: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1699373915204?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1699373915204&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1699373915204?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1699373915204&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)



<b>Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2023</b> <b>Week 1: W/B 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Macaroni Cheese</b> V – Cheese Salad Wraps Salad or Vegetables Fresh Fruit Salad & Yogurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Beef Lasagne</b> V – Quorn Lasagne Garlic Bread & Mixed Veg or Salad Fruit Crumble With Custard
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Roast of The Day</b> V – Quorn fillet Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg Fruit Cocktail Platter
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Chicken Tikka Curry</b> V – Sweet Potato Curry Rice & Vegetables Sticky Toffee Pudding
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Oven Baked Fish</b> V – Macaroni Cheese Golden Fries, Baked Beans & Carrots Homemade Cookie

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.

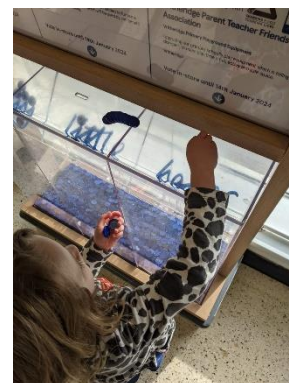
With this in mind, could we politely ask that NO products containing nuts be sent into school.

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

Thank you for your consideration and for safeguarding our students.



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



Thank you for sharing your pictures with the PTFA 😊

#### **Admissions policy for 2025-26: Annual Consultation**

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2025-26. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposals which are based on policies for this year and next year and have your say.

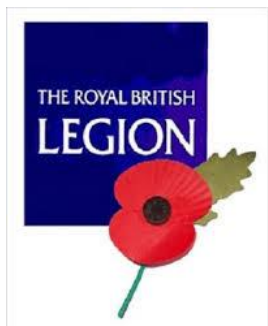
Our proposed policy is on our admission page on the school website and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>. Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)  
 The consultation runs until 12 January 2024. Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March next year. You can comment at [schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) or by emailing the school.



# Celebration Assembly Well Done For receiving a Certificate of Achievement



Class Award	
<p>Nursery – Taylor for her fantastic contribution during focused maths.  Reception – William for extending his learning with 2d shapes.  Class 1 – Iris for setting a consistently fantastic example and helping others make good choices.  Class 2 – Linden for his continued hard work in all areas of his learning.  Class 3 – Blythe for wonderful demonstrations in gymnastics.  Class 4 – Tate – Excellent contributions in class across the curriculum.</p>	
Writer of the Week:	
<p>Reception – Mitchell – writing Z Sound independently.  Class 1 – Lily Ed for beautiful presentation in writing using our new handwriting lines.  Class 2 – Jenson for his fantastic effort in his handwriting session.  Class 3 – Nyiamh for wonderful description to describe a Rowan town.  Class 4 – Seamus – Creating and accurately recording sentences using relative clauses.</p>	
Contribution	
Milo, Jacob Leth, Ebony and Jack for tidying and sorting the OPAL resources.	
Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar	
Taylor, Toby, Monty, Harvey, Mia & Jayden-Lee ☺	
House Points	
<b>Discovery 42</b>	<b>Endeavour 25</b>
<b>Enterprise 25</b>	<b>Voyager 22</b>



Thank you to everyone who has purchased a Poppy and other items this week.  
We still have items available in school, until the Royal British Legion collection person collects them early next week.

Special thank you to my two helper Reggie and Kyah our Head Boy and Head Girl.



## Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023 – Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Wearing Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Week Class 4 – PE – Whole Class <b>NO Class 4 Group 2 – Forest School</b> <b>NO ASC OR TEACHER LED CLUBS ALL CANCELLED</b> PTFA Jumble Sale – Please see poster below
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – Film Club
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Intake 2024 applications open Class 3 – PE Class 3 Group 2 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Class – PE (AM) Class 2 – PE (PM) Infant B Group 2 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Teacher Led Club – Class 4 Christmas Craft <b>KS1 Story Cub – CANCELLED &amp; refunded</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – Wear something spotty Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am Class 1 – PE (PM) Infant A Group 2 - Forest School

### Dates for your diary

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Go Beyond Residential
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Teacher Led Club - Times Table Club
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	NO Teacher Led Club – Film Club
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Farm School – Class 4 Group 1
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Messy Church
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	NO PE Today
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	No Film Club
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Farm School – Class 4 Group 2
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Class Vision Screening
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Dark Skies Event @ High Bickington
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	PTFA Lantern Parade

**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>6<sup>th</sup> September 2023</del>	First Day 3rd January 2024	First Day 15th April 2024
<del>Half-term</del> <del>23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023</del>	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: ~~4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023~~, 2nd January 2024, 3rd June 2024, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024



## **Mr Wiggans Forest School News....**

Well despite the heavy downpours, we have still been out and visited the Outdoor Learning Area.

The pupils have been looking closely at leaves and investigating the similarities between leaves and us, humans. They collected a wide variety of leaves and looked at the shapes, colour and textures. We discussed that both need water, food and sunlight. We both breathe; have veins; and sadly both die at some point.



The children then participated in some leaf art with chalk or with paint. We have used some of the pictures in a display around our House Point Noticeboard in the dining hall.

Mr.Wiggans



## **Reception Class – Woodland Walk**

On Tuesday morning, Reception Class donned waterproofs and wellies for a rather wet and muddy Autumn walk in Yeo Copse woods. With bundles of enthusiasm and resilience, the children were in no way deterred by the showers.

They thoroughly enjoyed using their senses to notice signs of the Autumn season and to think about the animals living in the woodland habitat around them. Of course, a journey on the minibus is always exciting and snack time in the woods was a memorable highlight for many, not to mention the muddy puddles!



We returned to our cosy classroom in great spirits. Many thanks to Anna Payne and Katie McKenna for accompanying us on the walk and to all our families for ensuring the children were well equipped with outdoor clothing (again!), despite two previous postponements.

Well done Reception!





## Mr Manning Sports News

On Saturday (4th), we were lucky enough to take a group of KS2 children to watch Wales v Barbarians in an international Rugby fixture. Despite the damp conditions, the children were super excited and boarded the coach ahead of the journey over the bridge to the Principality Stadium in Cardiff. Our first job was to navigate our way through a crowd of 55,000 people to find our seats in the stadium! But when we finally arrived, the game certainly didn't disappoint. The game finished 49-26 with tries being scored left, right and centre! I was so impressed with how the children kept themselves safe in such unfamiliar surroundings and we are also incredibly grateful to the parent volunteers who helped make the trip possible.



On Monday (6th), we had our first football league fixture of the season away at Bishops Nympton Primary School. Last year, in this same fixture, we were on the receiving end of a 15-0 loss so the children were eager for some sporting revenge.

We started the match very well and our defence looked solid from the start. Towards the end of the first half, Tate turned in a wonderful cross from wide to open the scoring. 1-0 to Witheridge!

In the second half, the game was much more open but our boys and girls answered every question that was asked and the game finished with a convincing 1-0 scoreline.

3 points, a clean sheet and a wonderful performance from all 13 of our footballers.

Mr Manning







At Witheridge Academy, we have been enjoying the OPAL project at lunchtimes, the children love exploring different types of play and expressing themselves creatively through their play.

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**

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.



**PTFA**

Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association

Personalised Christmas cards and gifts will be making their way home in the coming weeks. The online shop has now closed and we will let you know if Class Fundraising are able to reopen for any late orders.

The whole school tea towel is now available to pre order before 15th November 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. See the photo to check.



**Key dates:**

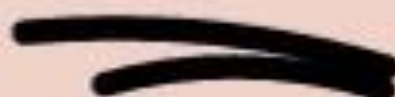
- \*Kids jumble sale 13th Nov
- \*bags2school collection on 15th Nov for any adults clothes.
- \*Christmas Market in the square 1st Dec



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

# Kids jumble sale

*toys, puzzles, books,  
shoes, coats, clothes  
from baby up to 12yrs*



**13**

**NOV**



**3.30 - 5 PM  
WITHERIDGE C  
OF E ACADEMY**

**DROP OFF DONATIONS ON  
THE DAY 8:45AM OR 3PM  
PLEASE SEPERATE  
CLOTHES BY AGE RANGE**

PROCEEDS TO WITHERIDGE PTFA CHARITY NO: 1079365





**LANTERN PARADE  
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE  
GROTTO, LIGHT  
SWITCH ON, MULLED  
WINE & MINCE PIES,  
BBQ, CRAFT MARKET**

FRI 1ST DEC, PARADE 4.15 FROM  
SCHOOL, STALLS OPEN 4.30 IN  
THE SQUARE, WITHERIDGE  
COMP TO SWITCH ON THE  
LIGHTS - A CHRISTMAS  
PICTURE/PAINTING FROM  
A CHILD, HANDED IN AT  
THE PAPERSHOP BY SUN  
26TH NOV 12PM, JUDGED  
BY ART TEACHER ELAINE  
CURTIS

Event managed & sponsored  
by Knights Of Witheridge

## **REDUNDANT CHRISTMAS JUMPERS NEEDED**

In preparation for Christmas Lantern Parade & performance in the square.  
If you have any you can donate to the PTFA jumble, please let us know so we  
can pass these on to our School children.





# Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th November  
10 am -12 pm

Church of St John the Baptist,  
Witheridge



Raffle, Bonus ball  
cake and produce stall,  
Christmas cards and books.

Ham and cheese croissants, coffee, tea and  
biscuits available



## Cruwys Morchard YFC Christmas BINGO

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November  
at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Doors open at 7pm

Eyes down at 7:30pm

Money will go towards the charity ELF  
(Exeter Leukaemia Fund)

Tea, coffee and cake on entry and halfway through  
£1 per item

### Bingo books

Full book and flyer=£6

A section of a book=£1 per section

Flyer only for 18+ so instead of a flyer under 18s will get 3 raffle  
tickets

### Raffle tickets

£1= 1 ticket

£2= 3 tickets



## Witheridge Concert Season

Wednesday

November 22nd 7.30pm

Doors open 6.45pm

Parish Church of St. John the Baptist

**Andrew Millington**

Organ  
and

**Matthew Jeffrey**

Tenor

Presenting a varied programme of  
organ and vocal music  
to include well-known arias  
from oratorio and opera  
and music by Bach, Handel,  
Mendelssohn and Elgar

Tickets £10

Wine, soft drinks and nibbles available

Tickets: On the door  
or Andrew 01884 860612  
Email [astonguy@tring92.f2s.com](mailto:astonguy@tring92.f2s.com)

## Struggling to top up your prepayment meter?

### You might be able to claim fuel vouchers

If you have prepayment meters and can't afford to top them up, we can help. We may be able to give you fuel vouchers, and our specialist energy team can help you find ways to save money on your household bills

Call 01237 879233, email [fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk](mailto:fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk)  
or scan the QR code to request a call back



citizens  
advice

Torridge, North,  
Mid & West Devon



Registered charity number: 1068496