



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 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had such an exciting final week of a wonderful term of learning at Witheridge Academy.

On Monday and Tuesday the children in Classes 1,2,3 and 4 really impressed all of us with their fantastic performances in the KS1/KS2 Nativity - 'Christmas with the Aliens'. We are so of all the children, right across the school, for their wonderful performances.



On Wednesday, we had our DELICIOUS Christmas Lunch, cooked by Bobbie.



On Thursday, the children in Classes 3 and 4 visited the residents at The Firs to sing some songs and spread good cheer. We also had a VERY special visitor in school on Thursday! Father Christmas came to visit us and delivered a very special present to each Class!

The children were amazed, and very, very excited to see Father Christmas! They had plenty of questions for him as well!



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



Today, we have had our special Christmas Church service. Well done to Year 6 for their fantastic readings, Reception for their beautiful Tableau and to Reception and Class 4 for their beautiful singing.

Over the last few weeks, we have challenged ourselves in our Classes to try and complete the CHAT Reverse Advent Calendar! This morning, Denise collected all the contributions and took them to CHAT to be distributed to members of our community. THANK YOU for your generosity and WELL DONE to CLASS 4 who completed their calendar first!



I want to say an enormous THANK YOU to the fantastic staff we have here at Witheridge Academy. You work tirelessly to ensure that the children in your care are happy, safe and are able to learn. You are very much appreciated.

Finally, we have a few staff changes taking place after the Christmas holidays. Mrs Seymour will be heading to Class 3 and Ms Barrett will be coming to Class 1.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break - we are so looking forward to welcoming you back to Witheridge Academy on **Wednesday 3rd January**.

With Festive Wishes,
Miss Ratcliffe

Gifts from Mumbai

This week in Class 4, we were delighted to receive a box of gifts from our partner school, Sanjivani International School, in Mumbai. The children have each been given a rakhi bracelet, a sign of bond and friendship between the two schools. Within the box there were also many beautiful photos and pieces of work explaining about life in Mumbai, including celebrations and festivals. We are very

fortunate to have such a lovely link with Sanjivani International School, and will continue to build on this partnership through our learning in Class 4 this year.



Afterschool Clubs in January

An email will go out at the beginning of next term with information regarding the afterschool club with Jayne and Laura, this will contain a google link to pre-book wrap around care and Teacher Led Clubs on offer.

There will be **NO TEACHER LED CLUBS** running until week commencing 8th January.



Debts on Arbor Accounts - Please can you make sure that all outstanding dinner, Nursery Fees and wraparound care debts are fully paid by the end of term. Thank you.

School Dinner Menu week commencing 3rd January 2024

Please see new dinner menu attached 😊

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 and are Epi Pen carriers.

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.



Early Years Funding for January 2024 (Spring Term)

Please apply for your 30-hour code, if you are eligible, before the 22nd December to ensure that your code is in place in time for January 2024. The link below will take you to the website for all the necessary details. Please let us know your successful code and your national insurance number so that your code can be verified on the DCC Portal. If you have any questions, please ask Mrs Eastman in the school office.

[Apply for 30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-30-hours-free-childcare)

Or

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

**Was your child born between
1st September 2019 and
31st August 2020?**

How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at
www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline
from 15th November 2023 to the 15th January 2024

If you cannot access the school admissions website you can get more information by calling our Education Helpline on
0345 155 1019
or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk



Even if you have already given details to a primary school, you must apply for a place through the Admissions Team. This is the only way to apply; other forms or lists held by schools will not count.

Devon
County Council

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Monday 1 st January	New Year's Day – No School
Tuesday 2 nd January	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 3 rd January	
Thursday 4 th January	Class 1&2 Polar Explorers Day
Friday 15 th December	Class 1 & 2 Trip to the Museum of the Moon in Barnstaple

Dates for your diary

Monday 8 th January	Class 4 Swimming begins
Wednesday 10 th January	Farm School Infant A Group 3
Thursday 11 th January	PTFA Meeting
Wednesday 24 th January	Farm School Infant B Group 3
Tuesday 30 th January	Year 5 London Residential
Friday 2 nd February	NSPCC Number Day
Wednesday 7 th February	Farm School Infant B Group 1
Friday 9 th February	Reception & Year 6 National Children Measurement Programme
Monday 12 th February	Half Term

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 6th September 2023 Half term – 23rd – 27th October 2023 Last Day 15th December 2023	First Day 3rd January 2024 Half-term 12th - 16th February 2024 Last Day 28th March 2024	First Day 15th April 2024 Bank Holiday 6th May 2024 Half-term 27th - 31st May 2024 Non Pupil Day 3rd June 2024 Last Day 23rd July 2024
Non-pupil days/occasional holiday days: 2nd January 2024, 3rd June 2024, 24th, 25th & 26th July 24		

Residential Trips

Year 5 Residential to London

Our Year 5's are starting to look forward to their trip to London in the New Year.
Please do not forget that the final payment is due on the 26th January 2024.

Year 6 Adventure International Bude

Please do not forget to sign your child up to their final residential trip of Primary School by the 6th February.



Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

PTFA Christmas raffle winners:

Beano - Katie McKenna
Bear Town - Rachel Steven's
Remote Car - Lindsey Walker
Sandy Park - Sarah Bragg
Tiv Town FC - Ken Headon
Pimms - Freda Tarr

Winning Vouchers that will be emailed to the winners:

Rock and Rapids - Adrian Wells
Disneyland - Tiffany Robinson
Jack & The Beanstalk - Sarah Bragg
SMART Swim - Alison Atherton
Mole Resort - Miss Ratcliffe
Willow Tree - Anna Payne

Congratulation to everyone who won a prize in our Christmas Raffle and thank you to everyone who supported the PTFA Christmas Fayre and throughout 2023.

We would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and roll on fundraising for our children in 2024.

🔔 🔔 **CHANGE OF DATE!!!!!!** Now Fri 22/12 🔔 🔔

Date change due to free family event taking place at parish hall - they will advertise in due course.

Santa and his Elf will be making their way around the village again courtesy of Rudolf and his sleigh.
Route and timings will be posted nearer the time but will start approx. 4.15pm





Saturday 16th December 2023 - 11am - 1pm

At

St John the Baptist Church, Witheridge.

We would encourage parents to stay and take part.

For more details and to book your place, so that we can ensure we have enough crafts and food, please contact. Sue Wells 01884 861383

CASH & SEASONAL GIFTS TO BE WON

"OFTEN COPIED NEVER EQUALLED"

20TH DEC

The Mire Inn
CHRISTMAS Quiz Night

PRIZES DONATED BY:

HANLONS
LWC

7.30PM START | 4 PER TEAM | £14 PER TEAM

PIGS + BLANKETS, STUFFING BALLS & ROASTIES FOR EACH TEAM
£4 DONATION PER TEAM TO DEVON AIR AMBULANCE

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUTE ARTIST
JAY MERCURY
A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN

QUEEN PARTY

2024

WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB
WITHERIDGE, TIVERTON, EX16 6AH

31ST DECEMBER 2023
9:30PM

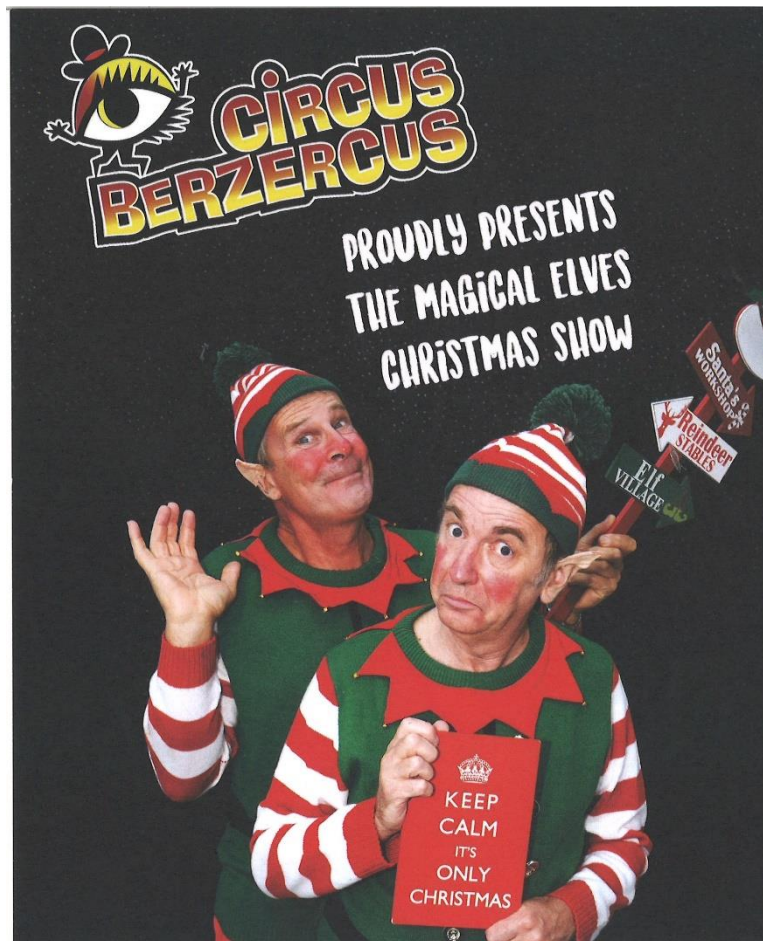
TICKETS: £10

Witheridge Football Club

FOOTBALL QUIZ NIGHT

Date: 29th December Time: 7pm

Food and drink, prizes, raffle, £5 each.
max 4 people per team



December 23rd Doors open 16.30 for 17.00 performance.

To reserve your free ticket please
visit our website witheridgeparishhall.co.uk
or our Facebook page facebook.com/WitheridgeParishHall



Come along and join us for a free fun packed family evening at the Parish Hall on
Saturday 23rd December.

Circusberzercus will be performing The Magical Elves Christmas Show, starting
at 5.00 pm (doors open at 4.30)

During the interval we will be providing a Christmas tea for the children.

The entertainment and Christmas tea is a gift from the Parish Hall, so completely
free of charge.

However, we need to know the numbers we are catering for, so please fill in the
form below.

Numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please remember that it is essential for children to be accompanied by a
parent/responsible adult.

There will also be a cash bar open for mulled wine, mince pies and a selection of
drinks!

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BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

Your Library with a serving of Soup

FREE HOT SOUP

Wednesday 29th November
Wednesday 6th December
Monday 11th December
Wednesday 20th December

Soup served from 12pm whilst stocks last



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librariesunlimited.org.uk/events
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Libraries Unlimited

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER: Festive children's clothes swap in the children's library.

Wednesday 6th December: Orchard Vale school choir
11.30am - 12pm in the foyer.
Drop in

Saturday 9th December: Drop-in Christmas crafts
10am - 12pm
Drop in

Tuesday 12th December: Festive story time and hot chocolate under the tree.
4pm - 5pm
Suitable for children 3-8 years old. Drop in

Wednesday 13th December: Festive Fun for grown-ups around the tree followed by hot chocolate.
3.30-4.30pm
Drop in

Saturday 16th December: E-Christmas card making sessions
Morning: 10am - 12pm
Afternoon: 2pm - 4pm
Book at the library

Thursday 21st December: Circus Berzercus - 2pm
£5 per person book at the library



Libraries Unlimited

Christmas Cheer

Join us at our festive coffee morning with something for the whole family

Take Note Community Choir
Craft & Book Sale
Free children's craft activities
Delicious refreshments

Saturday 16 December
10am-1pm
Tiverton Library



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Libraries Unlimited

ESPECIALLY WELCOME

@ TIVERTON LIBRARY

Start the week right at our relaxed sessions

Children under 12 with additional needs and their families are especially welcome to join us at our drop in relaxed library sessions. Share books, try out our sensory nook, explore our sensory toys and chat to other families

Every Monday*
10am - 12pm
Tiverton Library
*Except Bank Holidays

Come along on Monday 18th December for a special festive welcome
No need to book. Contact us for more details

01884 244 644
tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk



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CHRISTMAS AT WITHERIDGE COFE ACADEMY 2023

