



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 – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have an early edition of our newsletter this week; however, there are plenty of exciting things to share already - even though it is only Wednesday!

This week, our Class 4 children have been working hard to complete their special lanterns for the parade on Friday. They look amazing, and I know that they are excited to show them off to everyone on during the parade. Thank you so much to our PTFA volunteers who joined us this afternoon to help with lantern making - it was very much appreciated by Mrs Nott and the team.

I know that lots of children have been making lanterns at home - thank you so much for your support with this, it is going to look amazing! Especially with the festive jumpers/hats etc! Just a reminder, please meet at the school at **4:30** on Friday. Once the children have finished singing in the square, please wait until your child's Class Teacher sends them back to you so, that we know all the children have gone home safely.

This week, the children have been working hard to practise their Nativities. I have been amazed by the beautiful singing coming from the classes/school hall every day. A note came home with each child letting you know what they will need for their costumes. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's Class Teacher.

Next week, we have so many Christmas events happening! The FSU Nativity is on Monday, Elf Day is on Wednesday, Christmas Jumper Day is on Thursday and the 1st of 4 KS1/KS2 Nativity performances will be taking place on Friday. **Due to the upcoming changes in the timetable, there will not be any PE or Forest School sessions next week.**

Kind regards,

Miss Ratcliffe

Arbor Accounts

Arbor is not a credit facility please ensure your accounts are kept to a zero balance or in credit. For support in making payments please click on this link:



<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360012283798-Using-the-Basket-to-make-payments-on-Parent-Portal#adding-a-payment-to-the-basket-0-0>.

ALL ARBOR ACCOUNTS NEED TO BE UP TO DATE BY THE END OF TERM!



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

Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2023 Week 1: W/B 4th December	
Monday	Macaroni Cheese V – Cheese Salad Wraps Salad or Vegetables Fresh Fruit Salad & Yogurt
Tuesday	Beef Lasagne V – Quorn Lasagne Garlic Bread & Mixed Veg or Salad Fruit Crumble With Custard
Wednesday	Roast of The Day - Chicken V – Quorn fillet Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg Fruit Cocktail Platter
Thursday	Chicken Tikka Curry V – Sweet Potato Curry Rice & Vegetables Sticky Toffee Pudding
Friday	Oven Baked Fish 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.



Early Years Funding for January 2024 (Spring Term)

Please apply for your 30-hour code, if you are eligible, before the 15th 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 Autumn Term 2023

Teacher Led Club now finished / No PE or Forest School until after Christmas

Monday 4 th December	All Nativity costumes need to be in school FSU Nativity Performance 1 @ 10am FSU Nativity Performance 2 @ 2pm
Tuesday 5 th December	Rocksteady Concert
Wednesday 6 th December	Elf Day – Raising money for Alzheimer’s Society Farm School – Class 4 Group 3 Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – Raising money for Save the Children Music Tuition with Mr Rogo
Friday 8 th December	Nativity Performance 1 @ 10am CANCELLED Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am

Dates for your diary

Monday 11 th December	Nativity Performance 2 @ 2pm
Monday 11 th December	Nativity Performance 3 @ 6pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Nativity Performance 4 @ 4pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Church Service @ 10am
Friday 15 th December	Nursery and Toddler Group Christmas Party at 9am

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 2024

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.



ELF Day Wednesday 6th December

This is an opportunity for us to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

All children (and staff!) can come to school dressed as an Elf for a small donation.

We are looking forward to seeing many little Elves in school!

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-](https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1699450943413?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1699450943413&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

[1699450943413?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1699450943413&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1699450943413?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1699450943413&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 7th December

On **Thursday 7th December**, we are inviting children to come to school dressed in a named Christmas jumper.

If you would like to make a small donation, then you can do so via our

Just Giving page. https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1699452801855?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1699452801855&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share



Thank you to everyone who purchased a Poppy and other items from School for Poppy Day.

Roger confirmed
Witheridge CofE Academy
have raised **£158.35** for the
Royal British Legion.



Mr Wiggans Forest School News....

This week, as a treat we have been learning about fire and cooking on it. The pupils learnt about the fire triangle of Oxygen, Heat and Fuel and how to break this Fire Triangle to distinguish fires.

We have made drop scones, also known as Scotch Pancakes. Mixing self-raising flour, caster sugar, baking powder, egg and milk. These were classically made on a solid metal griddle on an open fire. Now it is more practical to use a large non-stick frying pan. We served ours with a cinnamon sugar. Yummy!



Essebeare Farm School

This week a group of our Class 4 pupils visited Essebeare Farm to learn about crops.

Farmer Olly took the group to his polytunnel where he discussed the different farming types and we then looked at the effect of the cold weather on some of his crops.

The pupils then picked the remaining cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, aubergines and beans. The pupils learnt about "food miles" of certain produce stocked in the supermarkets in Britain.





Mr Manning Sports News

On Thursday (23rd November), we welcomed South Molton Community Primary School to Witheridge for our second league fixture of the season.

Despite the very unfortunate lack of football shorts, we finally got sorted and got out to the pitch ready for a big match. Our Y3/4 team were also in action for their first taste of friendly football this season.

In our Y5/6 game, South Molton got off to a good start and found themselves 1-0 up. After taking the lead, we managed to peg them back and make things tricky for them. However, early in the second half South Molton found a second with a neat finish from a free kick. The second goal seemed to wake us up a little and almost immediately from kick off, Harry found himself in space on the left wing and tucked away a neat strike into the top corner. The final score was unfortunately 4-1 but there were so many positives to take from the game.

The picture of the day comes from our new look Y3/4 team who enjoyed their first game!





Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

Just in case you have missed it - our PTFA Christmas Raffle this year is AMAZING!

You can buy tickets for the Christmas raffle online <https://witheridgeptfa.sumupstore.com/> at the Christmas Fayre this Friday and at evening Nativity performances. Buy tickets for the prize/s you want.

The prizes include:

- Two Sandy Park tickets (13/1/2024 chief's v Glasgow)
- Willow Tree Barn Gym one month's membership <https://willowtreebarn.co.uk/>
- **A pair of 1-day park passes to use at Disneyland Paris**
- SMART Swim (South Molton) Family Fun Swim Voucher and a 1-Month Adult Membership Voucher.
- Remote controlled car
- The Mole Resort (Previously called High Bullen Hotel) 2-course meal for 2 and a bottle of wine, in Devon View Restaurant.
- Two tickets for the Jack and the Beanstalk Panto at Tiverton Community Arts Centre on 28th December 2023 5pm
- 6 tickets to any Tiverton Town Football Club league game
- Winter Pimms hamper
- £10 Beartown voucher
- £15 Rock and Rapid climbing centre voucher <https://rockandrapidadventures.co.uk/>





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 or scan the QR code to request a call back



citizens
advice

Torrige, North,
Mid & West Devon



Registered charity number: 1068496

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

QUIZ KNIGHTS



Witheridge Sports Club

**This Wednesday,
29th November at 19:30**

Teams of up to 6, £2 per person

Cash Prizes

Asking the questions:

Peter Bangs

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

**Saturday 2nd December 2023
Time 2.30am – 4.30pm**

**At
The Village Hall
Witheridge**



You will have the opportunity to work with a qualified tutor who will help you create a beautiful door wreath to decorate your home for Christmas

The cost of the workshop is £35.00,
To include a mince pie and a glass of prosecco or soft drink

You will be provided with all materials to produce your door wreath

Some extra items will be available
to purchase on the day
£10 deposit required to book your place

To register your interest contact Jane Haas,
☎ 01884 860714 ✉ jane@haas.org.uk



Welcome Mary & Joseph to stay at your place

'Posada' (Spanish for 'inn') is a Christmas activity which lasts from December 1st – 24th when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night. On the following day Mary and Joseph are then taken to the next house where, hopefully, you'll be invited in for a cup of tea or coffee.

People sign up in advance (either with Sue Wells or Ruth Towers) offering to host Mary and Joseph for a night. It's open to everyone, and lots of families find it's a great way to be involved in the Christmas story.

Posada is a chance to host Mary and Joseph – to make room for Jesus at Christmas time!

Mary and Joseph will be collected from Witheridge Methodist Church on Friday 1st December, at the beginning of the Crib Festival.

On Christmas eve, the figures are returned to St John's Church, as part of the Crib service, as everyone gets ready to welcome the Christ child once again.

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FREE HOT SOUP

Wednesday 29th November

Wednesday 6th December

Monday 11th December

Wednesday 20th December

Soup served from 12pm
whilst stocks last



librariesunlimited.org.uk/events

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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

