



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 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

PHEW! What a busy week we have had at Witheridge Academy. This comes at the end of an incredibly busy half term of learning. I am sure that all the children (and adults!) are ready for a well-deserved rest.

Last Friday, we celebrated NSPCC Number Day. The children looked great in their number themed/TT-Rockstars outfits! Thank you to all the kind donations made via our Just Giving Page, we managed to raise a whopping £45 for the NSPCC.

This half term, Class 4 have been attending their swimming lessons in Tiverton. Mr Manning has been so impressed with their brilliant perseverance, effort and behaviour. Next half term, it is the turn of our Class 3 children. I am sure they will demonstrate the exemplary behaviour that we expect on all our school trips!

On Thursday, we celebrated the start of the new Lunar Year, also known as Chinese New Year, with a special Chinese Fakeaway! Thank you to Bobbie for our delicious Chinese lunch. This year is the Year of the Dragon. The Year of the Dragon symbolises evolution, improvement and abundance - so it feels like we have a good year ahead of us!



Last week, was our DT week. Our theme for DT week was 'Building Communities' which is one of our four main curriculum drivers, the others being 'Building Futures', 'Building Mental Health and Wellbeing' and 'Building Learning Power'. Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who came to visit our DT Display in the hall this week. It is so lovely for the children to be able to share their learning with you. Today (Friday) the Parents and Carers of children in the FSU had the opportunity to come in to the setting and have a look at all the fantastic learning that has been taking place in the FSU this term. Thank you to those Parents and Carers who were able to join Mrs North and the team this morning.

Life, Love and Learning to the Full



Building Community
 Building Futures
 Building Learning Power
 Building Self Esteem



Please do not bring your mobile phone to school



This week, it is Children's Mental Health Week. The children have spent some time thinking about ways to keep their minds healthy, as well as focussing on the theme for this week, which is 'My Voice Matters'. Your child may like to take part in the Taskmaster upside down challenge this weekend as well, a separate email with further details was sent home yesterday. On Monday, to kick-start Mental Health Week, we had a visit from Emily at the Dogs Trust. Emily was talking to us about ways to interact with dogs safely. We know that spending time with dogs can have a positive impact on our Mental Health, so it is great that all the children were able to workshop how to do this safely.



One of the other ways we can keep ourselves mentally healthy is through regular exercise. For our Year 6 children, they had the opportunity to participate in their second Exmoor Challenge practise walk this week. Mr Manning and Mr Wiggans were so impressed with the children's perseverance on Thursday and also by the excellent map work skills they demonstrated.



Today, the children are 'Dressed to Express'! As part of the 'My Voice Matters' work that the children have been participating in, they have recognised that we are all different and we all have different likes, dislikes and opinions - and that is GREAT! The children look wonderful today, well done everyone!



This week, we had our annual lockdown practise in school. I was so impressed with how quickly, quietly and sensibly, the children participated in the lockdown. Well done, Witheridge Academy.

Finally, in some very exciting news - we would like to congratulate Mr Rogo on the birth of his beautiful new baby girl - Maggie. Mr Rogo was off for two weeks paternity leave this term, and we have welcomed him back for the last 2 weeks - and have absolutely loved seeing all the baby pics! 😊



I hope you have a lovely half term break - we will see you on Monday 19th February.

All the best,

Miss Ratcliffe



Mr Wiggans Forest School News....

This week we have embarked on an exciting project or re doing our school's herb garden. Over the years, the herbs have either died or outgrown their pots.

Pupils from Class 1 and Class 3 have been busy tidying the area up, re planting and sowing new herb seeds that we hope will fill some of the gaps.

The students have learnt about how we use herbs in our cooking and have had the opportunity to smell and even taste some herbs.

Mr. Wiggans is asking any home Gardeners for any donations of cuttings or unwanted herb plants to plant in our herb garden. Please drop any donations to Mrs. Eastman in the office. Thank you.



Essebeare Farm School

This week some pupils from Class 2 visited Essebeare Farm accompanied by Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Wiggins.

We visited the river flowing through the bottom of Farmer Olly's land. The pupils looked at the riverbank and how it is being eroded by the river. As there had been quite a lot of rain, the river was up and brown in colour. Farmer Olly explained how the mud increases the nitrogen in the river and hence you get algae lower down the river that reduces the oxygen for the wildlife.



He talked about the 'Culm' region, a national character area, in North Devon.

We looked at one meadow that holds the water and provides a unique habitat for animals. It includes many grasses and common rush. We inspected the reed beds for frogspawn. We did find evidence of many water voles. They had nibbled the rush plants and left cut stalks and droppings.



We then visited Farmer Olly's Fen meadow watching for Woodcock and Snipe over from Russia. These are on the RSPB red list and are quite rare. We used an app to identify birdcalls on Olly's mobile phone and recorded Song Thrush, the Eurasian Wren and European Robin.

Down by the river we discovered new electronic equipment that measures the water level via a probe. This gathers data in a top box and via a computer with a mobile phone relays the information to a satellite. Info then goes to a scientist who works in Exeter to look at the effect of the changes in climate that have a knock on effect to the rivers and flooding possibilities.





Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	93%
Nursery 2	90%
Reception	93%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	91%

Every Day Counts

Attend and achieve.

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



Attendance Update

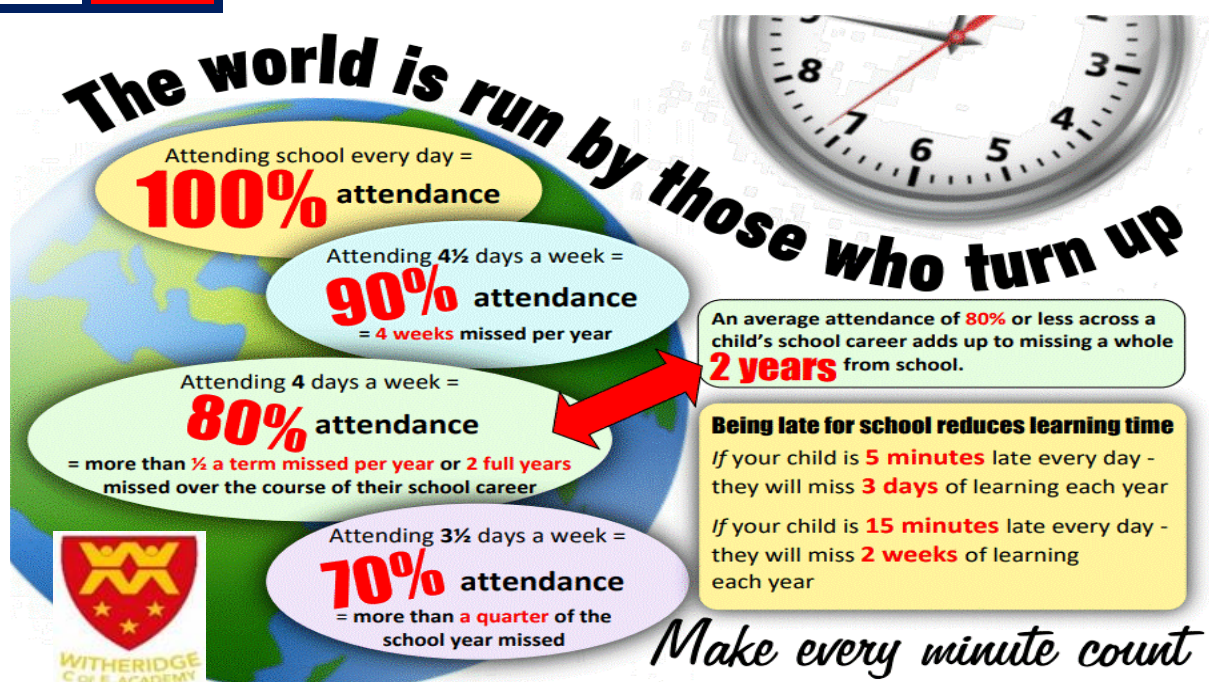
It's great to see everyone working so hard to achieve or beating our **96.5%** target.

We can only do this if we all work together!

Our attendance for the week is **93.9%**

Our attendance for the year to date **95.9%**

Together Each achieves More!





Celebration Assembly
Well Done
For receiving a
Certificate of Achievement



Class Award

Nursery – Zim for having an amazing first week in the FSU.

Reception – Chester for exceptional effort and progress in reading and writing this half term.

Class 1 – Keeley for making great choices in the classroom and on the carpet.

Class 2 – Sam for contribution to discussion while at Essebeare Farm School

Class 3 – Nyiamh for sharing consistent kindness around the school.

Class 4 – Reggie for showing great friendship.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Lorcan for excellent effort and ideas when writing independently this week.

Class 1 – Libby for incredible improvement in presentation with writing.

Class 3 – Josh for writing an interesting story ending.

Class 4 – Tate for fantastic flashback writing.

Contribution Award:

Hunter – Holding back brambles to allow everyone to pass while at Farm School and helping (Mrs Lewis) another child after a long walk.

Taya for being kind and helpful on the playground.

Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar

Phoebe , Rosalie and Felicity ☺

20 Merits

Class 3 – Max

Class 4 – Lola-May & Liberty

40 Merits

Class 4 – Sophia

House Points

Discovery 35

Endeavour 37

Enterprise 31

Voyager 30

Find us on:

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

Facebook: @Witheridge CofE Academy

Email: admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk

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

Team Meal Menu – Spring Term 2024 Week 1 - W/B 19 th February	
Monday	Cheese Rolls V – Veggie Wraps Potato Wedges, Seasonal Veg or Baked Beans Fruit & Yogurt
Tuesday	Spaghetti Bolognese V – Quorn Bolognese Vegetables Lemon Drizzle Cake
Wednesday	Roast of the Day V – Vegetable Bites Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Fruit Platter
Thursday	Bobbie's Fry Up – Sausage & Bacon V – Veggie Sausage Hash Browns, Scrambled Egg, Mushrooms & Baked Beans Apple Crumble & Custard
Friday	Oven Baked Fish V – Tomato Pasta Bake Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables or Baked Beans Flapjack

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.



PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

**NEW AND IMPROVED
TREAT FRIDAY**

FEB 02 ENTERPRISE
PROVIDING THE TREATS

MAR 28 VOYAGER
PROVIDING THE TREATS

MAY 24 ENDEAVOR
PROVIDING THE TREATS

JULY 19 DISCOVERY
PROVIDING THE TREATS

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR TREATS
TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON THE
MORNING OF YOUR DATE

Valentines Kids Disco

@Wetheridge Parish Hall Friday 9th Feb
5:00 – 7:00pm

bit.ly/3YmF5ZS

PREORDER TICKETS BY 4TH FEB
Child entry + sausage in a roll = £2

ON THE DAY TICKETS
Child entry = £1
Sausage in a roll = £1.50

Pre-school to year 6 (any school welcome)
Additional refreshments available
Adults and under two's free
Bar open – responsible drinking! ;)

Facepaint
Glitter Tattoos

Children to be supervised by parents/carers. Proceeds to Wetheridge PTFA. Charity Reg No. 1079365

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Monday 19 th February	Class 3 Swimming (PE) Class 4 Group 1 – Forest School Teacher Led Club – Easter Craft Club
Tuesday 20 th February	Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – Film Club & Times Tables Club (No Choir Club) Year 5 Mini Police Programme
Wednesday 21 st February	Class 1 – PE Infant B Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45 <u>ALL ASC / Teacher Led Club CANCELLED due to Staff Training</u>
Thursday 22 nd February	Cross Country Competition @ High Bick - Rescheduled Reception Class – PE (AM) Class 2 – PE (PM) Infant B Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Teacher Led Club – SATs Club & KS1 Football
Friday 23 rd February	Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am Class 4 – PE Class 4 Group 3 – Forest School

Dates for your diary

Monday 12th -16th February

Monday 19th February

Tuesday 27th February

Wednesday 28th February

February Half Term – NO SCHOOL

Start of Spring Term 2

Year 5 Mini Police Programme

Farm School Infant B Group 2

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	First Day— 3rd January 2024	First Day 15th April 2024
Half term— 23rd – 27th October 2023	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~~



Registered charity number 290640

North Devon Gang Show

AT THE LANDMARK THEATRE, ILFRACOMBE

*Wednesday 14th - Saturday 17th
February 2024 - 7.15pm*

Tickets £13

*The Gang is back ready to entertain with
a variety of singing, dancing and comedy
in a non-stop action packed show!*

For more information contact: chairman.ndgangshow@outlook.com

BUMPER HALF TERM

Join us this February half term to help us
celebrate the Tivvy Bumper steam engine!


**Saturday 10th to Saturday 17th
February 2024 (closed Sunday 11th)**

Follow the railway map around the museum,
collecting letters to spell your destination
Part of normal admission*



Plus, train toys,
board games,
dressing up, colouring
station & more!


*Adults £8.50, accompanied kids go FREE!

**CRAFT sessions on Tuesday 13th and
Wednesday 14th February**
From 10 - 12. Drop-in
£3 per child with paying adult (£2.50 per child with a museum member)

 **TIVERTON
MUSEUM**
of Mid Devon Life

Special Half Term Opening:
Monday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk
Beck's Square, Tiverton EX16 6PJ
01884 256295
Registered charity 1181976

 
FOLLOW US
@TivertonMuseum



Libraries Unlimited

Half term crafts TIVERTON LIBRARY

Drop in to our free fun
family craft session this
half term. No need
to book.

**Wednesday 14th
February
10am-12pm**

FREE





PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2024

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from
From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

GREENE KING PUBS

Kids Eat Free all-day with the purchase of an adult's meal. Deal, Monday-Friday, between Mon 12th - Friday 23rd February 2024

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase a full priced adult's main meal (App needed)

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

YO! SUSHI

From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024
kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

Hey!



Did you know...
from April, even
more working families
can **save money on childcare**

We will be running parent
information sessions on what
funding is available, eligibility
and how to apply.

Childcare
Choices

Dates throughout February!

Devon
County Council

Want to know more?

We're running some free online information sessions in February about how to access funded childcare, what funding is available, the eligibility criteria and how to apply.

There is no need to book, just join by clicking on the links below:

- Monday 5 February, 10:30am to 11:30am – [click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 7 February, 7:30pm to 8:30pm – [click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 14 February, 4pm to 5pm – [click here to join the meeting](#)

While these sessions are primarily for parents, anyone that would like to know more about Early Years Funding is welcome to attend.



JOIN PIP, ZENA AND LIBRO ON THEIR NEW ONLINE ADVENTURE

The Secret Book Quest digital platform is quick and easy to sign up to online, where you can join Zena, Pip and Libro the cat on an exciting reading adventure. Signing up online will unlock access to The Secret Book Quest story, online games and downloadable activities!

To carry on your quest and unlock the next zone, visit your local library. As a library member, a child can sign up to receive their free pack, including stickers to collect along the way, puzzles to solve, certificates and a finisher's prize too.

Head to www.tsbq.co.uk
or your local library to begin your adventure!



