



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 8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have been enjoying the sunnier days this week.

This week, we have been celebrating all things READING! On Wednesday, the children in Reception and KS1 had the opportunity to go to the Theatre to watch 'Charlie Cook's Favourite Book'! The children watched the show in absolute awe. They loved the singing and dancing in the show and the way that the animals were brought to life through puppetry. This trip was fully funded by the PTFA. I would like to say an enormous THANK YOU on behalf of all the children to our PTFA for their hard work in raising the funds to pay for this trip. It is an experience that the children will cherish for a long time.



On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day across the school. This year, our theme for the day was 'Elmer'. The children loved creating Elmer shaped biscuits and Elmer artwork. They also had the opportunity to play some Elmer themed games and to write about Elmer. A theme of the story is that it is ok to be different; in fact, it is great to be different! We loved seeing all the different Elmer and book themed costumes in school this year.

On Wednesday this week, Mr Manning and Mr Wiggans accompanied some of our children to a special PE/Forest School event at Umberleigh Academy, another school in TEAM Academy Trust. The children really impressed Mr Manning and Mr Wiggans with their fantastic behaviour, and they loved challenging themselves to complete the different activities.

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

On Tuesday, our Y6 Exmoor Challengers completed their 3rd training walk on Exmoor, accompanied by Mr Manning and Mr Wiggans. The children were also supported by students from Petroc college, who were showing them how to read the compass and maps correctly. Thank you to Mr Manning for organising this event, and Well done to our resilient and determined Exmoor Challengers.



Next week, it is Assessment Week for all children in Year 1 - Year 6. Please ensure your child is well rested and has a good breakfast every day to support them to demonstrate everything they have learnt so far this year. The purpose of these assessments is to give Class Teachers a clear understanding of where the children are with their learning and any gaps they might have, so that we can address them during the Summer Term.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

All the best,
Miss Ratcliffe

It is a want!

EYFS, Class 1, & 4 are really looking forward to South West Water visiting on Monday 11th March (next week)!

To help with our session, we really need LOTS of plastic milk bottles and plastic bottles. Any size is fine, and if they can have their lids, too, that would be great.

Please bring these in to the school office on Monday morning or send in with your child.



Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March
it is Red Nose Day.

Red Noses will go on sale from today. We have limited stock available and noses will be sold for £2.00 on a first come, first served basis.



Children can come to school wearing

something **RED**

If you would like to make a small donation to Comic Relief, the charity behind the Red Nose Day appeal, you can do so via our [JustGiving](#) page.



Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	93%
Nursery 2	93%
Reception	96%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	88%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	91%

Every Day Counts

Attend and achieve.

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



Attendance Update

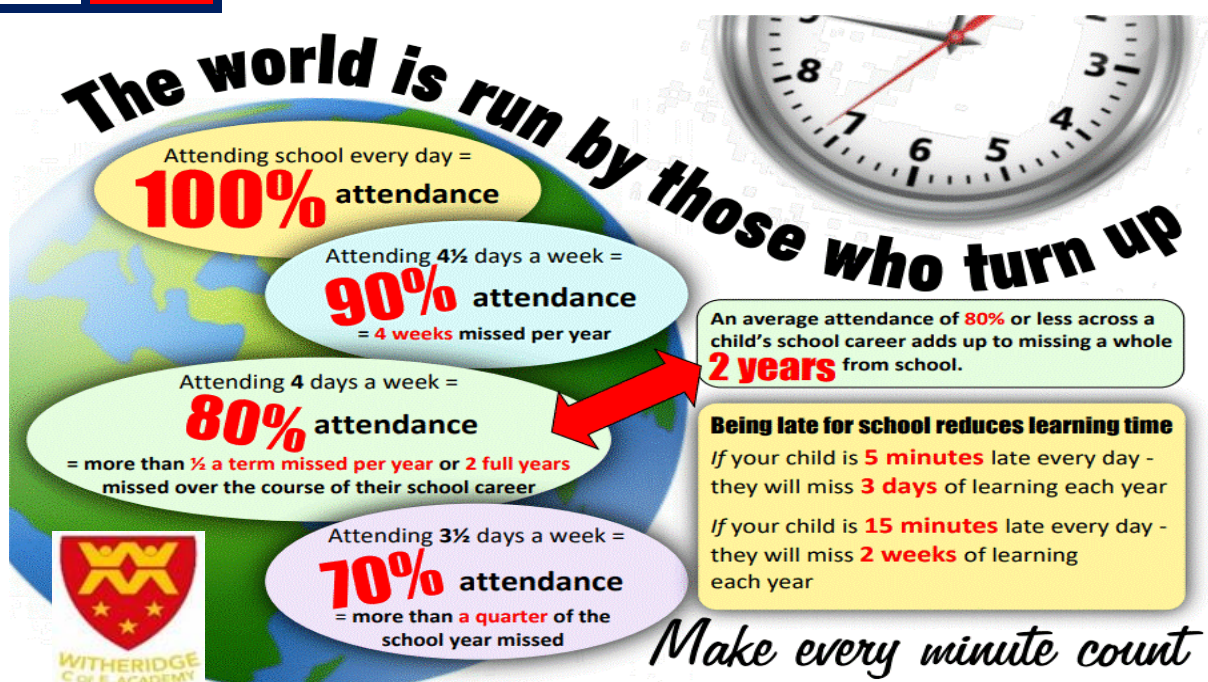
It's great to see everyone working so hard to achieve or beating our **96.5%** target.

We can only do this if we all work together!

Our attendance for the week is **92.5%**

Our attendance for the year to date **95.4%**

Together Each achieves More!





Celebration Assembly
Well Done
For receiving a
Certificate of Achievement



Class Award

Nursery – Ocean for settling in well ☺

Reception – Whole class for representing our school admirably at the theatre.

Class 1 – Ronnie for trying his best and helping other people to make the right choices.

Class 2 – Hunter for his fantastic attitude to his learning.

Class 3 – Lily-Sue for showing kindness to the younger children in the school.

Class 4 – Kyah for exceptional kindness to younger children.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Reuben for using capital letters, full stops in his sentences and trying hard to remember finger spaces.

Class 1 – Zoey for clear use of commas to separate lists.

Class 2 – Mya for her beautiful handwriting & sentence work.

Class 3 – Arthur B for working really hard on his letter formation.

Class 4 – Sophia for careful consideration of formality in your writing.

Contribution Award:

Ben for showing great responsibility and maturity in supporting a younger child on the school transport.

Mitchell G for excellent listening and following instructions on the DCC school transport.

Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar

Amelia ☺

20 Merits

Reception – Zara, Isabel & Mitchell

Class 1 – Ronnie

Class 2 – Amelia

Class 3 – Declan

Class 4 – Faith

40 Merits

Class 3 – Blythe, Khalid, Scarlett & Lily-Sue

Class 4 – Kyah, Lexi & Abbie

House Points

Discovery 75

Endeavour 49

Enterprise 76

Voyager 72

Team Meal Menu – Spring Term 2024 Week 1 - W/B 11 th March 2024	
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 (Pork) 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.

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~~

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024 / 2025		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
First Day 5th September 2024	First Day 7th January 2025	First Day 22nd April 2025
Half-term 28th October - 1st November 2024	Half-term 17th - 21st February 2025	Bank Holiday 5th May 2025
Last Day 20th December 2024	Last Day 4th April 2025	Half Term 26th - 30th May 2025
		Last Day 22nd July 2025

Non-pupil days and occasional holiday days: 3rd & 4th September 2024, 6th January 2025, 2nd June 2025 & 23rd July 2025

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Monday 11 th March	Class 3 Swimming (PE) Class 4 Group 1 – Forest School SWW Workshop for EYFS, KS1 & Class 4 (In School) Teacher Led Club – Football Club NO Easter Craft Club
Tuesday 12 th March	Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – Times Table No Choir or Film Club
Wednesday 13 th March	Farm School – Class 3 Group 1 Class 1 – PE Infant A Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45 Year 6 SATs Information afternoon @ 3pm. Messy Church 3.30-4.45 in Class 2 sign up on Arbor.
Thursday 14 th March	Reception Class – PE (AM) Class 2 – PE (PM) Infant B Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo School Council Meeting Teacher Led Club – SATs Club
Friday 15 th March	RED NOSE DAY Reception Class Trip to RHS Rosemoor – Details on Arbor Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am Class 4 – PE Class 4 Group 3 – Forest School

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 12 th March	Opal Working party group meeting at 3.30pm - CANCELLED
Monday 18 th March	No Teacher Led Clubs all week due to Parents Evening
Monday 18 th March	Class 2 Parents Evening 3.30-6pm
Monday 18 th March	Class 1 & 2 visiting Rev. Wells at Witheridge Church
Monday 18 th March	Go Beyond Residential Week
Tuesday 19 th March	FSU (Nursery & Reception) Parents Day 9-6pm
Tuesday 19 th March	Class 4 Parents Evening 3.40-6pm
Wednesday 20 th March	FSU (Nursery & Reception) Parents Day 9-6pm
Wednesday 20 th March	Class 1 and Class 3 Parents Evening 3.40-6pm
Thursday 21 st March	Class 1, Class 3 & Class 4 Parents Evening 3.40-6pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Rock Steady Concert
Wednesday 27 th March	Mr Rogo's Music Concert at 10am
Thursday 28 th March	TREAT FRIDAY – Voyager!
Thursday 28th March	End of Spring Term
Monday 15th April	First Day of Summer Term

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

Parental Consultations – Spring 2024



Parent/Guardian Evening is a fantastic opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with your child's Class Teacher, to discuss the progress that your child has made and any concerns that you may have.

You will be able to book your 10-minute appointment with your child's Class Teacher via the Arbor App. Please be aware that appointments are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

FSU (Nursery & Reception) - Mrs North – Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March - 9-6pm

Class 1 (Year 1) - Mr Booth - Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March - 3:40-6pm

Class 2 (Year 2) - Miss Ratcliffe - Monday 18th March - 3:30-6pm

Class 3 (Year 3 and Year 4) - Mr Manning - Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March - 3:40-6pm

Class 4 (Year 5 and Year 6) - Mrs Nott - Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st March - 3:40-6pm

Please note - **there will be no teacher-led clubs this week.** A refund was issued for any overpayments made. After School Club with Jayne, Laura and Alicia will still run as normal all week.

Mr Wiggins Forest School News....

This week we have been exploring the Outdoor Learning Area for signs of spring. The crocus's are up and also some beautiful daffodils. A clear sign that it is Spring.

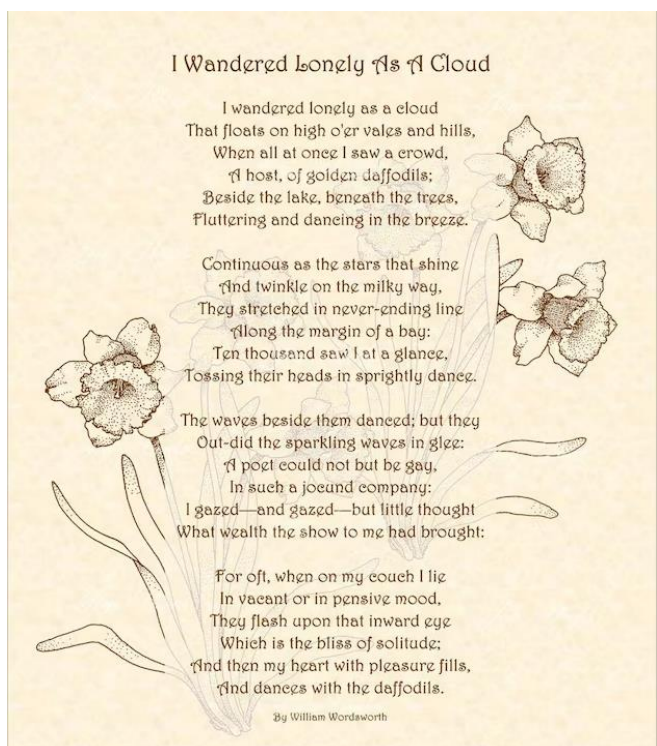
The pupils have been learning about daffodils and we have dissected one to look at the parts of its head.

We have learned how daffodils were first cultivated by the Romans back in about 200-300BC. The daffodil was turned into disinfectant, hair dye or even a cure for warts and scars! They were sadly then forgotten about and reintroduced in England in the early 17th century.

The pupils learnt about the life cycle of the daffodil and made their own flower.

We also looked at the famous William Wordsworth Poem "I wandered lonely as a cloud" that is about the humble daffodil.

Mr. Wiggins





World Book Day

It was fantastic to see so many fantastic outfits in school, and such enthusiasm of book characters as we celebrated World Book Day in school on Thursday. The children enjoyed a number of activities to celebrate our Elmer theme in the morning, and each had a decorated Elmer biscuit to bring home with them at the end of the day. I hope they tasted as good as they looked! One of the themes from the story of Elmer is recognising how special we all are as unique individuals, and it was wonderful to hear so many of the children offering words of encouragement to each other throughout the day, really showing our school motto of 'Encourage one another and build each other up.' You will be able to see photos and work from World Book Day on display in our library throughout the year. Make sure you keep your eyes open for it the next time you're in school (perhaps at Parents' Evening coming up). Thank you to all the staff for the effort and time they put in to making this a special day for the children, and well done to ALL the children for their positive attitude and excellent behaviour throughout the day. Well done all!



Every child will have brought home with them a World Book Day token. This can be exchanged for a FREE World Book Day book at selected stores (including most supermarkets) or can be used as £1 off a title of your choice.



Book Donation



This week we have been very fortunate in school to have received a large donation of books. What perfect timing with World Book Day! This generous gift has enabled us to offer every child in the school a free book to take home with them and enjoy, in addition to their Book Token. Our huge thanks go to Jo Bishop.



A Telling Tale Workshop

Last week, children in Year 5 and Year 6 spent some time working with Paul Stevens, who runs workshops in schools across the South West to support children with handling some of the tricky issues which they may face. Paul worked with the children in Year 5 and Year 6 to think about transitions, with a special focus on the transition to secondary school. He was really impressed with the maturity and sensible questions which all of the children asked, along with their kindness towards each other.

Well done, Class 4!



After school club for Nursery
and up to the end of Year 2
(Nursery Children need to be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian)

Wednesday 13th of March 2024
3.30 - 4.45 pm
in Class 2's classroom

Parents and Guardians are welcome to
join us and take part.

We will be offering some craft and activities
based around Palm Sunday, Bible story
and a short celebration.

Please consent via the Arbor App (Under Trips)
by the 11th March if you want to attend so that we
have enough snacks and crafts available.

Thank you, Sue and Adrian Wells



Mr Manning Sports News

Exmoor Challenge Practise Walk

On Tuesday 5th March, our aspiring Exmoor Challenge participants from Witheridge and Pilton Bluecoat combined with Petroc College's Outdoor Adventure students for a day of navigation skills. An enthusiastic group of second year students tested their teaching skills on our eagerly anticipating children which was mutually beneficial for everyone involved. The children learned about grid references, mountain safety, compass bearings and pacing whilst working in small groups to replicate how the Exmoor Challenge is set up. A huge thank you to Mike Bazley, Jo Bazley and the students from Petroc Barnstaple for helping us out and we are looking forward to developing this working relationship in the future.



PE Forest School Event

On Wednesday 6th March, we hosted our second annual PE Forest School event at UMBERLEIGH ACADEMY. The day was designed to provide some of our children with an opportunity to collaborate and compete with other children across our Trust. Over 60 children from across our TEAM schools rotated around 3 activities throughout the morning. The first activity was a map reading activity where the children had to use navigation skills to guide their team through different routes. Then the children had to guide their teammates through a blind folded course and neutralise nuclear waste by hooking plastic reactors. Finally, the teams made wormeries using natural resources. It was a wonderful opportunity for so many of our children to make new friends whilst developing physical and social skills.

Mr Manning





PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

Witheridge PTFA's annual Easter Fayre!
Please come along and support this event for
our community and surrounding communities.

This year we have:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Stalls
- Pony rides
- Family friendly dog show
- Lambs
- Guinea pigs
- Bunny rabbits
- Glitter tattoos
- Face gems
- Farm machinery
- Crafts
- Hot food and refreshments
- Raffle

This year we have stalls from lots of lovely
businesses including:

- Jade Chorley with her yummy baked goods
- Chloe Luxton with her waffles and chocolate fountain
- Helen Murphy with her craft items
- Emily Jayne with her jams and chutneys
- Catherine Bradford with Phoebe's Bookcase (Independent Usborne Partner)
- Louise Anstis with her jewellery, custom clothing, decorative items and gifts
- Dani with her needle felts

If there are any other keen businesses that would like a stall please feel free to contact any
PTFA Member!

To pre-book please do so here:

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

Pre-booking closes on Thursday 14th March at 11:59pm. Pre-booking is necessary for the
Egg Hunt.





The Church of St John the Baptist, Witheridge



*Wednesday 13th of March 12-2pm
Come and join us for hot soup, tea
and coffee.*

*The church will be heated, board
games and jigsaw available.*

Witheridge Concert Season
Saturday
March 16th 7pm
Doors open 6.15pm Refreshments available

Okehampton Choral Society
present

The Crucifixion
by
John Stainer

Parish Church of St. John the Baptist

Admission on the door £10
Under 16's free



Mothering Sunday SUNDAY 10TH MARCH AT 10AM

BREAKFAST & CRAFT
(Free, Donations Appreciated)

WITH A SHORT, FAMILY FRIENDLY
ACT OF WORSHIP
ALL ARE WELCOME
WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL



Christians in Witheridge

Working together to serve the community