



# 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 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we have reached the end of the Spring Term! It feels like it has whizzed past. We have achieved so much this term, and I have enjoyed reflecting back on all our successes and thinking about the challenges, we have overcome as I have been writing this newsletter to you.

We have had a lovely week this week this week. On Tuesday, all the children from Reception to Year 6 visited the church for our Easter Service. A huge 'Thank You' to Vicar Adrian and Sue for leading such a wonderful service. Well done to all the children for their fantastic contributions in the church.



On Tuesday afternoon, our Rocksteady Children performed brilliantly in their concert. Well done to all our Rocksteady children for putting on such a fantastic show! Thank you to Stuart, from Rocksteady for organising this.



## 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 Wednesday, the children who have lessons with Mr Rogo performed wonderfully for their grown-ups. I was so impressed with the progress the children have made with their instruments.



Today (Thursday) Mr Manning organised a brilliant Easter Egg orienteering challenge for the children in Reception-Year 6! Thank you to Mr Manning for organising this special event.



I hope you have a wonderful Easter break; we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April!

All the best,

*Miss Ratcliffe*

### **Teeth brushing in The FSU**

As part of our commitment to teaching and promoting the importance of good oral health, the children in our Foundation Stage Unit (FSU), take part in the Big Brush Club. This involves whole class teeth brushing during which the children are taught how to brush their teeth hygienically and effectively and instils this positive habit into their daily routine.

Our staff and children are doing a great job and, as we break for the Easter holidays, the children will be reminded to keep up their good work at home. We thank parents and carers for their support with this important aspect of their children's health and wellbeing.





## **Reception Class trip to RHS Rosemoor.**

Last Friday Reception Class boarded the minibuses with great excitement; destination RHS Rosemoor. As part of our 'Let's Investigate' topic work, the children took part in a 'Who Lives in the Garden' workshop.

The children had the opportunity to see and handle some specimens of life found in the gardens, including an interesting feather, some badger fur, a deer skull and a dragonfly, during which the children impressed Rosemoor staff with some very knowledgeable responses. We learnt how to look for evidence of squirrels and mice by fir cone remains and to identify which animals had feasted on these by observing how they had been nibbled. We were then able to explore the woods searching for minibeasts in their habitat and the children each planted their own pea seeds. After enjoying our packed lunch, we explored the gardens, spotting a range of colourful spring flowers and treated ourselves to some fun in the playground before returning to school.

The children behaved brilliantly throughout and it was a proud moment for me to overhear the Rosemoor staff commenting on how Witheridge children know how to keep safe in an outdoor environment - it was clear that their Forest School and Farm School experiences have afforded them this understanding and I'm also pleased to report that their green fingers have ensured that their pea plants are currently thriving back in the classroom.

My sincere thanks to Mary Lucey and Rachel Stevens for accompanying us on the outing - we are very grateful to them for giving up their time to make the trip possible.

Mrs North



## **Mini Police**

Over the past half term, children in Year 5 have had the privilege of working alongside PC Matt Young as part of the Mini Police programme. The programme is an excellent example of the importance we place on Building Communities within our school. Keep your eyes open for the new Mini Police sign above the community notice board by the minibus. This year, the children have been focusing on road safety, and in particular looking at the importance of sticking to the 30mph speed limit through the village. PC Matt brought in some mobile speed guns for children to use this week, and they had some fun monitoring the speed of traffic passing the front of the school. We are pleased to report that most people were driving at a safe and responsible speed, within the 30mph limit. PC Matt specifically commented on the fantastic behaviour and attitudes of all the children involved. Well done, Year 5, for such keen community involvement and representing our school brilliantly.







Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	88%
Nursery 2	93%
Reception	95%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	87%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	88%
Year 6	100%

### Every Day Counts

Attend and achieve.

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



## Attendance Update

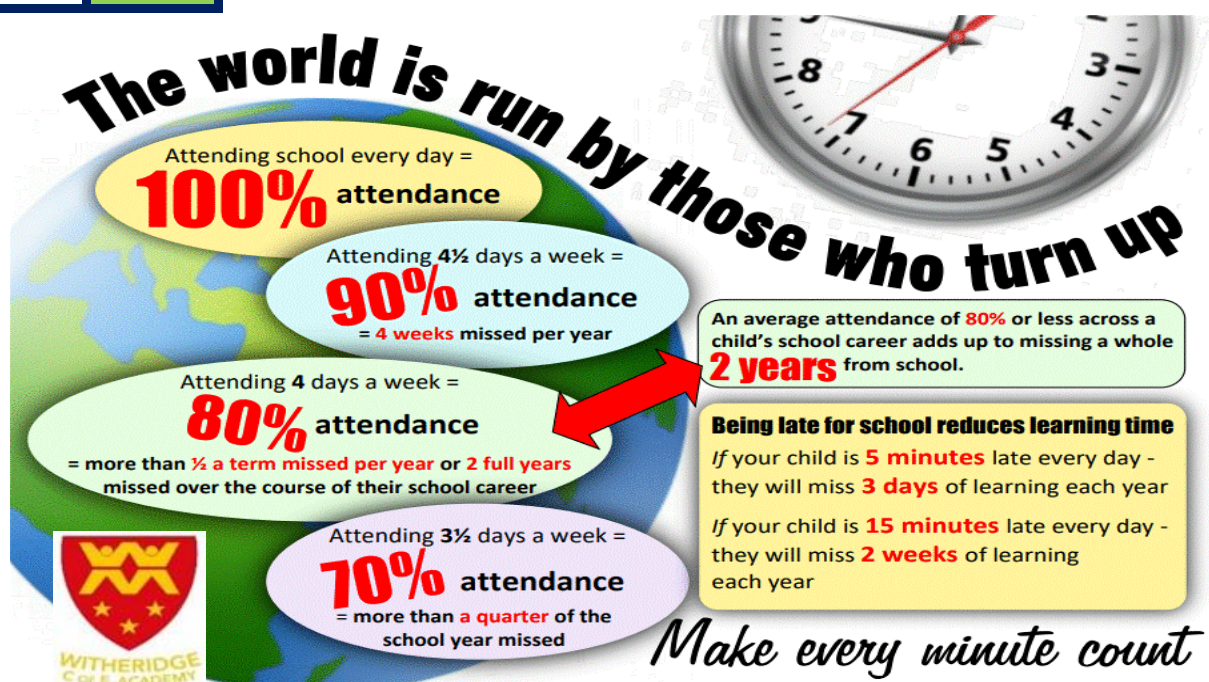
It's great to see everyone working so hard to achieve or beating our **96.5%** target.

We can only do this if we all work together!

Our attendance for the week is **92.7%**

Our attendance for the year to date **95.3%**

Together Each achieves More!



Team Meal Menu – Summer Term 2024 Week 1 - W/B 15 <sup>th</sup> April	
Monday	<b>Spud Day – Selection of Toppings</b> V – Veggie Wrap Salad, Baked beans or Vegetables Fresh Fruit & Yogurt
Tuesday	<b>Spaghetti Bolognaise</b> V – Quorn Bolognaise Seasonal Vegetables Rhubarb Crumble & Custard
Wednesday	<b>Roast of the Day</b> V – Quorn Fillet Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Fruit Platter
Thursday	<b>Pork Sausage</b> V – Vegetarian Sausage Mash Potato, Mixed Veg or Baked Beans Jelly, Fruit & Ice Cream
Friday	<b>Fish Fingers</b> V – Tomato Pasta Bake Golden Fries, Vegetable or Baked Beans Chocolate Cracknel

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.

#### **Tapestry is about to expiry for Children in Reception Year**

The Tapestry account for Reception children who attend the Witheridge FSU will expire in the next 30 days.

Tapestry is the online Learning Journal which was used to record your children's learning and progress during their time in the FSU.

If parents/carers wish to download any photographs or reports linked to their child, then please ensure that you have done so before the account expires.



#### **Changes to Nursery Fees**

With effect from 1st April 2024 the following session fees will apply for nursery pupils:

2-year-olds – £6.30 per hour

3 – 4-year-olds - £5.22 per hour



**ALL** outstanding amounts on the Arbor Accounts - Please can you make sure that all outstanding dinner, Nursery Fees and wraparound care debts are paid in full by the end of Spring term (TODAY)

All Accounts need to be at zero or can be left in credit! Thank you.

# Key Dates for the Summer Term 2024

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>First Day of Summer Term</b> Class 3 PE Class 3 Group 2 – Forest School
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception Starters Sept 2024 – Admission's Offer Day. Rocksteady Music Tuition
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception Class – PE Trampolining at Air Extreme Class 4 – PE Class 4 Group 2 – Forest School Mr Rogo's Music Tuition Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Class 2 – PE (PM) Class 3 Group 3 Farm School – Consent required on Arbor Infant B Group 2 – Forest School Mr Rogo's Music Tuition
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Stay and Play Session in the School Hall at 9am Class 1 – PE Infant A Group 2 – Forest School

## Dates for your diary

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Exmoor Challenge practice walk – Details to follow
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	School Council Meeting @ 1pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Opal Working Party Group Meeting @ 3.30pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Exmoor Challenge Day
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – NO SCHOOL</b>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Whole Class Photo's Day
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	PTFA Meeting @ 7.30pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SAT's begin
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Bude Residential

**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>6th September 2023</del>	First Day— <del>3rd January 2024</del>	First Day 15th April 2024
<del>Half-term— 23rd – 27th October 2023</del>	<del>Half-term— 12th – 16th February 2024</del>	Bank Holiday 6th May 2024
Last Day— <del>15th December 2023</del>	Last Day <b>28th March 2024</b>	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~~



## Farm School at Essebeare

Over the past few weeks, we have been visiting Essebeare Farm with Class 3 pupils to see what Farmer Olly has been up to.

We were fortunate enough to see Olly's pregnant ewes being sheared in preparation for lambing. It is called "Bellying" and the ewe's undercarriage is shaved making it cleaner for when the lambs are born. Because Olly's farm is organic, his ewes lamb naturally out in the field.

We then visited a site where Farmer Olly has put up an owl box in an old oak tree. The pupils learnt about the design of the owl box and facts about the Barn Owl. Olly has rigged a camera up near its entrance so hopefully we will be able to see some pictures if the box is used in the near future.

We then visited one of the orchards on the farm and helped Farmer Olly planting more rows of apple trees. The pupils really enjoyed this practical element of measuring, digging the holes and planting the young saplings. These apple trees had been provided by the Woodland Trust and were grafted "Mother" apple trees - a heritage variety.

Mr.Wiggans





# PTFA

Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association

Thank you to everyone who came and braved the rain, hail and wind for our Easter fayre on Saturday!

It was a great day, and special thanks must go to the fire brigade who came along with their fire engine, Emily from willow tree farm with her guinea pigs and angora rabbit Smokey. The Boyles with Warwick the owl, Hannah with her vintage tractor, the stall holders who braved the weather, west middlewick farm for brining the lambs, and all the volunteers who helped, Hope did an amazing job of coordinating this fab event.



## **SPRING SHOW**

**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
2024**

**WITHERIDGE PARISH  
HALL**

**AT 2.00PM**

**SCHEDULES AVAILABLE AT THE  
NEWSAGENTS**

**ORGANISED BY WITHERIDGE  
GARDEN CLUB**



Contact 01884 861323 for further  
details





Saturday 30th March 2024

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

# JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

@ WITHERIDGE TENNIS COURT

**£5**  
per hour

LTA Level 3  
licensed  
coach

**10th April**

9-10AM - KS1 (4-6 YRS)

10-11AM - KS2 (7-11YRS)

**Booking preferred**

Please message or call to book 07974688162

Parents to stay please. Siblings discount - £2.50.  
Older than 11? More sessions available, please enquire.

**What's on this  
Easter?**



**Find the  
Chicks!**

**Easter  
Heritage Trail**  
50p per child

**Free Colouring**



Starting  
10th April  
2024

## Men's Den

**Pop in for a coffee  
and a chat.**

**Where: 'Rest A While'**

**When: 2nd Wednesday every month**

**Time: 2 - 4pm**

**Hot Drinks from £1**

**Free Biscuits**

**Warm Space**

**Contact Sean Murphy**

**for more information**

**On 07503197282**

**Charity Number: 801038**




**Meet The Gruffalo**  
**At Muddifords Court**  
 LIZNOJAN  
 Sunday 7th April  
 11 am-2 pm

- Story time with Liznojan
- Meet The Gruffalo and animals
- Gruffalo Crumble on the fire
- Gruffalo trail and prize
- Gruffalo Crafts
- Pop Up Cafe

£6 Per Child



Scan the QR code and book your space now !

**The Gruffalo is coming to visit!**

Join us to celebrate the Gruffalo's 25th birthday.




The Gruffalo, Julia Donaldson and David Almond. 1999, 2019, 2019. Macmillan Children's Books.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN & CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTAPLE  
 COME AND JOIN US FOR A FREE  
**TREASURE HUNT**  
**10 APRIL**  
 10am - 4pm

Activities in the Pannier market and a visit from Exmoor Zoo!

Dear Zoo activities  
 Face painting, bouncy castle  
 Refreshments

Collect your **Treasure Hunt Clues** from the Action for Children staff in the Pannier Market and Get ready for a thrilling adventure as you navigate through clues to uncover the hidden treasure!

This is a free event, but donations are welcome towards the work of Action for Children


EGGSCellent  
**Easter**  
 FAMILY FUN  
 CASTLE HILL GARDENS  
 FRIDAY 29TH MARCH  
**BUNNY HUNT**

Face Painting  
 Inflatables  
 'Emazdad' Magic Shows

Garden Trail  
 Chocolate Prize  
 Food & Drink

£8 Adults / £4.50 Child  
 Easter garden trail & chocolate prize  
 Magic Shows • Under 5s free  
 Additional charge for face painting & bouncy castle

CASTLE HILL GARDENS, FILLEIGH, BARNSTAPLE, EX31 0RG  
 www.castlehilldevon.co.uk





## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS 2024

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://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 in Half Terms 2024

### **SAINSBURYS CAFES**

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

### **PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**

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

### **THE REAL GREEK**

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

### **TGI FRIDAYS**

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

### **PUREZZA**

Children under the age of 10 get free pizza at Purezza with every adult meal purchased

### **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.

### **BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**

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

### **COCONUT TREE**

One child (10 & Under) eats free per paying adult. Valid from 23/03/2024 - 14/04/2024

### **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

### **WHITBREAD INNS**

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

### **BELLA ITALIA**

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

### **BILLS**

Two kids can eat free ALL DAY (Weekdays) from Monday 25th March - Friday 12th April 2024, with one adult main dish.

### **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!

### **IKEA**

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### **HUNGRY HORSE**

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### **FUTURE INNS**

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.