



Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Fore Street, Witheridge, EX16 8AH Tel: 01884 860518

admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk



‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	Compassion	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Friendship	Courage
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Newsletter – Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a rather strange week for us this week as we have had many children at home because they are unwell. I have attached the DfE guidance 'Is my child too ill for school?' to help you to make an informed decision about this. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We have been lucky to still be able to go outside on most days this week. However, we would much prefer for everyone to be able to get outside every day at break and lunch time. Please make sure your child has a waterproof coat every day. It would also be useful if your child could have a spare change of clothes available in their bag so that they can get changed after lunch if necessary.

We have so many exciting things coming up next week! On Wednesday, children in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are going to the theatre to watch 'Charlie Cook's Favourite Book'! This trip has been FULLY paid for by the PTFA! Thank you so much for all the hard work and fundraising from our wonderful PTFA.

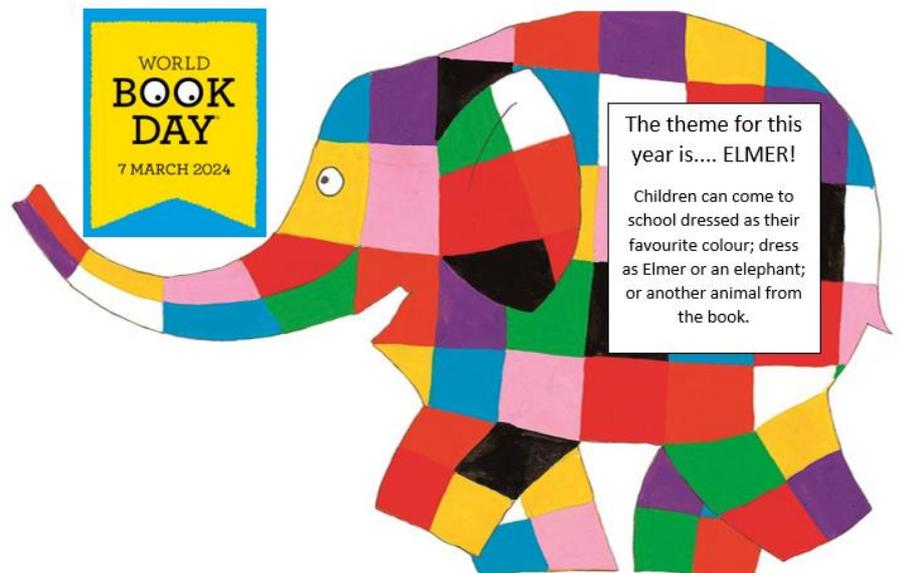
On Thursday, it is World Book Day. Our theme this year is 'Elmer!'. Children can come to school dressed as a character from the book, or as a character from another favourite book.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

All the best,

Miss Ratcliffe
Head of School

We are suggesting that children can come to school dressed as their favourite colour; dress as Elmer or an elephant; or any other animal from the book. Alternatively, children may prefer to dress as their favourite character from another book. Our activities for the day will be focussed around the Elmer story.



Please see the YouTube video for the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUepS9yGANQ>

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



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow
Every Day Counts!

Weekly Attendance

Nursery 1	94%
Nursery 2	86%
Reception	73%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	88%
Year 6	82%

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 **89.4%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.6%**

Together Each achieves More!



The world is run by those who turn up

Attending school every day = **100%** attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = **90%** attendance
= 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = **80%** attendance
= more than ¼ a term missed per year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career

Attending 3½ days a week = **70%** attendance
= more than a quarter of the school year missed

An average attendance of **80%** or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole **2 years** from school.

Being late for school reduces learning time

If your child is **5 minutes** late every day - they will miss **3 days** of learning each year

If your child is **15 minutes** late every day - they will miss **2 weeks** of learning each year



Make every minute count



**Celebration Assembly
Well Done
For receiving a
Certificate of Achievement**



Class Award

Nursery – Phoebe for trying hard during our focused phonics and maths activities.

Reception – Isabel for her effort and positive attitude in phonics.

Class 1 – Ekene – Great work in Science.

Class 2 – Whole Class for their fantastic behaviour on our spring walk.

Class 3 – Amy for settling back in perfectly.

Class 4 – Faith for being kind and showing fantastic learning behaviours.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Wren excellent response to feedback, determination & perseverance to improve her writing.

Class 2 – Sam for his fantastic handwriting.

Class 3 – Jack E for combining onomatopoeia and alliteration to create really interesting lines for our poem

Class 4 – Jayden for hugely improved handwriting.

Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar

Elaina ☺

20 Merits

Reception – Mitchell

Class 1 – Isabel

Class 2 – Amelia & Hunter

Class 3 – Lola, Jack, Arthur C & Nyiamh

Class 4 – Emily

40 Merits

Class 4 – Lexi, Paige & Tate

House Points

Discovery 63

Endeavour 67

Enterprise 63

Voyager 48

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 3 - W/B 4 th March 2024	
Monday	Cheese & Tomato Pizza V – Broccoli & Cheese Bake Potato Wedges & Vegetables or Beans Fruit & Yogurt
Tuesday	Loaded Fries with Chilli & Cheese V – Quorn Hotdog in a roll Peas & Carrots Scotch pancakes & fruit with Ice Cream
Wednesday	Roast of the Day V – Vegetarian Roast Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Fruit Platter
Thursday	Sweet & Sour or Plain Chicken V – Macaroni Cheese Rice and Mixed Vegetables Apple Sponge Pudding
Friday	Cod or Salmon Fish Fingers V – Cheese Omelette Golden Fries, Peas / Carrots or Baked Beans Shortbread Biscuit

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.

**No After School Club with Jayne and Laura
on Wednesday 6th March – Whole School Staff Training.**

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 Half-term 27th - 31st May 2024
Last Day – 15th December 2023	Last Day 28th March 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

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Monday 4 th March	Class 3 Swimming (PE) Class 4 Group 1 – Forest School Teacher Led Club – Easter Craft Club & Football Club
Tuesday 5 th March	Coffee Morning @ 9am in the School Hall – Everyone Welcome Exmoor Challenge practice walk 3 – Consent on Arbor Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – Choir, Times Table & Film Club
Wednesday 6 th March	Reception, Class 1 & 2 Theatre Trip to Queens Theatre PE SEND Event – Umberleigh – Consent on Arbor Please Class 1 – PE Infant A 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 7 th March	World Book Day – Elmer Theme Reception Class – PE (AM) Class 2 – PE (PM) Infant B Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Teacher Led Club – SATs Club
Friday 8 th March	Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am Class 4 – PE Class 4 Group 3 – Forest School

Dates for your diary

Monday 11 th March	NO Easter Craft Teacher Led Club
Tuesday 12 th March	Opal Working party group meeting at 3.30pm
Tuesday 12 th March	NO Film or Choir Teacher Led Club
Wednesday 13 th March	Farm School Class 3 Group 1
Wednesday 13 th March	Messy Church Nursery to Year 2 – sign up on Arbor
Thursday 14 th March	School Council Meeting
Friday 15 th March	Reception Class Trip to Rosemoor – Details to follow
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day
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
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 28 th March	End of Spring Term
Monday 15 th 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 last week for any overpayments made. After School Club with Jayne, Laura and Alicia will still run as normal all week.

Class 1 and 2 Spring Walk

On Monday, the children in Class 1 and 2 had the opportunity to go on a Spring Walk around Witheridge. We were hunting for signs of spring, such as daffodils, crocuses and buds on trees. We found so many exciting things that told us that Spring is on the way. When we arrived at Mrs Eastman's house, we were delighted to find some Spring Time treats, hanging on the trees! Thank you so much to Mrs Eastman and the Eastman Family for our wonderful gifts. Well done to all the children in Class 1 and 2 for their fantastic behaviour on our walks.



Miss Ratcliffe



Mr Wiggans Forest School News....

This week we have continued with our investigations into our topic of worms.

Pupils have learnt about what worms eat and how they really benefit our soil. Some of the classes have made a worm house and been able to monitor the worms movements and see how they make tunnels.

They have been amazed to learn that worms have been about for over 600 million years and strangely have no eyes, no ears but have five hearts!

My favourite fact being that some worms actually curl up when they go to sleep. Mr. Wiggans



It is a want!

We are really looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 7th March (next week)!

To help with our Elmer the Elephant themed activities, we really need LOTS of plastic milk bottles to transform into beautiful elephants. Any size is fine, and if they can have their lids, too, that would be great.

Please bring these in to the school office before next Thursday.

Thank you!



Essebeare Farm School

This week we visited Essebeare Farm with some of Class 2. Farmer Olly showed us where he had brought his sheep in yesterday to monitor their weight and check their growth. They are put into an outer pen and then one by one moved into a special weighing unit that cleverly reads the bar code off each sheep's ear tag and then sends the weight information to a computer.

Farmer Olly then also gives each sheep a tablet containing vitamins and minerals to improve their health. Unfortunately, many of the sheep have lost weight since their last weigh in 100 days ago. This has been due to the poor weather when the sheep have had to use more energy to keep warm. The sheep are also given a wormer medicine to stop parasites that harm the sheep in their stomach, which feed off their blood.



We then looked at what happens to the run-off water from Farmer Olly's farm. It runs down his land via some irrigation ditches and flows into a sediment pond before being released into the River Exe. A group from the Woodland Trust have visited recently and installed willow bundles into some of these channels to reduce the mud and sediment flow.

Class 2 made their own willow bundle and placed it in one of the streams in the hope that it will gradually reduce the flow rate.

Mr.Wiggans





Mr Manning Sports News

On Thursday, we played our 3rd league match of the season. We were heading into the match with a record of 1 won and 1 lost. We knew this would be another really tricky game against a Filleigh team who had won the league last season. The team were organised and energetic in the warm up, which gave us every chance of matching them.

The game started off quite scrappy on a very sticky and muddy pitch. After around 10 minutes, we found ourselves 2-0 down after we allowed the Filleigh attackers far too much room to shoot. The second goal seemed to wake us up a little and we bit back with a wonderful goal after some wonderful combination play from Zack, Tate and Graeson.

At Half Time, we spoke about how we could make the game harder for the opposition and we made a couple subs. The first 5 minutes of the second half, we completely dominated. We had several chances to equalise and even take the lead but the Filleigh resistance stood strong and kept the score at 2-1. After the monumental effort, our legs started to tire and we conceded 2 late goals. The game finished 4-1, Tate scoring our only goal.

We have 2 games left this season where we will push to end the season with a positive record. Well done Witheridge, so many positives to build on!

Mr Manning





NURSERY PARENTS

30 Hours/Working Entitlement Funding

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

DO NOT MISS OUT ON WORKING ENTITLEMENT FUNDING!



The working entitlement funding for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds is available for eligible families. It is important that if you have a child who will be 2 or 3 years old before 31st March or if your circumstances have changed, that you apply to HMRC (Childcare Service) now.

Please set-up or visit your [Gateway Account](#) immediately to apply or reconfirm. If you are unsure if you are entitled to the working entitlement, please check the [Eligibility Criteria](#).

It is important that you allow good time as any queries with new applications or reconfirmations could cause delays and any codes issued in April 2024 will not be funded in summer term 2024. Any start dates from 1st April 2024 will not be funded until autumn term 2024 and only then if you reconfirm by 31st August 2024.

If you have a code that needs to be reconfirmed, this should also be completed now, and if you are unsure, it is your responsibility to log into your Gateway Account and check. If you are newly eligible or are given a new code at reconfirmation, you need to take your 11-digit code to your provider who will complete a verification check and then confirm your funded space.

When eligibility ends, children who have accessed the working entitlement can continue to access their entitlement in the grace period. However, new children, who are 2 or 3 years old before 31st March, or start at a new setting, cannot start to use the working entitlement funding in the grace period if they are no longer eligible.

As part of the eligibility check with HMRC, you will be asked if you would like to register for Tax Free Childcare. You cannot register for Tax Free Childcare if you are in receipt of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Childcare Vouchers.

If you do register, your benefits may be stopped, and it can take several weeks to reinstate. If you have problems accessing the system or completing your check, please call the HMRC Helpdesk on 0300 1234 097 (your provider and Devon County Council cannot assist with new applications or reconfirmations).

You may be able to access further help with childcare costs. Please visit the [Childcare Choices Website](#) for more information.



PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

This year Witheridge PTFA are running a much larger Easter event with stalls, refreshments, games, crafts, pony rides, a dog show and much more.

Please pre-book your Easter egg hunt and buy your raffle tickets using this link

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

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

Charity Reg No. 1079365

JOIN US FOR OUR
Easter Fayre

Hot food, Pony rides, Vehicle display, Assault course, Raffle, Dog show, Animals, Easter crafts, Stalls, Glitter tattoos

WHEN? SATURDAY 23RD MARCH
WHERE? WITHERIDGE PLAYING FIELDS
TIME? 11AM - 3PM EX16 8AH

Pre-booking is required for our Egg Hunt please use our QR code

If your children would like to attend but finances are tight, please see Mrs Eastman in the office and she will make sure your children are on the Easter egg hunt list, this will be done completely confidentially.

If you'd like to contact the PTFA with any suggestions, offers of help or with any event feedback, please contact Laura (Freddie and Barneys mum) or Kim (Alfie and Lily's mum) using our PTFA email address:

WitheridgePTFA@gmail.com

ROMAR SPORTS

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

Join us for a fun filled Easter of football, games, competitions & prizes
Girls & Boys
Ages 4 - 15 years
9am - 4pm

APRIL 2ND - 5TH 2024

EARLY BIRD OFFER £25 PER DAY Offer closes 10th March	FULL WEEK OFFER £90 Best Price
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APRIL 6TH - 12TH 2024

EARLY BIRD OFFER £25 PER DAY Offer closes 10th March	FULL WEEK OFFER £110 Best Price
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£30 Per day after the 10th March

TARMA LEISURE CENTRE 3G
Barnstaple, North Devon EX31 2AP

Book online TODAY
www.romarsports.com

More Information
e: info@romarsports.com

COFFEE MORNING

Hosted by St John the Baptist church

Tuesday 5th March

9am to 9.30am
at

Witheridge School Hall

Come and join us for a chat
over a cup of coffee
& piece of cake!

Everyone
Welcome!



Small Pet / Craft / Produce Show



Saturday 23rd March

Open from 9am, judging starts at 11am

Classes for adults and children (50p per class entry)

Ribbons or certificates to be won

Café, wheelchair accessible play park, garden, animals, changing places toilet, sensory room.

Classes include painting, photography, cross stitch, sewing, baking, cake decorating, Lego sculptures & small animals. Contact us or pop into our café for the full list.

MADE-WELL
A COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

01837 810584 07785 971960
enquiries@made-well.co.uk
made-well.co.uk

disability confident EMPLOYER

West Fishleigh Farm, Hatherleigh EX20 3QA



Made-Well's Animal Club

Saturdays 1 - 2:30pm

Meet our animals, learn all about them, groom and feed them, walk our Shetland ponies or goats (or play games inside if the weather is poor) and have fun in our activities corner in the animal barn.

£5 per person or £10 per family. No need to book.

Please wear appropriate footwear & outdoor clothing

Café, wheelchair accessible play park, garden & facilities to hire including a sensory room

West Fishleigh Farm, Hatherleigh EX20 3QA

01837 810584 07785 971960
enquiries@made-well.co.uk
made-well.co.uk

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PREMIER EDUCATION EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS

£23.00
all day

9.30am-
3:30pm

Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th April. Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th April 2024
Venue: Wilcombe Primary School, EX16 4AL

MULTI-SPORTS ACTIVITY DAYS

What we will be up too:

Easter Games/ activities- Easter themed days to include Easter crafts and Easter hunts.

Dodgeball- Working as a team, children will work together to try and hit the other team with their dodgeballs!

Nerf Games- Children will be split into teams where they will build unbreakable forts to take cover from the other teams!

Other activities :

Gymnastics- Children will get to express movement and their strength through our gym sessions!

Arts and crafts- A chance for children to take a break from all the running around and relax! A time to meet new friends.

Football- One of the more classic sports we run. Children will be put in team to play a 5-aside games.

Hot school lunch provided and please bring your own soft drinks! Please wear sports/casual clothes.

How to book:
 Online- www.premier-education.com
 Call Andrew- 07776 108281

Be sure to:
 Like and follow our Premier Education Taunton Instagram and facebook page!

Childcare vouchers accepted!

We have been running HAF *funded* holiday clubs during the main 3 school holiday periods with *lunches provided* for Free School Meals children at Wilcombe PS over the last few years. We are running 4 days at Wilcombe PS over the Easter holidays 2024 as usual.

Please see attached our leaflets for the Easter holidays:

- **Both weeks 4 days** – Wilcombe PS, Tiverton, multi-activity holiday clubs on 3rd to 4th April (course reference no: 877252) & 9th & 10th (course reference no: 877253) April with funded places and a hot school lunch provided for FSM children and enrichment booked for both weeks including FizzPopp Science.