



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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Witheridge C of E Academy Newsletter

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to Witheridge Academy for the start of a new half term. We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and have returned refreshed, ready for the exciting learning and opportunities ahead.

This half term, we are focusing on our new Christian value: **Compassion**. Compassion is at the heart of our school community. It reminds us to be kind, understanding, and supportive of one another—especially during moments when someone might need a helping hand, a listening ear, or a few encouraging words.



Our school vision, “**Encourage one another and build each other up,**” continues to guide everything we do. Through daily acts of compassion—big and small—we can create an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and able to thrive. We will be exploring what compassion looks like in our classrooms, playground, homes, and wider community, and how we can all live out our vision in meaningful ways.

This half term, we have so many exciting things to look forward to, including our Christmas activities. Please keep an eye on the key dates below for all the up to date information.

Our Christmas Activity Programme will be winging its way home to you soon, so keep an eye out for that as well.

I hope you have a lovely weekend - if you're heading to any fireworks displays, please stay safe.

Kind regards,
Miss Ratcliffe

Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements
The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026.

Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

No changes are being proposed.

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	95%
Nursery 2	89%
Reception	93%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	90%

Reminders:

- If your child is poorly, please report their absence to the school office on 01884 860205 by 9.20am.
- All medical appointments are to be advised in advance to the school office.
- Any other absences must be applied for via an absence request form.



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 **95.1%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.5%**

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 ½ 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 – Lily for settling well in to Nursery.
Reception – Ocean for an excellent attitude to learning.
Class 1 – Gracie for a great start to her new school and being helpful in DT week.
Class 2 – Jasper for his hard work with his DT learning
Class 3 – Ivy for always being kind, encouraging and responsible.
Class 4 – Ayla for having a calm, settled and productive week after half term.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Darcy – superb effort in phonics
Class 1 – Harvey for his focus and ability to ignore distractions when writing.
Class 2 – Billy for his DT week evaluation.
Class 3 – Ethan for concentrating on letter placement.
Class 4 – Declan for working hard on maintaining high expectations for presentation.

Contribution:

Isabella – For being brave and resilient after an injury during bike ability.
Milo – always being polite and helpful.

Librarians book review:

Olly – Class 3

Bobbie's Lunchtime Award:

Ronnie W – For always waiting patiently, having amazing manners and being so helpful with the younger children.

20 Merits:

Class 3 – Ava H, Libby, Ivy & Hunter
Class 4 – Ayla-Rose

House Points

Discovery 34

Endeavour 44

Enterprise 43

Voyager 39

Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 1 - W/B 10th November	
Monday	Cheese & Onion Rolls V – Vegetarian Sausages Crispy/cubed Potatoes, Seasonal Veg Fruit and Yoghurt
Tuesday	Beef Pasta Bolognese V – Mac and Cheese Garlic Bread & Salad Sticks Fruit Sorbet
Wednesday	Roast of the Day (Pork) V – Quorn Fillet Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Veg Fruit cocktail & Ice Cream
Thursday	Chicken Supreme (Or Plain Chicken) V – Hunters Quorn Rice and Salad Custard Fruit Sponge and Custard
Friday	Cod or Salmon Fingers V – Cheese and Bean Wrap Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables & Baked Beans Chocolate Cracknell

Also available every day:
Jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or Beans
Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit

Cost of School lunches:
Nursery – £2.00 per meal.
Reception & KS1 children –
Universal Infant Free School Meals,
KS2 children £2.58 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.

Term Dates 2025/2026		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of term – Thursday 4th September 2025 • Half Term – Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 • Last day of term - Friday 19th December 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of term - Tuesday 6th January 2026 • Half Term - Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026 • Last day of term – Thursday 2nd April 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of term – Monday 20th April 2026 • Bank Holiday - May Day - Monday 4th May 2026 • Half Term - Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026 • Non Pupil Day - Monday 1st June 2026 • Last day of term – Tuesday 21st July 2026

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2025

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day Reception PE – am Class 3 PE – pm Teacher Led Clubs: Football & Craft Club
Tuesday 11 th November	KS1 Northcott Theatre – Children’s book show Church Coffee Morning at 9am – school drop off Rocksteady Teacher Led Clubs: Times Table
Wednesday 12 th November	Class 4 PE - pm Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Teacher Led Clubs: Gardening Club with Chris
Thursday 13 th November	Class 2 PE - pm Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking
Friday 14 th November	Wearing Yellow or spots for Children in Need Class 1 PE - pm Teacher Led Club: Homework Club at Lunchtime

Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 18 th November	School Council Meeting MTC Parent & Carer Information Session @ 3pm
Wednesday 19 th November	Class 3 @ RAMM Exeter – Details to follow
Wednesday 19 th November	Open afternoon/evening for new Reception starters 2026
Monday 24 th – 28 th November	UK Parliament Week
Monday 24 th – 28 th November	TEAM Go Beyond
Tuesday 2 nd December	Festive Farm Quest – KS1 School Council Meeting
Friday 5 th December	10am FSU Nativity Performance 1 2:30pm FSU Nativity Performance 2
Tuesday 9 th December	2pm KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 1 6pm KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 2
Wednesday 10 th December	10am KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 3 4pm KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 4
Monday 15 th December	PTFA Pantomime Rocksteady Concert 2pm
Thursday 18 th December	Church Service 10am @ St John the Baptist
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term

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



Breakfast & After School Club

Bobbie's Brekkie served at 8am (£4.00)

Or

Drop off at 8.30am (£2.00)

After School Club with daily activities

3.30-4.30 or 3.30-5.30

£4.00 per hour

All payable on the Arbor App, discount for Pupil Premium

(Nursery aged children charged at hourly rate.)



Bikeability for Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been completing their Bikeability training and what a fantastic job they've done! Our instructor, Peter, has been impressed by how sensible the Year 5s have been and just how quickly they've picked up some of the skills taught this week.

The children started this week on the playground, doing vital safety checks and basic training. Once they'd passed their level 1 training, small groups took to the streets for some road-based training. The children have been learning about the Highway Code and practising how to signal, turn and emergency stop.

Well done Year 5, I look forward to seeing you apply those new skills whilst safely commuting to school on your bikes over the coming weeks.





We are supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year and we have a selection of poppy items in the office for the children to choose from.

COFFEE MORNING

Hosted by St John the Baptist church

Tuesday 11th November

9am drop in

at

Witheridge School Hall

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

Everyone Welcome!



FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER
Non School Uniform Children can come into School wearing something Yellow or spotty.

The children will also have the opportunity to find out more about the good work that Children in Need do and to participate in an activity.

If you would like to make a donation to Children in Need, you can do so via our Just Giving Page, or you can send in a small cash donation with your child to hand in to their Class Teacher/the school office.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-16?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH 

<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies> or <https://mynewterm.com>



Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

We currently have 3 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMT/20736

Team Multi-Academy Trust

TEAM Multi Academy Trust are seeking a Trustee with Financial Expertise - Help Shape the Future of Education in North Devon

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ Voluntary

55 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

Meal Time Assistant

EDV/2025/UPA/87858

Umberleigh Primary Academy

The appointed person will work as part of a team of Meal Time Assistants managed by the Head of School. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.26 Hourly
- HOURS PER WEEK: 3 (12PM - 1PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH DAY) | Grade A | 38 weeks | Term time only

Expiring Tomorrow • Apply by Midday, Friday 7th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP



Apply Now

Cleaner

EDV/2025/PIA/83795

Pilton Infants' Academy

The appointed person/s will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.65 Hourly
- Grade A | 10HPW (2 HOURS PER DAY TO BE WORKED AFTERNOON/ EVENINGS) | 41 WEEKS

Expiring Tomorrow • Apply by Midday, Friday 7th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP



Apply Now



WANTED

Christmas Decorations

Do you have any unwanted Christmas decorations you no longer use or need?

I'm looking for donations of anything festive from Christmas trees, baubles, lights and even tinsel, or other decorations in the hope this helps bring some holiday cheer to families within your child's school and across the Trust.

Some of our families are facing difficult times and for many, Christmas can be a stressful and challenging time which can then affect our parents' and children's mental health. My aim is for us to help ease that burden and bring a little joy into their homes to make the festive time a little more comfortable and enjoyable and I am hoping with your support we can all do our bit for our families in need.

I'm sure many of us have decorations tucked away in the attic that we no longer use perhaps because we've changed our colour scheme or theme or just no longer need. If you're able to donate any of these items, it would make a real difference to some.

If these donations can be brought in as soon as possible to the school office and I will then pop around all schools and collect all bits donated. I will then box up some of these bits and deliver them to our families in need.

Thank you so much for your support and your generosity towards this situation.

Between us all let's make a difference to someone this Christmas.

Carrie-Anne Sprenger

TEAM Family Support Worker



PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

Maybe you have some unwanted alcohol or new items in your cupboard that would be perfect for our bingo raffle. We are seeking donations of alcoholic bottles (spirits or wines) and raffle prizes for the bingo at the end of November. We would also love vouchers or prizes from any local businesses. Please speak to Cat Seymour or Susie Kingdom to hand over donations or let us know if you think you can sponsor us as a business. You can also hand donations in at the main office. TIA!

**CHRISTMAS
MEGA BINGO NIGHT**

Fun For The Whole Family! A night not to be missed!
Saturday 29th November
Doors open 6.15pm, Eyes down 7pm
@ Witheridge Parish Hall
EX16 8AG
Amazing prizes to be won and Christmas raffle

*Bingo and raffle - Cash only approx.
£10 per person for a full book £1 per raffle ticket strip
Bar and tuckshop- Alcoholic and soft drinks & snacks - cash and card
For further information contact Cat or Suzie on 07970180637
Raising funds for Witheridge C of E Academy*

Made with PosterMyWall.com

School holidays adding to your energy costs?

community NEWS

WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB
PRESENTS

**WITHY'S GOT
TALENT
CHRISTMAS
SPECIAL**
FRI 19TH DEC
FROM 6PM

SINGER, MUSICIAN, DANCER,
COMEDIAN, MAGICIAN, GROUP
OR SOLO

FOR BOOKING VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE

ANY Q'S:
WITHERIDGESPORTSCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Back by very popular demand we are holding another talent show, this time with a Christmas theme. As before please register your entry via our form on facebook 'Witheridge Sports Club' before the cut off date of Wednesday 17th December 2025.

[Christmas Withy's Got Talent registration](#)



QR CODE

FC DEVON

CODE:
YMK434

**FOOTBALL
HOLIDAY CLUB**

Join us this Christmas for fun filled days of football games, competitions & prizes
Girls & Boys / All abilities
Ages 5 - 15 years

22 & 23 DECEMBER | 10am - 2pm
TARKA LEISURE CENTRE, BARNSTAPLE

22 DECEMBER | 10am - 2pm
THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL, BIDEFORD

www.romarsports.com

Bonfire Night at Rackenford

Friday 7th November
6pm on the village common

Everyone Welcome
Bonfire, fireworks, food & drink

**Safety first – please do not bring any
fireworks or sparklers**

Rackenford Parish Council's Events Group
"Events to enjoy and celebrate together"
All events are put on by many volunteers within the community

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER | 10AM - 2PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

The Ashleigh school
Bevan Road
Barnstaple
EX32 8LJ

<https://eequ.org/book/romar-sports-haf-holiday-club-barnstaple-with-romar-sports-devon-limited-14408>

Any articles, which appear in the school newsletter, that have not been organised by or on behalf of the school, have not been verified by TEAM Multi-Academy Trust as to the suitability for children. The news items are for parent information only

Class 3 – Olly Book review

An Amazing Fact a Day

Book Review

The longest novel ever written is 'À la recherche du temps perdu' by Marcel Proust. It consists of 3031 pages in 7 volumes and contains over a million words.

Write a review for a book you have read recently.

Book Title: <u>Bunny Vs Monkey</u> Author: <u>Janie Smart</u> Fiction or Non-fiction: <u>fiction</u> Rating: 	What is the book about? <u>A Bad Monkey and good Bunny</u>	Who would you recommend the book to? Why? <u>Khalid Freddie and Milo because it is funny</u>
What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why? <u>4+ because it is funny.</u>	Book Illustration 	

You could also try and find out:

- which book took the longest to write;
- which book has sold more copies than any other;
- who has written the most books;
- which is the smallest book ever made.

twinkl twinkl.co.uk

My Book Review

Name: Olly

Date: 6.11.25

Book Title: Bunny vs Monkey

How did you feel about this book?

Now draw your favourite part of the book.

twinkl visit twinkl.com.au