



# 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 Harvest Festival Celebration – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a **wonderful week** it has been at Witheridge C of E Academy as we came together to celebrate our **Harvest Festival!** The church was filled with joy, music, and gratitude as our whole school joined to give thanks for the gifts of the harvest.

A heartfelt **thank you to everyone** who contributed to making this such a special occasion. **Each class made a fantastic contribution:**

- **Reception** brightened the hall with their beautiful **harvest-themed artwork**, showing creativity and care in every piece.
- **Year 1 and Year 2** lifted our spirits with a cheerful **harvest song**, sung with great enthusiasm and smiles all around.
- **Class 3** led us in **thoughtful prayers**, reminding us to be thankful for what we have and to think of others who may have less.
- **Class 4** shared their wonderful story, “**Frank and the Pea Stalk**,” cleverly linking the harvest theme with the work of **Christian Aid** and reminding us of the importance of helping others around the world.

The service was led by **Vicar Adrian**, who shared an **interesting and thoughtful talk** about the meaning of harvest in our lives today — encouraging us to recognise the hard work, kindness, and generosity that go into every meal we share. Thank you, Vicar Adrian, for inspiring both children and adults alike.

Finally, a huge **thank you to all parents, carers, and family members** who joined us. Your support and encouragement truly embody our school vision to “**encourage one another and build each other up.**” Together, we continue to grow as a caring, thankful, and generous school community.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful weekend,  
**Miss Ratcliffe**



## 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



Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	100%
Nursery 2	100%
Reception	97%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	94%

**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 **95.8%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.7%**

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**



<b>Class Award</b>	
Nursery – Rudi for realising that missing mummy and daddy is okay and telling us how she feels. Reception – Lily-Rose for sitting beautifully in Church throughout Harvest Festival. Class 1 – Harvey for being a passionate and engaged learner and linking all of his learning. Class 2 – Elliot for his fantastic attitude to maths learning. Class 3 – Ronnie R for making sensible choices in your behaviour & learning all week. Class 4 – Max for contributing thoughtful and mature ideas in our PSHE learning this week.	
<b>Writer of the Week:</b>	
Reception – Oliver P – excellent effort when writing his sounds. Class 1 – Jayden-Lee for fantastic blending during phonics with Ms Wyborn. Class 2 – Wren for her beautiful handwriting. Class 3 – Mya – Superb vocabulary choices in your persuasive letter. Class 4 – Scarlett for creating fantastic formal sentences in her formal report.	
<b>Contribution:</b>	
Jack E & Josh for representing the school with exemplary behaviour during Luna North's visit.	
<b>Librarian Book Review:</b>	
Ivy – Class 3	
<b>Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar:</b>	
Jersey-Jay, Evelyn, Leilani, Robyn-Raye, Jessie & Savanna 😊	
<b>20 Merit Award:</b>	
Class 2 – Lorcan & Billy Class 3 – Olly	
<b>House Points</b>	
<b>Discovery 39</b>	<b>Endeavour 61</b>
<b>Enterprise 58</b>	<b>Voyager 55</b>

## Term Dates 2025/2026

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

### Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2025

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception PE – am Class 3 PE – pm / Class 3 Forest School Group 1 Teacher Led Clubs: Football & Crafts
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Rocksteady Teacher Led Clubs: Times Table
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Class 1 PE / Class 1 Forest School Group 1 Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Teacher Led Clubs: Gardening
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Individual School Photo Open wide step inside for Year 2 Class 2 PE / Class 2 Forest School Group 1 Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Shared Read @ 8.45 Class 4 PE Reception Forest School Group 1 Teacher Led Club: Homework Club at Lunchtime Last Day of Autumn Term 1 😊

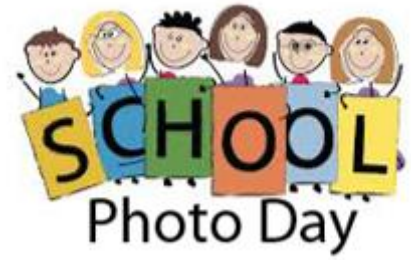
#### Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>OCTOBER HALF TERM</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Bike Ability for Year 5
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	KS1 Northcott Theatre – Children’s book show.

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

📷 **Individual Class Photos - Thursday 23rd October** 📷

If your child **does not usually attend Nursery on this day**, you are very welcome to bring them in for an **individual photo** or a **sibling photo** at **9a.m.**, accompanied by a **parent or carer**. Please come to the **main office entrance**.



Children who are attending **school or nursery** that day will have their **individual and sibling photos** taken during the school day.

Photos will be available to **purchase at a later date**.

➡️ **IMPORTANT:** If you have not yet provided **photo consent via Arbor**, please do so as soon as possible to ensure your child doesn't miss out.

<b>Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025</b> <b>Week 2 - W/B 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Macaroni Cheese</b> V – Tomato Pasta Bake Garlic Bread, Peas & Sweetcorn Jam Doughnut or Fruit slices
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Team's All Day Breakfast</b> V – Team's All Day Vegetarian Breakfast Potato Waffles, Beans, Peas, Tomatoes & Mushrooms Fruit & Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Roast of the Day</b> V - Homity Pie Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg Angel Delight & Fruit
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Chicken Katsu Curry (Or Plain Chicken)</b> V - Quorn Katsu Naan Bread, Rice, salad sticks or Peas Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Oven Baked Fish</b> V – Quorn Nuggets Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables & Baked Beans Oaty Cookie (various flavours)

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.



# Team Trust Vacancies

Apply now direct with 

If you're interested in joining our team we currently have vacancies across the TEAM Trust.

Please click on the link below to find out more...

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



## Specialist SEND Teaching Assistant *Beaford Primary*



We're looking for a caring, motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our school community and play a key role in supporting our pupils' learning and development.

## SEND 1:1 Teaching assistant *Horwood and Newton Tracey*



The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support 2 children in year 3 to supervise throughout the day.

## Cover Supervisor

### *Wetheridge Primary*



We are seeking an enthusiastic and committed individual to join our team, working closely with class teachers to support pupils in engaging meaningfully with their learning. The successful candidate will also provide classroom cover during teacher absence and PPA sessions.



# Mr Manning Sports News

## TEAM Tag rugby

On Monday, we welcomed TEAM schools Beaford and High Bickington to Witheridge for a morning of Tag Rugby. Not only was this an opportunity to learn more about rugby, but it was also a fantastic chance to meet children from across our wonderful trust.

We began the morning with a big game to get warmed up before splitting off into smaller matches. All of the children learned something new during the morning and competed brilliantly. The Witheridge children ended the morning with a win, a draw, and plenty of new friends!

It's wonderful to see children not only participating in sport, but also experiencing how it can bring us all closer together. Well done, Tag Rugby stars!



## Football match v Bishops Nympton

After school on Monday, we welcomed Bishops Nympton to Witheridge for our very first football league fixture of the season. Every year, the first game is always tough as we adapt to playing in a new team after the previous Year 6s leave. However, this wasn't overly evident when Khalid put us ahead early in the game.

Towards the end of the first half, we dropped off the boil slightly and allowed Bishops Nympton to break through and equalise.

At half-time, we made some changes and the children were instructed to be more adventurous in the final third, as we hadn't tested the opposition goalkeeper enough. This was beautifully executed when Khalid coolly finished for his second goal of the game.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first, and we found ourselves under some heavy pressure. Unfortunately, we couldn't keep Bishops Nympton at bay, and once again they found an equaliser.

## Sporting News continued...

Wetheridge don't give up that easily though, and we ensured that we "threw the kitchen sink" at them towards the end of the game. With only moments left, Khalid struck home to complete his hat-trick and secure all 3 points for Wetheridge! A thoroughly enjoyable, end-to-end game with some incredible performances throughout the team.

Full credit belongs to: Scarlett, Josh, Mason, Freddie, Jack E, Khalid, Betsy, Milo, Harry, Arthur B, Jacob, Ivy-Rose, and Ruby. [Congratulations](#), team!





## 🌿 Harvest in The FSU 🌿

This week in our FSU, the children have had a wonderful time learning all about Harvest. Our Reception children began by discovering that we live in a farming community and that our local farmers are currently very busy harvesting their crops. We talked about how thankful we are to them for their hard work and to God for sending the rain and sunshine to help the crops grow. The children explored which fruits and vegetables are grown locally and learned about the amazing journey they take from the fields to the shops. A real highlight of the week was when the children worked together with great collaboration to create a fantastic food factory! They designed and built different areas to wash, sort, clean, and package the produce before it was “transported” to the shops. It has been a joyful, hands-on week full of curiosity, teamwork and appreciation for all that Harvest brings.



## Art visit class 4

On Tuesday, we were lucky enough to be joined by local printmaker and artist Luna North.

Luna spoke to the children about career choices in the art industry, and they were inspired to hear about all the options available to them.

Our task for the morning was to explore black-and-white prints inspired by the Industrial Revolution. The children were asked to focus on and scale up one of the buildings in the pictures. We used black-and-white contrasts to create silhouettes in our artwork.

Once the children had chosen their designs, they transferred them onto lino. This was when the strenuous cutting began! The children had to cut away all the white elements of their prints to create a *relief print*.

In the afternoon, the children were taught how to use ink, rollers, and baren to print their designs onto card. The finished products were incredible!

Art is a subject that deserves to be brought to life, and opportunities like this hugely enrich our curriculum. We also wouldn't have been able to achieve this incredible artwork without the sensible and curious learning attitudes of Class 4.

Thank you to Luna North and Class 4 for a fantastic arty day!



## Mr Wiggans Forest School News...

This week pupils from Key Stage 1 have had a real treat at Forest School.

Reception and Class 1 pupils have made hot chocolate and cooked s'mores on the open fire and Class 2 have baked stuffed apples with brown sugar, raisins and cinnamon.

They have learnt how humans have learnt to use fire to our advantage for cooking, lighting, heating and protection.

Class 3 students have learnt about spiders and had the chance to get close to a variety of our garden spiders and investigate them through our viewers. They learnt about arachnids and their lifecycle.



### LET'S WALK & TALK

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 9:00am – 10:30am  
Meeting Point: Front School Gate

Are you free on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the morning after school drop-off? Fancy getting some steps in before your day begins? Come and join me for a gentle walk around the village, followed by a hot or cold drink back at school.

9:00am – Meet at the school gate

10:00am – Tea/coffee back at school

10:30am – Finish

All abilities are welcome, feel free to bring your little ones and dogs also welcome – it's a great way to tick off a job from your list and get some steps in.

This is a chance to do something just for YOU – to feel refreshed, energised, and connected before the day runs away with you.

I'd love to see as many of you as possible!

Carrie-Anne Spranger  
TEAM Family Support Worker



**STAY & PLAY  
TODDLER GROUP  
FOR BUMPS & BEYOND**

Witheridge CofE Academy

Wednesday 13:45-15:30 in our FSU  
Friday 9:00-10:30 in the School Hall

£1.00 donation per family

For more information :  
Call 01884 860518 or email [admin@witheridge,devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@witheridge,devon.sch.uk)



**PTFA**

Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association



# 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*



## LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB

**October Half Term**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10am - 3pm**  
**Witheridge Parish Hall**

Come and join us at 'REDEMPTION RANCH' for fun, games, craft, music & Bible stories

All Children - Reception to Yr6 - welcome

Dress for the **Wild West** if you want *(no guns please)*

- Packed lunch & water bottle required -  
 Afternoon snack provided

All day site security. All staff are DBS checked

Please use QR code or register at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/RALHC>

Registration closes **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> Oct**

For further information please email;  
[Lighthouseclub@gmail.com](mailto:Lighthouseclub@gmail.com)

## CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL

# BINGO

ON

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

AT

**CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL, EX16 8LD**

**DOORS OPEN 7.00 PM**  
**EYES DOWN 7.30 PM**

Raffle, usual good prizes plus prizes for children - bring all the family!

# PUMPKIN PATCH

WESTON FARM

**25<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER | 10AM - 4PM**

FAMILY FUN | UNDERCOVER BARN  
 PUMPKIN CARVING | FACE PAINTING  
 HOT FOOD & DRINK | FEED THE PIGS

**PICK YOUR OWN**

**NO BOOKING REQUIRED**  
**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK**  
**FOR MORE DETAILS**

Scan me!

WESTON FARM, KNOWSTONE, EX36 4ED

## Witheridge Gardening Club

### BEES & BEE KEEPING

### TIVERTON BEEKEEPERS

**PARISH HALL**

**7.00PM**

**WEDNESDAY**

**29TH OCTOBER**

MEMBERS FREE

NON-MEMBERS £3.00

FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING  
 01884 861323