



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 19 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue through this term, our focus at Witheridge C of E Academy is on the value of **thankfulness** – a powerful and positive way to look at the world and appreciate the people around us.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to express my **heartfelt thanks** to our **amazing staff team** here at Witheridge CofE. Every single member of our team works incredibly hard, every day, to ensure our children are not only safe and happy but also inspired, challenged and supported in their learning.

From the warm welcomes at the classroom doors, to the thoughtful planning behind each lesson, to the countless small (and big!) moments of care throughout the day, our staff go above and beyond to make sure every child has a fantastic experience at school.

Whether it’s in the classroom, the playground, or behind the scenes, their commitment to helping children learn, grow, and flourish truly embodies the spirit of thankfulness we’re celebrating this term.

We also encourage our children to think, at home, and in the wider world. It’s a lovely way to build gratitude and to notice the good things, big and small, that make a difference in our lives.

Thank you for your continued support. We’re so grateful to have such a strong and caring school community here at Witheridge.

With warm wishes,

Miss Ratcliffe
Head of School



Booking link:

<https://portal.cookstars.franscape.io/class-overview/2480>



www.cookstars.co.uk @cookstarsnorthdevon @oliviacoookstars

Great for Kids Parties too!

Fun cooking classes at:
WITHERIDGE C OF E ACADEMY

All ingredients included!
plus a craft activity & a recipe card to keep

EVERY THURSDAY
(during term time)

Afterschool club - 3.45 - 5pm

Children need to be aged 5 and over to attend

Call Olivia: 07938 608 862
Email: olivia@cookstars.co.uk
<https://portal.cookstars.franscape.io/class-overview/2480>

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	97%
Nursery 2	97%
Reception	96%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	98%
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 **95.3%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **97.5%**

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	
<p>Nursery – Jersey-Jay for sitting really well during small group time and following the routine. Reception – Oscar for using lovely manners when sharing pencils with his friends. Class 1 – Taylor – PE for great participation in her PE lesson and for always smiling. Class 2 – Lorcan for a great start in Class 2. Class 3 – Ronnie B for always being focused and ready to learn. Class 4 – Jessica for always showing a fantastic learning attitude.</p>	
Writer of the Week:	
<p>Reception – Elaina for helping everyone remember to say the words when writing sounds. Class 1 – Bille – Showing great focus and care with his letter formation. Class 2 – Bethan for perseverance with handwriting. Class 3 – Theo for huge improvement in presentation. Class 4 – Luna for creating a very tense and suspenseful opening paragraph.</p>	
Bobbie’s Lunchtime Award:	
Arthur C – Taking his duties in the lunch hall seriously and being very helpful.	
House Points	
<i>Discovery 110</i>	<i>Endeavour 119</i>
<i>Enterprise 98</i>	<i>Voyager 118</i>

Find us on:

Website: [Witheridge C of E Academy - Home](#)

Facebook: @Witheridge CofE Academy

Email: admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk

Witheridge Blog: <https://witheridge.edublogs.org/>

TEAM MAT have job vacancies, for more information & how to apply please visit our website [Teaching & Education Jobs Search | Find Teaching, Leadership & School Support Vacancies](#)

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

Monday 22 nd September	Reception PE – am Class 3 PE – pm / Class 3 Forest School Group 1
Tuesday 23 rd September	Rocksteady School Council Meeting
Wednesday 24 th September	Class 1 PE / Class 1 Forest School Group 1 Mr Rogo – Music Tuition
Thursday 25 th September	Class 2 PE / Class 2 Forest School Group 1 Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Steve Godfrey Drumming
Friday 26 th September	Class 4 trip to SS Great Britain - Rescheduled date KS1 Reptile Visit CANCELLED NO - Reception Forest School Group 1

Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

Thursday 2 nd October	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 2 nd October	Blundells Literacy Festival Year 4
Tuesday 7 th October	C4 Farmwise - Exeter
Wednesday 8 th October	Parents Evening
Wednesday 8 th October	Mr Rogo in School all day
Thursday 9 th October	No Mr Rogo today
Thursday 9 th October	Parents Evening
Thursday 16 th October	Harvest Festival
Thursday 23 rd October	Individual School Photo
Thursday 23 rd October	Open wide step inside for Year 2
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October	OCTOBER HALF TERM
Monday 3 rd November	Bike Ability for Year 5
Tuesday 11 th November	KS1 Northcott Theatre – Children’s book show.

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

PE and Forest School Days at Witheridge

Monday - Reception PE (am)

Class 3 PE (pm) or Class 3 Group 1 Forest School (Ava-Grace, Zoey, Keeley, Lily, Mya, Hunter, Ronnie B, Ruby & Ivy-Rose)



Wednesday - Class 1 PE or Class 1 Group 1 Forest School (Riley, Taylor, Imogen, Bille & Dylan)



Thursday – Class 2 PE or Class 2 Group 1 Forest School (Elliot, Lorcan, Georgia, Wren & Reuben)

Friday – Class 4 PE

Reception Group 1 Forest School (William, Ada, Oscar, Zack, Mia & Aspen)

Please ensure your child brings the appropriate Forest School or PE kit on the correct days.

House group - coloured T-shirt now available to purchase from the office

Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 1 - W/B 22 nd September	
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 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.



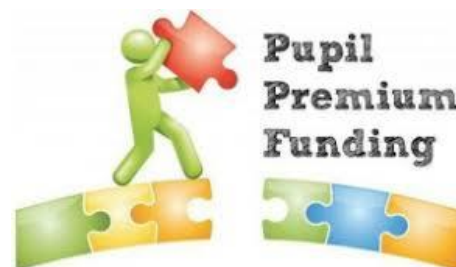
If you have any questions in relation to this, please contact the School Office.

Thank you for your consideration and for safeguarding our students.

Pupil Premium

Did you know that schools receive extra funding called Pupil Premium to help provide children with additional support, resources, and opportunities? If you think your child might be eligible, it doesn't take long to check, and even if your child doesn't take up free school meals every day, the school can still receive this valuable funding to support their learning. If you'd like to find out more, please apply via this link - [Free school meals - Support for schools and settings](#)

We've also attached a leaflet to this email with more details about eligibility and how to apply.



Changes to Nursery Funding

From September 2025 in England, eligible working parents will be able to access 30 hours of government-funded childcare per week for children aged 9 months to 3 years, not just for 3 and 4-year-olds, as the government's phased expansion of free childcare continues. This means that from this date, all eligible working parents will be entitled to 30 hours of government-funded childcare for their children aged from 9 months old until they start school. If you have a two year old and had a valid funding code (without being in a grace period) at the start of September this will automatically have changed to 30 hours. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact the school office or to find out how to apply please click this link: [How to apply for 30 hours government funded childcare for working parents and find out if you're eligible – The Education Hub](#)



Arbor

We kindly ask that **Dinner, Breakfast, and After School Club accounts are kept in credit at all times.**

Topping up is quick and easy — simply log in to your account, head to the **'Accounts' section**, and make a payment by card.

If you're experiencing any difficulties or have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Miss Ratcliffe Head of School or Mrs Eastman in the school office.

It's time for a little housekeeping! We kindly ask all parents and carers to log in to Arbor to:

1 Check and update your contact details

please review the following and update anything that may have changed:

- Home address - Many people have moved in the last 12 months and not informed the office!
- Mobile & home telephone numbers
- Emergency contacts / people authorised to collect your child
- Medical conditions and allergies

2 Complete your child(ren)'s parental consents for the 2025/2026 academic year, including:

- ✓ First Aid
- ✓ Bad weather / emergency arrangements
- ✓ Events
- ✓ Photographs
- ✓ Medical
- ✓ Parental information
- ✓ Videoing
- ✓ Transport

Your prompt attention helps us keep all records accurate and ensure the safety and wellbeing of every child in school. Thank you for your continued support!



NASAL FLU VACCINATION

We are due to visit your child's school on **2nd October 2025**. In order to access the online consent form, please enter or click on the following link:

<https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ENTER THE FULL UNIQUE SCHOOL REFERENCE CODE.

The code for your child's school is: DV144560

Please complete the online form by **Midday on 30.9.25** to ensure your child receives their vaccination. If you experience any problems accessing the form please telephone 01392 342678 and the team will be happy to help. Please note that as in previous years you must opt into the programme. If a consent, form is not submitted your child will not be vaccinated.

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu **immunisation**
Helping to protect children, every winter

WITHERIDGE FARMERS MARKET

Fresh meat, eggs and produce, local artisanal, handmade goods and more...
We also serve tea, coffee & cakes!

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH | 10 AM - 1 PM

Witheridge Parish Hall
North Street
EX16 8AG

South West Care Homes
WHERE QUALITY COMES FIRST
with **Witheridge Online**

The Firs Care Home

Charity Open Day

Supporting Dementia UK

Saturday 20th September
10am to 2pm

- South Molton Town Band
- Games & Prizes
- BBQ
- Explore the Firs
- Cream teas & Refreshments
- Ice Cream
- Dog Show
- Bouncy Castle
- And much more..

South West Care Homes
WHERE QUALITY COMES FIRST
with **Witheridge Online**

The Firs Care Home

Dog Show @ 1pm

(as part of Charity Open Day)

Supporting Dementia UK

Saturday 20th September

- Waggiest Tail
- Most Handsome Dog
- Prettiest Bitch
- Best Trick
- Cutest Puppy
- Best Veteran (8 years or older)
- Dog the Judge would most likely take home.
- Best Hairstyle
- Best Rescue Dog
- Best Family Dog



WITHERIDGE SUNDAY CLUB

21st Sept

"He also made the stars" Genesis 1:16

SUNDAY CLUB is held in
St John the Baptist Church, Witheridge

from 10:30 until 12:00

For children of preschool & primary age.

Looking at the Bible in a fun and safe environment

with **CRAFT, STORIES, GAMES** and more.

For more details email sundayclub11@gmail.com

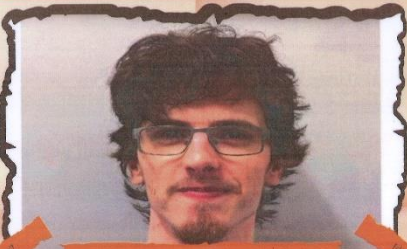
All our staff members are certificated with the

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

PART OF THE LITTLE DART MISSION COMMUNITY

WANTED

Charity Donations





Tim Bird

Head shave

20th September at the Firs Care Home
Please scan QR code below to donate ☺ Or bring cash donation to:

The Firs
27 Fore Street
Witheridge
Tiverton
EX16 8AH

Raising money for


**T TIVERTON
T TOWN
B BAND**
Reg Charity No. 1196473

3 years of bringing hope
CHAT

BAND TOGETHER FOR CHAT

Churches Housing Action Team

With our guests
TAKE NOTE CHOIR
&
THREE BLIND MICE

Saturday 20th SEPT 2025
7.30pm @ St Pauls Church
Tiverton

This concert is raising funds for CHAT, with all proceeds going to support their work. Entry is by donation on the door (suggested donation £10). We'll also be collecting long-life food items for the Foodbank, so please feel free to bring a donation.

www.tivertontownband.org
Reg Charity No.1196473

WITHERIDGE WARRIORS YOUTH FOOTBALL

6-7PM EVERY THURSDAY

WITHERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB, EX16 8AH

FIRST TWO WEEKS TRAINING FREE
£2 PER WEEK TRAINING FEE
£30 ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE
FREE TRAINING KIT ON 1ST SIGN UP

EXCITING AND FUN TRAINING DRILLS
TEAM BUILDING
MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS

 WITHERIDGEWARRIORSYFC




OPEN TO AGES
SCHOOL YEAR 1 – YEAR 11

OUR FRIENDLY COACHES
·ARE DBS CHECKED,
·HAVE FIRST AID & SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
·HOLD AN FA LEVEL 1 COACHING BADGE

WITHERIDGEWARRIORSYFC@GMAIL.COM
07969 485366

Musical Event



The Church of St John the Baptist,
Witheridge

Presents -The Torridge Male Voice Choir
Friday 26th of September 2025 at 7.30pm



Refreshments available from 7pm

Donations welcome for entry and refreshments,
cash or card.
Join us for an evening of light entertainment.
Any profits to church funds

CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL

BINGO



ON



**SATURDAY 18th
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!**



LEARN NEW SKILLS TO GET AHEAD

Your future starts here!

Get ahead with a FREE Short Adult Course at Petroc!

Ready to dive into something new? Why not enrol on one of our FREE short adult courses and start your journey today!

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Check out our FREE short courses now and see where learning with Petroc can take you.



Visit petroc.ac.uk/free-adult-courses to find out more!



Chulmleigh College
Nothing but our best!

Choosing a secondary school for September 2026 entry?

Find out why we have such a great reputation.



Why Choose Chulmleigh College?

Top Academic Achievement

- Progress 8 score of +0.81 (2024) – top 5% nationally
- Consistently outstanding GCSE results over the last 10 years
- Ofsted: "Good" with potential for "Outstanding"

Safe, Supportive & Aspirational Environment

- Pupils feel happy, safe, and proud (Ofsted)
- 95% of parents agree their child is thriving (Ofsted)

Strong Values & Ambitious Ethos

- Motto: Nihil Quam Optime – "Nothing but our best"
- Culture of compassion, ambition and teamwork

Rich Curriculum & Vibrant Enrichment

- Broad range of subject provision to GCSE level
- Diverse clubs: Lego robotics, sports, drama, music, chess
- Active Pupil Senate & Year 11 leadership roles
- Outdoor excellence: Ten Tors & Duke of Edinburgh

Outstanding Leadership & Inclusive Support

- Expert teachers fostering independent, resilient learners
- Tailored support for SEND & disadvantaged pupils
- Focus on reading fluency and curriculum access for all

Out of catchment area?

- Priority given to pupils from Chulmleigh Academy Trust primary schools
- Subsidised bus transport routes available

Open Evening

Thursday 25 September 2025
4.30pm to 7.00pm

- Tours of the College
- Interactive activities
- Showcasing of pupils' work
- Address by Neil Payne, Headteacher, at 6.30pm

Open Mornings

Tuesday 30 September or
Thursday 2 October 2025
11.15am - 1.00pm

Come and see the College in action

- Tours of the College
- Meet the Senior Leadership Team



To book please visit: www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk
Or click on the links above

We look forward to meeting you!

