



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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Witheridge C of E Academy Newsletter

Friday 10th October 2025

🌸 World Mental Health Day – #HelloYellow

Today our school has been filled with sunshine as the children and staff came dressed in **yellow** to mark **World Mental Health Day**. It has been wonderful to see everyone joining together to raise awareness and show support for **Young Minds**, a charity that helps young people with their mental health.

By taking part, we’re helping children understand the importance of talking about feelings, showing kindness, and supporting one another. These actions reflect the heart of our **school vision and values** – where every child is encouraged to *grow in love, respect, and resilience*. Just as our vision reminds us to “encourage one another and build each other up,” today has been a reminder of the power of love and community in promoting wellbeing.

We are so proud of how thoughtful and compassionate our children have been, recognising that mental health matters for everyone. Thank you for your generous donations and for supporting this important cause.

<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/3851/3853>



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

🌿 Calm Starts to the Day

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers: once the school gates are open in the morning, please encourage your child to **come into school calmly and confidently**. A settled start helps everyone to begin the day feeling ready to learn and positive in their classroom environment. Your support in promoting calm, respectful mornings makes a big difference to the start of our school day.

♥ Thank You

As always, thank you for your ongoing support in everything we do at Witheridge C of E Academy. Together, we continue to nurture a community built on love, respect, and hope — where every child feels valued and ready to shine.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Miss Ratcliffe



Meet our new Class 3 additions — two baby guinea pigs, Cola and Cherry! They're settling in beautifully alongside Rosie and the children were thrilled to meet them during Golden Time today. A big thank you to everyone who kindly offered to gift us their guinea pigs — we truly appreciate your generosity and support!



🌿 LET'S WALK & TALK 🌿

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

Are you free on Wednesday 22nd October in the morning after school drop-off? Fancy getting some steps in before your day begins? Come and join me for a gentle 1 hour 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 one/s and dogs are 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.

🌿 love to see as many of you as possible!

Carrie-Anne Spranger
TEAM Family Support Worker





Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	100%
Nursery 2	95%
Reception	99%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	91%
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 **94.9%**

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 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 – Leilani for trying hard with making the right choices during her play.
Reception – Zack for always using the bathroom, quickly, quietly and sensibly.
Class 1 – Maeve for working so hard in all of her lessons and her perseverance in logging into the laptops independently.
Class 2 – Georgia for her fantastic attitude to learning.
Class 3 – Betsy for always challenging yourself to do your very best.
Class 4 – Milo for always managing distractions and challenging himself in all areas of learning.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Jack – Excellent effort when forming his sounds to write words.
Class 1 – Felicity for working so hard in writing her phonics sounds and writing beautiful sentences in our afternoons.
Class 2 – Nancy for her imaginative ideas during writing sessions.
Class 3 – Jenson for writing some great persuasive sentences.
Class 4 – Jack E for fantastic use of formal language in his report to Sherlock Holmes.

Contribution:

Jack E & Milo – For helping Mrs Eastman pop up the positive Mental Health posters around the daily mile track around school.

Bobbie's Lunchtime Award:

Bella F for eating a good lunch at dinner times 😊

Contribution:

Jack E & Milo – For helping Mrs Eastman pop up the positive Mental Health posters around the daily mile track around school.

House Points

Discovery 55

Endeavour 69

Enterprise 73

Voyager 87



Individual class photos will be taken on Thursday 23rd October. If your child does not usually attend Nursery on this day, you are welcome to bring them in for an individual photo or a family photo (with their sibling) at 8:45 a.m, accompanied by a parent or carer. Please come to the main office entrance. Children attending school or nursery will have their individual and sibling photos taken during the school day. These photos will be available for purchase at a later date. If you haven't yet provided consent via Arbor, please do so to avoid missing out.

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 13 th October	Top up Flu Vaccine Tag Rugby with Bea/HB/HNT - @ Witheridge 10.30 Reception PE – am Class 3 PE – pm / Class 3 Forest School Group 1 Football match home vs Exmoor Link 3.30-4.30 Teacher Led Clubs: Football & Crafts
Tuesday 14 th October	Rocksteady Teacher Led Clubs: Dance & Times Table
Wednesday 15 th October	Class 1 PE / Class 1 Forest School Group 1 Mr Rogo – Music Tuition – ALL DAY Teacher Led Clubs: Gardening
Thursday 16 th October	Harvest Festival 10am at St John the Baptist Church, Witheridge Class 2 PE / Class 2 Forest School Group 1 Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking & Puzzles
Friday 17 th October	Class 4 PE Reception Forest School Group 1 Teacher Led Club: Homework

Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

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.



Year 5 London Residential February 2026
Deposit due Monday 13th October

Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 1 - W/B 13 th October	
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 (Chicken) 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.

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.)



After School Club
Monday to Friday
3.30 to 5.30
Booking essential

01884 860518

admin@wetheridge.devon.sch.uk

£4.00 per hour (Pre-School hourly rate)

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Life, Love and Learning to the Full!

Working in partnership with



Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH **mynewterm**

For more information and how to apply directly with My New Term please visit our website

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

We currently have 2 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Cover Supervisor at Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy.

Teaching Assistant (Maternity Cover) at Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy.

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

Mr Wiggans Forest School News....

This week was a bit of a treat for our pupils as we once again did some backwoods cooking on our fire. We cored fresh apples and filled them with raisins, brown sugar and cinnamon, wrapped them in foil and cooked them in the embers. Delicious!

The pupils then tried their hand with flints and steel to create a spark to get a fire going. Tricky to begin with but as they improved their technique quite a few were successful.



Mr. Wiggans



FarmWise event at Westpoint

On Tuesday, Class 4 attended the FarmWise event at Westpoint. Throughout the day, we were given different areas to explore such as Beef, Dairy, Environmental, Poultry and many more. In each area, there were workshops and activities to complete. The children were able to meet and stroke different animals, make their own butter, watch how robots are being used on farms and so much more. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning lots of new things but I think their favourite part was probably all of the freebies! We managed to come away with free pens, smoothies, yo-yos and even pizza!



Class 4 behaved beautifully once again and it was lovely to celebrate our rural location especially during this Harvest period.

Ryan Manning



LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB

October Half Term

Tuesday 28th 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 19th Oct**

For further information please email:
Lighthouseclub.org@gmail.com

PUMPKIN PATCH

25TH - 27TH 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

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

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!

NORTH DEVON MUSIC CENTRE .CO.UK

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?
JOIN US!

- Play along with others
- Perform to an audience
- Make new friends
- Have fun

Wednesday evenings at Pilton School
Ages 4 to 18








Registered Charity Number 1041980

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**

f 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

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



**Thank you
Wetheridge
CofE Academy
we have raised
£126.00**



Every **£15** could fund a call with a Parents Helpline advisor. Our Parents Helpline provides vital advice to parents or guardians to help them support a young person who is struggling with their mental health.

Every **£75** could help train a young activist, building their confidence to speak up and influence the decisions that affect the future of young people's mental health.

Every **£100** could help us reach 4,000 people online. Young people's mental health is in crisis, which is why it's vital that we reach more people than ever before online with our resources, so we can support young people and show them that they're not alone.

