



# 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 |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|---------|



### Witheridge C of E Primary School – Harvest Festival Newsletter Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025



**Date of Event:** *Wednesday 16th October at 10:00am*

**Location:** *St. John the Baptist Church, Witheridge*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We’ve had another exciting and enriching week at Witheridge C of E, full of memorable experiences and hands-on learning!

#### Animal Encounters in KS1

Last Friday, our Key Stage 1 classes had a very special visit from Chris at Animal Encounters as part of their Dinosaurs topic. The children were fascinated to meet a variety of reptiles, including snakes and lizards and even an owl! This hands-on session helped to bring their learning to life, giving them a better understanding.



#### Brunel and the Industrial Revolution: Class 4’s Trip to Bristol

Also, Class 4 took their first school trip of the year — a visit to Bristol to support our learning about the Industrial Revolution. We’ve been focusing on key pioneers from this period, so it was a fantastic opportunity to see one of Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s famous creations up close and explore the lives of those who travelled aboard the SS Great Britain.

#### Y4 Visit Blundell’s Literacy Festival

This week, our Year 4 pupils had a fantastic trip to Blundell’s School for their very first Literacy Festival. The children enjoyed a range of engaging activities designed to inspire their creativity and love of reading. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore storytelling in new ways and meet authors and illustrators who brought books to life!



## 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



**YOUNGMINDS**  
**Hello Yellow**  
 FRIDAY 10 OCT

**Wear it loud.  
 Wear it proud.**

This World Mental Health Day, 10th October, wear yellow and donate to YoungMinds.

Less than 1 in 3 young people are getting the support they need for their mental health. This needs to change. With your support – it can.

#HelloYellow M&S | YOUNGMINDS

💛 **World Mental Health Day** 💛  
**Wear Yellow for Hello Yellow**  
**On Friday 10th October**

we'll be supporting **World Mental Health Day** by inviting children to wear **something yellow** to school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

At Witheridge C of E Academy, our vision is to **“Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up”** (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and World Mental Health Day is a powerful reminder of the importance of kindness, compassion and looking out for one another. By talking about mental health and showing our support, we help to build a community where everyone feels valued, heard and supported.

If you'd like to, you can make a donation to **Young Minds**—a charity supporting young people's mental health—via our **JustGiving page**. Every contribution helps make a difference.

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

**Parent's Evening Reminder**

A reminder that Parent's Evenings will take place next **Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October**. Please make sure to book your appointment via the Arbor app. These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and how we can continue working together to support their learning journey.



As always, thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community. We wish you a restful and happy weekend!

Warm wishes,  
*Miss Ratcliffe*  
 Head of School



| Weekly Attendance |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Nursery 1         | 92% |
| Nursery 2         | 95% |
| Reception         | 98% |
| Year 1            | 93% |
| Year 2            | 94% |
| Year 3            | 91% |
| Year 4            | 96% |
| Year 5            | 95% |
| Year 6            | 86% |

**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 **93.7%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.8%**

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>  |                     |
| <p>Nursery – Gracie-Roo for participating well in-group activities.<br/>           Reception – Bella and Elena for great partner work in maths.<br/>           Class 1 – Imogen for positive attitude to learning all week.<br/>           Class 2 – Barney for trying his best in maths and having a positive attitude<br/>           Class 3 – Hazel for fantastic extra research on the Romans.<br/>           Class 4 – Taya for always being organised</p> |                     |
| <b>Writer of the Week:</b>  |                     |
| <p>Reception – William – Great effort in controlling his pencil.<br/>           Class 1 – Rosalie for self-correcting her work.<br/>           Class 2 – Mitchell – Improved handwriting and letter formation.<br/>           Class 3 – Ruby – Fantastic Tinsted Narrative story.<br/>           Class 4 – Josh for setting a wonderful example with his neat presentation.</p>   |                     |
| <b>Contribution:</b>  |                     |
| <p>Reception Class – Ms Wyborn for showing kindness, compassion and understanding in class on Tuesday.<br/>           (Blown away)</p>  |                     |
| <b>House Points</b>   |                     |
| <i>Discovery 60</i>   | <i>Endeavour 80</i> |
| <i>Enterprise 63</i>  | <i>Voyager 59</i>   |

| <b>Term Dates 2025/2026</b>   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Autumn Term</b>  | <b>Spring Term</b>  | <b>Summer Term</b>   |
| <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 6 <sup>th</sup> October    | Reception PE – am<br>Class 3 PE – pm / Class 3 Forest School Group 1   |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October   | Rocksteady<br>Class 4 Farm Wise Trip – WestPoint, Exeter   |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October | Class 1 PE – WHOLE CLASS<br>CANCELLED - Class 1 Forest School Group 1<br>Mr Rogo – Music Tuition – ALL DAY<br>Parent Evening 15:40-18:00 – Booking via Arbor |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October  | Class 2 PE / Class 2 Forest School Group 1<br>Steve Godfrey Drumming<br>Parent Evening 15:40-18:00 – Booking via Arbor                                       |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October   | <b>Wearing Yellow for Hello Yellow for Young Minds</b><br>Class 4 PE<br>Reception Forest School Group 1  |

### Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October                         | Harvest Festival                              |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                         | Individual School Photo                       |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                         | Open wide step inside for Year 2              |
| 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.**



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

Individual class photos will be taken on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.



| Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025<br>Week 3 - W/B 6 <sup>th</sup> October |   |
|---|---|
| Monday  | <b>Margherita 3 Cheese Pizza &amp; Pasta</b><br>V – Tomato Pasta Bake<br>Baked Beans or Peas<br>Peach Melba & Ice Cream       |
| Tuesday   | <b>Butcher Hotdog</b><br>V – Quorn Dog<br>Potato Wedges, Beans & Sweetcorn<br>Fruit Jelly                                     |
| Wednesday   | <b>Roast of the Day (Pork)</b><br>V – Quorn Bites<br>Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg<br>Pancakes & Cream (With various topping) |
| Thursday  | <b>Minced Beef Soft Taco</b><br>V – No meat Mince Taco<br>Rice, Seasonal Veg or Salad<br>Ginger Cake & Custard                |
| Friday  | <b>Fish Cakes</b><br>V – Vegetable Fingers<br>Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables & Baked Beans<br>Shortbread Biscuit           |

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)



# 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!**



## TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies

Life, Love and Learning to the Full

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:

TEACHING ASSISTANT & MTA at Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School

Teaching Assistant at Pilton Infants' 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](mailto:admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk)



# 🌿 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 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.

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

Carrie-Anne Sprenger  
TEAM Family Support Worker



## KS1 Animal Encounter

Last Friday, our Key Stage 1 classes had a very special visit from Chris at Animal Encounters as part of their Dinosaurs topic. Chris brought along some amazing animals that helped us make real-life links to the time of the dinosaurs!

The **millipede** reminded us of the giant creepy-crawlies that lived before and during the dinosaur age — back then, insects could grow much bigger because of the different air and environment! The **dragon**, with its scaly skin is a reptile just like dinosaurs were — they even belong to the same animal group. The **snake** showed us how some reptiles have survived for millions of years, slowly changing over time but still keeping their ancient features. The **armadillo** may not be a reptile, but its bony armour is like the protective plates some dinosaurs had, such as the Ankylosaurs. And finally, the **owl** helped us learn that many scientists believe birds are actually modern-day dinosaurs — in fact, the mighty T. rex is more closely related to a chicken than to a lizard!

Lots more photos can be seen on the Witheridge Gallery pages on the website.



## Class 4 – SS Great Britain

Also on Friday (26th), Class 4 embarked on our first school trip of the year, taking a short journey up the M5 to Bristol. We have been learning about the Industrial Revolution, with a particular focus on the pioneers at the heart of this historical period. Therefore, it was fantastic to see one of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's creations up close and personal.

We started off in the museum, where the children were mesmerised by some of the character profiles of people who travelled on this great ship. We then followed a guide onto the ship, where we were told all about how the poorer passengers would have to knock their ship biscuits on a hard surface to check for insects lurking inside.

After our talk, we split into smaller groups to explore the differences between first class and steerage. The children had a lot of fun exploring the different rooms before we headed underneath the ship to see how it is now being conserved. Lunchtime brought some fascination with the local pigeons, but once we had filled our bellies, we walked to a park to play beneath another of Brunel's masterpieces—the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

As we left the site, a guide approached us to say that we were one of the most respectful and well-behaved groups he had ever seen, which was an absolute pleasure to hear.

Well done, Class 4, for your brilliant learning attitudes and for representing our school so wonderfully.



**Year 4 - Literary Festival at Blundell's School**

On Thursday, children in Year 4 had the opportunity to visit Blundell's School in Tiverton for a day of creative literary activities along with a number of other schools from the local area. Children took part in art sessions, drama, creative writing and storytelling with Clive Pig. Throughout the day, the children were superbly behaved and the staff at Blundell's commented on the high quality of their responses and work produced. Another highlight of the day was definitely the snacks and lunch provided! Well done, Year 4, for representing yourselves and Witheridge Academy so brilliantly.



## Mr Wiggans Forest School News...

### This Week's Learning: Snails! 🐌

This week, our focus has been on snails — an amazing type of mollusc that plays an important role in our environment.

We ventured into the Outdoor Learning Area to investigate where snails like to hide during the day. Thankfully, I came prepared with a selection of snails, giving the pupils the opportunity to observe, hold, and learn more about them up close.

The children discovered that snails have four tentacles: two with eyes for seeing and two shorter ones used for feeling and tasting their surroundings.

As part of our learning, pupils labelled a diagram of a snail and enjoyed creating their own snail-inspired pictures and models.

Fun fact: if a snail keeps moving without stopping, it can travel over 1 kilometre in just a week!





## 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.org@gmail.com](mailto:Lighthouseclub.org@gmail.com)



# PUMPKIN PATCH



**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**



WESTON FARM, KNOWSTONE, EX36 4ED 



Sunday  
 5<sup>th</sup> October  
 6pm

# Songs & Cider

£6 per person, includes Cider & Pasty

At The Church Of  
 Saint John The Baptist

With Guest Speaker  
 Heather Walton

**Christians in Witheridge**  
 Working together to serve the community

## 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 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!

**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**

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



North Devon  
**Music Centre**  
Registered Charity Number 1041980



Music Education Trust Supported early music training by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

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