



# 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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## Newsletter – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this email finds you well.

In classes 1,2,3 and 4 we have had assessment week this week. All Class Teachers have been thoroughly impressed with the children's sensible and resilient attitudes to their tests this week. Well done to all the children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

On Monday, we participated in some special workshops, which were delivered by Sophie from South West Water! Sophie delivered some excellent workshops to children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 and Year 5 & Year 6. Thank you to Mrs Nott for organising these.

We have had a few monitoring visits from members of our Local Governing Body (LGB) this week. Gemma Foley came in to look at Reading across the school on Wednesday. It was great to hear the positive feedback from Gemma about our provision on offer here at Witheridge. She was particularly impressed with the passion demonstrated by all staff towards reading and by the consistency of the teaching across all the groups. On Thursday, Sue Wells came in to look at RE. Sue was impressed with our teaching of Christianity across the school and the thoughtful way the children responded to questioning in their lessons.

Today, it is Red Nose Day! The children look great in their red outfits! Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who bought a red nose from the school office and for all the kind and generous donations either via cash or our JustGiving page. If you would like to donate to comic relief - the charity behind Red Nose Day, you can do so via this link: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1710448623862?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1710448623862&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-1710448623862?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwitheridge-academy-1710448623862&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

Next week, it is Parent/Carers Evenings! If you have not done so already, please sign up for an appointment via Arbor. This is a great opportunity to have a conversation with your child's Class Teacher about what is going well for your child and what their next steps are.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

All the best,

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



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**  
Every Day Counts!

## Weekly Attendance

Nursery 1	98%
Nursery 2	95%
Reception	93%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	80%

### Every Day Counts

Attend and achieve.

Absences add up and have a detrimental effect on your learning.



## 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 **95.4%**

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 ¼ 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 – Ada for settling in well and following the settings routines.  
Reception – Georgia for noticing patterns in number bonds to ten.  
Class 1 – Lily Ed for always being kind to friends and polite towards everyone around the school. In addition, for trying her best with everything.  
Class 2 – Hazel for her perseverance during maths this week, especially the assessments.  
Class 3 – Mia for having a sensible grown up attitude during PSHE this week.  
Class 4 – Abbie for being a really good friend.

**Writer of the Week:**

Reception – Bethan for thinking carefully about sun, boat and sea sounds in her writing.  
Class 1 – Keeley for a brilliant plan in writing.  
Class 2 – Betsy for consistently presenting her work in a neat way.  
Class 3 – Scarlett for an emotive piece of writing based on the diary of Mary during holy week.  
Class 4 – Reggie for careful re-reading of sentences to make sure they make sense.

**Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar**



**20 Merits**

Class 3 – Isabella & Harry

**40 Merits**

Reception – Georgia  
Class 3 – Olly, Josh & Alfie  
Class 4 – Ebony & Zack

**House Points**

**Discovery 27**

**Endeavour 41**

**Enterprise 39**

**Voyager 20**

**Find us on:**

Website: <https://www.teamacademytrust.com/witheridge>

Facebook: @Witheridge CofE Academy

Email: [admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk)

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

Team Meal Menu – Spring Term 2024 Week 2 - W/B 18 <sup>th</sup> March	
Monday	<b>Macaroni Cheese</b> V – Vegetarian Sausages & Pasta Seasonal Veg & Garlic Bread Fruit & Yogurt
Tuesday	<b>Beef Lasagne</b> V – Vegetarian Lasagne Crusty Bread, Peas & Carrots Peach melba and ice-cream
Wednesday	<b>Roast of the Day (Chicken)</b> V – Broccoli & Cheese Bake Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Fruit Platter
Thursday	<b>Hunters chicken or Plain Chicken</b> V - Sweet Potato Curry Rice and Seasonal Veg Iced sponge
Friday	<b>Cod Fish Cakes</b> V – Cheese baguettes Golden Fries, Seasonal Veg & Baked Beans Chocolate Cracknel

Also available every day: - Jacket Potato with Tuna,

Cheese and/or Beans. Yogurt or Fresh Fruit.

Cost of School lunches: Nursery – £1.94 per meal.  
Reception & KS1 children – Universal Infant Free  
School Meals, KS2 children £2.53 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.

### **Tapestry is about to expiry for Children in Reception Year**

The Tapestry account for Reception children who attend the Witheridge FSU will expire in the next 30 days.

Tapestry is the online Learning Journal which was used to record your children's learning and progress during their time in the FSU.

If parents/carers wish to download any photographs or reports linked to their child, then please ensure that you have done so before the account expires.



### **Changes to Nursery Fees**

With effect from 1st April 2024 the following session fees will apply for nursery pupils:

2-year-olds – £6.30 per hour

3 – 4-year-olds - £5.22 per hour

# Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

No Teacher Led Clubs all week due to Parents Evening

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Go Beyond Residential Week Class 1 & 2 visiting Rev. Wells at Witheridge Church Class 2 Parents Evening 3.30-6pm Class 3 Swimming (PE) Class 4 Group 1 – Forest School
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	FSU (Nursery & Reception) Parents Day 9-6pm Class 4 Parents Evening 3.40-6pm Rocksteady
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	FSU (Nursery & Reception) Parents Day 9-6pm Class 1 and Class 3 Parents Evening 3.40-6pm Class 1 – PE Infant A Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Session in FSU at 13.45
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Class 1, Class 3 & Class 4 Parents Evening 3.40-6pm Reception Class – PE (AM) Class 2 – PE (PM) Infant B Group 1 – Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo School Council Meeting
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Stay and Play Session in School Hall at 9am Class 4 – PE Class 4 Group 3 – Forest School

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr Rogo's Music Concert at 10am
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	TREAT FRIDAY – <b>Voyager!</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>End of Spring Term</b>
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>First Day of Summer Term</b>

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

## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023 / 2024

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
First Day – 6th September 2023	First Day – 3rd January 2024	First Day 15th April 2024
<del>Half term – 23rd – 27th October 2023</del>	Half term – 12th – 16th February 2024	Bank Holiday 6th May 2024 Half-term 27th - 31st May 2024
Last Day – 15th December 2023	Last Day <b>28th March 2024</b>	Non Pupil Day 3rd June 2024 Last Day 23rd July 2024

Non-pupil days and occasional holiday days:

4th & 5th September 2023, 2nd January 2024, 3rd June 2024, 24th, 25th & 26th July 2024

## South West Water Workshops

We have been super excited to welcome Sophie from South West Water back in to school this week. Sophie has worked with the school over the past few years, and always delivers fantastic learning whenever we work with her. This week was no exception. Children in the EYFS enjoyed making water butts from milk bottles; children in Classes 1 and 2 learnt about ways in which we can save water and why this is important; Class 4 children experienced a brand new session all about fast fashion and the amount of water which is needed to produce fabric. All in all, a really informative and enjoyable day!



## Mr Wiggans Forest School News....

This week the pupils have been looking at the wildlife in our pond habitat in our Outdoor Area.

They were successful at finding plenty of common newts that we investigated in our viewers. The pupils learnt about this amphibian and were amazed to discover how it swims and that curiously has five toes on its back feet but only four on its front legs!

We learnt about the frog and in particular its life cycle. Unfortunately, this year it looks as if our frogs have disappeared as we have found no frogs spawn.

Plenty of newts though....

Mr Wiggans



## **British Science Week**

This week has been British Science Week. To celebrate, we've completed investigations in each of our classes. In Class 4, we completed an investigation on separating mixtures by using sieving and filtering. We had lots of fun with corn, pasta, rice and flour. We then considered real life scenarios where these principles are put into practice - including sorting sewage waste - yuck! Class 3 have investigated how living things can change over time to adapt to their environment. We looked at the peppered moth, and made our own moths from playdough and natural materials to see how well they would be camouflaged in their local environment. Some of our moths were tricky to spot!



## **Messy Church**

Messy church in school - on the theme of Palm Sunday. The children had refreshments when we arrived of a drink, grapes and a cornflake crispy cake bite. They enjoyed a YouTube video telling the story of Palm Sunday while they ate and drank.

The children had a choice of three activities - we hope they have time to do them all but they choose the order. The children decorated Hosanna banners and we played a game with the parachute with lots of running around laughter and screaming! We made donkey poo - icing and cocoa powder which may or may not have made it home and talked about Jesus being feted as he entered Jerusalem with palm branches and cloaks being laid before him. Palm was a very valuable commodity and a sign of his kingship that branches were laid before him.

The session ended with a couple of songs that the children sang beautifully, managed the actions and danced too. We hope your children enjoyed their time with us. See them again in the summer term.

You are welcome to join us for Messy Church in church on Saturday 30th March to celebrate Easter. Please see the advert in this newsletter for details. Sue



# Red Nose Day 2024





**PTFA**

Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association

Wetheridge PTFA's annual Easter Fayre!  
Please come along and support this event  
for our community and surrounding  
communities.

This year we have:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Stalls
- Pony rides
- Family friendly dog show
- Lambs
- Guinea pigs
- Bunny rabbits
- Glitter tattoos
- Face gems
- Farm machinery
- Crafts
- Hot food and refreshments
- Raffle

This year we have stalls from lots of lovely  
businesses including:

- Jade Chorley with her yummy baked goods
- Chloe Luxton with her waffles and chocolate fountain
- Helen Murphy with her craft items
- Emily Jayne with her jams and chutneys
- Catherine Bradford with Phoebe's Bookcase (Independent Usborne Partner)
- Louise Anstis with her jewellery, custom clothing, decorative items and gifts
- Dani with her needle felts

If there are any other keen businesses that would like a stall please feel free to contact any  
PTFA Member!

To pre-book please do so here:

<https://wetheridgeptfa.sumupstore.com/products>

Pre-booking closes on Thursday 14th March at 11:59pm. Pre-booking is necessary for the  
Egg Hunt.





Saturday 30th March 2024

11am - 1pm

At

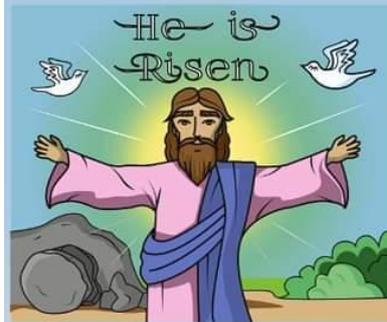
St John the Baptist Church,  
Witheridge.

We would encourage parents to stay  
and take part.

For more details and to book your  
place, so that we can ensure we have  
enough crafts and food, please  
contact Sue Wells 01884 861383



# SUNDAY CLUB



# JESUS' VICTORY

## SUNDAY 17TH MARCH

**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](mailto:sundayclub11@gmail.com)

All our staff members are certificated with the  
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

**PART OF THE LITTLE DART MISSION COMMUNITY**

Witheridge Concert Season  
Saturday  
March 16th 7pm  
Doors open 6.15pm Refreshments available

Okehampton Choral Society  
present

**The Crucifixion**  
by  
John Stainer

Parish Church of St. John the Baptist

Admission on the door £10  
Under 16's free

### WITHERIDGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

7.30pm in the Committee Room,  
Witheridge Parish Hall

Thursday 21st March 2024



- Welcome
- Reports
- Upcoming Observing opportunities
- Constellation of the month—Leo
- Open Forum

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 18th April, 7.30pm in  
the Witheridge Parish Hall Committee Room

Meetings are open to all with an interest in Astronomy,  
beginners especially welcome. Open to all ages. Just  
£3.00 per session. Do come along and see what we are  
looking at.

Steven Smith, 01884 861037

SOUTH MOLTON LIBRARY



## EASTER FAYRE

**Saturday 6th April 2024**  
**9.30am - 12noon**

Thank you to our  
Friends Group for  
organising

All funds raised  
will go to support  
South Molton  
Library

Toy Tombola

Book Sales

Raffle

Lucky Dip

Food & Drinks  
(for donations)

Easter Crafts

Easter Treasure Map

Biscuit Decorating!



Guess the Number  
of Sweets



Libraries Unlimited



Libraries Unlimited

FREE

TIVERTON LIBRARY  
EASTER CRAFTS



Friday 12  
April  
10am-12pm



Libraries Unlimited presents

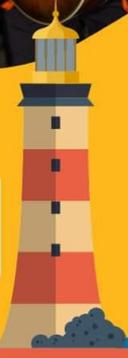
## FINDERS KEEPERS

A magical play with music and puppets for 4-7s and their families from Boots & Moon Theatre.

**SAT 27 APR, 1.30pm**  
**Tiverton Library**  
 Children: £4 Adults: £1 0-2s: Free

Get tickets: [finders-keepers.eventbrite.co.uk](https://finders-keepers.eventbrite.co.uk)





# SPRING SHOW

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

2024

WITHERIDGE PARISH

HALL

AT 2.00PM

SCHEDULES AVAILABLE AT THE

NEWSAGENTS

ORGANISED BY WITHERIDGE

GARDEN CLUB

Contact 01884 861323 for further  
 details



librariesunlimited.org.uk/events  
Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170292. To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

Supported by





## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS 2024

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



### **ASDA**

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

### **TESCO**

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from From Mon 12th - Fri in Half Terms 2024

### **SAINSBURYS CAFES**

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

### **PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

### **THE REAL GREEK**

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

### **TGI FRIDAYS**

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal (App needed)

### **PUREZZA**

Children under the age of 10 get free pizza at Purezza with every adult meal purchased

### **TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN**

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

### **SIZZLING PUBS**

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

### **BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### **COCONUT TREE**

One child (10 & Under) eats free per paying adult. Valid from 23/03/2024 - 14/04/2024

### **MORRISONS**

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

### **GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

### **PRETO**

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

### **WHITBREAD INNS**

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

### **BELLA ITALIA**

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

### **BILLS**

Two kids can eat free ALL DAY (Weekdays) from Monday 25th March - Friday 12th April 2024, with one adult main dish.

### **DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES**

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

### **TABLE TABLE**

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### **IKEA**

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### **HUNGRY HORSE**

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### **FUTURE INNS**

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.