



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 14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up another fantastic half-term at Witheridge Academy, we want to celebrate all the incredible learning and experiences our students have enjoyed. Despite a few rainy and chilly days, the enthusiasm and energy in our school have been truly inspiring.

This week, our Year 5 students embarked on their much-anticipated London Residential. They’ve had an unforgettable time watching a West End show, exploring the magic of Harry Potter World, and even meeting our MP, Ian Roome, at the Houses of Parliament—just a few highlights of their exciting trip! A huge thank you to Mr. Manning for accompanying them and making this experience possible. We are incredibly grateful to **TEAM Multi-Academy Trust**, whose support since 2017 has enabled us to continue offering this invaluable opportunity despite rising costs.



Across the school, **DT Week** has been in full swing with the theme *Building Communities*. Each class has been working on meaningful projects aimed at giving back to the community. After half term, we will invite parents and carers to visit the hall to admire the fantastic creations from Year R to Year 6.

Tuesday marked **Safer Internet Day**, where students in all year groups explored ways to stay safe online—an important conversation that we encourage families to continue at home.

This morning, parents and carers of children in the **FSU** were invited to share in their children’s learning, and it was wonderful to see so many of you join us. Thank you for being part of this special moment.



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

This half-term, **Chris' Nurture Group** has enjoyed a range of engaging and hands-on activities designed to inspire curiosity and teamwork. A highlight of their sessions was a special visit from **Warwick the Owl**, where the children had the chance to learn fascinating facts about owls and observe him up close. Their exploration of nature continued with a **bird-spotting adventure** around the school grounds, helping them identify different species and appreciate local wildlife. Adding a creative twist to their learning, the group also took on a fun **STEM challenge**, constructing impressive structures using spaghetti and marshmallows—an activity that encouraged problem-solving, patience, and collaboration.

It has been a fantastic half-term full of discovery and excitement!



Looking ahead, we have an action-packed schedule after half-term, including **swimming for Class 3, the KS2 Proms event, Science Week, Parents' Evening, Red Nose Day, and so much more!** Be sure to check the dates section of the newsletter to stay up to date.

I hope you have a lovely half term break, we will see you back in school on **Monday 24th February.**

With best wishes,
Miss Ratcliffe
Head of School

Arbor Accounts

As we have now approached the end of Spring Term 1, we kindly ask that all outstanding balances on Arbor are settled today Friday, 14th February. This includes any fees for Breakfast & After School Club, School Dinners, unpaid Trip Payments, uniform, and Nursery Fees. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter!





Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow
Every Day Counts!

Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	100%
Nursery 2	100%
Reception	98%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	92%

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!

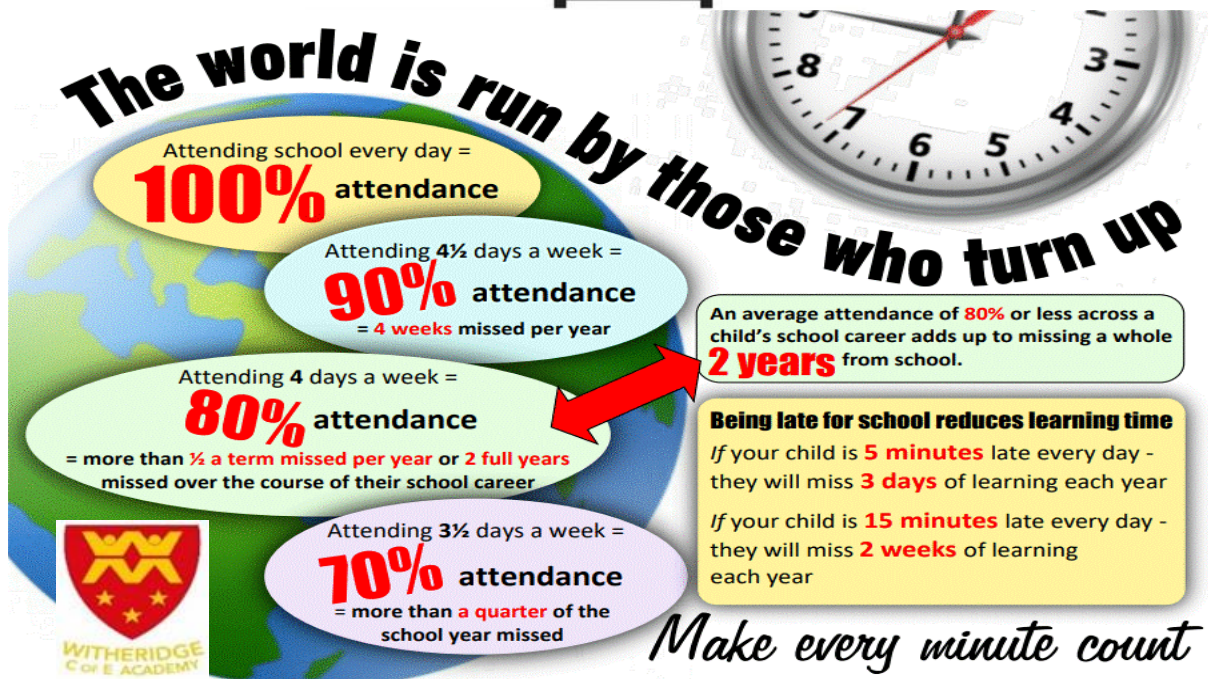
Our attendance for the week is **97.1%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.4%**

Together Each achieves More!



The world is run by those who turn up



Make every minute count



**Celebration Assembly
Well Done
For receiving a
Certificate of Achievement**



Class Award

Nursery – Evelyn for setting a good example to her peers by showing them good sitting and listening.
Reception – Riley a fantastic half term of coming to school for 5 days a week.
Class 1 – Zara for enthusiasm towards her learning and always looking to help around the class.
Class 2 – Monica for enthusiasm in making our class chutney and demonstrating super preparation skills.
Class 3 – Arthur B – Great work on perimeter.
Class 4 – Year 6 for a mature attitude towards your assessments week. You are showing the mind-set you will need towards your SATs already. Well done!

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Jayden-Lee – Writing his name beautifully in drawing club.
Class 1 – Lorcan for fantastic writing and presentation with our DT week work.
Class 3 – David – Coming up with some great sentences for you myth.
Class 4 – Emma – For some amazing writing in her RW mini assessment this week. You have demonstrated clear understanding of the topic while having the sensitivity to look through others 'lenses' fantastic!

20 Merits Award:

Reception – Rosalie
Class 1 – Mitchell

40 Merits Award:

Class 3 – Sam

60 Merits Award:

Class 4 – Paige

House Points:

Discovery 57

Endeavour 37

Enterprise 39

Voyager 43

Find us on:

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

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

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2025

Monday 24 th February	Children Return to school Class 3 (KS2) swimming Class 1 PE Class 4 New Group Forest School Teacher Led Club – Choir
Tuesday 25 th February	Rescheduled Escot Visit for Class 3 Exmoor Challenge Walk – Black Dog to School Year 5 Mini Police with PC Matt Young Year 6 SATs Information Session 3.30-4.00 Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – SAT’s Club, Times Table & Small World & Role Play
Wednesday 26 th February	Class 4 PE Class 3 Group 1 Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Stay and Play Toddler Group Session in FSU at 13:45 Teacher Led Club – Gardening Club
Thursday 27 th February	Reception Class PE Reception Class Group 1 Forest School Music Tuition with Mr Rogo Drum Tuition with Steve Godfrey Teacher Led Club – Board Games
Friday 28 th February	Farm School Class 2 Group 2 Class 2 PE Class 2 Group 1 Forest School Stay and Play Toddler Group Session in the School Hall at 9am Teacher Led Club – Homework Club

Dates for your diary:

Spring Term 2

Monday 3 rd March	Class 3 swimming
Tuesday 4 th March	Secondary School Offer Day – Check your emails
Wednesday 5 th March	Church Coffee Morning
Thursday 6 th March	Year 5 Mini Police with PC Matt Young
Monday 10 th March	Toddler Group
Tuesday 11 th March	Drum Lessons
Wednesday 12 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March	Class 3 Swimming
Friday 14 th March	Year 5 Mini Police with PC Matt Young
Monday 17 th March	Church Coffee Morning
	Toddler Group
	Parent Evening
	Drum Lessons
	Parent Evening
	Farm School Reception Whole Class Topic
	Class 3 Swimming

Tuesday 18 th March	School Council Meeting Exmoor Challenge walk - Petroc College Year 5 Mini Police with PC Matt Young
Wednesday 19 th March	Toddler Group
Thursday 20 th March	KS2 PROMS Event @ The Queens Theatre - Details on Arbor Drum Lessons
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief - Red Nose Day
Monday 24 th March	Class 3 Swimming
Tuesday 25 th March	Year 5 Mini Police with PC Matt Young
Wednesday 26 ^h March	Toddler Group Class 3 – Buckfast Abbey Trip
Thursday 27 th March	Drum Lesson
Friday 28 th March	Farm School Class 3 Group 1
Monday 31 st March	Class 3 Swimming
Tuesday 1 st April	Rocksteady Concert at 2.30 in School Hall
Wednesday 2 nd April	Toddler Group
Thursday 3 rd	Drum Lessons
Friday 4 th April	Church Easter Service
Monday 7 th April - 18 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 21 st April	Bank Holiday Monday
Friday 25 th April	Farm School Class 3 Group 2
Sunday 27 th April	Exmoor Challenge walk – Landkey - Swimbridge
Saturday 3 rd May	Exmoor Challenge Day 2025
Monday 5 th May -	Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday 6 th May	Church Coffee Morning School Council Meeting
Wednesday 7 th May -	Whole Class photos
Friday 9 th May	Farm School Class 3 Group 3
Monday 12 th May - 15 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Sunday 18 th May - 23 rd May	Year 6 Residential to Adventure Bude
Monday 26 th May - 30 th May	May half Term
Monday 2 nd June	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 23 rd July	Non Pupil Day

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

Nursery - unfunded places

From 22nd April 2025 - 2 Year olds will increase to £6.95 and 3 Year olds will increase to £5.50.

From 1st Sept 2025 2 Year olds will further increase to £7.42, 3 Year olds will stay @ £5.50.

This will bring the cost of unfunded hours in line with the DCC funded hours.

Please ensure that codes are input in time so that all those eligible for free funding receive their hours.

School Meals

From 22nd April 2025 - KS2 meals will increase to £2.58, KS1 free (UIFSM) and Nursery £2.00

Team Meal Menu – Spring Term 2025 Week 1 - W/B 24th February	
Monday	Cheese Rolls V – Vegetable Sausage Rolls Diced Potatoes, Baked Beans & Seasonal Vegetables Pancake Monday (various fruit toppings)
Tuesday	Beef Lasagne V – No Meat Vegetarian Lasagne Garlic Bread, Peas & Sweetcorn Fruit Jelly
Wednesday	Roast of the Day V – Vegetable Bites Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Fruit Salad & Ice Cream
Thursday	Katsu Chicken Curry or Plain Chicken V – Vegetarian Katsu Curry Poppadum, Rice, Cucumber Sticks or Peas Apple Sponge & Custard
Friday	Oven Baked Fish V – Vegetarian Nuggets Golden Fries, Baked Beans & Seasonal Veg Flapjack

Also available every day:
Jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or Beans
Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit

Cost of School lunches:
Nursery – £1.95 per meal.
Reception & KS1 children –
Universal Infant Free School Meals,
KS2 children £2.55 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.

PE and Forest School Days at Witheridge – Spring Term 2

Monday - Class 3 (KS2) Swimming – Consent on Arbor
Class 1 PE

Class 4 New Group! Forest School (Scarlett, Josh, Mason, Lily-Sue, Bella, Amy, Betsy, Alfie & Harry)



Wednesday - Class 4 PE

Class 3 Forest School Group 1



Thursday – Reception PE

Reception Group 1 Forest School (Monty, Imogen, Rosalie, Phoebe, Bille, Dylan & Maeve)

Friday – Class 2 PE

Class 2 Group 1 Forest School (Ava, Zoey, Keeley, Lily Ea, Archie, Mitchell, Noah, Monica & Libby)



All PE and Forest School Session take place in the afternoon.

Mr Wiggans Forest School News...

This week we have been investigating Mini Beasts, examining the different species and in particular identifying which ones are insects.

The pupils learnt that insects have two antenna, six legs and three body sections.

We learnt some amazing facts including:
Ladybirds might eat over 5000 insects in their lifetime.
Dragonflies have been on earth for over 300 million years.
A bee's wing beat 190 times a second. Wow!

The pupils then took part in a quiz on identifying whether or not each minibeast was an insect or not.

Mr.Wiggans

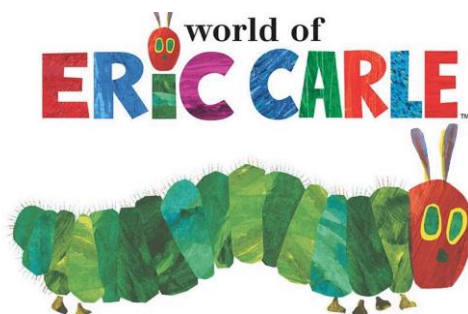
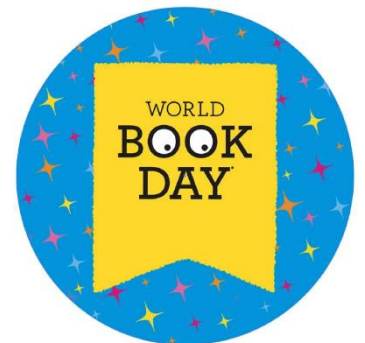


World Book Day 2025

Ahead of the half term holiday, we wanted to let you know that our theme for World Book Day this year is going to be 'Eric Carle'. Eric Carle was a famous author who wrote books such as 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird'. We will be spending time in our classes exploring the themes in the books, creating artwork linked to these stories, having a go at some cooking activities and writing some stories and poetry linked to the books.

Children can come to school dressed as a character from an Eric Carle story or as their favourite character from another book.

World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 6th March 2025**. World Book Day book tokens will be sent home tonight.



TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Working in partnership with
 SWADBRIDGE
LIFE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Part of **TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH 

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 5 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

0.6 FTE Classroom Teacher at
Brayford Academy.

Casual Afterschool Club
Playworker at Witheridge Church
of England Primary Academy.

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT
at Beaford Community Primary &
Nursery School

Meal Time Assistant at
Umberleigh Primary Academy.

0.44 FTE KS1/Reception
Classroom Teacher at Pilton
Infants' Academy.



Head lice has been reported

Head lice, is still being reported to being in every class in school. As many of you are aware, head lice can cause problems both at home and in school. **PLEASE CAN EVERYONE CHECK AND TREAT THEIR CHILD'S HAIR OVER THE FEBRUARY HALF TERM**, then try to check your child's hair regularly and if you see any head lice, treat both them, bedding and the whole family. To find out more about this then please follow the link below. <http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com>



**REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK**

Headlice & Nits

Unfortunately we have had a couple of cases of Nits in school this week. Please can parents make sure to check their children's hair over the weekend.



Head lice are small insects, up to 3mm long.

Head lice can make your head feel:

- itchy
- like something is moving in your hair

The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice.

You can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). You can buy these online or at pharmacies.

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them.

You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.



They can be difficult to spot in your hair.

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first.

You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits.

There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

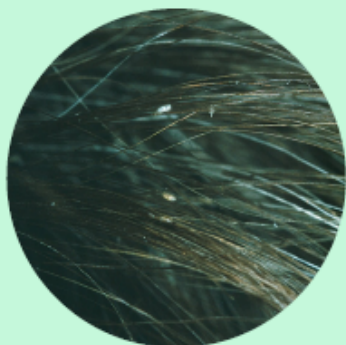
- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

Medicated lotions and sprays

Ask a pharmacist for advice if you have tried wet combing for 17 days, but your child still has live head lice.

They may recommend using medicated lotions and sprays. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online.



Head lice eggs (nits) are brown or white (empty shells) and attached to the hair.

Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child and how to use them.

If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments.



PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

A message from our PTFA...

If you would like to purchase any raffle tickets, we will be set up in the school playground after school today.

£1 a strip, cash only.

Pop over to see some of the fantastic prizes up for grabs!

Let us raise some essential funds for the PTFA!



WITHERIDGE ACADEMY PTFA

JOIN OUR FANTASTIC RAFFLE, LOTS OF PRIZES TO BE WON!

Raising funds for Witheridge Academy PTFA

GRAB THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WIN SOME AMAZING PRIZES!

Tickets are now available - please see Phoenix, Erin or Hayley to purchase, or message us 📩
Ticket Price: £1 per strip




JOIN US FOR

BINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH

WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL
(EX16 8AG)

Doors open 6.45 Eyes down 7.30

GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON INCLUDING ROAST DINNERS AND BREAKFASTS!

Cash only
Raffle and Tuck shop including coffee, tea, and soft drinks.

Raising money for Witheridge C of E Academy P.T.F.A.
Charity No: 1079365



Made with PosterMyWall.com

We are also looking for donations of raffle prizes or bottles of wine and prosecco for the bingo night.

Please leave donations at the School Office or give to Cat Seymour (Noah's Mum) or Susie Kingdom (Abbie & Mitchell's mum).

Thanks in Advance!



THE LITTLE LIBRARY

NEW IN BUTTS CLOSE!

Anyone can use it; neighbours, friends and passerby.

If you see something you would like to read, take it!

Your books are welcome especially popular fiction and children's books.




Wetheridge Farmers Market

- Wetheridge Parish Hall •
- Produce, Crafts, Refreshments, etc.

Market Dates for 2025:
 15th Feb, 15th March, 19th Apr,
 17th May, 21st Jun, 19th Jul, 15th
 Aug, 20th Sep, 18th Oct, 15th
 Nov, 20th Dec

10am-1pm

Follow us on Facebook



WITHERIDGE SUNDAY CLUB

BATTLE OF JERICHO

16th Feb

BRING THE HOUSE DOWN!

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



TAE KWON-DO WITHERIDGE

Try something new in 2025

Taekwondo is a dynamic and disciplined martial art that originated in Korea. Known for its powerful kicks and agile movements. It also develops physical strength and flexibility and cultivates mental focus and self-discipline. The sport is not just about self-defense; it's a way of life that promotes respect, perseverance, and harmony.

Witheridge Village Hall
Thursdays 6pm - 7pm
pop in and see us.



Men's Den

**Pop in for a coffee
and a chat.**

Where: 'Rest A While'

When: 2nd Wednesday every month

Time: 2 - 4pm

Hot Drinks from £1

Free Biscuits

Warm Space

Contact Sean Murphy

for more information

On 07503197282

Charity Number: 801038



Good afternoon,

As we are approaching the half term holidays I was wondering if you might be able to share the attached poster with families that you think might be interested in free activities on Northam Burrows.

◆ On **Saturday 15th February**, there will be a beach clean with Plastic Free Torridge and Northam Burrows rangers. Anyone wanting to join should head to the Westward Ho! slipway for 10.30am.

◆ On **Tuesday 18 February**, head to the Northam Burrows visitor centre at 2pm to discover more about owls and in particular owl pellets. Between 2pm and 4pm there will also be the opportunity to find out about the work of the Devon Harvest Mouse Project and meet some of their amazingly cute ambassadors! Visitors will also get the chance to make a mouse finger puppet.

◆ On **Thursday 20 February**, find the rangers on the beach near Westward Ho! Slipway between 2pm and 4pm for a 'Rockpool Ramble' and discover the strange and wonderful creatures that lurk in the rockpools at low tide.

No booking is required for any of the organised events, but children must be accompanied by an adult and appropriate clothing and footwear is advised.

Thank you very much for your time.
Kind regards,

Rose Roberts

Deputy Ranger, Northam Burrows Country Park

Free family fun with the Northam Burrows rangers this half term

Love your beach - Sat 15th Feb

Find the rangers on **Westward Ho! slipway** (EX39 1LL) between 10.30am and 12.30pm and join a litter pick to help to make our local area more beautiful.



Owls and mice - Tues 18th Feb



Northam Burrow Visitor Centre EX39 1XS

2pm - 'All about owls' talk followed by owl pellet dissection workshop.

2pm - 4pm drop in to meet the fluffy ambassador mice of the Devon harvest mouse project, make a mouse finger puppet, try a quiz and take a look at an owl pellet.

Rockpool ramble - Thurs 20th Feb

Join the Northam Burrows Rangers and Finding Nature's Footprints team to explore life on the rocky shore. **Find us on the beach** near Westward Ho! slipway (EX39 1LL) between 2pm and 4pm.



Children must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required.

northam.burrows@torridge.gov.uk

01237 479708

