



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 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this newsletter, I am reminded of the joy and vibrancy that fills our school. The warmth of the sun is a welcome companion, and in the background, I can hear children eagerly preparing for the Proms in Mr. Booth’s classroom, the focused hum of students completing their home learning in Mrs. Nott’s room, and our dedicated Librarians cheerfully singing as they organize books. Meanwhile, the playground and field buzz with the laughter and energy of children enjoying their lunchtime. It is moments like these that make me truly grateful to be part of such a wonderful school, surrounded by exceptional staff and students.

This week, we had our **Parents’ Evening**, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the parents and carers who attended. These meetings are a fantastic opportunity to connect with your child’s Class Teacher and gain insight into their learning journey. A special thank you to our dedicated teachers for facilitating these valuable sessions. If you were unable to attend or did not book an appointment, please reach out to the school office to arrange a brief catch-up.

Looking ahead, **next week is an exciting one for KS2**, as they will be heading to the Queen’s Theatre in Barnstaple for the Proms event! I am eagerly anticipating their class and individual performances alongside children from other schools within our trust. It promises to be a truly special experience.

Next week marks Assessment Week for children in Classes 1, 2, 3, and 4. This is an important opportunity for Class Teachers to administer standardised tests, allowing them to gain a clear understanding of what children can confidently do on their own, as well as identify any areas where additional support may be needed.

To help your child feel prepared and at their best, please ensure they have a nutritious breakfast each morning and arrive at school on time every day. Your support in this process is greatly appreciated.

A heartfelt thank you to the parents and carers who visited our **DT display** this week. It is always a pleasure to showcase the children’s hard work and creativity, and we appreciate your support in celebrating their achievements.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Best regards,

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



**Friday 13th March
it is Red Nose Day**

Red Noses are on sale from today. We have limited stock of 60 available for **£2.00** each on a first come, first served basis.



Children can come to school wearing something **RED**

If you would like to make a small donation to Comic Relief, the charity behind the Red Nose Day appeal, you can do so by cash into the office or via our JustGiving page:

[Witheridge Academy is fundraising for Comic Relief](#)

Mr Wiggans Forest School News...

This week the pupils have been learning about ants.

We were kindly donated a new ant farm by Rosa who works in our maintenance team. Therefore, I ordered some harvest ants (One queen and 18 worker ants) and have introduced them into their new home.

The pupils have investigated the lives of ants, where they live, different types and what they eat, as they are omnivores. With great interest, they have watched the workers and the queen use the feeding station and seen how they have already created underground rooms. We look forward to the queen laying her next batch of eggs so we can see them develop.

Mr.Wiggans



Exmoor Challenge Walk 2

On Tuesday, our Year 6s embarked on their second Exmoor Challenge training walk. On this occasion, we drove to Black Dog, abandoned the vehicles and challenged the children to navigate us back to school. We reminded the children how to orientate their maps using a compass and then spoke about how you can use landmarks to ensure you're on the right track. The children then lead different parts of the journey in pairs and were responsible for guiding all of us to a specific point on the map. Mr Wiggans and I were incredibly impressed with how quickly the children picked up the map skills and we were even more impressed with how quickly they guided us back to school. On Tuesday (18th), the children will be collaborating with Petroc College's Outdoor Adventure course who will be teaching us more about compass bearings on Exmoor which will be wonderful preparation for the actual walk.

Well done Exmoor Challengers!





Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow
Every Day Counts!

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

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 **97.8%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.5%**

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

Nursery – Zack for settling well in the FSU being confident and following routines and all boundaries.
Reception – Phoebe for her positive attitude and resilience to her learning
Class 1 – Lorcan for helping other children in maths when they have struggled.
Class 2 – Freddie for determination in all areas of learning.
Class 3 – Nyiamh for always being helpful and willing to take on extra responsibility around the classroom.
Class 4 – Josh for not allowing others to distract him and making a real effort to make the right choice.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Harvey for holding his sentence in his head and writing independently.
Class 1 – Olivia for careful thoughts about grammatical choices in writing.
Class 2 – Zoey for her improvement in handwriting.
Class 3 – Jack E – Superb description in your writing.
Class 4 – Jack for correctly applying semi colons on his writing to aid cohesion.

10 on the Nursery Caterpillar:

Florence, Jude, Jessie, Oscar & Ocean ☺

20 Merits Award:

Class 1 – Isabel

40 Merits Award:

Class 2 – Keeley
Class 3 – Hunter, Jessica, Hazel, George, Mason & Amelia
Class 4 – Max

60 Merits Award:

Class 3 – Khalid
Class 4 – Ebony

House Points

Discovery 59

Endeavour 77

Enterprise 54

Voyager 55

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

Assessment Week

Monday 17 th March	Class 3 (KS2) swimming Class 1 PE Class 4 New Group - Forest School Teacher Led Club – Choir
Tuesday 18 th March	Exmoor Challenge walk with Petroc College Year 5 Mini Police with PC Matt Young School Council Meeting Rocksteady Teacher Led Club – SAT's Club, Times Table & Small World & Role Play
Wednesday 19 th March	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 20 th March	Reception Class PE Reception Class Group 1 Forest School Drum Tuition with Steve Godfrey Board Games CANCELLED due to KS2 The Proms KS2 PROMS Event @ The Queens Theatre 9am to 20:30
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief - Red Nose Day 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 24 th March	Class 3 Swimming
Tuesday 25 th March	Year 5 Mini Police wit 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 5th May -	Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday 6th May	Church Coffee Morning School Council Meeting
Wednesday 7th May -	Whole Class photos
Friday 9th May	Farm School Class 3 Group 3
Monday 12th May - 15th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Sunday 18th May - 23rd May	Year 6 Residential to Adventure Bude
Monday 26th May - 30th May	May half Term
Monday 2nd 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.

Team Meal Menu – Spring Term 2025	
Week 1 - W/B 17 th March 2025	
Monday	<p>Cheese Rolls V – Vegetable Sausage Rolls Diced Potatoes, Baked Beans & Seasonal Vegetables Pancake Monday (various fruit toppings)</p>
Tuesday	<p>Beef Lasagne V – No Meat Vegetarian Lasagne Garlic Bread, Peas & Sweetcorn Fruit Jelly</p>
Wednesday	<p>Roast of the Day V – Vegetable Bites Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Fruit Salad & Ice Cream</p>
Thursday	<p>Katsu Chicken Curry or Plain Chicken V – Vegetarian Katsu Curry Poppadum, Rice, Cucumber Sticks or Peas Apple Sponge & Custard</p>
Friday	<p>Oven Baked Fish V – Vegetarian Nuggets Golden Fries, Baked Beans & Seasonal Veg Flapjack</p>

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.



Team Trust Vacancies

Apply now direct with 

If you're interested in joining our team we currently have multiple vacancies across the TEAM Trust.

Please click on the link below to find out more...

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



Meal Time Assistant



Umberleigh Academy

The appointed person will work as part of a team of Meal Time Assistants managed by the Head of School. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

NEW

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant



Pilton Bluecoat Academy

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support a pupil to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

NEW

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant



Beaford Primary

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support a pupil to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.



PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association

Our next event is the Bingo Night!
We are also looking for donations of raffle prizes or bottles of wine and prosecco for the bingo night.

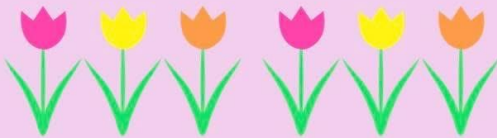
Please leave donations at the School Office or give to Cat Seymour (Noah's Mum) or Susie Kingdom (Abbie & Mitchell's mum).

Mother's Day Gift Shop!

A convenient way to buy a gift for the amazing women in your life.

£4 a gift/ticket (to be bought in advance) – Once a ticket is purchased your child will get the opportunity to choose a gift for their mum, grandparent, guardian or any amazing women.

This will then be wrapped and returned to your child to bring home in time for Mother's Day.



More than 1 ticket can be purchased per child.

Please come and join us for a chat about our future fundraising events.
It would be great to hear some ideas or suggestions from you all.
Everyone is welcome you do not have to be part of the PTFA to attend.

Location will be confirmed asap

Thanks in Advance!
The Witheridge PTFA 😊

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

WITHERIDGE C OF E
ACADEMY PTFA

March 25th
7pm
Location TBC

PTFA MEET UP

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come along to our PTFA meet up to find out details for our next fundraising events.

New ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Witheridgeptfa@gmail.com



SUNDAY CLUB



16th 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
 All our staff members are certificated with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
PART OF THE LITTLE DART MISSION COMMUNITY



EASTER FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CLUB




Join us for a fun filled Easter of football, games, competitions & prizes
 Girls & Boys / All abilities
 Ages 5 - 15 years / 9am - 4pm

7 hours of fun for £30 per day



TARKA LEISURE CENTRE 4G
 Barnstaple, North Devon EX31 2AP

Full timetable available on our website
 For more info email e: info@romarsports.com



Witheridge Farmers Market

- Witheridge 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 Farmers market this Saturday 10-1pm at Witheridge Parish Hall. Stalls include ; East Burrow Farm beef and lamb boxes, Kamicrafter, Laura's sea glass, Alisons crafts, Rowan Moon Waxes, Two Moors Cafe, westmiddlewick farm, the Orchard, Fran's preserves and a new stall selling knitted Ware's.

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