



## ‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	<b>Compassion</b>	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Friendship	Courage
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### Witheridge C of E Academy Newsletter

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Theme of the Half Term: Compassion

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at Witheridge C of E Academy, our core value of **compassion** has truly been at the heart of all we have done. It has been a week of reflection, kindness, and community spirit - from moments of quiet remembrance to joyful acts of inclusion and generosity.



#### **Remembrance Day**



On Monday, the whole school came together in the hall to mark **Remembrance Day**. We held a respectful **two-minute silence**, remembering those who gave their lives in service to our country. The children showed great maturity and empathy as we reflected on the courage and sacrifice of others. We also said a **prayer for those currently serving in the armed forces**, asking for their protection and strength. It was a moving reminder of how compassion can be shown through gratitude and remembrance.

Thank you to our Head Boy and Head Girl - Alfie and Betsy - for selling poppies over the last few weeks to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

#### **Anti-Bullying Week**

This week also saw the launch of **Anti-Bullying Week**, beginning with **Odd Socks Day** on Monday. It was wonderful to see the hall filled with bright colours and unique socks, a celebration of how our differences make us special.

Throughout the week, pupils took part in a range of **classroom activities, discussions, and reflections** focused on kindness, respect, and standing up for others. Children explored what it means to show compassion not only through words but through everyday actions - being a good friend, including others, and showing empathy when someone is struggling.

#### **Children in Need**

To round off our week of compassion and caring for others, we are supporting **Children in Need** today. This is another wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together to make a positive difference to children’s lives across the UK. Thank you for your generosity and enthusiasm - every act of giving, big or small, reflects the compassionate heart of our school. If you would still like to donate, you can do so via our JustGiving



page: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-16?utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/witheridge-academy-16?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)

## 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

As we reflect on this week, we are reminded that compassion is not only about grand gestures but also about the small, daily choices we make to show care, understanding, and love to one another. Thank you for helping us nurture these values both at school and at home.

With warm regards,  
Miss Ratcliffe

### **Bikeability for Year 5**

Last week, Year 5 have been completing their Bikeability training and what a fantastic job they've done! Our instructor, Peter, has been impressed by how sensible the Year 5s have been and just how quickly they've picked up some of the skills taught this week.

The children started this week on the playground, doing vital safety checks and basic training. Once they'd passed their level 1 training, small groups took to the streets for some road-based training. The children have been learning about the Highway Code and practising how to signal, turn and emergency stop.

Well done Year 5, I look forward to seeing you apply those new skills whilst safely commuting to school on your bikes over the coming weeks.



### ***Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation***

*Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.*

*Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)  
The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026.*

*Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at [schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) or by emailing the school.*

*No changes are being proposed.*



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

Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	95%
Nursery 2	89%
Reception	93%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	90%

**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 **95.1%**

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 – Lily for settling well in to Nursery.  
Reception – Ocean for an excellent attitude to learning.  
Class 1 – Gracie for a great start to her new school and being helpful in DT week.  
Class 2 – Jasper for his hard work with his DT learning  
Class 3 – Ivy for always being kind, encouraging and responsible.  
Class 4 – Ayla for having a calm, settled and productive week after half term.

**Writer of the Week:**

Reception – Darcy – superb effort in phonics  
Class 1 – Harvey for his focus and ability to ignore distractions when writing.  
Class 2 – Billy for his DT week evaluation.  
Class 3 – Ethan for concentrating on letter placement.  
Class 4 – Declan for working hard on maintaining high expectations for presentation.

**Contribution:**

Isabella – For being brave and resilient after an injury during bike ability.  
Milo – always being polite and helpful.

**Librarians book review:**

Olly – Class 3

**Bobbie's Lunchtime Award:**

Ronnie W – For always waiting patiently, having amazing manners and being so helpful with the younger children.

**20 Merits:**

Class 3 – Ava H, Libby, Ivy & Hunter  
Class 4 – Ayla-Rose

**House Points**

*Discovery 34*

*Endeavour 44*

*Enterprise 43*

*Voyager 39*

Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 2 - W/B 17th November	
Monday	<b>Macaroni Cheese</b> V – Tomato Pasta Bake Garlic Bread, Peas & Sweetcorn Jam Doughnut or Fruit slices
Tuesday	<b>Team's All Day Breakfast</b> V – Team's All Day Vegetarian Breakfast Potato Waffles, Beans, Peas, Tomatoes & Mushrooms Fruit & Yoghurt
Wednesday	<b>Roast of the Day (Chicken)</b> V - Homity Pie Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg Angel Delight & Fruit
Thursday	<b>Chicken Katsu Curry (Or Plain Chicken)</b> V - Quorn Katsu Naan Bread, Rice, salad sticks or Peas Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate
Friday	<b>Oven Baked Fish</b> V – Quorn Nuggets Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables & Baked Beans Oaty Cookie (various flavours)

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.

Term Dates 2025/2026		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>First day of term – Thursday 4th September 2025</del></li> <li>• <del>Half Term – Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025</del></li> <li>• <b>Last day of term - Friday 19th December 2025</b></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

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception PE – am Class 3 PE – pm Teacher Led Clubs: Football & Craft Club
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Rocksteady Teacher Led Clubs: Times Table MTC Parent & Carer Information Session @ 3pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 3 @ RAMM Exeter – Details on Arbor Class 4 PE - pm Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Teacher Led Clubs: Gardening Club with Chris Open afternoon/evening for new Reception starters 2026
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 2 PE - pm Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Class 1 PE - pm Teacher Led Club: Homework Club at Lunchtime

### Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> November	UK Parliament Week
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> November	TEAM Go Beyond
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Festive Farm Quest – KS1
	School Council Meeting
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	10am FSU Nativity Performance 1
	2:30pm FSU Nativity Performance 2
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 1
	6pm KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 2
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10am KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 3
	4pm KS1 & KS2 Nativity Performance 4
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	PTFA Pantomime
	Rocksteady Concert 2pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Church Service 10am @ St John the Baptist
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

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



## 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.)



## WE INVITE YOU TO OUR OPEN AFTERNOON/EVENING

Are you looking for a primary school for your child?

Applications for starting primary school in September 2026 opened on 15 November and close on 15 January 2026!

Witheridge CofE Primary Academy is a thriving village school set in the beautiful North Devon countryside. We are a caring and happy school with a passion for children's learning and well-being.

As a small school we are able to personalise the learning every child receives and offer an enriching curriculum that is enhanced by our membership of TEAM Academy Trust. This provides us with the opportunity to work closely with our partner schools and give our children a range of opportunities not always available to schools in rural settings. Our school currently has just over 120 pupils who are inspired by high quality teaching coupled with excellent facilities and A rating of GOOD by Ofsted and SIAMS.

A warm welcome awaits prospective families at our OPEN AFTERNOON on **WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER FROM 2PM UNTIL 5PM**, tour appointments to be made in advance by calling 01884 860518 or emailing [admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk) or by clicking on our google link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5xVZQZuv4Aich7bYOIHpGXx9psCBq9TFX6TK6UEeiTosJ6w/viwwform?usp=sharing&oid=110819578503223506653> to book a time slot. Childcare available at the Stay and Play Session in the FSU until 15.30pm.

Come along to find out what makes our school such a special place to start your child's educational journey.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born  
between 1 September 2021  
and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:

[devon.cc/admissionsonline](https://devon.cc/admissionsonline)

or scan the QR code. Applications open from  
**15 November 2025** to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk) or call our Education Helpline on:

**0345 155 1019**



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.





# Wetheridge CofE Academy

"Encourage one another and build each other up." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11



# OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
FROM 14:00-17:00

FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF RECEPTION STARTERS SEPT 2026

Please book a time slot by calling 01884 860518 or using our booking link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5xVZO7uv4Aich7bYQIHpGXx9psCBq9TFX6TK6UEaiTosJ6w/viewform>

We know that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions that you will have to make as a parent. To help you make this choice, we are providing the opportunity for you to visit our friendly and welcoming school. If you would like a chance to discover the fantastic opportunities and experiences we can offer your child, please contact the school office to book a time slot for a tour on Wednesday 19th November with the Head of School, Miss Ratcliffe.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY ~ BUILDING FUTURES ~ BUILDING LEARNING POWER ~ BUILDING SELF ESTEEM**

# TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Life, Love and Learning in the Full

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH **mynewterm**

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



Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

We currently have 3 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

## Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV2025/1943/28724

### Team Multi-Academy Trust

TEAM Multi Academy Trust are seeking a Trustee with Financial Expertise - Help Shape the Future of Education in North Devon.

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

£ Voluntary

55 Days Remaining - Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

## Meal Time Assistant

EDV2025/1946/14471

### Umberleigh Primary 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.

📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

£ £12.65 Hourly

3 Hours per week | (12PM - 1PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH DAY)

New - Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 - Job start: ASAP

## SPECIALIST TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV2025/1948/1948

### Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

We're looking for a caring, motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our school community and play a key role in supporting our pupils' learning and development.

📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ

🕒 Fixed Term | Full-Time

£ £13.90 Hourly

Grade D | 30 hours per week (08:30AM - 3:30PM MONDAY - FRIDAY) | We understand that availability varies, if you're only able to only commit to a few days per week, we're open to appointing two candidates to share the role.

15 Days Remaining - Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 - Job start: ASAP



# **WANTED**

## **Christmas Decorations**

**Do you have any unwanted Christmas decorations you no longer use or need?**

I'm looking for donations of anything festive from Christmas trees, baubles, lights and even tinsel, or other decorations in the hope this helps bring some holiday cheer to families within your child's school and across the Trust.

Some of our families are facing difficult times and for many, Christmas can be a stressful and challenging time which can then affect our parents' and children's mental health. My aim is for us to help ease that burden and bring a little joy into their homes to make the festive time a little more comfortable and enjoyable and I am hoping with your support we can all do our bit for our families in need.

I'm sure many of us have decorations tucked away in the attic that we no longer use perhaps because we've changed our colour scheme or theme or just no longer need. If you're able to donate any of these items, it would make a real difference to some.

If these donations can be brought in as soon as possible to the school office and I will then pop around all schools and collect all bits donated. I will then box up some of these bits and deliver them to our families in need.

Thank you so much for your support and your generosity towards this situation.

Between us all let's make a difference to someone this Christmas.

Carrie-Anne Sprenger

TEAM Family Support Worker



**PTFA**

Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association

Maybe you have some unwanted alcohol or new items in your cupboard that would be perfect for our bingo raffle. We are seeking donations of alcoholic bottles (spirits or wines) and raffle prizes for the bingo at the end of November. We would also love vouchers or prizes from any local businesses. Please speak to Cat Seymour or Susie Kingdom to hand over donations or let us know if you think you can sponsor us as a business. You can also hand donations in at the main office. TIA!

**CHRISTMAS  
MEGA BINGO NIGHT**

*Fun For The Whole Family! A night not to be missed!*  
**Saturday 29th November**  
**Doors open 6.15pm, Eyes down 7pm**  
**@ Witheridge Parish Hall**  
**EX16 8AG**  
*Amazing prizes to be won and Christmas raffle*

*Bingo and raffle - Cash only approx.  
£10 per person for a full book £1 per raffle ticket strip  
Bar and tuckshop- Alcoholic and soft drinks & snacks - cash and card  
For further information contact Cat or Suzie on 07970180637  
Raising funds for Witheridge C of E Academy*

Made with PosterMyWall.com

WITHERIDGE SPORTS CLUB  
PRESENTS

**WITHY'S GOT  
TALENT  
CHRISTMAS  
SPECIAL**

FRI 19TH DEC  
FROM 6PM

SINGER, MUSICIAN, DANCER,  
COMEDIAN, MAGICIAN, GROUP  
OR SOLO

FOR BOOKING VISIT OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE

ANY Q'S:  
WITHERIDGESPORTSCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Back by very popular demand we are holding another talent show, this time with a Christmas theme. As before please register your entry via our form on facebook 'Witheridge Sports Club' before the cut off date of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

[Christmas Withy's Got Talent registration](#)



School holidays adding to your energy costs?

**Our energy team can help**



Call us on **01237 879 233** to see if you're eligible for help with fuel vouchers and grants, and to receive tips on how to cut your bills

CODE:  
**YMK434**

**FC DEVON**

**ROMARNS COLLECTIVE**

**FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CLUB**

Join us this Christmas for fun filled days of football games, competitions & prizes  
Girls & Boys / All abilities  
Ages 5 - 15 years

22 & 23 DECEMBER | 10am - 2pm  
TARKA LEISURE CENTRE, BARNSTAPLE

22 DECEMBER | 10am - 2pm  
THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL, BIDEFORD

[www.romarsports.com](http://www.romarsports.com)

**Devon County Council**

**Family Hubs**

Request for Support

Advice & Guidance Line: **0800 538 5458**

**TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER | 10AM - 2PM**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY**

The Ashleigh school  
Bevan Road  
Barnstaple  
EX32 8LJ

DEVON H A F  
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES CLUB

<https://eequ.org/book/romar-sports-haf-holiday-club-barnstaple-with-romar-sports-devon-limited-14408>

**Healthy**  
Appetite & Activities

**FULLY FUNDED**  
FOR ALL CHILDREN AGED 5-14  
ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFIT RELATED  
**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**  
[£25 PER DAY FOR PUPILS NOT ELIGIBLE]

**FESTIVE SPECIAL**  
10am - 3pm **DAILY FOOTBALL & MULTI-SPORT ACTIVITIES**

**NUTRITIOUS COOKED MEAL EVERY DAY**

NUTRITION GUIDES    MAGICIAN & ENTERTAINER  
LOCAL TRIPS    ANIMAL HQ VISIT

**CERTIFICATES, PRIZES AND MUCH MORE!**  
FOR LOCATIONS, DATES AND BOOKINGS PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.HEALTHYAPPETITEANDACTIVITIES.CO.UK](http://WWW.HEALTHYAPPETITEANDACTIVITIES.CO.UK)

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

**Class 3 – Ollly's Book review**

An Amazing Fact a Day

### Book Review

The longest novel ever written is 'À la recherche du temps perdu' by Marcel Proust. It consists of 3031 pages in 7 volumes and contains over a million words.

Write a review for a book you have read recently.

Book Title: <u>Bunny vs Monkey</u>	What is the book about?	Who would you recommend the book to? Why?
Author: <u>Janie Smart</u>	<u>A Bad Monkey and good Bunny</u>	<u>Khalid Freddie and Milo because it is funny</u>
Fiction or Non-fiction: <u>fiction</u>		
Rating:		
What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why? <u>4+ because it is funny.</u>	Book Illustration	

You could also try and find out:

- which book took the longest to write;
- which book has sold more copies than any other;
- who has written the most books;
- which is the smallest book ever made.

twinkl twinkl.co.uk

### My Book Review

Name: Ollly

Date: 6.11.25

Book Title: Bunny vs Monkey

How did you feel about this book?

Now draw your favourite part of the book.

twinkl visit twinkl.com.au