



Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Fore Street, Witheridge, EX16 8AH Tel: 01884 860518

admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk



‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	Compassion	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Friendship	Courage
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Witheridge C of E Academy Newsletter

21st November 2025

Theme of the Half Term: Compassion

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we continue to focus on the Christian value of **Compassion**. Across the school, children have been exploring what it means to show kindness, understanding and empathy towards others—whether by offering help to a friend, being patient during challenges, or noticing when someone may need a supportive word. We encourage families to continue these conversations at home, helping children recognise the many small ways compassion can make a real difference in our community.

UK Parliament Week – School Council Elections

Next week is **UK Parliament Week**, and to support our teaching of **British Values**, we will be electing our new **School Councillors**. This is always an exciting opportunity for pupils to learn about democracy, leadership and representation.

If your child would like to apply to be a School Councillor, **applications need to be handed in as soon as possible**, so that classes can prepare for voting next week.

Assessment Week – Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

Next week will also be **Assessment Week** for children in **Years 2, 3, 4 and 5**. These assessments help us understand how well children are progressing and identify areas where they may need further support.

Please help your child feel confident and ready by ensuring they have:

- **A good night’s sleep**
- **A healthy breakfast each day**

These small routines make a big difference to their concentration and success.

Cold Weather Reminder

As the weather becomes colder, please ensure that **your child brings a coat to school every day**. We aim to get outside for playtimes and learning whenever possible, and appropriate warm clothing is essential.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a warm and restful weekend,

Miss Ratcliffe
Head of School

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	95%
Nursery 2	98%
Reception	91%
Year 1	88%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	95%

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!

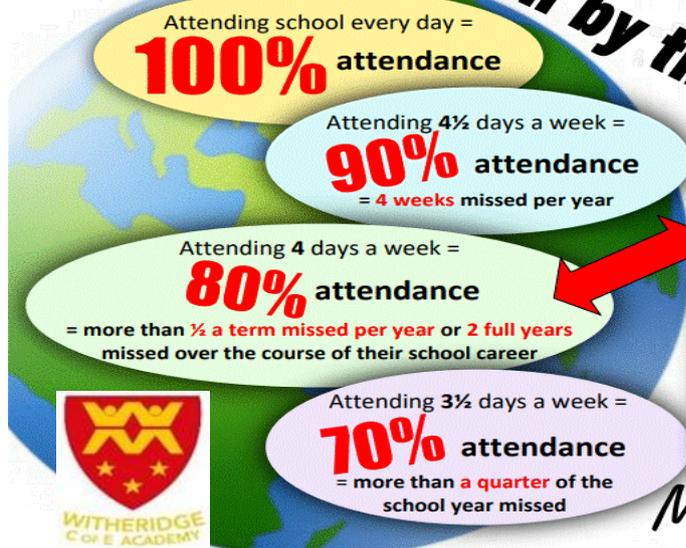
Our attendance for the week is **92.9%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.1%**

Together Each achieves More!



The world is run by those who turn up



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 – Evelyn for joining in during focused maths time and having a go at answering questions.
Reception – Lily-Rose always showing kindness to her classmates.
Class 1 – Teddy for coming into school smiling every day this week.
Class 2 – Isabel for contribution to the class discussion during maths learning.
Class 3 – Ava H and Ronnie R for great improvement on TTRS.
Class 4 – Isabella for her beautifully designed Christmas lantern and effort during DT week.

Writer of the Week:

Reception – Lucy excellent effort writing her sounds.
Class 1 – Phoebe for writing independently with beautifully sized handwriting.
Class 2 – Reuben for his fantastic poem in English.
Class 3 – Hunter for correctly spelling 'chandelier' in English
Class 4 – Freddie B great presentation in his DT work.

Contribution:

Jersey-Jay, Savanna, Jessie, Evelyn, Ruthie, Rudi, Robyn and Leilani for doing so well during the remembrance assembly.

Bobbie's Lunchtime Award:

Harry V for being caring and helpful to the younger children.

Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar

Ruthie, Savanna, Rudi & Jersey-Jay.

20 Merits:

Class 2 – Reuben
Class 3 – Jenson
Class 4 – Jack E, Arthur C, Jacob & Jessica

House Points

Discovery 29

Endeavour 48

Enterprise 31

Voyager 40

Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 3 - W/B 24th November CHANGES TO MENU	
Monday	Margherita 3 Cheese Pizza & Pasta V – Tomato Pasta Bake Baked Beans or Peas Peach Melba & Ice Cream
Tuesday	Butcher Hotdog V – Quorn Dog Potato Wedges, Beans & Sweetcorn Pancakes & Cream (With various topping)
Wednesday	Main: Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake Vegetarian: Cheese Wrap Side: Potato wedges, peas and coleslaw. Fruit Jelly
Thursday	Minced Beef Soft Taco V – No meat Mince Taco Rice, Seasonal Veg or Salad Ginger Cake & Custard
Friday	Fish Cakes V – Vegetable Fingers Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables & Baked Beans 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.

Term Dates 2025/2026		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of term – Thursday 4th September 2025 • Half Term – Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 • Last day of term - Friday 19th December 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of term - Tuesday 6th January 2026 • Half Term - Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026 • Last day of term – Thursday 2nd April 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of term – Monday 20th April 2026 • Bank Holiday - May Day - Monday 4th May 2026 • Half Term - Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026 • Non Pupil Day - Monday 1st June 2026 • Last day of term – Tuesday 21st July 2026

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2025

UK Parliament Week

Monday 24 th November	Reception PE – am Class 3 PE – pm Teacher Led Clubs: Football & Craft Club DT Display 3:30-4:15 in the school hall
Tuesday 25 th November	Rocksteady Teacher Led Clubs: Times Table
Wednesday 26 th November	Class 4 PE - pm Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Teacher Led Clubs: Gardening Club with Chris
Thursday 27 th November	Class 2 PE - pm Mr Rogo – Music Tuition Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking
Friday 28 th November	KS1 Wonderdome with High Bickington School Class 1 PE - pm Teacher Led Club: Homework Club at Lunchtime

Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

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

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

Russell Wilcox – Individual School Photographs

Your child's school photos will be archived in two days – Order over the weekend to avoid disappointment.

Keep adding photos to the family picture album and order your child's school photos today!
 Photographs are memories that never fade.



THANK YOU!

Together We Raised **£71.00** for Children in Need!
The children had a blast taking part in a fun-filled day of
classroom-based bear-themed activities.

Your support means so much — especially to
those who will benefit from these kind donations.



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)



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.)





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



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 17th December 2025.

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



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

Musical Event 

The Church of St John the Baptist,
Witheridge, EX16 8AE

Presents -Clapper Chaos
Friday 28th of November 2025 at 7pm



Refreshments available from 6.30pm

Tickets £10

Join us for an evening of entertainment from a highly talented group. It is amazing to see and hear handbells ringing out in multitudes of harmony.

Any profits to church funds




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

<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

CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL

CHRISTMAS BINGO

ON

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 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!

In aid of Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Withyfest Autumn Sessions

22nd November

Witheridge Parish Hall

Doors Open 8:30 Entry

Christmas HAF Holiday Club - Castle Primary School Tiverton

We still have places on our Christmas HAF Club

🕒 10am-2pm

📅 Monday 22nd December 📅 Tuesday 23rd December 📅 Monday 29th December 📅 Tuesday 20th December

To Book- click the link below

🌐 [Winter HAF Castle Primary School Tiverton with Healthy Appetite and Activities · Eequ](https://eequ.org/book/winter-haf-castle-primary-school-tiverton-with-healthy-appetite-and-activities)



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu **mmunisation**
Helping to protect children, every winter

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CORNWALL & DEVON
School Age Immunisation Service
Provided by Kernow Health CIC

School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- FLU - Reception - Year 11
- MMR - Catch-up
- HPV - Year 8 - Year 11
- Meningitis ACWY - Year 9 - Year 11
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP) Year 9 - Year 11

FLU

MMR

HPV

MENINGITIS ACWY

DIPHTHERIA TETANUS POLIO (DTP)

Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- Home educated children
- Anxious children
- Children who missed the session at school

SCAN HERE



For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

Call us on

01392 342678

Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmdevon@nhs.net

THE PENGUIN SPORTS FOUNDATION

INCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS SILENT DISCO!

SAT 6TH DECEMBER 2025

3pm to 6pm, Roundswell School, Barnstaple

Whether you dance, sway, sit or freestyle, this dance floor is for you!

Fully accessible for children with a physical disability or SEN/additional needs

* refreshments * activities * Father Christmas * raffle *

TICKETS

£8 per child up to age of 18 *
(no charge if 3 years or under)

Parents/carers FREE entry *

For details & tickets scan



OR EMAIL

info@thepenguinsportsfoundation.co.uk

Raising funds for The Penguin Sports Foundation, a local charity providing rehab and sporting opportunities to children with physical disabilities.

myclothing

15% Off Everything!*
24-30 Nov

Use code **SAVE15** at checkout

*This offer excludes bundles, clearance items and leavers hoodies.

Valid 24-30.11.2025

www.myclothing.com

TIVERTON CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

MORNING

10:00	Town Band	Phoenix Lane	FREE!
10:00-	Face glitter and hair tinsel	Phoenix Lane	
10:00-14:00	Art & Craft workshops, 2-12yrs, by Creative Mojo	Town Hall	
10:00-12:00	Warm space, teas, mince pies	St Peter's	
10:00-12:00	Festive pom pom workshops by Pom Stitch Tassel	St George's extension	
10:30	Christmas stories under the tree	Town Hall	
11:00	Tiverton Town Majorettes	Phoenix Lane	

AFTERNOON

12:00	Circus workshops	Phoenix Lane	FREE!
12:00	Tiverton Town Majorettes	Phoenix Lane	
12:30-16:30	Soft play	Oak Room	
12:30-13:15	DJ workshop: open decks / electronic production, 10-18yrs	Oak Room	
13:00	Entertainingly Different	Phoenix Lane	
13:00	Christmas stories under the tree	Town Hall	
13:00-15:00	Festive pom pom workshops by Pom Stitch Tassel	St George's extension	
13:15	Stiltwalkers	Fore Street	
13:30	Christmas stories under the tree	Town Hall	
14:00	Elf and reindeer walkabout	Phoenix Lane	
14:00-17:00	SPACE Youth Service: challenges	Phoenix Lane	
14:00	Christmas stories under the tree	Town Hall	
14:00	Diamond Twirlers Majorettes	Fore Street	
14:15-15:00	DJ workshop: open decks / electronic production, 10-18yrs	Oak Room	
14:30	Mid Devon Singers	Fore Street	
15:00	Circus Workshops	Phoenix Lane	
15:00	Diamond Twirlers Majorettes	Fore Street	
15:20	Mid Devon Singers	Fore Street	
15:30	Elf and reindeer walkabout	Phoenix Lane	
15:30-16:30	Music workshop: improvisation and playing in a group	St George's extension	
16:00	Diamond Twirlers Majorettes	Fore Street	
16:00	Chris Ostler	Fore Street	
16:15	Stiltwalkers	Fore Street	

EVENING

16:30-18:30	Jam session: drop-in	St George's extension	FREE!
17:15	Entertainingly Different	Phoenix Lane	
17:15	Joey The Lips	Fore Street	
18:00	Switch On With Santa!	Fore Street	
18:15	Joey The Lips	Fore Street	



Apply for a primary school place

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



Apply online at:

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 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.