



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
--------------	-------------------	--------------	-------------	------------	---------

Witheridge C of E Academy – Weekly Newsletter

Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy and joy-filled week we have had at Witheridge C of E Academy!

🌟 New School Councillors Elected

A huge **well done** to our newly elected school councillors: **Ada, Monty, Nancy, Keeley, Mya, Milo and Max**. Each of them worked hard to secure the votes of their classmates and should be incredibly proud of their achievement.

They will now join **Betsy and Alfie**, our fantastic **Head Girl and Head Boy**, to form this year’s School Council. We wish them all the very best for the term ahead and look forward to hearing the excellent ideas they will bring to the school community.



🎵 Christingle Services

On Monday, we celebrated our Christingle services, which were enjoyed by pupils, staff, and families alike. A special **thank you to Vicar Adrian** for joining us and helping to make the services so meaningful.

Well done also to the **Class 4 readers**, who read beautifully and with great confidence.



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

🎄 Elf Day Fun

Wednesday brought a burst of festive cheer as staff and children transformed into a school full of elves! There were pointy hats, jingling bells and plenty of smiles.

Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and generosity, we are delighted to share that we raised a **fantastic amount for the Alzheimer's Society**. Your support makes a real difference.



★ Nativity Performances

Excitement is building as we look forward to our **Nativity performances on Friday and throughout next week**. The children have been rehearsing brilliantly, and we can't wait to share these special celebrations with you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you a restful weekend and look forward to another wonderful week ahead at Witheridge C of E Academy.

Warmest wishes,
Miss Ratcliffe
Head of School

KS1 Trip – Wonderdome

On Friday, children in Key Stage 1 had the opportunity to explore their Space topic at the Wonderdome which was based in High Bickington. Despite a long journey there (due to several road closures) the children's spirits remained high as we arrived at High Bickington. In the Community Centre Hall, we walked in to find an enormous dome! We took our shoes off and went inside. Once inside, we learnt all about the sun, planets and the constellations through projections on to the walls and roof of the dome. We even watched a moon landing and saw what it might be like if we lived and worked on the moon. It was a fantastic experience, full of awe and wonder. The children learnt so much to complement their knowledge and understanding of space.



Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 2 - W/B 8 th December	
Monday	Macaroni Cheese V – Tomato Pasta Bake Garlic Bread, Peas & Sweetcorn Jam Doughnut or Fruit slices
Tuesday	Team's All Day Breakfast V – Team's All Day Vegetarian Breakfast Potato Waffles, Beans, Peas, Tomatoes & Mushrooms Fruit & Yoghurt
Wednesday	Roast of the Day (Chicken) V - Homity Pie Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Veg Angel Delight & Fruit
Thursday	Chicken Katsu Curry (Or Plain Chicken) V - Quorn Katsu Naan Bread, Rice, salad sticks or Peas Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate
Friday	Oven Baked Fish 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"> • 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

Monday 8 th December	
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
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Mr Rogo – Music Tuition – ALL DAY! Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking Ethos Ambassadors Cake Sale
Friday 12 th December	

Autumn Term - Dates for your diary:

Monday 15 th December	PTFA Pantomime
Tuesday 16 th December	Rocksteady Concert 2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Church Service 10am @ St John the Baptist
Friday 19 th December	Nursery & toddler Group Christmas Party 9am School Hall Class Christmas Parties - afternoon
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term

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

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>



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.)



Ethos Ambassadors

Raising funds for The Salvation Army

Christmas Bake Sale

DECEMBER 11TH AFTERSCHOOL BAKES AND HOT CHOCOLATE CONES

Suggested donations of 50p-£1 for bakes
Hot Chocolate cones £1

THE SALVATION ARMY

WITHERIDGE C of E ACADEMY



PTFA

Parents
Teachers
Friends
Association



*Thank
You!*



We're happy to report that
we raised an amazing
£1103.40 for PTFA funds at
the Christmas Bingo.
Thank you to all who came
and contributed.

Look out for the next
bingo coming in March!

Merry Christmas!

Susie, Kat, Emma and Mrs Seymour.



Nursery - Early Years Funding
for January 2026 (Spring Term)

Please apply for your 30-hour code, if you are eligible, before the 19th December to ensure that your code is in place in time for January 2026. The link below will take you to the website for all the necessary details. Please let us know your successful code and your national insurance number so that your code can be verified on the DCC Portal. If you have any questions, please ask Mrs Eastman in the school office.

[Apply for 30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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.



Christians in Witheridge
Working together to serve the community

Posada December 2025



'Posada' (Spanish for 'inn') is a Christmas activity which lasts from December 1st – 24th when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night.

People sign up in advance, offering to host Mary and Joseph for a night. It's open to everyone, and lots of families find it's a great way to be involved in the Christmas story.

If you'd like to be involved please contact
Ruth 07980104347
Sue 07443591445

Or we have a Sign up sheet in the school office - please see Mrs Eastman.

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Life, Love and Learning to the Full



Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH **mynewterm**

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

We currently have 5 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMT/20736

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 Middy, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

Administrative Assistant

EDV/2025/HBCEPA/44963

High Bickington Church of England Primary Academy

We are seeking to appoint a flexible and committed administrative assistant to support the Head of School and Trust Business Manager in the daily operation of our school front office and reception...

- 📍 High Bickington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AY
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- Grade C | 20 HPW (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:30AM - 12:30PM)

New • Apply by Middy, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER LEAD

EDV/2025/UPA/05739

Umberleigh Primary Academy

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- Grade C | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM - 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New • Apply by Middy, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER

EDV/2025/UPA/66770

Umberleigh Primary Academy

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
- £ £12.84 Hourly
- Grade B | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM - 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New • Apply by Middy, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

Cook

EDV/2025/WCEPA/73406

Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Witheridge C of E Academy are looking for someone special to lead our school kitchen and provide nutritious, delicious meals for our pupils and staff.

- 📍 Fore Street, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8AH
- 🕒 Permanent/Term Time Only | Full-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- GRADE: C | 32.5 HPW (MONDAY - FRIDAY) | 38 Weeks

New • Apply by Middy, Wednesday 10th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January



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 17th December 2025.

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



WITHERIDGE GIFTS OF KINDNESS

Spreading kindness in our community

Witheridge Gifts of Kindness collects donations and creates packages for local people. Together, we share warmth, kindness and a little extra joy during the festive season.

♥ Nominations by 30 November

If you have someone in mind who would benefit from a little parcel of kindness this upcoming festive season, please let us know by completing this form <https://forms.gle/2z4DWdPgv53tVHX7Z> - all information received is strictly confidential.

♥ Donations by 12 December

If you are in a position to donate, we would be extremely grateful. There are drop-off points at both the Church of St John the Baptist and the Doctors Surgery. We can also be contacted on witheridgegiftsofkindness@gmail.com if you would like to arrange for us to collect.

Please see our Facebook updates for items that we are in need of.

Thank you for helping make a difference.



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

Devon
County Council

Family Hubs

Request for Support

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



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

CRUWYS MORCHARD YFC

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN

21ST OF DECEMBER

RAISING MONEY FOR McMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

START AND FINISH AT CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL

GATHER AT 3:30 LEAVE AT FOUR DRIVING AROUND LOCAL VILLAGES

FOOD INCLUDED IN PRICE £10 AND £5, ALSO RAFFLE

ROUTE TO BE REVEALED SOON

PRE-BOOK IS ADVISED PLEASE CONTACT LYNNETTE ON 07527924626

Take Note
A Community Choir

Feel Good Family Christmas Concert
with Take Note Community Choir

DECEMBER | DOORS OPEN | FREE
12th | 6:45pm | Entry

St. Paul's Church, Tiverton EX16 5HU

Join us for a joyful evening of festive music and singalongs to get you in the Christmas spirit!

Refreshments available
Festive jumpers encouraged!

Bring along a tin for our food collection

0850 059 0104
theoffice@tntmid.co.uk
www.tntmid.org

30th Anniversary
Registered Charity No. 1049478
Registered in England No. 03296956

WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL PRESENTS

THE COUNTRY STRONG BAND

DOORS OPEN 7:30PM

£7.50 A TICKET

31ST JANUARY 2026

LISTEN TO US ON FACEBOOK:
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE/14S7FFZT4BX/?mibextid=WWXIFR](https://www.facebook.com/share/14S7FFZT4BX/?mibextid=WWXIFR)

TICKETS ON THE DOOR OR ONLINE AT
WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/662490/

HUNTERSWOOD RIDING SCHOOL & LIVERY YARD
YEOFORD, DEVON EX17 5ET
07815 777495

Christmas Activities 2025

23rd December
Christmas Pony Party.
Games on the ponies. Pony stockings to make. Sparkling Reindeer Food.
Lots of Christmas Games

29th December
Pony Workshop Day.
Learn all about the ponies. Stable Management and a lesson.

30th December
Show Day.
Stable Management. Learn to plait your ponies and get them looking lovely and clean. Ride and take rosettes home.

31st December
Pony Workshop Day.
Show jumping. Stable Management with a lesson

2nd January
Show Jumping Day.
Stable Management. Help build the course of show jumps and then have a go at riding it. Rosettes to take home

The list of activities on each day is just a guide and can be changed depending on the weather and ability of the children

Riding lesson vouchers are available to purchase
The perfect Christmas present

1 DAY £40
2 DAYS £75
3 DAYS £110
4 DAYS £140
5 DAYS £165

Contact Christine Weeks
c.c.weeks@icloud.com
07815 777495

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas HAF Holiday Club - Castle Primary School Tiverton

We still have places on our Christmas HAF Club

10am-2pm

- 1 Monday 22nd December
- 1 Tuesday 23rd December
- 1 Monday 29th December
- 1 Tuesday 20th December

To Book- click the link below

[Winter HAF Castle Primary School Tiverton with Healthy Appetite and Activities · Eequ](https://www.eequ.org/book/romar-sports-haf-holiday-club-barnstaple-with-romar-sports-devon-limited-14408)

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER | 10AM - 2PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

The Ashleigh school
Bevan Road
Barnstaple
EX32 8LJ

DEVON HAF
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND MORE

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



Open Studio Times
 Friday: 4-8pm
 Saturday: 9am-8pm
 Sunday: 10am-6pm



MUD & MOOR
POTTERY

HANDMADE IN DEVON

**3 Rackenford Road,
 Witheridge EX16 8AQ**

POP IN TO BROWSE HANDMADE CERAMICS, ENJOY A CUPPA, AND GET CREATIVE WITH A RANGE OF FESTIVE WORKSHOPS.

🌲 **NEEDLE-FELTING BAUBLES — £25PP (AGES 14+)**

SATURDAY 10AM-12

LEARN SIMPLE FELTING TECHNIQUES TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL BAUBLES FOR YOUR TREE. PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS OR THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE. ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.

🍵 **CERAMIC GONK — £15-£22PP (AGES 10+)**

SATURDAY 1-3PM

MAKE YOUR OWN FESTIVE GONK USING EITHER AIR-DRY CLAY (£15, TAKE HOME TO PAINT) OR FIRED CLAY (£22, RETURN TO GLAZE). SUITABLE FOR ALL ABILITIES, AND ALL MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED.

🌸 **FLORAL CENTREPIECE — £30PP (AGES 14+)**

SATURDAY 4-6PM

CREATE A STUNNING FLORAL CENTREPIECE IN YOUR CHOICE OF FOUR COLOURWAYS. IDEAL FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED MAKERS. ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.

👼 **MACRAMÉ ANGEL — £10PP**

SATURDAY 7PM

CRAFT A BEAUTIFUL MACRAMÉ ANGEL WHILE LEARNING TECHNIQUES YOU CAN USE AGAIN. GREAT FOR TOTAL BEGINNERS OR CONFIDENT CRAFTERS. ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.

👦 **TERRACOTTA GREEN MAN — £25PP (AGES 12+)**

SUNDAY 10AM-12

MAKE YOUR OWN TERRACOTTA GREEN MAN WITH STAMPS AND SCULPTED DETAILS. BEGINNER-FRIENDLY BUT FUN FOR ALL LEVELS. WEAR OLD CLOTHES AS TERRACOTTA CAN STAIN. ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.

🌿 **WILLOW CHRISTMAS TREE WITH WOODY FOX — £25PP (AGES 14+)**

SUNDAY 1-3PM

WEAVE A SMALL WILLOW CHRISTMAS TREE AND MAYBE A STAR OR REINDEER TOO. SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED MAKERS, THOUGH STRONG HANDS HELP! ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.

✉️ **NOTECARDS SET — £25PP (AGES 14+)**

SUNDAY 4-6PM

CREATE MIXED-MEDIA GREETINGS CARDS AND PACKAGING WITH LOCAL ARTIST KATIE, EXPLORING MARK-MAKING AND COLOUR TECHNIQUES. GREAT FOR ALL ABILITIES. ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.



OPEN STUDIO & WORKSHOP WEEKEND



TO BOOK WORKSHOPS CONTACT
MUDANDMOORPOTTERY@GMAIL.COM
07702270565



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 i mmunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

© Crown copyright 2024. Product code: FLU8R724. UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 20240104
If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit: multipublications.gov.uk/Home/Item or call 0300 123 1002



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



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

Call us on

01392 342678

Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

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