



‘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 – Nativity Newsletter Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week of festive fun we’ve had here at Witheridge C of E Academy! From the youngest of our FSU children to the shining stars of KS2, we’ve been treated to six (!) spectacular nativity performances that truly captured the magic and joy of the season. A huge **congratulations** to all of our students for their hard work, enthusiasm, and sheer talent!

### ★ FSU Nativity: Cheeky Cherubs ★

Our littlest performers stole the show in their delightful performance of *Cheeky Cherubs*. The stage was filled with giggles, adorable costumes, and some unforgettable moments as the children brought to life a story full of cheer. Their confidence and bright smiles made it clear just how much they enjoyed being part of this special event – and how much joy they brought to their families.



### ✍️ KS1 & KS2 Nativity: The INNspectors ✍️

The excitement continued as our KS1 and KS2 children wowed the audience with their rendition of *The INNspectors*. This clever and funny play gave us a festive twist on the classic nativity story, with the children taking on roles of inquisitive inspectors in Bethlehem. The creativity, humor, and teamwork shown by our older students were simply outstanding. It was a fantastic evening filled with laughter, heartwarming performances, and a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas.

We couldn’t be more proud of all the children who took part, and I want to thank the wonderful staff for their unwavering support throughout the rehearsals and performances. Your encouragement and dedication to making these events special meant the world to the children.



## 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

## 🍴 A Special Thank You to Rosa 🍴

We'd also like to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to Rosa for delivering our delicious hot dinners on Wednesday this week. Rosa's hard work and dedication are always appreciated, and we're so grateful for her efforts in making sure our school community feels nourished and cared for. Thank you, Rosa!

Also, a heartfelt thank you to Caroline the cook at Harwood Newton and to Tracey at Primary School for cooking Witheridge lunches on a couple of days this month. In the spirit of our Christian value of *thankfulness*, we truly appreciate your support and the generosity of sharing your valuable time.



## 🎄 Wishing You All a Merry Christmas! 🎄

As we head into the final stretch of the term, we want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. We are looking forward to our last week of Christmas fun next week.

With festive cheer,

*Miss Ratcliffe*  
*Head of School*



At Witheridge Academy, we have been enjoying the OPAL project at lunchtimes, the children love exploring different types of play and expressing themselves creatively through their play.

As the weather begins to turn and we experience more wet days, in the new year we would like all children to bring in a pair of named wellies that they can keep at school so that they can still engage with messy/muddy play at lunchtimes.

**Please send your child in with their named wellies**

If anyone has any OLD wellies that they would be happy to donate for general use or as spares, please send them in as well. Many thanks





## Live Assembly from Antarctica

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, children in Class 3 joined 150,000 children from around the world for a live assembly from Union Glacier in the centre of Antarctica using a StarLink internet connection. We spoke to scientist Robert Swann and his team, who are living there in a small camp. The temperature outside was -20c degrees! We also met, Teddy, Robert's 42 year old bear, who has accompanied him to the North and South Poles. Robert told us about the changing conditions in Antartctica, and some of the things we can do to help tto protect our planet. You can watch the full assembly

here: <https://www.youtube.com/@picturenewsvirtual/streams>



Team Meal Menu – Autumn Term 2025 Week 3 - W/B 15 <sup>th</sup> December	
Monday	<b>Margherita 3 Cheese Pizza &amp; Pasta</b> V – Tomato Pasta Bake Baked Beans or Peas Peach Melba & Ice Cream
Tuesday	<b>Butcher Hotdog</b> V – Quorn Dog Potato Wedges, Beans & Sweetcorn Fruit Jelly
Wednesday	<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b> <b>Turkey, Cranberry &amp; Stuffing</b> V – Quorn fillet & Quorn Sausages Roast Potatoes, Sausage & Bacon, Cauliflower Cheese, Cabbage, Carrots, Peas, Broccoli & Turkey Gravy Mince Pies, Christmas Pudding & Jelly with Double Cream, Squirry Cream, Custard or Ice Cream
Thursday	<b>Minced Beef Soft Taco</b> V – No meat Mince Taco Rice, Seasonal Veg or Salad Ginger Cake & Custard
Friday	 <b>Bobbie's Last Witheridge Christmas Party Food Banquet</b> 

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.

### Arbor Accounts

Now we have reached the end of the Autumn Term 2, we would be grateful if all outstanding balances could be cleared before we start back for the Spring Term! Breakfast & After School Club, School Dinners, Outstanding Trip Payment, uniform & Nursery Fees.

Many Thanks

Finance Team



### Find us on:

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

Facebook: @Witheridge CofE Academy

Email: [admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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>**

# PRELOVED SCHOOL CLOTHES

All our pre-loved school uniform items will be on sale at our coffee morning on Tuesday 16th December. Any donations (suggested at 50p per item) will be passed on to the Witheridge PTFA.

Join us this Tuesday for our Church Coffee Morning, hosted by St John the Baptist Church! We'll be welcoming Vicar Adrian, Sue, and members of St John the Baptist Church for a relaxed and friendly start to the day.

#### Doors open at school drop-off

- FREE cake and a cuppa (tea or coffee)
- Toys and Christmas crafts for toddlers
- Browse our second-hand uniform (donations to the Witheridge C of E Primary Academy PTFA are welcome)

Come for the food, stay for the chat! Everyone's welcome - we'd love to see you there!

## Witheridge CofE Academy Church Coffee Morning @ School

**Tuesday 16th December**

**9am drop in**

Free tea, coffee and cake.

*Come when you can, leave when you must.  
All Welcome*



## 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 Last week of the Autumn Term 2025

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	PTFA Pantomime Carol singing at the Monday Afternoon Club 2:30-3pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady Concert 2pm Coffee Morning in the School Hall at 9am
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Church Service 10am @ St John the Baptist Church Steve Godfrey Drumming Teacher Led Clubs: Cook Stars Cooking
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery & toddler Group Christmas Party 9am School Hall Class Christmas Parties – afternoon Last day of term

#### Spring Term 2026 - Dates for your diary:

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Non Pupil Day (Inset day)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	First Day of Autumn Term 2026
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	PTFA AGM
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 4 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	School Council Meeting
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 3 visit to Roman Baths
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 4 Swimming Lessons
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 4 Swimming Lessons
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 4 Blundell's visit

**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.)



# PTFA

Parents  
Teachers  
Friends  
Association

easyfundraising

If you get the free app, we'll get £2! And that's just the start...

**The Free £2 App-eal**

Limited £2s available

Download > Register > Get £2

Witheridge C of E Academy

**The parents lottery**

Support your school with every ticket

**£25,000 jackpot!**

Support our school

Scan this QR code and enter our school name to join The Parents Lottery

**How does it work?**

There will be **guaranteed prizes** up for grabs each week including the chance to win the **£25,000 jackpot!** Keep your eyes on the Friday weekly draw to find out if you'll be a winner this week.

Choose us on The Parents Lottery list → £1 ticket entry into each weekly draw → Play with up to six tickets → Prize draw every Friday → Each ticket supports our school

The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery sponsored by Parentaid Enterprises Ltd (PEL Company no: 3884281). It is fully licensed by the Charity Commission. For details of our terms and conditions, please visit: www.parents-lottery.co.uk. The Parents Lottery is a form of gambling. Stop, or otherwise you know, means. Information on how to play with a parents lottery, please call the National Gambling Helpline on: 0800 8000133.

GambleAware CAMBING COMMISSION PARENTS LOTTERY

Parentkind **The parents lottery**



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

Please apply for your 30-hour code, if you are eligible, before the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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](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.



WITHERIDGE FARMERS MARKET  
**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

OUR USUAL LOCAL PRODUCE, FOOD, ARTISANAL & HANDMADE GOODS AND MORE, AS WELL AS SOME CHRISTMAS SPECIALS!

FOR THIS DAY ONLY, THE CAFE WILL ALSO BE SERVING MINCE PIES & HOT CHOCOLATE

**MEET SANTA! £1**

**DEC 13** | 10AM - 1PM  
Wetheridge Parish Hall  
EX16 8AG

MEET SANTA: £1 per child.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
Children meeting Santa will receive a gift while stocks last (a children's book of varying reading age).



**Messy Church**  
Christmas

**Messy Church**

**St John the Baptist Church, Wetheridge**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
**11am to 1pm**  
**Craft, Stories, Songs & Food**  
Followed by a short celebration with songs, and a delicious lunch!

All children welcome, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

To book your place please call 01884 861383 or email [vicaradrian@gmail.com](mailto:vicaradrian@gmail.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](mailto: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 'Wetheridge Sports Club' before the cut off date of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

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

**COME AND JOIN DOODLE THE DONKEY  
ON HIS EPIC JOURNEY!**



open to primary school aged children and below!

**13th Dec - 3th Jan**



**Follow the clues through the village, starting at the Methodist Chapel, West St. EX16 8AA**

To win a prize follow Doodle the Donkey's clues and learn more about the Christmas story. Collect all 10 letters hidden around the village, then ask a parent or guardian to email the Christmassy 3-word answer to us. Please attach your name, age and address, and if you are correct, we will send you a Christmas goodie bag!

 [info@lighthouseclub.fun](mailto:info@lighthouseclub.fun) 

WITHERIDGE GIFT OF KINDNESS

**DONATIONS STILL NEEDED**

Needed by 12<sup>th</sup> December Thankyou!



**DROP OFF TO OUR BOXES AT:  
WITHERIDGE MEDICAL CENTRE OR  
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

FOR MORE DETAILS FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



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



**Family Hubs**

Request for Support




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

WITHERIDGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

4/1/2026

COVERING OUR LOCAL AREAS OF LAPFORD, WITHERIDGE, MORCHARD BISHOP, BLACKDOG, THELBRIDGE, EAST WORLINGTON, ROSE ASH AND OTHER LOCAL AREAS. £5 minimum donations. These will be going towards are chosen charities and upkeep with the club

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE PLEASE CALL OR MESSAGE ROSA ON 07535 041973



**CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL**

**CHRISTMAS BINGO**

ON

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 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

WITHERIDGE PARISH HALL PRESENTS

**THE COUNTRY STRONG BAND**

DOORS OPEN 7:30PM

£7.50 A TICKET

31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026

LISTEN TO US ON FACEBOOK:  
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE/14S7FFZT4BX/?MIBEXTID=WWX1FR](https://www.facebook.com/share/14S7FFZT4BX/?mibextid=WWX1FR)

TICKETS ON THE DOOR OR ONLINE AT  
[WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/662490/](http://WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/662490/)

**CRUWYS MORCHARD YFC**

**CHARITY CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN**

**21<sup>ST</sup> 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

**NHS**

# 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](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

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

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**NHS** 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.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net](mailto: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