

# Witley C of E Infant School

Newsletter no. 2 Autumn Term

Friday, 12th September



Learn, love and flourish together

Our value this term is friendship



“Encourage and help each other” - 1 Thessalonians 5.11

## Dear Parents/Carers and children

We celebrate our successes in our Celebration Assembly every Tuesday. This week children in Key Stage 1 received certificates and next week Dolphins will be joining us. We also celebrate upcoming birthdays for the week and various accomplishments. Children are invited to bring along certificates or medals they have been awarded out of school. Awards for swimming, football, gymnastics, etc.

Well done to the following children who are in our Gold Book this week!

Year 1 – Sienna and Lottie

Year 2 – Roman and William

Headteacher’s Awards

Year 1 – Felix H

Year 2 – Lily



## Puffins get cooking!

Year 2 picked our very own home-grown apples near the pond and made apple crumble this week. Apples were peeled and sliced and topped with delicious crumble and cooked to a treat.



## Outdoor Play and Learning at Witley – join in the play!



*‘amazing play every day, for every child’*

We started our journey with OPAL play at the beginning of the year to transform our play time into the best experience for our children.

Thanks to our families on Ground Force days we have been able to open up the hill all year round by adding bark chippings, you’ve also built a sandpit, FWS have bought us storage sheds, offered den building, music wall, etc.

All of this was possible through YOU!

To thank you for your continued support our children would like to invite you to join in and have fun playing too! Come along to our...

**OPAL Parent/Carer Play Afternoon**  
**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October**  
**1.15 – 3.15 pm**

Younger siblings welcome!

No need to book, just pop along at any time for an afternoon of fun making dens, climbing walls, making music, building obstacle courses. Our children can’t wait to show you around!



*Parent/carers play afternoon is an event hosted by a school that has adopted the OPAL philosophy, offering parents a chance to experience and understand the benefits of this approach to play at their school. These sessions allow parents to see first-hand how the OPAL program transforms playtimes into active, fun, and social opportunities for children, often involving activities, a tour of the improved play environment, and a discussion of the research and rationale behind providing quality play. The goal is to demonstrate the positive impact of OPAL on children's well-being, attitude to learning, and social development.*

Also, just a reminder about our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions week beginning Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September. Please check out the school calendar further on in the newsletter.

We plan lots of events and activities for you to attend, however we don't expect you to attend them all. The reason we put them on is that we know families lead busy lives and hopefully you 'll be able to find a few to attend. Your child also learns that you can't always come to everything!

## The Day the Guinea Pigs came to school!

Beth visited from Pets at Home with Maggie and Madge, the piggies, to learn about how to look after pets.



Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Szczepanski and all the staff

## Year 2 Macmillan coffee morning on Thurs, 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.05 am – 10 am



All parents and pre-school children are invited. Please enter the Jubilee Hall via the staff car park where our children will serve coffee, tea and cake! Please bring cash – sorry, no card payments (the children will be sorting and counting the coins).

Can you donate a cake, biscuits or teabags for our Macmillan Coffee morning? Please bring your donations into school on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



# New reading diaries for September 2025



Our reading diaries are slightly different this year with a 'week to view' on each double page spread.

School staff will use the left-hand side and parents/carers use the right-hand side to record any reading completed at home i.e. Little Wandle book/bedtime story shared together.

You will also find some optional fun challenges at the bottom of each page to complete at home!

Some things to remember...

- *Staff do not always read to every child/look in the diary every day, so any URGENT messages need to be emailed to the class teacher or the office*
- *Our expectation is that your child will read their Little Wandle book at home at least three times a week, building up fluency and expression. If you read at the weekends you can add a comment in the Friday section*
- *Our wonderful volunteers will also write comments*
- *Additional spellings/information may be stuck in the diary for pupils to learn*
- *Please encourage your child to keep their reading diary in the plastic wallet provided, along with their Little Wandle book*
- *We refer to tricky words as sight words (words that are read automatically with no decoding)*

Research evidences that the more often your child practises reading the more they will enjoy all kinds of books and become confident, fluent readers with good vocabulary and understanding. Reading opens the door to learning, so we recommend reading 'little and often' to give your child the best start.



## Reading Every Day Goes a Very Long Way

### Student A Reads

- 20 minutes per day
- 3,600 minutes per school year
- 1,800,000 words per year



### Student B Reads

- 5 minutes per day
- 900 minutes per school year
- 282,000 words per year



### Student C Reads

- 1 minute per day
- 180 minutes per school year
- 8,000 words per year



DAY	DATE	ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 -26
Mon	15.09	Year 2 Meet the Teacher – 2.45 – 3.10 pm in Puffins Class
Tues	16.09	Year 1 Meet the Teachers – 2.45 – 3.10 pm in Penguins Class
Weds	17.09	EYFS Meet the Teacher/curriculum and Little Wandle phonics 7.30 – 8.30 pm in Dolphins Class
Thurs	25.09	Year 2 Macmillan Coffee morning 9.05 am – Jubilee Hall, all parents invited
Th	02.10	<del>Prospective Parent 2026 tour 1 – 9.05 am</del> FULLY BOOKED
Fri	03.10	<del>Prospective Parent 2026 tour 2 – 9.55 am</del> FULLY BOOKED
Tues	07.10	Individual photos - am
Fri	10.10	OPAL Parent/Carer Play afternoon 1.15 – 3.15 pm
Wed	15.10	Prospective Parent 2026 tour 3 – 9.05 am and Parent tour 4 – 10.00 am
Fri	17.10	Prospective Parent 2026 tour 5 – 9.45 am
Fri	24.10	Last day of term – finish at 3.15 pm
		HALF TERM – 27 October to 31 October
Mon	03.11.25	INSET DAY NO. 2 – SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri	19.12.26	Last Day of term – early finish at 1.05 pm.
Mon	05.01.26	INSET DAY NO. 3 – SCHOOL CLOSED
Th	12.02	Last day of term – finish at 3.15 pm
Fri	13.02	INSET DAY NO. 4 – SCHOOL CLOSED
		HALF TERM – 16 February to 20 February
Mon	23.02	First day of term
Fri	27.03	Last day of term – early finish at 1.05 pm
Mon	13.04	First day of term
Fri	22.05	INSET DAY no. 5 – SCHOOL CLOSED
		HALF TERM – 25 May to 29 May

Wed	22.07	Last day of term
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## The Chandler Junior School tour dates for this autumn.

Day	Date	Time
Wednesday	17th Sept	2.00 p.m.
Monday	29th Sept	2.00 p.m.
Friday	10th Oct	9.00 a.m.
Thursday	16th Oct	2.00 p.m.
Wednesday	22nd Oct	9.00 a.m.
Friday	7th Nov	1.30 p.m.
Thursday	13th Nov	9.00 a.m.
Monday	17th Nov	1.30 p.m.
Wednesday	26th Nov	2.00 p.m.
Thursday	4th Dec	9.00 a.m.
Friday	12th Dec	9.00 a.m.



Please see the link below to book a tour of The Chandler School.

<https://bookwhen.com/chandlerjunior>

## DfE New Best Start in Life website for parents

[The Best Start in Life website](#) will officially replace the Childcare Choices website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support - offering a broader range of resources for families, including eligibility for childcare offers, information about free breakfast clubs and Best Start Family Hubs in their area, and support on pregnancy through to starting school and beyond



**ALDRO**  
FREEDOM TO FLOURISH

AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS  
AGED 7 - 13



REGISTER HERE:



ISI INSPECTION 2023  
'EXCELLENT' IN ALL AREAS'

OPEN MORNING  
SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025



SHACKLEFORD, SURREY, GU8 6AS  
[WWW.ALDRO.ORG](http://WWW.ALDRO.ORG)

**Pitch Pals**  
**AFTER SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL  
CLUB**

**TUESDAYS** **SEPT 9, 16, 23, 30  
OCT 7, 14, 21**

For Boys & Girls in Years 1 & 2  
at Witley C of E Infant School

£59.50 for the full 7-week block is payable in advance.  
Please email [info@pitchpals.co.uk](mailto:info@pitchpals.co.uk) to secure your child's  
space