

Witley C of E Infant School

Learn, love and flourish together

Newsletter no. 16 Spring Term

Friday, 9th January 2026



Our value this term is joy

Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healthy for the body - Proverbs 16:24

Dear Parents/Carers and children

A very warm welcome back, even if the weather has been a little unpleasant! Our value this term is joy, deliberately chosen for this half term to lift our spirits until the onset of spring. In assembly this week we talked about how we can all do our little bit to help bring joy to everyone. Well done to those children who received a certificate in our first celebration assembly of the year!



Little Wandle Phonics



Here at Witley we use the Little Wandle phonics programme which is the fastest growing Department for Education-validated phonics programme, already supporting over 5,500 schools to teach every child to learn to read!



World Book Day 2025

Learning to read opens the doors to learning and we are asking you to support your child at home with their reading. Just five to ten minutes every day does make a significant difference to your child being able to access the wider curriculum, grow in confidence and play a significant part in their learning environment. To help you Little Wandle have dedicated parent resources. Check out the link below to help you. There are videos to watch and nursery rhymes too.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

There are three types of reading book that your child may bring home:

- A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.

- Sharing books. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.
- Library book. Your child will choose this on their own to share with you at home.

Kings College research study in Puffin Class

We are very pleased to be able to share some news about a research study that we are involved in with Dr Charlotte Tye of Kings College. Thank you to those parents who have consented for their children to take part.



The study is called SCALE – Sensory Contexts and Learning Environments and it is aimed at investigating how children's sensory experiences, mood and classroom environments affect their readiness to learn.

Parking

Thank you to those of you who park considerately down Church Lane, we are experiencing fewer parking issues. However, to help keep the traffic flow please do not park right opposite the staff car park entrance which means that staff leaving have to turn left up Church Lane and clog the main car park.

Open Classroom

A few events have been added on our calendar including an Open Classroom. These events are an opportunity for parent/carers to pop into class between 2.45 – 3.30 pm so their child can share their learning with you. Our next Open Classroom is on Weds, 21st January.

Are you a school volunteer?

Over the next few months we have scheduled some safeguarding workshops in school for those of you who volunteer, on the following dates:



Wednesday, 4th March 2026 9-9.45am
 Friday, 17th April 2026 2.30-3.15pm

Please note that **ALL** volunteers will have to attend our safeguarding workshop every two years, whilst actively volunteering, so we can ensure our helpers have all the information and skills they need to keep our children safe. Please contact the office to book yourself on one of the workshops.

Also attached to this week's newsletter email is important information for parents regarding school attendance.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,
 Mrs Szczepanski and everyone at Witley School.

The Rag Bag Scheme

Do you have any good quality clothes to donate? We accept good quality clothing at any time, please drop them off in small bags at the office. Your donations, however small, raise valuable money for your school.

Rag Bag can only accept the following items:

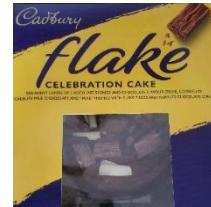
- Good quality wearable men's, ladies & children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together)
- Handbags and belts



PLEASE DO NOT PUT SCHOOL UNIFORM IN THE BAGS. Thank you

Cake Raffle

Thank you to the Scanlon family for the chocolate Flake cake.



Congratulations to Ember who won!

Allergies: Please note some cakes are shop bought and some are homemade and therefore we cannot guarantee that they are nut free.

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

Year R – Lyra and Isobel

Year 1 – Ayda and Felix H

Year 2 – Billy and Eben

Headteacher Awards

Year R – Ralph Year 1 – Doug Year 2 – Martha



A message from the Children's Commissioner for England



Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that I have recently published a new guide, [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](#)

I hope this guide will be a useful resource for you.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza

Join Our Cookery Classes at Witley Infants



Stir, Shape and Bake - Savoury Treats and Rocking Cakes!

Let your child learn to make delicious recipes and enhance their skills with our fun cookery sessions in a friendly environment.

A great way to have fun on a Friday, after a busy week at school!

Sign Up Today - book Friday after school club
<https://thehenhouse.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>
Contact - care@thehen-house.com for information or help

Online Safety

Every month we send out an Online Safety newsletter for parents which has a wealth of information to help your family stay safe online. Below is an extract from our January newsletter which everyone received before Christmas.

Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:



Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to 'friends only,' however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.

Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

- **Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.
- **Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.
- **Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

DAY	DATE	ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 -26
Thurs	15.01.26	DEADLINE FOR YEAR R and YEAR 3 APPLICATIONS – September 2026 https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions
Fri	16.01.26	Boogie Pumps visit – assembly at 10.30 am
Tues	20.01	Pied Piper live theatre production – Zoom! All classes at 2 pm. Funded by FWS.
Weds	21.01	OPEN CLASSROOM for all year groups 2.45 – 3.30 pm. Parents are warmly invited to share their child's learning in the classroom.
Tues	27.01	Year 1 trip to Brooklands Museum – Details have been emailed. Please remember to provide consent for your child to attend.
Tues	10.02	Safer Internet Day
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
Weds	25.02	Pupil Progress Meeting for parents (consultations) from 3.30 pm – all year groups
Mon	02.03	Pupil Progress Meeting for parents (consultations) from 3.30 pm – KS1 only
Wed	04.03	Volunteer safeguarding training at 9 - 9.45
Fri	06.03	Year 2 trip to Marwell Zoo – <i>details to follow</i>
Wed	11.03	Year R trip to Haslemere Museum – <i>details to follow</i>
Wed	18.03	Year 2 Class Assembly for parents/carers at 2.15 pm
Wed	18.03	Open Classrooms for all year groups 2.45 – 3.15 pm
Fri	20.03	RED NOSE DAY – wear something red
Fri	27.03	Last day of term – early finish at 1.05 pm

EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Mon	13.04	First day of term
Fri	17.04	Volunteer safeguarding training 2.15 – 3pm
Fri	22.05	INSET DAY no. 5 – SCHOOL CLOSED
		HALF TERM – 25 May to 29 May
Fri	05.06	Years 1 and 2 to Rodborough Olympic Games 9.30-11 am. – there is no charge for this trip.
Mon	08.06	All week - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check including Year 2 retakes
Wed	17.06	Sports morning 9.10 – 10.10 am (Weds, 24 th June if raining)
Fri	03.07	Year 2 trip to Sayers Croft – <i>details to follow</i>
Tues	07.07	Year 1 trip to Chichester Harbour – <i>details to follow</i>
Wed	22.07	Last day of term – early finish at 1.05 pm





TRY A CLASS
FOR FREE

Now showing, CONFIDENCE!

Drama, dance & singing classes
designed to help 4-12 year olds shine

**“ My son has adored his first term at Perform.
He has blossomed and I’ve seen his confidence grow every week.”**
Pippa Wotton



Consultation launched about Play and Leisure Short Breaks in Surrey

Play & Leisure Short Breaks

Play & Leisure Short Breaks give children and young people the chance to participate in educational and leisure activities in community venues across Surrey, and also give parent carers a break from caring.

What is the consultation about?

There are changes being proposed to the Short Breaks programme. The proposals are to ensure the programme remains sustainable and effective, and to provide greater equity and fairness in the process, so we can prioritise resource and manage demand.

The vision for Play and Leisure Short Breaks is an offer that prioritises **inclusive access**, **community integration**, and **cost-effective support** for those with the greatest need, across both specialist and mainstream community schemes.

This sits alongside needing to identify efficiencies and cost savings as part of the council's need to achieve a balanced budget. In January 2025 the Surrey County Council Cabinet set out the budget for 2025/26, which incorporates the need to find £66 million in efficiencies across the council over the medium term. This includes £800,000 to be saved in 2026/27 from the Short Breaks budget of £2.56 million, while still meeting the council's Short Breaks

statutory duties.

There are a number of proposals for the programme, which include:

- Introducing eligibility criteria
- Introducing a maximum level of provision that each child can access each year
- Focusing on inclusive mainstream provision alongside specialist provision, so that children can interact and play with a wide range of other children and feel part of the community
- Ensuring parent carer charges are consistent
- Providing flexible session lengths, and a greater proportion of sessions in the school holidays.

The feedback we receive will help us to shape services that are fair, and better in line with current and future needs, whilst also remaining affordable and delivering good value for money with the available budget.

We are also running some informal in-person and online events, where families and professionals can find out more about the proposed changes and ask any questions they have.

The consultation will run until Wednesday 4 March 2026. Find more information and respond to the consultation on our dedicated webpage: [Play and Leisure Short Breaks Consultation](#)

Alternatively, you can ask for a hard copy or a different format:

Telephone: 03456 009009

Textphone: 18001 03456 009

SMS: 07860 053465