

Witley C of E Infant School

Learn, love and flourish together

Newsletter no. 19 Spring Term

Friday, 30th 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

Open Classroom

It was great to see so many families at our Open Classroom event last week. It's a wonderful opportunity for your child to share their learning with you and for you to meet their friends. You can see how excited they were by the smiles on their faces! Interim reports will go out next month followed by pupil progress meetings just after half term.



World Religions

We often get asked by parents about the teaching of other religions at Witley and this week Year 1 have been learning about Judaism.

Mrs Hall baked some challah bread for the children to try. Challah is a traditional, often braided, egg-enriched bread used in Jewish rituals, particularly for Shabbat and holidays.



Shabbat is a special weekly Jewish day of rest and fun, from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown, where families slow down and enjoy time together with special food (like challah bread), songs, candles, games, and stories.

World Thinking Day 2026

Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to celebrate the Girl Guiding and Scouting Movement. Your child is invited to wear their scout or guide uniform on Monday, February 23rd to school. The age sections would include Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.



School Council fundraising

Our School Council have been gathering ideas for their fundraising event and have all decided that they'd like to run a stall selling books, toys, (we have lots left over from the Christmas Fair) and cakes.

Once the better weather comes along each class will hold a sale in the playground. They are very excited about their idea. It will be cash only, so please start saving some pennies. Items will start from 10p, so the children can learn about money and coins in context. Look out for the dates in the calendar.



Smart watches



Please can we remind parents that electronic devices, mobile phones and smart watches are not allowed in school as per our school Acceptable Use Agreement for Pupils.

Please support your school with this rule. Thank you.

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

Cake Raffle

Thank you to the Thomas Family for our delicious cake.



Congratulations to Bea in Penguins 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!

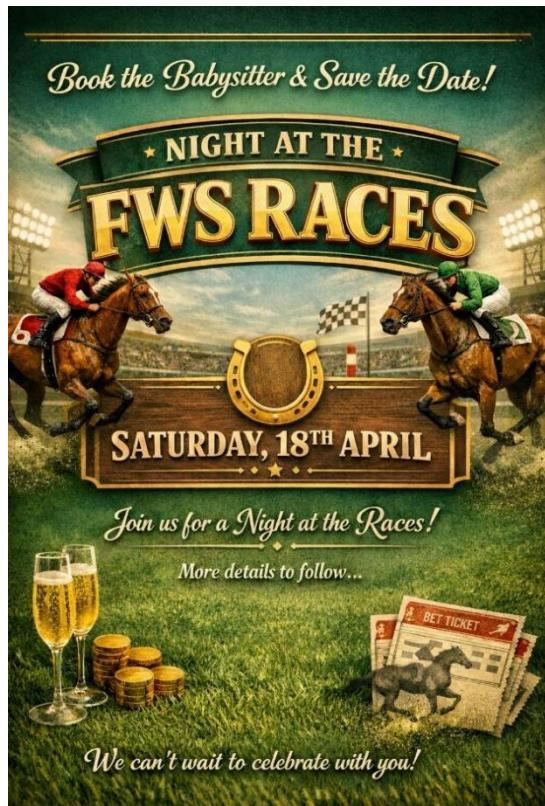
Year R – Ralph and Myela

Year 1 – Felix and Charlie Wa

Year 2 – Percy and William

Headteacher Awards: Year R – Lyra Year 1 – Sienna Year 2 – Roman





GET ACTIVE IN MARCH

We are very excited that Godalming Leisure Centre has adopted Witley school for the month of March. It is an opportunity for us to work collaboratively in order to provide a 2-week programme for our families.

During the month, a variety of perks are available for staff and parents, such as the following:

2 weeks free swimming for children aged 10 and under

2 weeks free junior membership for children aged 11-15

2 weeks free membership for parents/guardians

2 weeks free membership for school employees



Your adopting centre:
Godalming LC



everyone
 ACTIVE



place on our INSET day, Friday 13th February, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

The day will offer girls the opportunity to become Mars Explorers in a hands-on science experience designed especially for Years 2–4. Pupils will explore the Red Planet through a range of practical, engaging activities, including testing meteor impacts, building and investigating rover designs, and creating a shelter suitable for life on Mars.

If you feel this opportunity would be of interest to your daughter in Year 2, then please use this [link](#) or scan the QR code on the attached flyer. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with St Catherine's if you would like any further information.



Blast off into hands-on fun as you investigate the Red Planet. Test meteor impacts, build your own rover, and design a Martian shelter in this out-of-this-world science adventure!

For more information and to book your place please visit:
tinyurl.com/3sp7j556 or use the QR code



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DAY	DATE	ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 -26
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 World Thinking Day – pupils are invited to wear their Guide/Scout uniform for the day
Weds	25.02	Pupil Progress Meeting for parents (consultations) from 3.30 pm – all year groups
Thurs	26.02	Graham and the hedgehogs visit – all classes
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
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
Mon	23.03	Let's celebrate Easter Day at Witley! Easter Service at All Saints – parents/carers invited
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





MMRV now protects children against measles, mumps, rubella — and chickenpox

From 1 January 2026, children started to be offered the MMRV vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella/chickenpox) instead of the MMR vaccine as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule. This means children will receive protection against four diseases instead of three.

Why this matters

While many people consider chickenpox to be a mild childhood illness, it can lead to serious complications including bacterial infections such as strep A, brain and lung inflammation, and stroke. In rare cases, it can be fatal. The introduction of this vaccine will help protect children from these serious complications and reduce hospital admissions.

The MMRV vaccine has been safely used for over 10 years in countries including Canada, Australia and Germany, where chickenpox cases and hospital admissions have fallen dramatically. Introducing this vaccine will also reduce missed nursery and school days for children and families.

Who is eligible

- Children born from 1 January 2025: Two doses of MMRV at 12 months and 18 months
- Children born between 1 July 2024 and 31 December 2024: MMRV doses at 18 months and 3 years 4 months
- Children born between 1 September 2022 and 30 June 2024: One MMRV dose at 3 years 4 months
- Selective catch-up programme: Children born between 1 January 2020 and 31 August 2022 will be offered a catch-up dose between November 2026 and March 2028 if they haven't already had chickenpox or two doses of chickenpox vaccine

(MMR vaccine will still be available for older children (and adults) who are ineligible for MMRV but are not yet fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella)

What families need to do

GP practices will contact parents and carers when their child is due for vaccination. They are encouraged to book their appointment when they receive their invitation.

[How the MMRV protects against 4 potentially serious illnesses, including chickenpox – UK Health Security Agency](#)