Autumn Term Friday, 16th October 2026 Newsletter no. 7

Our value this half term is friendship



Witley C of E Infant School

Learn, love and flourish together

"Encourage and help each other" - 1 Thessalonians 5.11



Dear Everyone

OPAL Play

We were thrilled to welcome Michael Follett, founder and director of OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning, to our school last week for our final audit of the programme.



We have been working behind the scenes over the past 18 months, together with parents and FWS to create a richer playtime experience for all our children.

Michael spent the afternoon with us working through 18 criteria looking at quality of play, safety and our play environment. We are excited at the end of the afternoon to be awarded Gold level. Please see a message below from Michael to our school community.







Dear Helen, Staff, and Children at Witley Infants School,

It was a delight to visit your wonderful school and see the results of your hard work in creating an amazing play environment for all your children.

Achieving a strong Gold-level award places you among the best schools in the UK for play quality—something you should be immensely proud of.



Best wishes,
Michael Follett
OPAL Founder/Director









Congratulations to everyone who has helped us on our OPAL journey!

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

Year R – Noah and Arthur

Year 1 – Ember, Isobel and Mila

Year 2 – Felix H and Charlie Wo



Headteacher award

Year R - Emilia Year 1 - Ted Year 2 – Olive

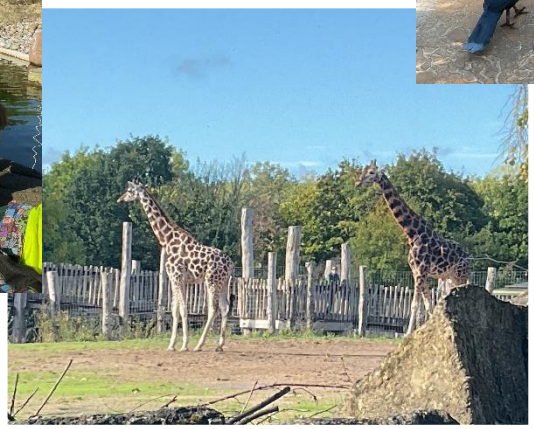
Marwell Zoo

Year 2 had a fantastic time at Marwell Zoo on Tuesday as part of our learning about animals and their habitats in science.

They saw penguins, giraffes, snow leopards, sloths, and flamingos – to name but a few!





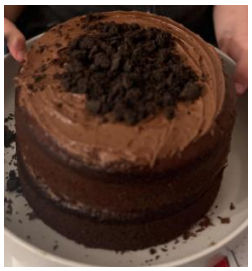


Cake Raffle

Thank you to the Vock family for the delicious chocolate cake.

Congratulations to Cameron in Year R who won.

Allergies: Please note some cakes are shop bought and some are homemade and therefore, we cannot guarantee that they are nut free. Please contact FWS if you would like a list of ingredients.



French Club



A reminder that French Club begins after half term, on a Tuesday after school, for all year groups run by Nathalie Vieira. Please email Nathalie for further information nutternath@icloud.com See last week's newsletter for further details.

Fire Drills and lockdowns

We regularly practise fire drills and lockdowns in school to ensure systems are in place for such events. On Wednesday, we all practised a fire drill by leaving the building as quickly as possible and gathering on the playground. The children were calm, quiet and followed instructions. We evacuated the building in under 2 minutes. Afterwards we had an assembly to talk about our fire drill and general safety. You may like to talk about the event at home.

We finish our autumn half term today and children return on Tuesday, 3rd November. Staff have an INSET (training day) on Monday, 2nd November.

REMINDER: Dental and medical appointments

At our school, we want to give every child the best possible start to their learning journey. Did you know that arriving late or leaving early due to appointments can cause children to miss vital lesson introductions and feel unsettled?

To help keep your child's learning on track, we ask that all routine dental check-ups and medical appointments are booked out of school time. **It is important that you email the office in advance of an appointment** during school hours, if it is absolutely unavoidable.

We completely understand that emergency or specialist hospital appointments cannot always be scheduled at convenient times.

Thank you for working with us to keep our attendance high and our classrooms thriving!

Have a lovely half term,

Mrs Szczepanski and all the staff

DAY	DATE	ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 27
AUTUMN TERM 2026		
HALF TERM – Mon, 19 Oct to Fri 30 Oct 2026 – TWO WEEKS		
Mon	02.11	INSET Day no 2 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Tues	03.11	Welcome back all year groups
Weds	04.11	FLU vaccinations – see letter from Surrey Immunisation Service, email reminder sent 13.10.26
SUN	08.11	Remembrance Sunday at All Saints Church
Mon - Fri	16- 20.11	Spare change week – bring in your spare coins to raise funds for FWS.
Fri	27.11	Non-uniform day for FWS Christmas Fair
Fri	04.12	Non-uniform day for FWS Christmas Fair
SAT	05.12	Messy Church at All Saints 3.30 – 5.30 pm
SUN	06.12	FWS CHRISTMAS FAIR
Tues	08.12	KS1 Christmas Nativity performance at 9.15 am. DRESS REHEARSAL for families with pre-school children/babies.
Tues	08.12	KS1 Christmas Nativity performance at 2.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall – parents welcome
Thurs	10.12	Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children
Fri	11.12	Early Years Christmas Nativity performance at 9.15 am. DRESS REHEARSAL for families with pre-school children/babies.
Fri	11.12	Early Years Christmas Nativity performance at 2.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall – parents welcome
Mon	14.12	Christmas Service at All Saints Church – families welcome at 9.10 am
Fri	18.12	Last day of term – early finish at 1.05 pm
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – Mon 21 Dec 2026 – Fri 01 Jan 2027		

SPRING TERM 2027		
Mon	04.01.27	Welcome back all year groups
Tues	26.01.27	Year 1 trip to Winchester Science Centre – details have been sent. Please provide consent on Arbor.
Fri	12.02	INSET Day no 3 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
HALF TERM – Mon, 15 Feb to Fri, 19 Feb 2027		
Mon	01.03	Year R trip to Haslemere Museum – *details to follow*
Fri	19.03	Red Nose Day, wear something red in exchange for a small donation.
Thurs	25.03	Last day of term – early finish at 1.05 pm
EASTER HOLIDAYS – Fri 26 March – Fri 09 April 2027		
SUMMER TERM 2027		
Mon	12.04	INSET DAY no 4 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Tues	13.04	Welcome back all year groups
Tues	13.04	Year 2 trip to The City Museum in Winchester – *details to follow*
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 03 May – SCHOOL CLOSED		
Fri	28.05	INSET Day no 5 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
HALF TERM – Mon 31 May to Fri 04 June 2027		
Tues	13.07	Year 1 trip to Chichester Harbour – *details to follow*
Thurs	15.07	Dolphins Class trip to Tuesley Farm – all day – *details to follow*
Tues	20.07	Year 2 trip to Sayers Croft – *details to follow*
Fri	23.07	SPORTS MORNING – approx. 9 – 10 am Families welcome
Weds	28.07	Last day of term - early finish at 1.05 pm

ALL SAINTS WITLEY

SING HOSANNA

Sunday 18th October 11.30am

in Church

Songs, craft, story and refreshments

Everyone welcome





