

Witley C of E Infant School

Newsletter no. 9 – Autumn Term

Friday, 8th November 2024



Learn, love and flourish together
Our value this term is respect



'Encourage and help each other' 1 Thessalonians 5

Target attendance for the Year 95%
This year's attendance is 97.2%

Dear Parents/Carers

Remembrance Sunday at All Saints Church

This week our children have been learning about our new value 'respect' and in particular learning about Remembrance Day. Year 2 have produced some wonderful individual pieces of work using different media such as watercolour, pencil, oil pastel and collage. Some of the artwork will be on display in the Church on Sunday when Olivia and Bear from Year 2 will be joining me to lay our school wreath. Well done to Indy, Arlo, Bertie, Willa, Ted and Henry whose work was chosen for All Saints Church.



Friendship and anti-bullying week –

BEING LOVELY and UNDERSTANDING to EVERYONE WEEK!

Next week it's national anti-bullying week where we will be talking about healthy friendships and why it is so important to be kind to one another, focusing on our value of 'respect'. We are also asking children to wear something blue to celebrate our 'Being Lovely and Understanding to Everyone week!'

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

The most important thing is that Anti-Bullying Week helps raise awareness of bullying amongst children and young people and helps schools to tackle bullying taking place both online and face to face.

We've conducted independent research with young people and school staff to ensure that the campaign makes a difference.



93%

of young people told us that they think Anti-Bullying Week helps raise awareness of bullying

“

“Anti-Bullying Week literally saved my life” – A young person¹²

“There was more awareness of what bullying consists of for the pupils and how they can help reduce their own and others bullying behaviours” – Teacher¹³

“It's a great week for positive changes that desperately need to happen” – Teacher¹⁴

“Anti-Bullying Week helps people who are being bullied to come forward” – A young person¹⁵

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Friday, 15th November is non-uniform day and our FWS disco – suggested donation £1

Non-uniform day is next Friday, 15th November, which is the same day as the FWS disco, so please come dressed for the disco so you don't have to get changed (sensible shoes please), which means more time for dancing! Don't forget we are also asking children to wear something blue to celebrate our 'Being Lovely and Understanding to Everyone week! Please don't forget your donation of £1 which goes towards FWS funds.

School Council 2024/25

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected by their friends to be part of the School Council:

Year R – Felix H and Grace

Year 1 – Teddy and Zoe

Year 2 – Henry and Chia



Our new members will be joining our existing council this term, who are Addison, Zach, Fiona and Isla Hi. In assembly this week we talked about respecting our world and the importance of looking after our planet. Our focus for the school community will be coming up with ideas to help our school become more environmentally friendly.

Let's talk about our kids and their tech!

PAPAYA Parent Evening, Tuesday 12 November, 7.30pm @ Busbridge Junior School

The Godalming Learning Partnership (GLP) has arranged a workshop to which all parents and carers across the GLP are invited. This interactive talk will look at the important questions around smartphones and digital technology in the lives of our youngsters and on how we can help children achieve a healthy balance with their use. Although primarily for KS2, the wealth of information for you as a parent will be invaluable.

Jennifer Powers from the [Papaya Parents](#) charity will unpack some of the complex issues around mental health and wellbeing, associated with smartphones and being online too much, and help us all find solutions that work for our own families.

If you would like to attend, please sign up via the following link so we know how many parents to expect: [12 Nov Papaya workshop SIGN UP](#)

The talk is in two parts:

1. Looking at the evidence base around the impact of smartphones and social media on children.
2. Looking for solutions - both for children who do not yet have smartphones and those who do.

This talk is a non-judgmental, information-sharing exercise and there will be plenty of time for questions. Jennifer Powers is a trained PAPAYA speaker as well as being the volunteer lead for Smartphone Free Childhood for our area.

PAPAYA is a registered charity and so a suggested donation of £5 would be appreciated by the charity to cover the cost of the talk. If you are able to contribute, bring cash on the night.

Note: the presentation is aimed at adults so please do not bring children along. PAPAYA do also run workshops for children which your school may be interested in hosting.

Hen House Crafty Friday Club



THE HEN HOUSE!

NEW Crafty Fridays! at Witley Infant School

Friday 3.15pm-4.15pm - £10.00
Extended session - crafty top up 4.15-6pm £12
Regular full 3.15pm - 6pm session (including crafty club) £17 +£3.50 for dinner

So popular we have added a duplicate of our Thursday club!
Starts after October half term.
Contract bookings only - allowing us to create larger crafts and making sure your space is reserved.

Registration and booking essential.
We accept childcare vouchers, tax free childcare payments and the regular methods of payment.
<https://wollahwollah.kidsclubhq.co.uk>
childcare@thehen-house.com

All methods of payment accepted, spread the cost with a contract and pay monthly, direct debits and many vouchers accepted including **Tax Free Childcare vouchers** – if you are not aware on how to sign up to use these please take a look here:

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

So many people are not making use of their free childcare entitlements (you could be able to receive up to £2000 per year to help with your childcare costs).

To watch or not to watch!

We have children watching Beetlejuice (PG) but common sense media rates it as 13. It's a helpful tool for parents, for movies, TV programmes and computer games.

www.common sense media.org

Cake Raffle

Thank you to the Rowley family for the most spectacular firework cupcakes!



Congratulations to William in Penguins who won the treats.

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

Year R – Hanora and Felix D

Year 1 – Billy and Zoe

Year 2 – Jack and Aiden

Headteacher's Gold Book award

Year R – Alfie and Henry Year 1 – Evie and Percy Year 2 – Matilda and Willa



Dear Parents/Carers

This year Witley C of E Infant School is taking part in an exciting Play Programme called OPAL and we need your help.

Through our annual parent surveys and pupil voice we have recognised the need to improve our break/lunchtime play opportunities. With the help of the OPAL programme we are embarking on an 18 month journey to improve play, behaviour and wellbeing for all at Witley with the view of sustained improvement in outdoor playground opportunities.

We are looking for a parent to join our working group along with myself, a member of staff and a governor as well as our mentor from OPAL, Kurti Birkenbeil. We'll need you to regularly visit the school, meet with the group and help drive an action plan to fruition. We have a number of meetings booked to start the project off, so you'll need to be available for these. The dates are:

Monday, 9th December during the morning.

Thursday, 12th December during the morning.

Please see the OPAL link below and drop us an email if this is something that you would like to get involved in or would like further information.

<https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/the-opal-primary-programme/>





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carers per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carers per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carers per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Safeguarding is everyone's business

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

Helen Szczepanski – Headteacher – Lead DSL

Becky Latham – School Business Manager – Deputy DSL


Phillipa Allison – SENCo - Deputy DSL

Sarah Dutton – Home School Link Worker – Deputy DSL

If you have any concerns about a child, please report to one of the DSL's as soon as possible the same day.

On the **25th of January 2025**, **Your Space Therapies** are offering a practical and down-to-earth 'Anxiety Toolbox' webinar for parents and carers to support their children with anxiety and mental health. All the details and a QR code for ease of booking are below.

www.yourspacetherapies.org



Your Space
THERAPIES
Secure attachments
Robust learners • Building futures
WWW.YOURSPACETHERAPIES.ORG

ANXIETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS WEBINAR



SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025, 10AM- 12 MIDDAY

LEARN PRACTICAL TIPS AND STRATEGIES TO HELP PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH ANXIETY IN THIS ONLINE EVENT!

Are you feeling overwhelmed by your child's anxiety? Join us for this online event where Your Space Therapies will provide you with practical tools and strategies to help you support your child. Emma Connor, Child Psychotherapist will share valuable, easy to implement strategies to navigate through challenging situations and promote your child's well-being. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and connect with other parents and carers facing similar experiences. Register now and equip yourself with the **tools** to better understand and manage anxiety in your child.

Price: £27.80

For more information and booking please scan the QR code:



Scan me!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 -25
		AUTUMN HALF TERM 28 th October – 1 st November
Sat	09.11	FWS Bingo Night – Jubilee Hall
Mon	11.11	Anti-bullying week wear something BLUE on FRIDAY – Be Loving and Understanding to Everyone.
Tues	12.11	Papaya Workshop – PAPAYA promotes wellness and improved mental health by helping young people achieve a healthy balance with technology. Held at Busbridge Junior School – 7.30 pm
Fri	15.11	DISCO – FWS Come ready dressed for the disco (sensible shoes please!) including wearing an item that is blue – socks, hair accessory, blue top!
Fri	13.12	Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children and Christmas lunch
Mon	16.12	EYFS Christmas dress rehearsal/KS1 watching/parents with toddlers at 2.30 pm. Please enter the Jubilee Hall via the car park
Tues	17.12	EYFS Christmas performance, parents welcome at 2.30 pm. Please enter the Jubilee Hall via the car park
Weds	18.12	Christmas service at ALL Saints Church – 2.30 pm. All parents welcome, but it's a bit of a squeeze!
Thurs	19.12	KS1 Christmas dress rehearsal/EYFS watching. Parents with toddlers welcome at 9.10 am. Please enter the Jubilee Hall via the car park
Thurs	19.12	KS1 Christmas performance. Parents welcome at 2.30 pm. Please enter the Jubilee Hall via the car park
Fri	20.12	1.05 pm LAST DAY OF TERM. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH Children's Magic Road Safety Show during the morning – thank you FWS!
		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 23 rd December– 3 rd January 2025
Mon	06.01	First day back after Christmas
Thurs	13.02	3.15 pm LAST DAY OF TERM

Fri	14.02	INSET Day no. 4
		FEBRUARY HALF TERM 17 th – 21 st February 2025
Mon	24.02	First day of term
Thurs	06.03	World Book Day – Extreme reading competition and WBD costume day!
Fri	04.04	1.05 pm LAST DAY OF TERM. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH
		EASTER HOLIDAYS
Tues	22.04	First Day of term
Mon	05.05	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Sat	10.05	WITSTOCK 2025
Fri	23.05	INSET Day no. 5
		MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY 26 th – 30 th May 2025
Mon	02.06	First day of term
Mon	09.06	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check (all week)
Tues	22.07	1.05 pm LAST DAY OF TERM. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH

School Website

We are currently updating our website in response to parent feedback. One of the most notable changes is the calendar. Why not take a look? Google Calendar will no longer be updated and we aim to add more information on the website school calendar, which is easier to navigate.

Please bear with us while we add the daily events throughout the year. Calendar dates at the end of the newsletter will gradually be phased out next term and the website will be your main calendar for events.

[Witley C of E Infant School](#)



Parents' HELP Course

The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity are offering our parents a discount on their **parents' HELP course**. This course provides parents with plenty of tips for how they can help at home with learning and specifically how to support a learner with dyslexic type difficulties. It is an **online on-demand course**. More details on the course can be found here: <https://helenarkell.org.uk/product/available-on-demand-help-course-for-parents/>

All seven sessions can be purchased as a whole or as individual sessions. The following code will provide a 20% discount for our parents: **BUSB20**

Pitch Pals

AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

THURSDAYS 3.20PM-4.20PM NOV 7, 14, 21, 28 DEC 5, 12

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

£48 for the full 6-week block is payable in advance.
Email info@pitchpals.co.uk to book your child's place



ACTIVITY CAMPS! for 4-11 year olds at St Mary's Infant School, Shackleford

Action packed days of sport, art, cooking, games and so much more! Sign up to reserve your place for one day or the whole week! Open to all children aged 4+.

Christmas Camp 2024

30th Dec-3rd Jan

Monday - Friday
8:30am to 17:30pm*

£40.00 per day or,
£80.00 for 2 days
£100.00 for 3 days
£120.00 for 4 days
£140.00 for 5 days



Add-Ons

*Extended hours
8am-6pm
£6/day (£25/week)

Hot Lunch
£5.00/day (£20.00/week)

Childcare vouchers and
tax free childcare
payments accepted.

Godalming Band
Presents



The Snowman LIVE

Film Screening
with
Godalming Band &
Godalming Junior School Choir



Saturday 23rd November
3pm & 5:30pm
Wilfrid Noyce Centre
Godalming

www.TheSnowmanGodalming.co.uk



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