

# Wittersham Church of England Primary School

*'On a voyage of discovery: learning and growing together in the light of God'*

## Weekly Newsletter Friday 1st December 2023



The Christmas spirit is in full swing at Wittersham Primary, with the melodious echoes of nativity rehearsals and carol singing filling our corridors.

Our sports teams have been showcasing excellence on the field. A special mention goes to our football team for securing a home victory against the previously unbeaten Mersham team. Additionally, our netball enthusiasts displayed their skills in a thrilling fixture at Egerton. These achievements reflect the dedication and teamwork our students exhibit, embodying our school values of compassion, courage, and cooperation.

A huge thank you to all the parents and guardians who braved the cold this afternoon to join us for our Key Stage Two Advent Service. Your presence added warmth and joy to the occasion, creating a sense of community and togetherness. We appreciate your commitment to celebrating these special moments with us.

The next two weeks are brimming with excitement, featuring KS1 Nativity performances, a whole school panto trip, Christmas jumper day, and our heartfelt Christmas service. Keep an eye on ClassDojo for updates on these not-to-be-missed events.

As we dive into the festive season, it's worth noting that this time of year often comes with its fair share of expenses.

With several school events lined up, we understand that these costs can add up for families. We're committed to ensuring that every child has the chance to participate in activities they're interested in, regardless of financial considerations. If you're finding the expenses challenging, please reach out to us. We're open to discussing how we can help, whether through alternative arrangements or additional support.

Our goal is to make sure your child can enjoy the festive activities without any financial stress. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or if there's anything we can do to assist your family during this season.

Have a great weekend.

Whole School: **95.4%**

### Attendance

Whole School Target: **96%**

Class	Windmills	Oast	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
Attendance	<b>97.3%</b>	95.1%	94.6%	<b>96.3%</b>	95%	94.2%

Well done to Windmills and Vikings who are continuing to remain above our whole school target for attendance. Our overall figure is very close – let's keep up the good work all!

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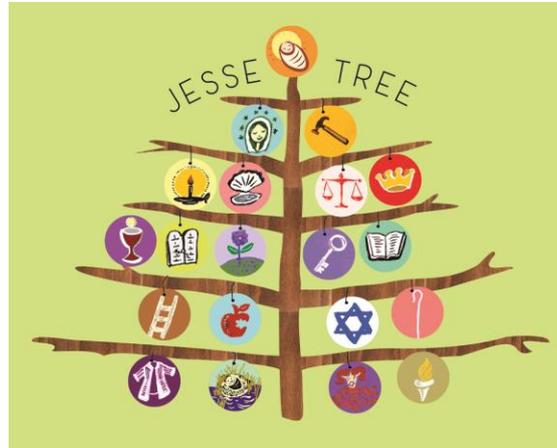
Cooperation

## This week in Worship:

This week in our school worship, we delved into the profound purpose of a Jesse Tree, a symbol intricately woven into Christian tradition, particularly during this festive season.

Exploring the first of nine key Bible stories, including the Fall of Adam and Eve, our students collectively crafted a Wittersham Jesse Tree. This meaningful project, symbolizing the true essence of the season, culminated in today's Advent service led by Rother and supported by our KS2 students.

The Jesse Tree, inspired by Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots, a Branch will bear fruit," stands as a testament to our shared faith and heritage. We invite you to engage with your children about the profound meaning behind the Jesse Tree, fostering a sense of connection and unity within our school community.



## Key Stage Two Advent Service

Thank you to those who were able to join us today at the Key Stage Two Advent Service.

Your presence added warmth and meaning to our celebration, embracing the holiday spirit and highlighting the Christian values at the heart of our school community.

The hymns and readings from Vikings, Oxney, and Rother beautifully kicked off the festive season, filling our hearts with the true essence of advent. We hope that you have taken your candles with you to share and spread the light and joy of the season throughout your homes over the next few weeks.

Thank you.



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Heavenly Father,

In this Advent season, we gather as a school community, seeking Your guidance and grace. Illuminate our hearts with the light of hope, fostering unity and compassion. May the joy of Christmas inspire gratitude and kindness among us. Bless our teachers, students, and families with strength and resilience. In our collective journey toward the manger, may Your love bring peace, joy, and purpose to our school.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

# Rocksteady Music Festival

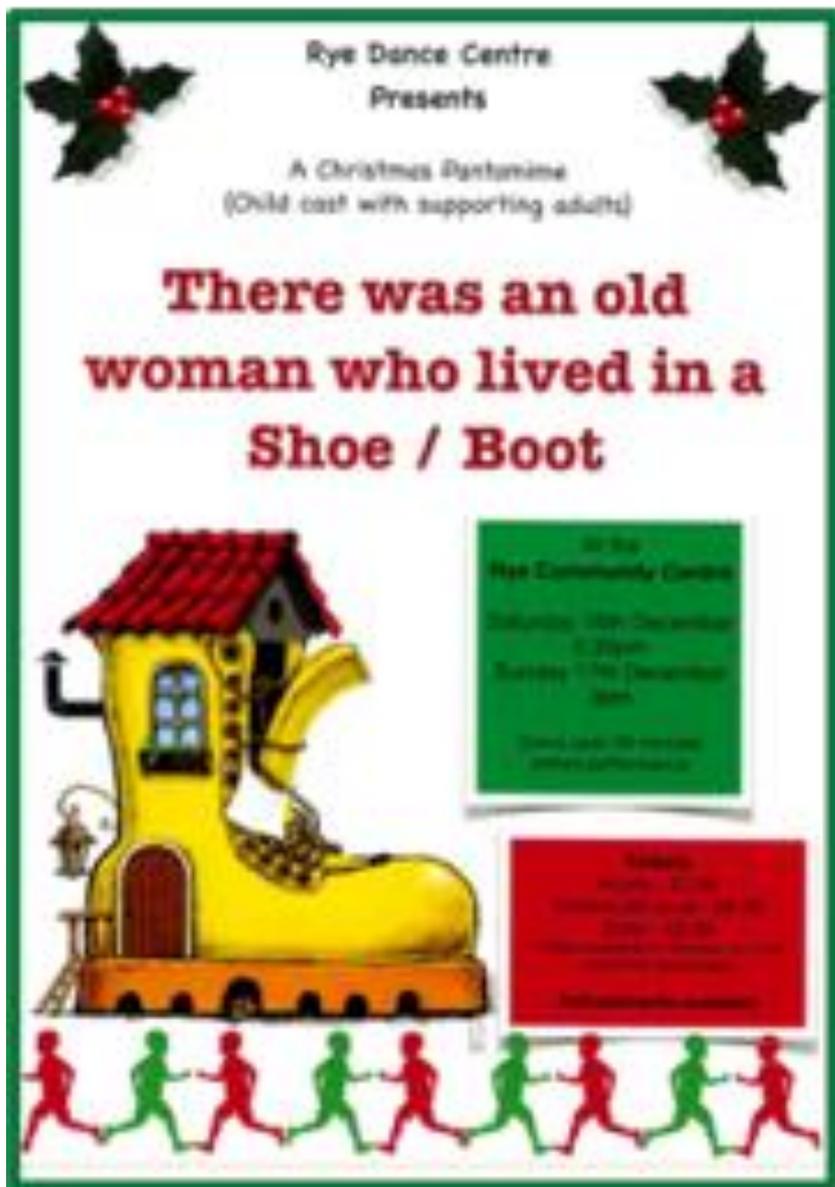
Rocksteady is the UK's leading provider of rock and pop lessons for primary school children and we're proud that their fun, inclusive band lessons take place at our school. As well as teaching new musical skills through contemporary rock and pop songs, Rocksteady has a proven significant, positive impact on wellbeing, confidence and life skills.

Lessons are open for children from year 1 to 6 and they can choose to play either vocals, electric guitar, drums, bass, or keyboards in their very own band. All instruments are provided, and no previous experience is necessary. [Click here for more information.](#)

Each term, we host a Rocksteady concert so that parents and carers can see the progress that the children have made. The next concert date is:



Friday 8th December at 2:30pm



## WSA Update



Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre on Saturday. The WSA are thankful for all of the sponsors, everyone who donated prizes, the people who gave up their weekend to help at the event and to all of you came along on the day. It really is a team effort.

I know you will all be keen to know how much we have raised. The treasure and I still have to go over the final expenses and income so I can't give you an exact figure just yet.

However I am excited to be able to tell you that even before the final calculations have been made it is clear that the event has made a profit in excess of £2000!

Thank you everyone for making Saturday such a great event!

Ann (Chair WSA)

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Still tours available!



# WITTERSHAM CEP SCHOOL

*On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.*



## OPEN DAYS

### IS YOUR CHILD DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024?

If you are looking for a wonderful school for your children to learn and grow, Wittersham could be the school for you! We warmly invite parents/carers to take a guided tour of our school. Dates are available during October, November and December.

Please call us on 01797 270329 to book your appointment. We look forward to meeting you and your child.



 01797 270329

 [office@wittersham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@wittersham.kent.sch.uk)

 [www.wittersham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wittersham.kent.sch.uk)

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Admission to

# Primary school in Kent 2024

Starting Primary School  
in September 2024?

Apply online at  
[kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Opens Friday 3 November 2023 and closes at  
midnight on Monday 15 January 2024

For children born between  
1 September 2019  
and 31 August 2020,  
Transferring to Primary school  
in September 2024

## What to do

### Choose a school

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.

Read the guide to Primary admissions at [www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions).

You can name up to three Primary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

### Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Friday 3 November 2023** and closes at midnight on **Monday 15 January 2024**.

You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been correctly submitted.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

### Receiving your offer

On offer day (**Tuesday 16 April 2024**) an email will be sent after **4pm** informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Tuesday 30 April 2024**. A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

## Key dates

<b>Friday 3 November 2023</b>	Online application process opens. Go to <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions">www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions</a> to register and apply.
<b>Monday 15 January 2024</b>	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to <a href="mailto:kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk">kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Tuesday 16 April 2024</b>	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after 4pm.
<b>Tuesday 30 April 2024</b>	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
<b>Tuesday 14 May 2024</b>	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals">www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals</a> . You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

## Need help?

Email [primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk) or [kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk)  
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at [kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.



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## E-Safety 2 Minute Read: How to talk to your children about being safe online:

# NSPCC



As our children embark on a journey through the vast digital landscape, it becomes increasingly crucial for us to equip them with the tools they need to navigate this virtual world safely. Just as we teach them to look both ways before crossing the street, we must empower them with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves online. Here are some tips on initiating conversations about online safety with your children:

**Start Early, Start Openly:** Begin discussions about online safety at an early age. Create an open and non-judgmental space where your child feels comfortable sharing their online experiences. Establishing trust is key to effective communication.

**Teach the Basics:** Explain the fundamental concepts of online safety, such as the importance of not sharing personal information, passwords, or engaging with strangers. Emphasize the permanence of digital footprints and the potential consequences of oversharing.

**Set Clear Boundaries:** Establish guidelines for screen time and online activities. Discuss age-appropriate apps, games, and websites, and explain why certain content may not be suitable for them. Encourage responsible use and emphasize the value of balance in their online and offline lives.

**Encourage Critical Thinking:** Teach your children to think critically about the content they encounter online. Discuss the difference between reliable and unreliable sources of information, helping them develop a discerning eye for online content.

**Cyberbullying Awareness:** Address the topic of cyberbullying openly. Make sure your child understands the impact of hurtful words and actions online and encourage them to report any incidents promptly. Remind them that kindness extends to the digital realm as well.

**Model Positive Behaviour:** Children learn by example. Demonstrate positive online behaviour by treating others with respect, refraining from sharing inappropriate content, and showing empathy both online and offline. Your actions will serve as a powerful influence.

**Stay Informed Together:** Technology evolves rapidly, and staying informed is crucial. Engage with your child in exploring new apps or games and learn about privacy settings and safety features together. This collaborative approach will reinforce your commitment to their online well-being.

**Be Approachable:** Foster an environment where your child feels comfortable coming to you with questions or concerns. Assure them that you are there to support and guide them through any challenges they may encounter online.

Remember, the goal is not to instil fear but to empower your children to make informed and responsible choices in the digital world. By fostering open communication and providing guidance, you are helping them become confident, responsible digital citizens.

Happy parenting in the digital age!

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at school; we are here to help.

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SAVE THE CHILDREN'S

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**



## Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to announce our participation in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on December 7th! This festive occasion is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, spread joy, and make a positive impact.

On this special day, we invite all students to wear their usual school uniform paired with a Christmas jumper or a creatively decorated top. Let's add a touch of holiday cheer to our school day and show our support for Save the Children's essential work. In the spirit of giving, we kindly request that children bring a suggested donation of £1. This contribution will go directly to supporting the Save the Children appeal and the incredible work this charity does for children around the world.

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day is not only a fun and festive tradition but also a chance for us to make a difference in the lives of children in need. Your generosity will contribute to vital initiatives that bring hope, joy, and brighter futures to those who need it most.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in this meaningful event. Together, let's make December 7th a day to remember as we spread festive cheer and support a great cause!



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Tuesday 5th December	Flu Vaccinations in School
Wednesday 6th December 9:30am and 4pm	Windmills, Smugglers and Oast Nativity Performances
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December 1:45pm	Windmills, Smugglers and Oast Nativity Performance
Friday 8th December	Windmills, Smugglers and Rother Forest School Session
Friday 8th December	Rocksteady Music Festival 2:30pm
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Friday 15th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 2nd January	Term 3 begins

### Christmas Service

As we prepare for the holiday season, we'd like to invite you to our Whole School Christmas Service, where we'll be marking the true meaning of Christmas.

**Date:** Thursday, 14th December  
**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Location:** St John the Baptist Church, Wittersham

During the service, our students will be presenting readings, carols, and performances centered around the traditional Christmas story. It's an opportunity for our school community to come together and reflect on the spiritual significance of Christmas.

If you are able to join us, we would love to see you there to celebrate together.



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### Christmas Lunch

A reminder that our Christmas lunch is on **Wednesday 13th December**.

All children will be eating in the hall together.

A huge thank you to Korkers Sausages for sponsoring this event and showing great compassion to ensure all students can enjoy a delicious meal without any financial barriers. #valuesinaction

