



Witley C of E Infant School



Learn, love and flourish together

Newsletter no. 1 Autumn Term
Thursday, 7th September 2023

Our value this half term is Friendship



*'Encourage and help each other'
1 Thessalonians 5*

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the autumn term! We've all had an amazing week at school enjoying the sunshine, catching up with friends and settling into new routines. A very warm welcome to our new families.

Curriculum Information Sessions – Dates for your diary

On Monday, 18th September we are holding Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in your child's class, so we can share information about our curriculum/routines and expectations. It is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions. The meetings start at 2.40 pm and are held in the class rooms. The main gate will open early and we will open up external class doors at 2.40 pm.

Also, a reminder that our EYFS (Year R) curriculum evening is on Tuesday, 19th September 7.15 – 8.15 pm. Please make your way to the reception class. We will open the main gate for you.

Events at All Saints Church

Towards the end of our newsletter you will find information regarding events being held over at our Church. The first event is for our new starters! There is a picnic lunch on Friday, 15th September at 12.15 pm at All Saints.

Need to speak with staff?

Please remember if you need to talk with your child's class teacher then please do so at the end of the day as they are busy getting all children settled at drop off. If you urgently need to speak with them please come up to the office and we will assist you.

Home School Partnership

Attached with our newsletter this week is a copy of our home school partnership which we created last year to help us all work together to enable all to flourish. I would be grateful if you could read through this which will help you to better understand your school.

News from FWS

Please see the attached flyer from our Friends of Witley School with news of this year's team and what to look forward to!

Forest School Information

Both Year 1 and 2 will need outdoor learning kit next week. Please ensure all clothing is named. Year R just need wellies for now. Please see the attached information leaflet all about Forest School and what to wear.



Witley C of E Infant School has amazing outside grounds which we like to make the most of. We frequently teach outside planned lessons (Outdoor Learning) and child led sessions (Forest School). On planned Forest School days children come to school wearing their normal uniform and change into their outdoor learning kit in school. Outdoor learning kit is left at school as we can then learn safely outside at any time. Your child's kit will be returned at the end of each term.

Have a super weekend

Mrs Helen Szczepanski

Safeguarding is everyone's business

At Witley C of E Infant School we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We make every effort to provide an environment in which children and adults feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and feel confident to talk if they are worried, believing they will be effectively listened to.

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.

DO NOT DELAY IN REPORTING A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD. REMEMBER IF THE DSLs ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND YOU HAVE A CONCERN THAT A CHILD IS AT RISK OF HARM YOU CAN REPORT THIS TO THE C-SPA (Children's Single Point of Access) ON: **0300 470 9100**

Ant Colony Alert!

Some of the children have been very fascinated with our ant colony who have set up home in Plop the Owl's tree trunk. We have talked to the children about looking and watching but please don't go too near or touch the insects.



Wanted

FWS treated our children to some new trikes for the playground and we're short of helmets. If you have a spare one you could donate then please drop it at the office.



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

Year 1: Oran and Bertie

Year 2: Phoebe and Oscar H

Headteacher's Gold Book award will resume next week when Year R join us for Celebration Assembly!



Cake Raffle

Our famous cake raffle will be returning soon on a TUESDAY! Many parents choose to support our raffle but as always it is up to you! Some parents prefer to support other fundraising and FWS do a marvellous job supporting our school for all those extra treats for your children. Look out for events and activities and thank you in advance. Watch this space!

Makaton Challenge

Here at Witley we regularly learn Makaton signs. Here's a reminder of the first two signs we learn.



Please



Thank you

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) –

You will be aware of the national news reports related to the use of RAAC in a small number of school buildings. The Department of Education (DFE) are working closely with Local Authorities, Academy Trusts and Dioceses who are the responsible bodies for school buildings to address this issue and any school where RAAC has been identified has already been informed to take action by closing those buildings affected. This type of concrete was used in some school buildings built between 1950 and 1990.

We surveyed our site last year and again over the summer using the new Government guidance and do not believe that we are affected by this issue.

TERM DATES 2023/24

Autumn Term 2023

EYFS half day visits on Thursday 7th/Friday 8th September

Week beginning Monday, 11th September – EYFS stay until 12.15 pm

Week beginning Monday, 18th September – EYFS can stay either until 12.15 or 3.15 pm

Thursday 14th September – Flu vaccines (details have been emailed, please contact the office if you have any queries)

Monday 18th September – Year 1 and Year 2 Meet the Teacher/Year Expectations

2.40 – 3.10 pm

Tuesday 19th September – EYFS Curriculum meeting 7.15 -8.15pm

Friday 29th September – Year 2 Macmillan Coffee morning 9 – 10.30am up in The Jubilee Hall. All parents/carers invited (details to follow)



Tuesday 3rd October - FWS AGM at The White Hart – why not come along?

Thursday 5th October – Parent Tours for Admissions 2024, please book via the school office:

Tour no. 1 09.05 – 09.45 am

Tour no. 2 10.00 – 10.35 am

Tuesday 10th October – Individual and sibling photographs inc. toddlers and babies first thing (details to follow)

Thursday 12th October - Parent Tours for Admissions 2024, please book via the school office:

Tour no. 3 09.05 – 09.45 am

Tour no. 4 10.00 – 10.35 am

Friday 13th October – EYFS Breakfast! (Details to follow)

Friday 13th October – FWS Autumn Disco – straight after school in The Jubilee Hall (details to follow)

Monday, 16th October -- Harvest Festival in the Jubilee Hall at 2.15 pm – all parents invited followed by Open Classroom until 3.30pm



Wednesday 18th October – Hedgehog visit, all classes in the afternoon

Autumn half term – 23 October to 27 October 2023

INSET No. 2 – Monday, 30th October

Wednesday 1st November – Parent/carers consultations from 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Thursday 2nd November - Parent/carers consultations from 4.00 pm – 7.30 pm

Last day of term - 15 December 2023 – early finish 1.05 pm. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH

Spring Term 2024

School starts – Tuesday, 2nd January 2024

INSET DAY No.3 – Friday, 9th February

February half term - 12 February to 16 February

Last day of term – Thursday 28th March – early finish 1.05 pm. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH.

Summer Term 2024

INSET DAY No. 4 - Monday 15th April

School starts – Tuesday, 16th April

INSET DAY No.5 - Friday, 24th May

Summer half term - 27 May to 31 May 2024

Last day of term – Tuesday, 23rd July – early finish 1.05 pm. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH WITLEY



DOLPHINS

All Saints Church is your parish church and welcomes the children and families in Dolphins this year. The church is open in daylight hours every day, please come in at anytime to enjoy the peace and the toys at the back of church.



Picnic Lunch Invitation

You are invited into church on Friday 15th September for a picnic lunch with your child and younger siblings at 12.15. We will provide tea & coffee, but please bring your own picnic.



Little Saints

Every Friday morning from 8.45 - 10.30 in the church, babies and toddlers meet with their adult, for toys, tea and coffee. All pre-school age children are welcome. The morning ends with a short session of singing action songs.

ALL SCHOOL



Pop-Up Tea

Welcome back to a new school year. Every Wednesday after school, we will be serving (free of charge), tea, coffee for adults and home-made cakes and biscuits for children. Please stop by and say 'hello'.



Messy Church

Saturday 23rd September 3.30 - 5.30pm in church. All Families welcome.