

‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	Compassion	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Courage	Friendship
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Newsletter – Friday 7th July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have reached the end of another week, and the end of June! The children in school have spent this week in 4 Bubbles, and we continue to be so impressed with the way that the children have coped with the changes in routine and the different layout of the school.

As you will know, our fabulous Year 6's will be leaving us at the end of this term to start the next phase of their learning. We spent some time before the Lockdown celebrating the end of school life with the Year 6's, but we want to try and make this time as special for them as possible. Therefore, we have a few special things planned for our Year 6's between now and the end of term. Firstly, the Year 6 hoodies have arrived! This year, to show our appreciation of the mature and sensible way the Year 6's have coped with the Lockdown, our wonderful PTFA have bought the hoodies. Thank you to our PTFA for their continued hard work and dedication to our school. We think it would be lovely for the rest of the school to have an opportunity to say goodbye to Year 6, therefore we will be making Memory Jars for the Y6 children. If your child would like to send a memory or a farewell to any of the Y6 children, please complete the slip attached to the newsletter and return to admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk by **Friday 10th July**.



Transition

Usually at this time of year, the children would spend some time with their new class teacher. We would like to offer the opportunity to the children in Years 2,3,4 and 5 to come in to school over the last 3 days of the school term (20th, 21st and 22nd July) in order to have some face to face time with their new teacher. So that this can happen, we will not be able to accommodate Year 6 for the last 3 days. Therefore, the last day of term for Year 6 will be **Friday 17th July**. We would like to invite the Year 6 children to a special picnic and water fight on Friday 17th July. More information about this will be discussed with the children. Children in Year 6 who are already identified as being Key Worker or Vulnerable children will be able to stay in school for the last 3 days, but would be in a different Bubble.

- Year 2, we would like to offer you 2 opportunities to spend some time with Mr Manning on **Monday 20th July** and **Tuesday 21st July**.
- Year 3, as you have worked with Mr Manning already, we would like to offer you one day - **Wednesday 22nd July**.
- Year 4, we would like to offer you 2 opportunities to spend some time with Mrs Nott on **Monday 20th July** and **Tuesday 21st July**,
- Year 5, as you have worked with Mrs Nott already, we would like to offer you one day - **Wednesday 22nd July**.

The purpose of these days is to offer the children an opportunity to have some face to face time with their new class teacher to help them prepare for a return to school in September.

If your child is in Year 2,3,4 or 5 and you would like to send them in for the specified days, please contact the school on 01884 860518 by **Monday 13th July**. Please be aware, that we are only able to have 15 children per Bubble. Therefore, we may not be able to accommodate all Year 2 and Year 4 children on one day. We will tell you which day/days you have been allocated by Wednesday 15th July.

Children who are already attending school (Key Worker and Vulnerable children and children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1) are able to continue to attend as normal.

For children in Pre-School, we would like to arrange a Zoom transition meeting which will take place on **Tuesday 14th July**. More information about this is in a letter which will be sent home alongside this newsletter.

Reports

Every year, all parents and carers receive a comprehensive report about their child's progress and achievements throughout the year. Although the children have spent a significant amount of this school year learning from home, we will still be sending home a report which will report on children's progress over the first two terms. We usually ask the children to contribute to their report in the 'Child's Comments' section. This year is no different; we are inviting children to add their comments to their reports, either in school or via email. If your child would like to contribute to their report, please complete the attached proforma and return to school by **Wednesday 15th July**. Children who are learning in school will be given the opportunity to contribute in school time.

Kind Regards,

Miss Ratcliffe

Free School Meals

You may already be aware that the government announced last week that the Free School Meal supermarket vouchers will continue to be awarded to eligible children during the summer holidays. These vouchers are £15 per week per eligible child, and parents can choose from a range of supermarkets. We are aware that some parents may be facing a change in financial circumstances due to Covid-19. Devon County Council are still processing applications for free school meals – please visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> to see if your child would be eligible.

Instrumental Lessons

Although Mr Rogo has not been able to continue his instrumental lessons in school, he has been holding online virtual lessons in piano and guitar during lockdown. Mr Rogo does still have some spaces free – if you are interested in these lessons for your child, please contact Alex on 07565951786 or alexrogo@hotmail.co.uk



We are really looking forward to our next
Zoom chats with you all!

Class 1 – Friday 2pm
Class 2 – Tuesday 2pm
Class 3 – Thursday 2.30pm
Class 4 – Wednesday 3pm

Preschool – Jayne and Lisa are going to chat to you individually or in small groups on Zoom this week, so they will be in touch to organise those.

Remember we have our special class email addresses!
We are missing you all lots and it really cheers us up when we get to see
all your home learning, pictures and videos.

Please keep sending them to us at these addresses:

- Preschool (Jayne) preschool@witheridge.devon.sch.uk
- Class 1 (Mrs North) class1@witheridge.devon.sch.uk
- Class 2 (Miss Ratcliffe) class2@witheridge.devon.sch.uk
- Class 3 (Mr Manning) class3@witheridge.devon.sch.uk
- Class 4 (Mrs Nott) class4@witheridge.devon.sch.uk



Witheridge CofE Blog

Don't forget Witheridge has its very own Blog, check out the new update from Adam ☺ <https://witheridge.edublogs.org/>

Early Years Funding

This term has been an exceptional time for us all, to say the least! We have re-opened the Pre-School in Bubble 1 (Mrs North Reception Class) and we are enjoying the children being back.

If your child has changed their pattern of attendance this term and are no longer sharing funded hours or have moved settings, please let us know as we have the opportunity to alter our claim later in the month.

If you find that your personal circumstances have changed and you are in receipt of certain benefits now you can [check whether you are eligible](#) check whether you are eligible for a funded two-year old place. If your child will be attending a school nursery you can check whether they can have a free school meal too.

Some parents will have received purple tickets which act as an invite to check eligibility. If you receive a golden ticket please advise us immediately as this entitles you to 15 hours of free 2 year old funding. Parents who will not meet the minimum income threshold (16 hours per week at National Minimum/Living Wage) due to lower earnings as a direct result of coronavirus (COVID-19) will be treated as meeting that test during the outbreak. This will apply only to parents who need to apply for, or reconfirm with HMRC, their 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare place during the outbreak this year.



We encourage all eligible parents to continue to apply for, and reconfirm, their 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare entitlement. Anyone that thinks they will qualify from 1st September needs to apply and get their code to admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk before the end of July please.

We will accommodate the hours you wish your child to attend and be as flexible as possible for the rest of the term.

In September the funding rates are changing slightly and we will be increasing our charges for non-funded hours to bring this in line. Additional hours for 2 Year olds will be £5.00 per hour and additional hours for 3 Year olds will be £4.20 per hour. School lunches will continue to be £1.80 per lunch

School Dinner Menu week commencing 6th July 2020

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Pork Sausages	Chicken Nuggets	Roast Chicken & Stuffing	Cottage Pie	Fish
Sides	Creamed Potatoes or Pasta, Beans & Peas	Wedges, beans or veg	Roast Potatoes, Mash Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy	Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Golden Fries or pasta, Seasonal Vegetables or Baked Beans



Community News

Testing for under 5s

The government has also expanded testing to include children under 5, which it said would 'help support the phased opening of schools and childcare settings in England from 1 June'.

From Thursday, all symptomatic adults or children in England will be able to access a test if they need one. In Wales, this will be the case from Saturday. Testing will still be arranged online or by calling 119.

Government Guidance for Parents/Carers

The guidance for parents and carers of children returning to school from the 1st June has been updated, you can read the update here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Devon Family Advice Line



Exeter Community Initiatives has launched a new phone advice line for parents and carers across Devon from Monday 1 June. The number for the new service is 01392 949059 and it will be manned from 10 – 2pm Monday to Friday. People will be able to leave a message outside of these hours, or when the operators are all busy.

It will offer advice on a specific issue around their children and their family relationships, including any communication issues or conflict they are having with their partners or co-parents of their children. It is not meant to be a replacement for more targeted work, but just a way to offer people a place to be heard and a few tips on how to deal with a particular situation or to signpost them to an organisation which may be able to help them.