



# The Witton Warbler



9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

<b>School Closure</b>	Thank you for your patience and understanding on Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March when collecting your children from school and with the school closure on Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> as a result of the weather conditions.											
<b>5JB Parents &amp; Carers' Assembly</b>	Mrs Bradburn would like to invite parents and carers of pupils in 5JB to come and see their class assembly on <b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2.35pm.</b> Refreshments will be available.											
<b>Attendance</b>	Great that we are still above National – but, getting a bit too close for comfort. Stay healthy!	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Attendance up to and including 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall attendance</td> <td>96.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 5</td> <td>96.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 6</td> <td>96.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 7</td> <td>95.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Attendance up to and including 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018		Overall attendance	96.1%	Year 5	96.2%	Year 6	96.3%	Year 7	95.9%
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<b>Scholastic Book Club</b>	<p><b>We are running a World Book Day Scholastic Book Club</b> Use your world book day token to get £1 off any book.</p> <p>Go to <a href="http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/witton-middle">http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/witton-middle</a> or use the paper order form on the leaflet sent home today. Unfortunately we are unable to accept credit cards. Please make all cheques payable to Witton Middle School. There are hundreds of fantastic children's books to choose from and for every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, you earn 25p in Scholastic Rewards for our school to spend on books.</p> <p>Please place orders by <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> and thank you for your support.</p>											
<b>Vodafone Digital Parenting Magazine</b>	<p>Children have today brought home a copy of the 'Vodafone Digital Parenting' magazine which is designed to provide parents and carers with the latest expert advice, so that you can help your children develop the life skills and knowledge they need to use the online world safely and with confidence. Parents and carers are able to register on the site and access additional online material.</p> <p><a href="https://parentzone.org.uk/vodafone-digital-families">https://parentzone.org.uk/vodafone-digital-families</a> <a href="http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/">http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/</a></p>											
<b>Uniform</b>	With effect from September 2018, all pupils should be wearing uniform and P.E. tops badged with our new logo.											
<b>Year 7 Activities Week</b>	All payments must be made by Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March to avoid the venues withdrawing the places not paid for in full. We have already negotiated an extension as the deadline was originally 1 <sup>st</sup> March.											
<b>Mother's Day Lunches</b>	It was lovely to see so many families join on Wednesday and Thursday to have lunch with their children. We had a larger number of visitors this year, so thank you for your patience.											
<b>Sports Fixtures</b>	<p>Good luck to our teams in the forthcoming fixtures:</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> March      Y6 Netball v St John's Middle School (A) 14<sup>th</sup> March      Y7 Football v St Nicholas Middle School (A)</p>											



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## Spotlight on... Fundraising



Due to the current financial climate faced by schools, particularly in Worcestershire, with lower funding than many areas, many schools now rely on fundraising. Witton Middle School have been operating without an active Parent's Association for a number of years. When children come to middle school parents often increase their work commitments, which means that finding people to take an active role can be difficult. Our staff and governors really do go the extra mile by helping to plan, organise and supervise events, meaning we were able meet our £10,000 target last year, and are well on our way to meeting that again this year. These include events such as discos, the family fun run, raffles, enterprise week, tombola and the Christmas shop. These events really do also help enhance school and community life.

Of course, we could not do this without you. We know that working families are already stretched and that raising children can be expensive, so we always try our best to keep all costs to a minimum, whilst still offering children a broad range of experiences. We are so grateful that our parents and carers feel able to support their children's education in this way. Fundraising events really do help buy real resources in school, so we thought it might be nice to let you know about some of these here.

For example, over the last 18 months, fundraising has bought the following for school:

- A wide range of stickers, prizes and awards in school, including for the poster competition, reading rewards, house point rewards and golden time activities
- Lunchbox trolleys
- New dictionaries for all classrooms
- Year group sets of reading books, including 90 copies each of The Secret Garden, Holes and Journey to the River Sea
- Additional Mathematics text books across the school
- Revision workbooks for Year 6 (subsidy)
- Subscription to Times Tables Rock Stars and 'Testbase'
- Resources for Mathematics (I See reasoning, 10Ticks online worksheets for secondary schools)
- Clicker 7 software to support writing
- Reading books
- Resources for Year 7 Shakespeare day
- Equipment for the fun run, including a parachute!
- Bouncy castle for the summer festival

As you can see, we are careful to spend money raised on resources that have a direct impact upon the children. It is wonderful that we are able to reward our children with vouchers and prizes, tea and cakes and the like, as we would otherwise not be able to do so. Having renewed resources that all children can access, helps us to make learning more interesting, and our largest curriculum budgets in English and maths never go as far as we would like, particularly when new curricula is introduced centrally. Of course, every event has outlay costs which must also be covered before we can move into profit – everything from the DJ to pumpkins for the race! Hopefully this gives you a flavour of the type of things fundraising does for the school. If you think there is ever anything you can do to help us with this, we would love to hear from you!

**f you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do get in touch!**



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## We appreciate your feedback

The comments we receive from parents and carers are incredibly helpful to us. They often lead us to make improvements to our systems or to give you more information when this is needed. In order to allow you to give feedback that is informal, non-urgent or even a little bit amusing, we have set up a new email address for this purpose. Please contact us at:

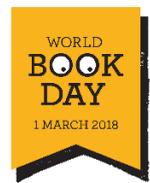
[wmsfeedback@witton.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:wmsfeedback@witton.worcs.sch.uk)

Please remember that if you have a more pressing enquiry, you should still contact the [office@witton.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@witton.worcs.sch.uk)

## World Book Day



The children had a great time taking part in the 'Vocabulary Parade' and other class based activities. Unfortunately snow stopped play but everyone had made a huge effort with their word choices and costumes.



## Bag 2 School Collection

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our Bag 2 School collection. We raised **£28** as a result of everyone's generosity.



## Save the Date

**Sports day** is scheduled for Thursday 19th July, from 9am to 2.30pm.

## Water Bottle Mould

We would like to make you aware that some of the water bottles currently in use are potentially carrying bacteria that could be harmful to your child's health. Some of the bottles that children bring to school are even carrying black mould! Please do ensure that your child's water bottle contains water, not squash or juice, and is washed regularly with hot soapy water. Your child may have mentioned to you that we are asking that they come to school with their water bottle filled and ready for the day and these are only refilled during the first part of the lunch break, when they have their food. This not only means that children will not lose learning time in queuing for the water fountain, but also ensures that water bottles are regularly washed at home. We would discourage you from spending too much money on water bottles and are currently looking into a cost-effective 'school water bottle' that children will be able to purchase.



## Awesomest Book Awards

This Tuesday a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils represented Witton at the 'Awesomest Book Awards' held at County Hall in Worcester. They took part in a quiz and met the author Chris Callaghan. The book voted to be the Awesomest book, published last year, by pupils in Worcestershire was; 'Funny Kid For President' by Matt Stanton. We came a respectable 6th out of 16 teams and enjoyed a book filled morning. Our pupils are always well behaved, but yesterday they were excellent and a real credit to us all. Dawn Woods (School Library Service Manager)



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<b>Dates for your Diary</b>	<p>15<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>5JB Parents' and Carers' Assembly at 2.35pm</b>          20<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>6JR &amp; 7SR – Meet the Teacher 4.00pm – 5.00pm</b>          20<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>5SW Pupil Progress Meetings 3.30pm – 5.30pm</b>          20<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>5SW Pupil Progress Meetings 3.30pm – 5.30pm</b>          26<sup>th</sup> Mar Growth Mindset Day          27<sup>th</sup> Mar Golden Time for Y7 (golds required)          28<sup>th</sup> Mar Golden Time for Y5 (golds required)          28<sup>th</sup> Mar School reports home to families          28<sup>th</sup> Mar Easter Disco 5.30pm – 7.00pm (golds required)          29<sup>th</sup> Mar Golden Time for Y6 (golds required)          29<sup>th</sup> Mar School closes at 3.00pm for Easter Break (Thursday)          16<sup>th</sup> Apr School closed - Teacher Training Day          16<sup>th</sup> Apr Parents/Carers notified of First and Middle School places          17<sup>th</sup> Apr <b>School starts at 8.25am</b>          18<sup>th</sup> Apr 'Poetry Slam' Final          1<sup>st</sup> May <b>7JC Parents' and Carers' Assembly at 2.35pm</b>          7<sup>th</sup> May School Closed - Bank Holiday          8<sup>th</sup> May <b>7KW Parents' and Carers' Assembly at 2.35pm</b>          14<sup>th</sup> May Y6 SATs week          18<sup>th</sup> May Y7 Photographs (Year Group and Individual)          21<sup>st</sup> May Y7 Activities Week          25<sup>th</sup> May School closes at 3.00pm for Half Term          4<sup>th</sup> June <b>School starts at 8.25am</b>          7<sup>th</sup> June Y6 Photographs (Class and Individual)          12<sup>th</sup> June <b>7OA Parents' and Carers' Assembly at 2.35pm</b>          19<sup>th</sup> June <b>7SR Parents' and Carers' Assembly at 2.35pm</b>          26<sup>th</sup> June <b>7BT Parents' and Carers' Assembly at 2.35pm</b></p>	
<b>Our Website</b>	<p>Our 'new-look' front page is a 'one-stop shop' for all things Witton.  <a href="http://www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/">http://www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/</a></p>	
<b>Gold Goals</b>	<p>All golds earned up to and including Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March count towards the rewards: Easter disco, non-uniform day and golden time rewards. Please join us in praising those children who consistently earn their golds!</p>	
<b>Homework</b>	<p>You are able to access your child's homework from our website - just follow this link:  <a href="http://www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/homework/">http://www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/homework/</a>          Children can also collect worksheets from their class teacher.</p>	
<b>House Points</b>	<p>House points running total as at 8<sup>th</sup> February:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Corbett – 10661 Impney – 9985</b>  <b>Norbury – 9669 Salwarpe – 10151</b></p>	
<b>Stars of the Week</b>	<p><b>Charlie Hartwell 6RT</b>  <b>Harvey Dimmock 6LQ</b></p>	
<b>Congratulations to...</b>	<p><b>Erin Moss 6LM</b> on having her poem 'The True Meaning of Christmas' published in the Young Writers book 'Let It Snow – Winter Wonders'. Well done Erin.</p>	



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## Headteacher Awards

**Phoebe Bunyan and Kyle Rooney, both 5JB** for their summary of a chapter of 'The Secret Garden'.

**Tyler Layton 6CR** for a well argued piece on the problem of poaching.

**Louis McCullough, Ambar Pitcher, Summer Shipway, Harvey Edwards, Charlie Hopkins-Budd, Liam Roberts, James Stanford, Joel Usovicz, Lucy Earl** for the hard work they all put into their India projects.

**Ewan Smedley 5JB** for his chapter summary in English- working hard to achieve his writing target.

**Abbie Woodland and Rhys Hibbert, both 5JB** for superb focus and effort in writing.

**Amarion Hudlin 5JB** for his independent research about global warming.

**Harry Ford 6RT** for a really interesting presentation.

**Beth Davis 6RT** for her determination to complete her presentation.

**Harvey Dimmock 6LQ** for fabulous PRIDE in his work.

**Joshua Isaacs 6CR** for a fabulous model of a World War I trench.

**Isabelle Lewis, Taylor Brighton and Jack Golding, all 6CB** for writing outstanding balanced arguments.

**Zoe Kirkham 6LQ** for constant hard work in maths. Zoe never gives up!

**Ellie Dawson 6LQ** for a great work ethic in all subjects! Plus much improved attendance.



## Community News

**British Science Week** runs from 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March and this year's theme is exploration and discovery. There are lots of special events going on nationally, locally and at Witton. On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 59 year 7s went to see an interactive talk at Droitwich Spa High School about solids, liquids and gases. We were amazed to discover how cold liquid nitrogen is (-196 °C) and to see how much energy coco pops contain by burning them in liquid oxygen.

There is a national poster competition and we hope that Witton students will enjoy creating masterpieces about famous explorers, influential discoveries or their own scientific discoveries. The posters will be judged on how creative & well-researched the ideas are and how well the poster has been made. We will be entering the top five designs into the national competition for a chance for the artist to win a selection of STEM-related activities and books. Entries need to be given to Mrs Watson by lunch time on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – make sure your name and form are on the reverse.

Each year, members of the public are encouraged to get involved with a citizen science project. This year, you can support The Plastic Tide - a charity that works to clean up our oceans of marine litter and plastic. You can help to train drones to clear up plastic litter from our oceans, by tagging images of the coast that contain pieces of litter at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/theplastic Tide/the-plastic-tide>

Finally, there are a number of local events including a science night at the Hive on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March (4:30pm-8pm) with a number of free talks and activities. You can reserve your free tickets online. [www.thehiveworcester.org/events](http://www.thehiveworcester.org/events)



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## Community News

*"Anytime Fitness, Droitwich would like to invite all parents and staff to their open weekend on 17th & 18th March. The new 24 hour Gym opened in January, and has been a success to the people of Droitwich, offering unique services, brand new equipment, and the ever popular 'les mills' fitness classes. The open weekend allows you to experience the gym during their staffed hours during this weekend. Feel free to invite all your friends and family! (over 18s only)*

***Along with this, Anytime Fitness are also Donating Easter Eggs to the children's ward in Worcestershire Royal Hospital. If you would like to donate an egg, please go into the club, on Queens St before 31st March. All Donations are much appreciated- lets ensure everyone has a Happy Easter!"***



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