



# West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone: 01243 811247



*We do our best in all we do, with God's love.*

*'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.'* **John 13**

**Newsletter 39 19.07.24** Our overall attendance rate is **95.4%** this week.

**Don't forget Rev Sarah's 'Rectors Ramble'** which can be found at: <http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, here we are. Another school year rolls around, another successful term comes to its conclusion and just in time for the holidays, out comes the sun, our swimming pool finally warms to a comfortable temperature and the children finally stop shivering!

I joke; this is a lovely time of year regardless of the weather. It is a time in which around every corner, I am reminded of what a tremendous joy and privilege it is to be headteacher of this fantastic school and to spend every day in the company of your brilliant children and their equally brilliant teachers and TAs.

One particular event that brings this to mind each year is our Year 6 Leavers' Celebration Service. On Tuesday this week, we packed all of the children and staff, together with the families of the Year 6 children, into a very hot school hall, to give thanks for their time with us. We praised them for all they have achieved, and bid them a fond farewell with a trip down memory lane and some very cute photos of a time when they were a little smaller than they are now!

What struck me most, were the words of each of the Year 6 children, when they in turn addressed the camera in their Leavers' Film and reflected on their time at West Dean. In various different ways, they all spoke on a common theme. They each recalled the kindness that they experienced from the very beginning, from everyone at West Dean. They all spoke about the tremendous array of opportunity that they had experienced, and they all concluded that their time at West Dean had left them feeling more confident; confident in their own ability and their potential to achieve anything, and simply confident to just be who they are. We should all be very proud of that.

Sincere thanks for your ongoing support and the multitude of ways that so many people have given so much to our school this year. It has been a fantastic year; full of challenge and joy in equal measure. So much has been achieved and so many children (and adults too), have thrived, thanks in no small part to the tremendous dedication, care and love shown by staff, governors, the church community and of course by you, our community of families.

The end of term is always a busy time, and we've had the extra challenge of a pretty unhelpful weather pattern hanging over us recently. However, it's the sign of a strong team, I think when, with a dash of flexibility and adaptability, a way is still found to make the brilliant (and highly important) end of term events happen, that are so indicative of what a special place West Dean is for our children and families.

We are so pleased that, despite the showers, you all managed to see the children's fantastic Olympic Showcase, and we are equally delighted that the sun finally shone for sports day this week. What a great event that was; so joyful to see the children not only giving it their all in their own events, but also being so encouraging and inclusive of others too. Thank you for bearing with us through two postponements and for rearranging your diaries to be there in support of your children when the event finally happened. It was lovely to finish the year together in the West Dean sunshine.

I also feel privileged to receive some lovely messages from many of you at this time of year. Thank you so much for your kind words. I won't lie, after three long terms, the energy begins to dip in mid-July and I know I speak on behalf of the whole staff team when I say that your lovely words of feedback, thanks and encouragement really do help and are so appreciated.

To our Year 6 children leaving us today, we wish you every happiness and success in your next adventure and beyond. We will miss you greatly, but we know that you are ready to fly and take on the next exciting challenge of secondary school. Good luck and keep in touch.

To all our school family we wish you a safe, healthy and happy summer break. We pray that the sun shines for you wherever you will be, and we look forward (after a rest) to more exciting learning in September.

With very best wishes,

Chris Williams

## ♥ What a wonderful final week of the school year! ♥



### West Dean 'King Bob' Scarecrow

The children in Year One had a very productive time building a scarecrow at Forest School last week.

We have been asked to contribute to a scarecrow trail that will be running at The Weald and Downland Museum this summer. Apparently our Scarecrow will spend it's summer standing outside the old school house.

Any Year One children wishing to visit are able to obtain a free entrance ticket by contacting Hilary Cunningham at the museum on [hilarycunningham@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:hilarycunningham@wealddown.co.uk)



### Medical Information and Contact Details

Please could you ensure that you let us know if there are any changes to your child's medical information or contact details.

It is important that we have the most current information on our records.

**School Money Accounts:** Please could we ask that you log-in to your school money account and clear any outstanding payments before the end of the summer term. This will help us enormously and we are all able to make a clean start back in September. **This is especially important for our Yr 6 children who are leaving us and for those that still have outstanding payments for the France residential visit.**



### Chestnut Tree House Owl Project

**Don't forget, the purpose of our recent 'Little Hoot' Owl project is to raise funds to support the incredibly valuable work of Chestnut Tree House children's Hospice. You can make a donation on our JustGiving page at:**

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/westdean-1710949606324?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fwestdean-1710949606324&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/westdean-1710949606324?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fwestdean-1710949606324&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

The Big Hoot, Little Hoot is in Arundel and Chichester. Keep a look out, we know that our Owlet is already on display somewhere in the centre of Chichester. Who will be the first to find it?







#### Staffing for 2024 / 25

There is very little change to this year, as follows:

**Apple Class**—Mrs Chilton & Mrs Plackett, supported by Ms Boxall and Mrs Muggeridge.

**Maple Class**—Mrs Reynolds, supported by Mrs Pearmaine

**Beech Class**—Mrs Pierron & Mrs Anstee, supported by Miss Scott

**Chestnut Class**—Mrs Johnson & Mrs Huxham, supported by Mrs Goacher.

Sadly, we say farewell to Miss Evans at the end of this term, who is relocating to her hometown to be nearer family. We thank Miss Evans for all she has brought to West Dean and wish her all the very best in her next adventures.



Get creative at the library this summer!

Do you know a child aged 4 – 11 years? Encourage them to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge at their local library!

Their challenge is to choose and read some amazing library books over the holiday. They'll receive a fab Marvellous Makers fold-out poster and collect amazing scratch-and-sniff smelly stickers along the way. There'll be fun activities in the library too, including a Character Hunt competition with a special prize draw!

If they complete the challenge by Saturday 14 September, they will be rewarded with a medal and certificate. They just need a library card to join in the fun. What's more, it's free to join the library and free to take part! The fun starts on Saturday 13 July.

To find out more, take a look at our special 'West Sussex Libraries – Marvellous Makers, the Summer Reading Challenge 2024' video animation and complete the online form to take part at [arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src](https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src)



#### Lost Property Bin

Please do take a moment to have a look in the Lost Property bin on the pavilion deck, if you are missing any uniform items.

Any clothing items that are not named and left at the end of the summer term will be donated either to the clothing bank or our pre-loved uniform.



#### FREE Holiday Club!

No doubt your child will have told you all about Hugo, a pastor from Yapton Free Church, who visits school regularly to lead very lively worship.

Hugo and his team at **Yapton Churches** invite you to Holiday Club from Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August, for songs, games, craft, stories and Gunge! To sign up, please complete the online registration form here: <https://yaptonfreechurch.churchsuite.com/events/ojcyvmje> If you have any questions please contact [admin@yaptonfreechurch.net](mailto:admin@yaptonfreechurch.net)



## Piano Lessons



***Spaces available at West Dean  
with Donna Morley***

***To register your child, or to find out more, visit:***

[westsussexmusic.co.uk/make-music](https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/make-music)

***Help with costs is available to some families, including 100% bursaries:***

<https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/make-music/help-with-costs/>

01403 286330 or 08452 082182

music@westsussexmusic.co.uk

# Diary Dates 2024



## 2023/24 & 2024/25 INSET Days

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Monday 2nd September 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025

The final INSET day is still TBC, pending training availability.

**Summer Term 2024 - Monday 15th April - Friday 19th July 2024**

**Autumn Term 2024 - Monday 2nd September (INSET) - Friday 20th December 2024**

Monday 2nd September

**INSET**

Tuesday 3rd September

First Day back at school for the Autumn Term with new start time of 8.30.

Monday 9th September

First Day for our new Reception children (staggered start times tbc)

**Half Term Holiday**

**Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November**