



# West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247      Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 10    25th November 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been full and fruitful in lots of ways: we have really enjoyed a visit from Bishop Dibo, the Bishop of Cameroon. We welcomed him and his wife into school and they brought their Christian love and friendship to share with us. They joined our celebration assembly and the Bishop led us in prayer. It has been a treat especially for Chestnut and Maple Classes who were able to ask him some of their carefully considered questions: we were surprised to find out that the Bishop spends a lot of time in his office during a 'normal' day but always welcomes his people in: we were even more surprised to find out that his hobbies include computer games such as Candy Crush! We hope to build links with a school in Cameroon and we will keep in touch with the Bishop too.

Beech and Chestnut Class preparations for our Christmas Production, **Silent Night**, (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm). Tickets are available on-line. We are producing programmes which will contain super memories and photographs of the children, along with information about the play. We will be selling these at the performances at a cost of £3:00 per programme as we hope to recoup some of the costs of the new stage lighting purchased to complement our new audio-visual equipment, so please do bring purses and wallets to the shows!

Also, this week, some of our children have taken part in the **Squash festival** in Chichester and have been selected to take part in the semi-final in December.

We had a group of children who took part in an '**Enrichment Day**' at Portfield Primary School with a local author Nick Cook. The day involved some report writing and 'green screen' filming, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We have a signed copy of Nick's book for school - Cloud Riders - for our **Chestnut Class library**.

Children have had their **photographs** taken this week - please note the closing date for orders is **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**.

You will have received information about our **new on-line payments** system in school to enable you to book for trips and clubs etc. and make payments on-line.

Please do log in regularly and check for 'live' visits and events. **Current events available to book are** Westgate swimming, Silent Night tickets, the French residential, and Mr Popper's Penguins.

Please do put the class **Open Morning dates** in your diaries, as these are the best way to find out how we teach key concepts. You won't be put on the spot - you will just be able to join in with your child in class! This half term we have **these** are not suitable for younger siblings: **if you would find a crèche useful for any of our Open Morning dates, please do let us know in advance** and we will do our best to arrange this for you. **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November Maple Class, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Apple Class.**

**Plants:** Maple Class will soon be selling plants after school so bring your cash with you at pick up time!

	Current Useful Information and Reminders
	<p><b>Win a year's free swimming lessons!</b>  Enter a prize draw to win a year's free swimming lessons at Westgate Leisure Centre. All of the lessons are delivered by Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) qualified teachers. The students work towards the ASA Award Scheme badges and certificates, collecting them at every stage. The lessons start for children as young as 4 months old and are available for all ages. They run for 50 weeks of the year and you can join at any time.  Progression is a key element to improvement and the staff want all students to feel happy and comfortable in their lessons. Students can be transferred between lessons at any time for different reasons. With more than 70,000 children learning to swim on this established swimming lesson programme nationwide Everyone Active is proud to be helping young children learn a lifesaving skill.  To enter all they need is:                      Name (parent)                      Address                      Phone number                      Email address  this information should be emailed to: <a href="mailto:grahamgardiner@everyoneactive.com">grahamgardiner@everyoneactive.com</a></p>
<b>Parent &amp; Carer Drop-in Sessions</b>	<p><b>Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats</b> – do pop in to see your child's work, to chat to teachers and to ask about Learning Journals, at these drop-in sessions.                      <b>Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15</b></p>
<b>Class Open Mornings 8.45-9.30</b>	<p><b>Maple Class, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>  <b>Apple Class Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.</b></p>
<b>School Uniform</b>	<p><b>If you have ordered and received uniform, please could you make payment to the school office as soon as possible. We still have a number of outstanding payments.</b>  We are currently in the process of transferring the sale of our uniform to <b>Game, Set &amp; Match in Chichester</b>. This means that you will be able to order your uniform on-line or call into their shop in Quarry Lane to try on and buy uniform there. They are open 7 days a week and have easy access and parking. We feel this will help us to improve the uniform service that we are able to offer by letting the 'experts' do a good job for us. It will also eliminate congestion in the reception when you need to purchase uniform and save space for us by not having to keep lots of stock of sweatshirts etc.  We are confident that, although you may see a very small price increase in some items, the quality and service you receive will be excellent. This will happen for January but in the meantime, uniform will still be available to purchase from the school office. A list of uniform available from Game, Set &amp; Match will be available shortly.  We are also planning <b>changes to our uniform</b> in response to our Respect focus. We want our children to look as smart as pupils from other schools and we are planning some minor changes. These changes will be phased in from January onwards, when both styles will be worn. From September 2017, our new uniform will be fully in place: the major changes are that our logo will be embroidered, the sweatshirts will be V neck, and we will have ties for our older pupils. <b>Our School Council will be working on taking some photographs of our sample uniform and this will be available shortly along with the pricing structure.</b></p>
<b>Class Assemblies 8.45</b>	<p><b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December      Maple</b>  <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December      Apple</b></p>
<b>Valley Voices</b>	<p>Please do come and join our 'Valley Voices' <b>adult choir</b> which will be led by Emily Barden in the school hall, 6.00-7.00, every Wednesday evening. (term time only)</p>
<b>Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears</b>	<p><b>Please Note: Clubs for the Autumn Term will finish on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. No clubs will be running during the last two weeks of term. Care Bears will be open as usual until the last day of term.</b>  Care Bears After School Provision – this will run every day from 3.00-4.00.  Please see attached club timetable for the Autumn term.  Please do make a note of these dates. <b>The clubs DO NOT run throughout every week of the term!</b>  Care Bear Cub will be available every day, but places are not guaranteed and should be booked in advance. This is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! <b>If you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know.</b>    Please email: <a href="mailto:sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com">sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com</a> 07852 255628 (Please note new telephone number) Thank you for your support in this matter.    <b>AAA Coaching will be available on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, in the Christmas holiday. See attached flyer for information and how to book your place.</b>    <b>Please look out for information coming soon about our Spring term programme of clubs. You will be able to book and pay for your child's clubs via our on-line booking system <a href="http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk">www.schoolmoney.co.uk</a>.</b></p>

## IS YOUR CHILD WORTH LESS?

this important county-wide campaign for better funding for West Sussex schools continues, as you may have seen on national news and in our letters. Pupils and staff visited 10 Downing Street with our letters. You can support our schools in our campaign for fair funding on Facebook and there is a petition which can be found at the following link; <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/167761>

## Teaching Vacancy

After a successful recruitment process we have shortlisted our applicants and have interviews scheduled for Monday morning.

Beech Class are our 'guinea pigs' as our candidates will teach short lessons in class (observed by me and Mrs. Prudence), as well as being 'grilled' by the School Council (supported by Mrs Chilton) and interviewed by a panel of a governor, me and Mrs Shears. Mrs Wendy Goacher and our other staff will support on the day, and we will all have the opportunity to have input so that we select the best person to join our West Dean team for the coming two terms. This process is always fascinating - it enables us to explore some key aspects of the candidates and to see how they relate to the children and how they approach the teaching role.

There is a possibility that the successful candidate may be the right person to join us on a permanent basis, but this will be considered later in the school year, as part of the role of our finance and staffing committee of governors.

Mrs. Turner is preparing to make her move to Bosham Primary School, where we hope she will be very happy. In the meantime, she and Mrs Goacher are throwing their energies into preparing KS2 children for our Christmas production and ensuring that the children keep up with their maths and English, as well as other curriculum areas.

# Dates for 2016/17

Autumn Term Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Half Term Holiday Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 8.45-9.30, Maple Class Open Morning**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 8.45 - Maple Class Assembly**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5.30 - Full Governing Body Meeting**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 8.45-9.15 - Apple Class Open Morning**

**Week Commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December - No Clubs this week, Care Bears as normal**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Closing date for Yellow School Photograph orders**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 8.45-12.00 - Squash Semi Final, Chichester Racquet Club (selected Yr 6)**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 9.45-10.30 - 'Penguin Party' Workshops with CFT at West Dean (R, Yr1, Yr2)**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm - KS2 Production of Silent Night, tickets available on-line**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 - Apple & Maple Theatre Visit, Mr Popper's Penguins, Minerva Theatre**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm - KS2 Production of Silent Night, tickets available on-line**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 8.45 - Apple Class Assembly**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.15-2.45 - Violin performance**

**Week Commencing 12<sup>th</sup> December - No Clubs this week, Care Bears as normal**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 9.00-12.00 - Beech Class Visit to WW1 Exhibition in Chilgrove**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30-2.50 - Rocksteady Concert**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 12.00 - Chartwell's Christmas Lunch**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 9.00 - Christingle making at West Dean**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service at West Dean Church - 5:15pm**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 8.45 - End of Term Assembly - all welcome**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - School finishes for the Christmas holidays**

## **Christmas Holidays**

**AAA Coaching Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.00-4.00**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Spring Term begins for children**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 9.15-11.30 - Chestnut Class - Festival of Singing rehearsal at Chichester High School**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, - Festival of Singing - Y5/6 at Chichester Festival Theatre - rehearsal in the day and performance in the evening for Chestnut Class - info to follow**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Chestnut Class French Residential Visit**

*Acorn Awards - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

*Bonnie - for super reading and tackling new words*

*Raife – for an amazing week in all his learning and listening on the carpet*

*Emmy - for her excellent recount of the trip to the Weald and Downland. Well-ordered and good word choices.*

*Leo - for working really hard on being a good role model in Beech Class*

*Maia - for really taking her time on her beautiful portrait*

*Lilly-Grace - for working conscientiously in class and at home.*

*Lucy - for her conscientious attitude to reflecting on and improving her work in response to 'green for growth' comments in her workbooks*