



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 24 8th July 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to EVERYONE who contributed to our huge success last Saturday, at our **fete**. Together, with all the baking, raffle ticket sales, donations and stall holding expertise, we raised around **£3,800**. This is a fabulous amount for any school to raise, let alone a school of under 100 pupils! Congratulations to all - we will celebrate some of our spending with you before the end of term, so that you know, once again, how the money is spent. We can announce that we already have some iPads in school and are poised to purchase more. We are keen to buy a new kiln for the school after the Apple Affair, so that we can do some exciting clay sculpture work: our plan is that each family will have something special to bring home through the term, and for us to then use this to enrich our curriculum whenever we can.

Don't forget, you are invited to join us from 8:45 - 9:30 on Monday, informally, to look at the work in our 'gallery' in the hall and to visit Maple, Beech and Chestnut Class. You will be able to see the wonderful outcomes of our focus on 'text free books' and 'when we grow up'. KS2 children will be available to tell you all about their learning.

Our **West Dean Development Planning day**, which we hold on the July INSET day to co-incide with the Y6 pupils visiting their secondary schools, went really well. Our staff and governors had the opportunity to work together on evaluating the year, using feedback from children and parents, tests and other assessments of pupil achievement. We have planned our main areas for development for 2016/17 and these are:

- Developing a consistent approach to the teaching and assessment of **phonics and spelling, punctuation and grammar** throughout the school; (the numerous changes at national curriculum level have resulted in some positive developments, but a less than consistent approach)
- Further develop a mastery approach to **mathematics**, with a heavy focus on pupils using concrete and visual methods of understanding the number system and calculations, so that firm foundations are really embedded and built on in every year group - we are doing well with maths teaching but are keen to develop further
- **Support parents** in becoming confident in assisting their children in their learning : we will open the classrooms up at least once a half term so that you can come and join in some of the crucial lessons, to learn how we approach calculation, punctuation etc. in this way, we can all support the children consistently.
- Further develop the children's ability to speak **French**: we are keen to prepare our Y5/6 children for their visit to Normandy, and to develop the basic skills, pronunciation and confidence from YR.
- In **science**, we are developing the leadership role in the subject and boosting our science provision in every year group.
- Dispersing the **leadership** throughout school so that every member of staff has a leadership role in some area in school
- We are also going to revisit the '**vision**' of the school: we plan to focus on the theme of respect to underpin the Christian, British and West Dean ethos. This will be the vehicle for us keeping the work on children's rights and the Fantastic Elastic Brain/metacognition alive also.
- We are planning to get the fund raising for the major **building** development underway, whilst the PTA maintain their role of raising funds to enrich the experiences of the children in the school every year.
- We are also planning to develop the **school grounds**: to make the most of the pond area; to develop 'Forest School' activities; to develop own area of woodland and to use the local environment even more in our learning.

School Review

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Survey: we were able to take your comments into consideration for our planning. We had 32 responses, which, although it was disappointing in terms of the number of people completing the questionnaire, was a good representation of parental views and gave us an insight into how you feel we could improve, as well as the things you love about West Dean! It is great to know, for example, that the large number of clubs is appreciated and valued: we will endeavour to ensure our clubs are as appealing to boys as they are to girls. We will publish the 'results' before the end of term, but they have been really helpful.

Valley Voices:

We are able to offer you the opportunity to join in with a choir that will be taking place in school every Wednesday beginning 14th September. Valley Voices are led by Emily Barden and for a contribution of £3.00 you can come along and join in the singing between 6.00-7.00pm. Please do let us know if you would be interested.

Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions	Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in to see your child's work, to chat to teachers and to ask about Learning Journals, at these drop-in sessions. Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15
Open morning/Gallery	Monday 11 th July - 8:45 - 9:30 Come to take a look at some of our work from this term. see how the children progress from YR to Y6.
Learning Journals	Please remember to return your Learning Journals in on Monday morning every week.
Clubs and Care Bears	After School Childcare Provision - Please see timetable attached for dates. Care Bears contact telephone number: 07507 327466
Swimming Pool 	The swimming pool is now up and running and in use. Please ensure that all children have named swimming kit, in a named bag, in school every day ready to swim. Look out for details of the PTA after school swim sessions and check the rota for helpers. The children are really enjoying this, so thank you to all our volunteers.
Sports Activities  	We have lots of opportunities for the children to take part in sports activities during the summer term: Sports Morning - Wednesday 13 th July, 8.45 GAS sports event for selected children - Tuesday 5 th July, 1.00 at Boxgrove Tennis - Mr Justin Pollard (James' dad) has very kindly agreed to run some sessions for Apple class and Chestnut class. GAS Cricket - Monday 11 th July for selected children at Boxgrove. AAA Coaching will run a sports club on our Inset day - Wednesday 6 th July, 9.00-4.00. Details of this and the dates for the 'Summer School' have been sent home - look out for the flyer.

Staffing - slight update from last week!

We have put our staffing in place for the coming academic year and have some new faces to introduce to you all! Sadly, however, we are losing Mrs. Daphne Stanford who has worked in the school 'since before our electronic records began!' She was a resident in the village originally and her children attended the school. She is such a treasured member of staff and has helped scores of children and staff over the years. I hope you will join us in wishing her 'all the best' for her well-earned retirement, and in thanking her for staying with us (way past retirement age!). Her last day with us will be Wednesday 20th July.

Also, Mrs. Tracey Pinnington, known to dozens of Apple Class children as 'Mrs. P', had her last day with us today. She has worked in the school for 19 years; she will be fondly remembered by so many of us. We will still see both Mrs. P and Mrs. Stanford around and will keep in touch, but, in the meantime, if you would like to contribute to leaving gifts and sign cards, please pop into the office, or speak to Mrs Shears or Mrs Bailey.

Next year, our staffing will be as follows:

Chestnut Class - Mrs. Prudence with Mrs. Pinnington (a new member of staff - and daughter-in-law to Mrs P!)

Beech Class - Mrs Turner with Mrs Goacher

Maple Class - Mrs Johnson & Mrs Canning, with Mrs Locke and Mrs Graham

Apple Class - Mrs Chilton and Ms Pleasance with Mrs Mugeridge and Ms Boxall

In the mornings, for at least the first half term, Ms Pearmain, already well known to lots of the children from her time in West Dean stores, will join our Apple team, to support the new YR settling in. Mrs Goacher and Mrs Mugeridge will be our key First Aiders, with all other staff also qualified in first aid.

Mrs Nash is our new clerk to the governors and has been helping out in school and at camp too, as she is an experienced teaching assistant and Forest School teacher. Mrs Shears and Mrs Bailey will continue to support us all in the office, and we will continue to rely on Ms Boxall and Mrs Procter to keep the school clean. We hope that Mr Snow, who is poorly at the moment and off sick, will be able to return in the Autumn to continue his role of Premises Officer. We send him our good wishes for a speedy recovery and thank everyone for rallying round to support with cleaning and maintenance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work this year.



Dates for 2016

Summer Term Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd July

Half Term Holiday Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Inset Days: Wednesday 6th July 2016

Monday 11th July 9.45-2.30 - Cricket at Boxgrove - selected pupils

Monday 11th July 8.30 – 9.30 Open Morning – whole school display ***

Tuesday 12th July 1.30-2.45 - New Entrants Parents in Hall, children in Apple Class

Wednesday 13th July 9.00am - Sports Morning - all welcome

Thursday 14th July - Rocksteady - for pupils who have signed up

Thursday 14th July - Governing Body Meeting 5.30

Friday 15th July 1.30-2.45 - New Entrants for Sept 2016 in Apple Class

Monday 18th July - Scarecrows to be in for Garden Competition

Wednesday 20th July - Y2 recorder performance - 2:40 – 2:55

Thursday 21st July 1.30 - St Andrew's Church, West Dean - Y6 Leavers' Service

Friday 22nd July - 8:45am - End of Year Assembly and music performance by the Children who work with Mrs Schofield - all welcome

Friday 22nd July 3.00 - PTA BBQ and Rounders



GALLERY OF WORK

Come and take a look at some of our lovely work, especially our art work and writing. We have been inspired by our text free books and by the When I Grow Up topic.

The school will be open to families on Friday 8th at 2pm and first thing in the morning on Monday 11th July.

Please ensure children have **coats** every day – we will play outside even if it is rainy.

Swimming Pool - We are pleased to say that we have been able to use the swimming pool this week! We will be ready to swim everyday (weather permitting), so please make sure that your child has their swimming kit (named) in school every day. We have very limited spare kit.....

If you are a volunteer for our after school sessions, **please make sure that the key is returned to the office at the end of your session!**

Acorn Awards Friday 8th July 2016

Sonny – for your love of reading, at home and at school

Teale – for a love of writing; enjoying writing at school everyday

Amelie - for working so hard on her targets and times tables

Hepzi - for her neat writing, and remembering paragraphs

Rose – for focusing and working so hard in all subjects

Amelie – for a wonderful presenting voice – loud and clear to that your audience could hear

Molly – for making an effort to 'sing with enthusiasm' – great front row singing

After School Clubs
Summer Term 2016

w/c		11.04.16	18.04.16	25.04.16	09.05.16	16.05.16	
Monday	E Wells		Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Yr 1-3
Tuesday	SM/JB	Cookery	Cookery	Cookery	Cookery	Cookery	Yr3-6
	S Johnson	Glee Choir	Yr3-6				
Wednesday	David Morris	Tee Ball	Yr 3-6				
	J Boxall	Craft	Craft	Craft	Craft	Craft	Yr 1-3
Thursday	K Prudence	Think Tank	Yr 3-6				
	E Wells		Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Yr 4-6
Friday	AAA Coach	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Yr 1-3

After School Clubs
Summer Term 2016

w/c		06.06.16	13.06.16	27.06.16	04.07.16	11.07.16	
Monday	E Wells	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Yr 1-3
Tuesday	SM/JB	Cookery	Cookery	Cookery	Cookery	Cookery	Yr3-6
	S Johnson	Glee Choir	Yr3-6				
	S Goacher	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming	Yr 1-2
Wednesday	David Morris	Tee Ball	Tee Ball	Tee Ball		Tee Ball	Yr 3-6
	J Boxall	Craft	Craft	Craft		Craft	Yr 1-3
Thursday	K Prudence	Think Tank	Yr 3-6				
	E Wells	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Yr 4-6
Friday	AAA Coach	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Yr 4-6

Please do make a note of these dates. **The clubs DO NOT run throughout every week of the term!**

We would also like to remind parents that **pick up time is 4pm**. Our staff have been taken advantage of by some regular late collections and we would very much like this to stop. We have decided that charges should be made if this occurs on more than one occasion, unless there is a particular unavoidable reason. The clubs are well run by our dedicated team who really care for the children: please do respect their time and good will by ensuring you arrive in good time for collection.

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!

Thank you for your support in this matter.