



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247

Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 5

17th December 2015



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting end to our busy and very successful Autumn term! PTA have been very busy behind the scenes, helping with Christingles, Christmas lunches, Film Night and with the Father Christmas visit. Thank you to everyone. The children have enjoyed so many lovely Christmas treats, many of which have been carefully woven onto the curriculum! We continue to encourage languages and an understanding of a range of **cultures and religions**, from YR throughout the school, and children have learnt French Christmas words and written French Christmas cards, celebrated a range of festivals as well as learning about Advent and the Christian nativity.



We have, of course, had our party and a truly amazing visit from **Father Christmas**, who arrived in a helicopter this year! (Apparently his sleigh is already full of presents). The **Christingle service** was a beautiful reminder of the meaning of Christmas: it was well attended and the logistics for parking and seating worked well. Thanks to all of you for your support in making this safe and calm - no more rushing to arrive early for seats! We have been able to send £217.63 to the Children's Society to help troubled children, so thank you for your generosity, and we have been able to help homeless people with the proceeds from The Raggedy King, which was a particular treat for so many of us.



Plans are well under way for the **next two terms**. In the **Spring** term, we are opening the school for you to work with your children in February, the week commencing the 14th March is 'Alive and Kicking' week when we will focus on growing up healthy and safe, KS2 children will be swimming at Westgate once again (please see below) and we will be developing the children's skills in playing together in harmony. Our assembly theme will be Saints. Individual class teachers will let you know about the plans for learning in their classes. In the **Summer** term, we have a collaborative project planned where we will be finding out what we could be when we grow up, the children will be learning together using some beautiful text-free books as stimuli and we will open the school as a gallery for parents. These plans are all part of our **two year rolling programme**, so that our stage performances, some charity events and high profile focus on World Book Day, for example, will be on a bi-annual basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated team of staff and governors, who have made the term so wonderful for the children, and to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

KS2 children will have music lessons as usual in school, but will not learn instruments now until Autumn 2016, as part of our curriculum plan.

These lessons will be with **Mrs Oldman**, who is returning from maternity leave. We welcome her back and thank **Mrs Barden** for her work with the children this year.

For anyone wishing to take up **flute or clarinet lessons**, if you book this immediately, the music service may be able to arrange this for the first week back, as **Mrs Schofield** will continue to come into school each week for this. Please see the website for booking info:

west.sussex.music.co.uk

Family Support Group

We now have dates for this super support group to share top tips for bringing up children in harmony: not a parenting class - a support network - to be run in school. Please see back page:

6/13/20/27 Jan, 10 Feb
(then half term)
24 Feb, 2, 16 March

9:10 - 11am

Sporting Success!

Our Yr 5/6 children took part in some squash coaching sessions with Chichester Racquet Club and other local schools, culminating in the selection of a small team who took part in a festival last week.

I am delighted to report that the children represented us really well. Their behaviour was excellent, they learnt lots and **they won the tournament!**

Well done to all Chestnut Class and especially to James, Francesca, Molly, Oscar and Lucas.

CLUBS

There is a super range on offer again next term, and I thank our staff for doing such a good job with this.

Our thanks must go to **Mrs Muggeridge** for her hard work in effectively organising this large range. Please support her in this by paying promptly, as she seems to be chasing a lot of people! The places are allocated on a '**first come, first served**' basis: please respect this and do not ask for exceptions to be made.

Care Bears will continue as usual, but we will not run **Breakfast Bears** as there is not sufficient up-take, currently.

If you are keen to run or support a club, please let us know. In particular, if you are able to be an 'adult on hand' on **Wednesdays**, this would help us for the sports club.

Mrs Moss' Road Safety Grumble

Generally, our car park has been much safer and less congested in recent months and I am grateful to everyone for being sensible and courteous in their parking.

May I remind you, however, that the school car park is too small to accommodate all parents and is therefore restricted to Apple Class parents only, and those with mobility difficulties. It has come to our attention that some parents of KS2 children are dropping children off in the car park and using the turning area for this. This is causing some issues for those attempting to enter, park and leave the car park safely.

Even more dangerously, some parents are dropping children off on the pavement on Motor Road, near the entrance to school. This can cause short tail backs - and this quickly causes a danger on the main A286.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP CHILDREN HERE.

We are pursuing the possibility of a traffic/crossing patrol and will keep you informed of our progress with this, as I am aware that the road is still dangerous for us all to cross.

Dates for 2016

Spring Term Monday 4th January - Thursday 24th March

Easter Holidays Friday 25th March - Friday 8th April

Summer Term Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd July

Half Term Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Inset Days: Friday 12th February, Wednesday 6th July 2016

Monday 4th January - Back to school

Tuesday 12th January - Reception Pupils Screening with School Nurse

Thursday 14th January - Thursday 17th March - Beech & Chestnut Swimming at Westgate

Thursday 21st January - Governing Body Meeting

Monday 1st February (8:45 - 10:15) - Chestnut Class Parent Workshop

Tuesday 2nd February (8:45 - 10:15) - Maple Class Parent Workshop

Wednesday 3rd February (8:45 - 10:15) - Beech Class Parent Workshop

Thursday 4th February (8:45 - 10:15) - Apple Class Parent Workshop

Friday 5th February - GAS E-Safety Event selected Yr 6 pupils

Tuesday 9th February - E-Safety Day

Thursday 11th February 2.30-3.30 p.m - Chestnut Class Community Café

Friday 12th February - INSET Day - staff training - School Closed to Pupils

***Monday 15th February** - Friday 19th February - Half Term*

Thursday 25th February 8.45 a.m - Maple Class Assembly - all welcome

Tuesday 1st March 8.45 a.m - Beech Class Assembly - all welcome

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March - GAS French Day - selected Yr 5 & 6 pupils

Thursday 3rd March a.m - Governor Visits

Thursday 10th March - GAS French Day - selected Yr 3 & 4 pupils

Thursday 10th March - Governing Body Meeting

Friday 11th March 8.45 a.m - Apple Class Assembly - all welcome

Saturday 12th March - Cormorants Swim Gala

Monday 14th March - Parent Evening R, Yr 2, 4 & 6

Tuesday 15th March - Arun Swim Gala

Wednesday 16th March - EYFS & KS1 Superhero Workshop

Friday 18th March - Sports Relief

Monday 21st March - Bikeability Yr 6

Tuesday 22nd March 8.45 a.m - Chestnut Class Assembly - all welcome

Thursday 24th March - end of term

Children show us their learning all the time, sometimes when we are least expecting it! As a result of feedback from our Open Morning, we have included a blank sheet for you to use, at the front of the Learning Journals.

To help us all capture children's learning, please jot down things they have shown you they can do, they know, they understand..... pop the date next to it, and we will transfer this information into the journal.

You could also stick post-its here, and you can still write on the pages if you know where the learning is listed.

Thank you so much for supporting us with this.

Look what I can do!

Learning Journals

Don't forget to bring your Learning Journals into school every Monday morning. They will be sent home for the Christmas Holidays.

Governing Body Report

The Governing Body met for the second time this term on the 26th November. The meeting started with a presentation by Mrs Prudence about the newly introduced Learning Journals. The governors learnt how the journals are starting to be used in school, as well as by parents at home. Also on the agenda was the Head Teacher's Report and the West Dean Development Plan for 2015/16 to outline the school's priorities for this academic year. The report included updates on the new curriculum, standards and progress, as well as the activities of the PTA and the School Council. Plans for the new building project were also discussed. Since the last meeting there had been a Health and Safety tour of the school. The governor representative, Sharon-Michi Kusunoki, had found pupil feedback incredibly helpful. The governors also heard from Julia Hugason-Briem about the success of the community café planned and run by Chestnut Class. The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st January.

V Sutton

PTA Film Night - (Nativity II Danger in the Manger)

Thank you to everyone who came to our festive film night. It was great to see so many Christmas jumpers and sparkly outfits. It was a super social even event and much fun was had by all. We raised £100 for PTA funds, which is fantastic.

Many thanks to Mrs Turner who lent her classroom and all the staff who stayed to lock up at the end. Thank you also to all of our parent helpers.

Louise Atkinson - PTA

Governing Body Update

We were delighted to receive three nominations for the position of **School Parent Governor** as this shows the strength of our School Community.

Congratulations to **Tim Clemens**, daddy to Jack and Harry, who was successful in the election and will join us immediately, and for our first meeting in January. He will, no doubt, bring lots of expertise, including his knowledge of the building process.

Our **thanks** go to everyone who voted, and to our other two candidates, both of who have considerable support and whom we hope will consider joining us when a position becomes vacant: terms of office are for four years, and vacancies arise every year or two.

ACORN AWARDS 2015

Acorn Awards

Acorn Awards 27th November 2015

Isaac – for knowing nearly all his sounds in his big red book.

Emmy – for starting her work again, to make it even better, giving it her very best effort in our science.

Lucy – for her great work on doubling in Maths.

Jack – for his brilliant application of fraction skills.

Rafi – for his really hard work writing paragraphs.

Gwen – for showing increased effort in spelling and writing her newspaper article. Your effort this week paid off – well done! Keep it up!

Lily – for consistently applying her writing skills and success criteria effectively in her newspaper article. done!



Acorn Awards 11th December 2015

Claude – for working so hard with his pencil grip.

Nell – for joining in with our Learning Together activities and completing her passport.

Tristram – for his brilliant, creative and exciting recount.

Jamie – for applying paragraphs, sentences, different openers and conjunctions to his recount, as well as working super hard in all subjects.

Lauren – for using fantastic powerful descriptions in her Great Fire of London diary writing

Natalia – for confident rounding up and down in division word problems and knowing when an exact answer is needed.

Lucy – for confident rounding up and down in division word problems.

What is a Parenting Group?

It is definitely NOT any of the following:

- A course of lessons to teach you how to be a good parent
- Run by experts in parenting skills
- A group of critical people telling others where they have gone wrong

We hope it will be a place where:

- Anyone involved in the care of children can meet
- Ideas and experiences can be shared in confidence and trust
- Mutual support and friendships will grow



The Course starts for anybody with children at West Dean School.

It will be held on **6th January 2016** in the Pavilion, from
9:10 - 11am

Dates: 6th/ 13th / 20th / 27th Jan, 10th Feb
(then half term)

24th Feb, 2nd, 16th March

Please let us know by Monday 4th January if you are interested in attending

NB: we HOPE to provide a crèche if demand exists and staff are available.



Parenting Group

beginning on 6th January 2016

please return this tear off slip

We will be delighted to welcome **any family member or grown up** who spends time with the children and would like to share their experiences and find out more.

Please let us know by Monday 4th January at the latest.

I would like to attend the course

(name of adult/s, child and class please)

I would be interested in a crèche for:

Name and age of pre-school child please