



# West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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Newsletter 2      16<sup>TH</sup> September 2016



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We have had a super start to the school year with some excellent work from the children and awards for showing respect already being given out. Well done to those children who have gained these special new awards and to all our reception children for settling in so well.

## **Support at Home**

It was good to see some of you at our parent information sessions, where lots of top tips were shared and teachers were able to answer questions about routines and expectations etc. The class letters should also help with this, but do remember that teachers are also available between 3:00 and 3:15pm on Wednesdays in our informal drop in sessions. This is a good time to pop in and see your child's work and chat to staff.

Children should be bringing reading books home for you to share with them and each class will have shared their expectations regarding 'homework'. We are always very clear that we only want children to do 'school work' at home which genuinely prepares them for or reinforces learning in the classroom. Spelling homework may look different for children in Y2-6, as we are introducing a comprehensive system where children will explore spelling patterns and practise using the words in context, rather than learning a list for a test. Tests of this kind rarely result in better spelling actually in children's writing, whereas developing an understanding and an 'eye' for the patterns and rules does.

Each week, children will find words with a certain phonic pattern (eg: 'oo' or 'ight'). During the week they will do activities with the words and practise using them in sentences. At the end of their week, depending upon which group they are in, they will use their sentences as 'dictations' where we will assess how well they have remembered the spellings of the words in context. The books they do this work in will be sent home so that you can support at home. There are lots of activities you can do to practise: we will send some age appropriate suggestions home separately, with the children. We will focus on approximately five patterns per half term, and will include some high frequency words in our spelling work too.

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!



## **APPLE AFFAIR**

Please do make as much jam and chutney as you can this year, and get ready for our cake and toffee apple making! We will not be making savoury food due to new regulations, but will be doing more cream teas, face painting and crafts. So, if you have any simple but popular crafty ideas, please let us know! Look out for the PTA flyer coming out soon.

## CHILDREN'S SAFETY

You will have received a car park reminder and request yesterday. Please refer to this. It is VITAL that we keep our children safe and I am seeking the support of interested parents in this. Mrs Wendy Goacher (Chair of Governors) and I will patrol the car park to enforce our restricted parking: **only parents with children in Apple Class are allowed access to the car park** immediately before school and at 3pm pick up time. Other parents should park in The Dean car park or in the village, and walk into school via the pedestrian gate. If there are parents/carers who would be willing and available to support with this enforcement, then we would really appreciate this. Please come and let either me or the office staff know if you can help.

**Staff cars** will continue to park in the area closest to school and we will endeavour to take up as small an area as possible, by 'blocking cars in' where we know some staff arrive/leave at different times. Two appropriate spaces will be available for **parents with limited mobility**. **DO NOT BLOCK THESE SPACES/CARS.**

Parents' vehicles will, therefore, be parked up towards Pre-School. The area near the bins should be kept clear, as staff parked there often need to leave school on business and must not be blocked in.

We have new **parking permits**, which will be sent home to Apple Class parents who drive to school, and to any parents with limited mobility, today. Permits **must** be displayed in the **top left hand corner** of windscreens or access will be denied (we have the legal right to do this).

For parents/carers of pupils in **Maple, Beech and Chestnut classes**, if you regularly carry passengers who are of pre-school age and would like to apply for a permit, then please come into the school office and you will be given a permit - we will need your registration number please. If parents abuse this by parking in the car park without these younger children in the car, then permission will be revoked.

Parking around 4pm when collecting children from clubs will be available to all parents, but please park carefully and supervise children well.

I am aware that this sounds draconian, but **we are not willing to put the children at risk**. There have been several instances of people driving too quickly and carelessly already this term. We will issue some road safety information and talk to the children about staying safe as pedestrians, particularly as the nights draw in.

**Pedestrians should not cross the school car park:** use the pathways provided to keep children safe. For those crossing the main road, may I remind you that there is a safer crossing area on the A286 which is further south than the entrance to The Dean car park, where visibility is better for pedestrians crossing and for drivers approaching from the North and South: I urge you to cross here, where the pavement is lowered and children will be safer. For anyone who would like to obtain a high visibility tabard, then please let us know.



Please, please support us in this.  
We do not want to grumble at people,  
but our priorities are  
the safety of the children and their education.



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. <b>Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15</b>
Learning Journals	These will be sent home over the next few days and will only be returned to school on <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Class Open Mornings 8.45-9.45 (first half of term)	Beech Class - Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> September & Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October Chestnut Class - Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September & Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October Maple Class - Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September & Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October Apple Class - Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October
Class Open Mornings 8.45-9.45 (second half of term)	Maple Class - Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November & Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November Beech Class - Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November & Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November Chestnut Class - Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November & Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November Apple Class - Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November & Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Parent Consultation Evenings	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October, 3.15 - 5.00 Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 3.15 - 6.00 Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October, 3.15 - 5.00
Class Assemblies 8.45	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November <b>Beech</b> Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November <b>Chestnut</b> Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December <b>Maple</b> Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Apple</b>
Valley Voices	Please do come and join our 'Valley Voices' choir which will be led by Emily Barden in the school hall, 6.00-7.00, every Wednesday evening beginning 14 <sup>th</sup> September (term time only)
Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears	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>  We would also like to remind parents that <b>pick up time is 4pm (unless otherwise stated)</b> . 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 <b>charges</b> 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.  If you have signed up for a club <b>it is important that children attend each week</b> once they are allocated a place: often clubs have limited numbers and waiting lists. We often have disappointed children when forms are not returned on time or clubs are full. There is a lot of organisation required to co-ordinate all of our clubs and sometimes we do our best to ensure that children can attend the clubs they have selected. Please do support us in this by committing to their attendance and not leaving booking to the last minute.  Please <b>remind your children which clubs they are doing</b> to avoid confusion at the end of the day.  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> or text 07507 327466  Thank you for your support in this matter.
HEAD LICE	Several children in school have had head lice recently and live lice have been seen in children's hair.  Please could you check your child's hair <b>thoroughly</b> .  If you have to treat your child's hair please be aware that this needs to be repeated regularly over the next month to ensure that all live lice and eggs are treated and removed.  Please be vigilant over the next few days and over the weekend.

## 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

*Inset Days: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September** - Maple Class visit to Planetarium, 12.00

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** - Governing Body Meeting - 5:30pm

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**, 2.00 - Year 5/6 French Residential Meeting

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September** - INSET - AAA coaching available ([ben@aaacoaching.co.uk](mailto:ben@aaacoaching.co.uk))

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>/Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** - Apple Affair at West Dean College

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**, 10.30 - School Friends Service at Chichester Cathedral, Chestnut Class

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, 8.45 - Harvest Assembly - all welcome

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, - Chestnut class all day, Chichester Festival Theatre Visit - info to follow

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October** - Learning Journals returned to school please

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**, 2.30 - Chestnut Class Community Café

### HALF TERM

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November** - 1.00-2.30 Chestnut Class - Squash at West Dean

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November**, 8.45 - Beech Class Assembly

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**, 8.45 - Remembrance Assembly - all welcome

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**, 8.30 - Yellow School Individual and Sibling Photographs - please let us know if you would like to include pre-school siblings (we do this at 8:20am)

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**, 11.00 - Flu Vaccination for Year 1, 2, 3

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**, 8.45 - Chestnut Class Assembly

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

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

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

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, 1.00 - 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

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

*Acorn Awards - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016*

*Isaac - for a very carefully drawn portrait, using a mirror to look at his features*

*Nell - for fantastic work in literacy and maths and for being so quietly supportive of others*

*Sidney - for always being so ready to learn, by listening and working hard in activities*

*Jack - for always wanting to challenge himself*

*Alessandro - for his enthusiastic and hard-working attitude at the start of year 5, well done!*

*Sophie - for a really positive and organised start to year 6, keep it up!*