



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mr C Williams
Newsletter 16 - 7th January 2022



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

Dear parents, carers and children,

A very happy new year to you all. I hope that your Christmas holiday was full of joy, peace and relaxation in equal measure. We begin 2022 with fresh hope for all that year may bring, but still with an element of caution in these continued times of uncertainty.

I am delighted that we have been able to return to learning in school as planned from the beginning of this term. It is a testament to all we have done in the run up to Christmas to keep everyone safe and healthy, and the support of you, our school families, that we remain relatively unaffected by COVID in school and indeed by illness in the wider sense. It was fantastic to see full classrooms on Tuesday morning, so thank you everyone, for your continued support and understanding.

The pandemic, and particularly the Omicron variant, remains an ever-present threat, which has led to us stepping up our safety measures slightly in school. Adults are now wearing masks all of the time, except when teachers are involved in direct teaching of their own class of children. We are also being very careful around our use of communal spaces, such as the staff room and offices, by limiting the number of adults in these spaces at any given time. At the moment, I am confident that this is an appropriate level of precaution for the current risk level, but this is of course subject to change, if the need arises.

We are, nevertheless, determined to offer the children the rich and broad curriculum opportunities that make learning fun and engaging, whilst ensuring that we 'learn to live with COVID' and operate safely and sensibly. There are a number of events and visits in the coming weeks, beginning with swimming at the Westgate Centre next Wednesday and Beech and Chestnut Classes' visit to Chichester Festival Theatre next Thursday. Please be assured that we have liaised closely with the Westgate Centre and theatre teams and have measures in place to enable these events to take place whilst mitigating the risk of COVID infection. Adults will be wearing face masks in the theatre, but there is no such requirement for children. However, if you would prefer your child to wear a mask, they are welcome to do so. Please ensure that your child has a mask with them if this is your preference.

Please do contact me if you have any COVID related concerns about either of these events.

Car Park news! You will no doubt have noticed that the fencing between the car park, playground and pathways is on its last legs. The good news is that a new metal fence and gates, designed to stand up to the West Dean weather will be installed during the February half term holiday. This will ensure that our children are completely safe during the school day and will, I am confident, provide a much-improved appearance to the entrance to school. Once the weather is a little drier, we will also be refreshing the car park space markings, including the designated space for disabled car park users. Please continue to support us in your courteous and cooperative use of the car park until this is possible.

During this week's assemblies, we have been looking at the theme of *Gifts* to reflect the celebration of Epiphany and the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus. We discussed how all of us have been given gifts, not just in the things we found laid under the Christmas Tree on the 25th, but more importantly within us in the form of Special talents and qualities, some of which are yet to be discovered. My New Year's Resolution style challenge to the children is to celebrate their own special qualities, and to use the gifts within them, whatever they may be, to serve others. I also shared the story of Dame Gillian Lynne, who having been told that she was failing and totally incapable of sitting still at school during the 1930s, discovered that she actually had a natural gift and passion for dancing. Dame Gillian went on to become a Ballerina with the Royal Ballet and then one of the most successful Broadway choreographers of all time. I find that such an inspiring story that demonstrates the tremendous potential that each and every one of our children has within them.

Again, I wish you a happy and healthy new year and look forward with excitement to the adventures that lie ahead at West Dean in 2022.

Chris Williams



*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 7th January 2022*



Matilda Year R - for your keen and enthusiastic attitude to learning. You have worked hard at school and at home! Well done!

Lucas Year 1 - for a great first week back! You have had fun and been a super independent learner!

Maxwell Year 2 - for your superb writing about 'The African Water-hole'. You used brilliant punctuation and amazing adjectives!

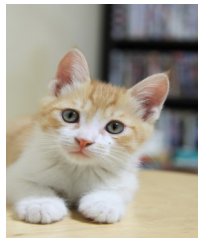
Poppy Year 3 - for always trying your hardest and doing the right thing throughout the day. You are a role model for brilliant behaviour in Beech Class.

Emily Year 4 - for being so enthusiastic and utterly inspired by our fantastically great women topic. It is wonderful watching you learn so much.

Lucia Year 5 - for designing and making Christmas cards which were sold to our school community raising £50, which was donated to the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre. Well done.

Mabel Year 6 - for designing and making Christmas cards which were sold to our school community, raising £50 which was donated to the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre. Well done.





A fantastic effort for a very worthy cause

Lucia and Mabel designed and created their own Christmas cards which they sold to our school community. They raised £50 which they have donated to the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre.

Well done to Mabel and Lucia and thank you for your support.



COVID safe procedures and routines

Following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the operational guidance for schools has been updated.



Please remember your face mask when visiting school, including drop-off and pick-up times.

Further details of the measures in place in schools and how outbreaks will be managed, can be found at:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/backtoschool

We are, once again, limiting grown-ups in school. Please, only come into school if necessary. If you need to contact us you can give us a call or drop us an email and we will respond.

As per Government guidance, school staff are wearing face coverings in shared and communal areas and continue to LFT twice weekly. We continue to remain vigilant with hand washing, sanitising, ensuring good ventilation and cleaning in school.

Let's all work together and do all we can to stay safe. Thank you for your continued support.

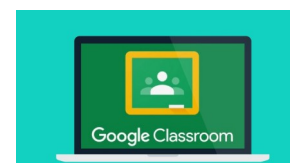
Google Classroom — online learning resource:

The government stance on the likelihood of a further lockdown remains that every effort will be made to keep children in school and maintain face to face education.

However, with an ever changing COVID landscape, we remain alert to the potential need for future remote learning, and want to be ready with a contingency plan.

Google Classroom is central to our remote learning provision, so we want to ensure that you have access to this now, so that transition to learning online can be quick and seamless, should the need arise. I ask all parents and carers (if you have not already done so) to log-in to your child's Google Classroom account, so that the system recognises your child as a member of the class. This is particularly, although not exclusively needed for families of children in our younger classes, as the older children are already using Google Classroom regularly. This is a valuable route for communication and contains important information relevant to your child's class and learning.

If you need help with log-in details, please contact the school office.



Governing Body News:

For information regarding our Governing Body, please contact Pasha Delahunty, Clerk to Governors.

pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk



New website for West Dean

Do have a look at our 'new-look' website, which is now live at <http://www.westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk/web>

Currently, the new design has been applied to the existing website content, so the text information remains the same.

We will be gradually reviewing and revising the content over the coming weeks and months, but we hope you like this fresh new look in the meantime.

Diary Dates 2021/22



2021/22 INSET Days

Thursday 2nd September & Friday 3rd September 2021
Monday 28th February 2022, Monday 6th June & Wednesday 6th July



Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4th January - Friday 8th April

Half Term: Monday 21st—Friday 25th February



Summer Term 2022

Monday 25th April - Thursday 21st July

Wednesday 12th January

Thursday 13th January

Wednesday 19th January

Thursday 20th January

Wednesday 26th January

Wednesday 2nd February

Thursday 3rd February

Wednesday 9th February

Thursday 10th February

Wednesday 16th February

Thursday 17th February

Thursday 17th February

First Westgate Swim for Beech and Chestnut

10.30 Beech and Chestnut visit to Chichester Festival
Theatre

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

1.00-3.00 SSP Netball at Bishop Luffa selected Year 3/4

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

SSP Future Flyers—details to follow for selected Yr 5/6

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

1.30-3.30 SSP FUNDamentals selected Yr 2/3

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Dancehouse—rehearsal and performance details tbc

1.00-4.00 SSP Bronze Ambassadors details tbc for selected

Day	Adult Lead	Max	Club	Cost	Year Group
Monday	Miss J Ashton Cancelled	10	Netball	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
Tuesday	Mrs Goacher/Mrs Johnson 6.30-7.00pm	20	Swim WBH	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6,
	Mr C Williams	20	Cross Country	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
Wednesday	Mrs Muggeridge/Miss Boxall	8	Cookery	£30.00	Yr3, 4, 5, 6
Thursday	Mrs E Holder	12	Dance	£25.00	Yr 2,3,4,5,6
Friday	AAA Coaching	14	Multi-sports	£25.00	1,2,3,4,5,6

Dates: W/C 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th February - x 5 weeks

Children in Miss Ashton's Netball club will be working towards the Sports Partnership High Five Netball event in the spring term.

Children in Mr William's Cross Country Club will be working towards the Sports Partnership Cross Country event in February.

Children in Mrs Holder's Dance club will be working on their performance for the Dance House event at the Alexandra Theatre, Thursday 17th February 2022.

In addition to our after school club programme our Care Bear provision is available everyday, Mon-Fri, 3.00-4.00pm. **Please make sure that you book in at least 24 hours in advance.**

All clubs run from 3.00-4.00, with the exception of Cookery Club which finishes at 4.15 and our swimming club which will be held at Westbourne House school, 6.30-7.15pm.

For all clubs and care bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk.

Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Places for clubs are limited and will be allocated on 'first come, first served' basis.

Please collect your child from the Reception area. Children will only be released to parents or carers unless we have been notified of alternative arrangements.

Clubs will go 'live' on Friday 17th December at 3.00pm.

West Sussex Sports Partnership—Girls Football

To support girls football in the community SSP have worked hard collaborating with Sussex County FA, Bognor football club and Pathway coaching to introduce the national girls football programme: **"Weetabix wildcats"**. This is to aid girls moving into club football. This casual/fun focused drop in style sessions are all over the country and now in **Bognor Regis at The Arena Sports Centre. Only £2, starting in January!**

For further information regarding wild cats: <https://www.thefa.com/womens-girls-football/get-involved/girls/fun/wildcats>
Booking Information regarding Arena wildcats session: <https://find.Englandfootball.com/venue/193123545024>