



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mr C Williams
Newsletter 13 - 3rd December 2021



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,

Thank you for your support of our revised programme of Christmas events. Having spoken with some of you and received messages, it is reassuring to know that you understand and appreciate our approach during the run up to the Christmas break.

The Pupil Parliament had an extraordinary meeting this week to discuss the question of whether we should be more sustainable in the way we send Christmas cards this year, as some see it as a wasteful use of card and paper. They considered the following options:

- Restricting Christmas cards to one 'whole class' card per person
- Limiting the number of cards each person could send e.g. ten each
- Using another method of sending Christmas wishes e.g. Google Classroom
- Limiting Christmas card giving to within a child's own class

The MPPs discussed the balance of being sustainable versus allowing people to celebrate the magic of Christmas in a way that is personal to them. They also discussed how to encourage inclusivity in Christmas card giving, so that nobody feels left out. At the end of the discussion, the Pupil Parliament voted to suggest to families that Christmas card giving is limited to within a child's own class e.g. Beech to Beech only, Chestnut to Chestnut only etc. Please consider this request from Pupil Parliament when advising your child about card giving.

Following a successful interview process on Thursday, in which some of our children played a valuable part, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Emma Bowman has been appointed as our new Special educational Needs Coordinator from January 2022. Mrs Bowman is a very experienced primary school teacher and existing SENCO in two other local schools. Following many years in the classroom, she has chosen to specialise in Special Needs provision, so will bring a breadth of knowledge and expertise to the role from across three schools. Sharing expertise like this is a very sensible way for smaller schools to operate and we are all excited at welcoming Mrs Bowman to the West Dean team. During the remaining weeks of this term, she will be working with Mrs Totman to ensure a smooth transition in provision for our children.

West Dean enjoyed great success at the Year 3 and 4 Mixed Football tournament on Thursday. After some very closely contested matches with teams from other local schools, our children reached the semi-finals.

They narrowly missed out on a win in their final match, with a last minute 'golden goal' in extra time from the opposition. Nevertheless, from a field of fifteen school teams, this is a tremendous performance from our young footballers.

Well done team and thank you to Alex Langhein and Mrs Goacher for supporting and coaching the children at the tournament.



As you know, Beech and Chestnut Class have been learning to play the cornet this term, expertly taught by Will Wilkin from the West Sussex Music Team. As is tradition, the children came together in the hall yesterday to celebrate their final week of cornet learning with a performance. Under normal circumstances we would have loved you to join us for the performance; but do not fear - a film recording was made and is currently being edited together, ready to share with you soon. Thank you to Will for working with us, and a huge well done to all of the children for their focus and perseverance in getting to grips with quite a challenging instrument (I speak from experience having tried, and failed, myself at a similar age).

As part of their RE learning, the children in Beech Class have been comparing the two versions of the Christmas story portrayed in the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew. They have also been considering how the incredible story of Jesus birth can become lost amongst all of the lovely, but not necessarily Christian, customs and popular culture of the season. It was interesting to listen to the children today, as they discussed this point and prepared questions to pose to Rev Sarah about the true meaning of Christmas. Do ask them about it; they are really knowledgeable and have some fascinating questions that challenge our own adult thinking.

With just two more weekends before we break up for Christmas, I'm sure life is becoming increasingly busy for you all. In between the preparations and busyness, do have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Chris Williams



*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 3rd December 2021*



Year R Monty - for your hard work and perseverance with your phonics. This has helped your reading and letter formation, well done!

Year 1 Conran - for taking care of the wildlife and making bird feeders in forest schools. You thought carefully about the world around you.

Year 2 Hetty - for your hard work and determination during our nativity rehearsals. You are enthusiastic and confident when performing your dance. Well done.

Year 3 Poppy Rimmer - for your outstanding coding and debugging work on scratch this week. You were amazing!

Year 4 Ewan Young - for persevering with your times table challenge this week. Your hard work gave you a fantastic result.

Year 5 Amelia - for your effort and enthusiasm during our 'Word of the Day' challenge. You have been able to find lots of possibilities.

Year 6 Raife - for thinking 'outside the box' and developing an original engineering solution during our 'Squashed Tomato Pulley Challenge'





West Dean PTA Floral Festive Fun

Sadly, in the interests of everyone's safety and health, we have made the decision to cancel this event. Any monies already paid will be refunded.

Governing Body News:

For information regarding our Governing Body,, please contact Pasha Delahunty, Clerk to Governors.
pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

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

With a rising number of positive cases locally, nationally and internationally, we are taking great care to manage events in the run up to the Christmas holidays in a safe way that will hopefully enable families to enjoy the festive season together.

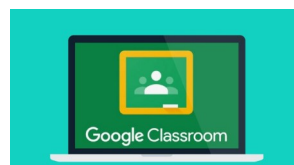
We will continue to monitor the local and national situation and communicate to parents as soon as possible, should we need to make changes to the arrangements for any school events. We thank you for your support of this and understanding that, whilst we value enormously, opportunities to include parents and families in school events, our priority is to keep everyone safe.

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.

<https://west-dean.eschools.co.uk>



Please do keep an eye on our website; we have made some changes to the 'Newsfeed' gallery that appears on the front page. Classes are posting photographs of what they have been learning during the week. If you gave consent for your child's photograph to appear on our website they may be front page news!

Also, we will be launching an **exciting new look to the website** very soon. The content will remain the same for now, but will be developed over the coming months.

Amazon Smile - PTA

Looking for ways to support our school? Then set your chosen charity on amazon smile to the 'West Dean Parent Teacher Association'!

When you shop via the amazon smile home page, for every purchase you make, amazon will donate 0.5% to the West Dean PTA. There is no cost to you.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1098048-0>



| Day | Adult Lead | Max | | Club | Cost | Year Group |
|-----------|--|-----|--|-----------------------|--------|---------------|
| Monday | Mrs Pearmaine | 12 | | Lego | £25.00 | Yr 4,5,6 |
| | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | Mrs Goacher/Mrs Johnson 6.30-7.00pm | 20 | | Swim WBH | £25.00 | Yr 3,4,5,6, |
| | Mr Williams | 20 | | Cross Country Running | £25.00 | Yr 3,4,5,6, |
| | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | Mrs Muggeridge/Miss Boxall | 8 | | Cookery | £30.00 | Yr3, 4, |
| | | | | | | |
| Thursday | Mrs E Holder | 12 | | Dance | £20.00 | Yr 2,3,4,5, 6 |
| | | | | | | |
| Friday | AAA Coaching | 14 | | Multi-sports | £25.00 | 1,2,3,4,5, 6 |
| | | | | | | |

Dates: W/C 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th November, 6th December - x 5 weeks

Please Note: No clubs during W/C 15th November - Parent Evenings

Dance Club is 4 weeks only - no Dance on Thursday 9th December

Our dancers will be working towards Dance House 2022 in the Autumn term 2 and Spring term 1 dance club. Rehearsal and performance will be at The Alexandra Theatre in Bognor Regis on Thursday 17th February, further details to follow nearer the time.

It has become necessary to slightly increase the cost of cookery club in line with the rising costs of ingredients. The children do, however, have their tea to bring home with them so we hope that you will agree, that this is still good value.

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.

Our 'Bears' are cared for by one a member of staff and will have a drink and a snack and access to a range of activities and play.

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.

Clubs will go 'live' on Friday 22nd October at 4.00pm.

Please note:

Children will be dismissed to their parents or carers from our Reception area at the end of each club or Care Bear session. Please notify us if another adult is collecting or they are going home with a friend.



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



Autumn Term 2021

Monday 6th September - Friday 17th December

Half Term: Monday 25th—Friday 29th October



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

Half Term: Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th December

2.00pm KS1 Production—The Raggedy King (Dress rehearsal in school)

Tuesday 7th December

9.15 KS1 Production—The Raggedy King (performed to whole school)

Tuesday 7th December

Flu Vaccination

Christmas Week

Foodbank donations into school this week—see attached information.

Monday 13th December

10.00 Hugo Van Driel Assembly

Tuesday 14th December

10.00 Visit to West Dean College

Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Recycled Jumper Day

Wednesday 15th December

Chartwells Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15th December

2.00pm—Christmas Party in classes

Thursday 16th December

8.45, Christingle Making in classes



Tuesday 4th January

Return to School

Wednesday 12th January

First Westgate Swim for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 13th January

10.30 Beech and Chestnut visit to Chichester Festival Theatre

Thursday 13th January

SSP Bronze Ambassadors (details to follow)

Wednesday 19th January

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Wednesday 19th January

1.00-5.00 SSP Cross Country Event at Bishop Luffa, Year 5/6