



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247

Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 3

23rd October 2015



Dear Parents and Carers,

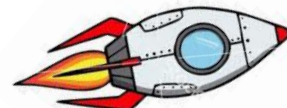
Thank you for all your support this half term, which has, as ever, been a busy one! I think all the children are ready for a quiet week at home, before our exciting weeks in the run up to Christmas: we have a theatre visit planned, a KS1 performance, a visit from an inspirational Olympic athlete, and lots of new learning and activities. You will notice that we are increasingly using our school events and calendar to give a real purpose to the children's learning, so that the children get lots of opportunities to apply their skills and demonstrate that they have a secure understanding. Chestnut Class' Community Café is a good example of this, where the children have been immersed in literacy and maths work,

as well as research and role play in order to be ready. The adverts on Spirit FM could bring lots of visitors, and, at the time of writing this, we don't yet know if the mountain of cakes will sell out or if the teachers will have to buy up lots of left over produce for the staffroom!



The children, Mrs Prudence and Mrs Fairbairn have done a super job and there has been lots of learning for a real purpose. The children in other classes too have been working in this way:

- Apple Class have been writing about leaves and their visit to Portchester Castle, using their research to inform their designs and castle construction.
- Maple Class have used a super book as a stimulus and were inspired by their visit to the Planetarium.
- Beech class have written reports for the Valley Diary and thank you letters following the Apple Affair.



Many of the letters you receive with information about class visits etc are composed by the children, with some editing by me and our office team. The children are all involved in writing the risk assessments and also in planning some events.

We very much hope that you will be impressed by their ability to use their skills. There are so many things they can practise at home, and we hope that the new Learning Journals will help us to share the children's successes in and out of school. Please see below for more details.

Have a lovely half term break.

Learning Journals

This afternoon, the children are bringing home booklets containing end of year expectations for children in our school and throughout the country. We hope that these will keep you informed about what your child should be achieving in school. Using these Learning Journals, we will assess learning, working in partnership with you and any other adults working with the children. It is only when children show us through applying their learning away from the point of teaching, often in other contexts, that we can be sure that the learning is becoming embedded and secure.

This is why your support can make a huge difference: as you help your children with homework, targets or any other activities outside school, if they demonstrate that they understand or can do one of these things, then please make a brief note of it, adding your initials and date. We ask that you record your thoughts and learning you have seen outside school **in pencil** so that we can distinguish easily between this and school records, which we will mark in pen.

Please don't feel a pressure to fill this in quickly, rather use it to make a note of learning you have spotted. 'Progress' in children's learning is not shown by how quickly we can complete the booklet, but by the richness and depth of the children's understanding. We anticipate a couple of boxes a week in total being completed, so please don't think that your child isn't learning just because a box has not been completed! The booklets will only ever be an indication of how well your child is progressing: teachers will make a final judgement on the expectations at the end of the year. More importantly, they will be vital in helping us to plan children's next steps.

Please do read the information at the front of the Learning Journal for more details. If you have any queries regarding the content of this booklet or want support in knowing how best to help your child, please talk to your child's teacher. Wednesday afternoon from 3 – 3:15 is when teachers set aside to address such queries.

We hope that you find the documents helpful.

Dates for 2015/16

Autumn Term Monday 7th September - Friday 18th December

Half Term Monday 26th - Friday 30 October

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

Yellow School
Photographer will
be in school on
Monday 16th
November

Tuesday 3rd November - Chestnut Class Squash Sessions

Thursday 5th November - Maple Class Assembly, 8.45am all welcome

Thursday 5th November - Whole School Olympic Athlete visit

Monday 9th November - GAS Badminton at The March for selected Yr 5/6 children

Monday 9th November - Mysterious Manuscripts at Chichester Cathedral, selected Yr $\frac{3}{4}$ children

Tuesday 10th November - Maple Class visit by West Sussex Fire Service

Wednesday 11th November - Maple Class visit by West Sussex Fire Crew

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Assembly, 8.45am all welcome

Friday 13th November - Children in 'Champions of Change'

Monday 16th November - Yellow School Photos

Tuesday 17th November - GAS Football Tournament CHSB selected children

Tuesday 17th November - Chestnut Class Squash Sessions

Friday 20th November - Beech Class Assembly, 8.45am all welcome

Tuesday 24th November - Apple Class Assembly, 8.45 all welcome

Tuesday 24th November - Maple Class visit to Weald & Downland Museum - information to follow

Thursday 26th November - Beech & Chestnut Class visit to theatre

Thursday 26th November - Governing Body Meeting, 5.30pm

Tuesday 1st December - Chestnut Class Squash Festival semi-final

Thursday 3rd December - Open Morning and Open Evening - information to follow

Tuesday 8th December - Reception, Yr 1 & 2 - Flu vaccination programme.

Wednesday 9th December - KS1 Raggedy King performance - information to follow

Thursday 10th December - Chestnut Class Assembly, 8.45 all welcome

Monday 14th December - Christingle Making & service at West Dean Church (5.35pm) all welcome

Tuesday 15th December - Chartwells Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17th December - Children's Christmas Party - pm

Friday 18th December - End of term assembly, 8.45am all welcome



ACORN AWARDS 2015

Friday 9th October 2015

James - for being so sensible and grown up in Year 1.

Teale - for working hard on her handwriting and beautiful flicks on her "a".

Sidney - for trying extra hard with his handwriting and for being an all-round Marvellous Maple.

Esther - for her fantastic, descriptive sentences, using her amazing imagination and skills learnt in literacy.

Charlie - for really concentrating in all lessons and remaining focused when doing work in his books.

Christie - for always taking care to make sure every piece of work is neatly presented, punctuated, her spelling is correct and taking pride in her work.

Oscar - for showing a positive attitude to his learning and which has helped him to show confidence with decimal place value on a number and when talking about profit and loss. He is a very good role model.

Friday 16th October 2015

Ava - for becoming much more confident to try new things.

Elliot - for working so hard on his handwriting at home and school.

Max - for beginning to really read his book and trying so hard to sight read words that he knows now.

Will - for making sensible chilli choices to support his learning rather than follow the crowd.

Jamie - for being a supportive peer by offering encouragement to others.

Lucas - for creating an impact in the opening paragraph of his writing, he chooses his words carefully to create a picture.

