



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 1 9TH September 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another school year at West Dean. I do hope that you have all had some happy family time with your children and that you have enjoyed the lovely Summer weather. It was super to end our year with the BBQ, rounders and such a friendly family event - thank you to everyone who joined us for this. The children have returned to school rested and ready to learn, and the staff have worked hard to prepare classrooms and learning for another exciting and successful year of learning.

Our main theme for assemblies this term is '**Respect**' and how we can show respect in our daily lives. Please do talk to your children about what it means to respect themselves, other people, the world, God, their belongings, the school, etc. Many of our behavioural discussions and teaching will be around this theme and we will reward children for showing respect. Our school and class charters will reflect this more explicitly, once we have discussed it fully with the children.

Our most important development for parents this year will be our **informal Open Mornings**: these are opportunities for you to come and spend an hour or so in the classroom alongside your child. We will do these frequently and will focus on **key learning points** - see the diary information below for dates. These lessons are designed specifically to help you understand how we teach concepts such as:

- how to use commas, apostrophes, full stops and colons etc correctly
- how we help children to understand addition and multiplication by using pictures
- how to spell tricky words
- how fractions, decimals and percentages can be understood by learning them together, with pictures

Obviously, these lessons will be age appropriate, so YR and Y1 parents have the advantage of learning with their children as they progress through school!

A really important date for the diary is the weekend of 1st/2nd October, which is the **Apple Affair** at West Dean College, when we will raise lots of money for new ICT and classroom resources, as well as keeping all the PTA support going for our enrichment activities. Look out for PTA flyers and start making jam and chutneys asap! There will be something for everyone to support with, whether at the event, and/or in the weeks leading up to it: it is always a fun, family affair.

We are developing a more consistent approach to teaching, learning and assessing **spellings** - this will be shared with you at parent information sessions and in newsletters etc. The children's **Learning Journals** will be sent home next week. We have developed the format of these documents so that they are easier for you to record any learning at home which you spot - they will be a valuable way for us all to contribute towards the children's learning. Teachers will collect these in towards the end of each half term, so you will be able to keep them at home for a few weeks at a time.

We continue to encourage **music** in school and have celebrated so many successes in this over the past year: there are many past pupils who go onto secondary school and continue to learn instruments to a high standard. This term KS2 children will learn the **violin** and **peripatetic lessons for clarinet and flute** continue. **RockSteady** also remains a feature of the timetable: do let us know if you would like your child to take part in these additional lessons.

See the diary below for our other exciting events and opportunities, including two CFT opportunities for KS2 children!

There will be very few **changes for this term**, but one important one is that we are no longer allowing children to bring in **cakes on their birthdays**. This may sound a little mean, but this seems to have developed into a pressure for parents and causes issues within school. It can also be difficult to manage at the busy end of a school day, is tricky with allergens and does not sit well with our healthy school initiatives: one day I was encouraging a parent to continue working hard with healthy food at home when their daughter came out of school eating a shop-bought doughnut! We will still celebrate children's birthdays with them, when they fall on a school day. We will also celebrate all birthdays in our assemblies, regardless of when they fall. Please do respect this rule as we don't want to upset children by returning these cakes etc at the end of the day.

Thank you to everyone who has sent named **PE kits** into school! If your child's belongings are not named, please, please name them. For forgotten PE kit, children will be able to borrow school items still, although this is extremely disruptive, but parents will receive a **text message**. If this recurs, we will ask for a **donation** towards the kit we have to provide, clean and maintain. Please do support us in this: PE lessons are as important as any other and we do not allow children to miss lessons, so they need appropriate clothing.

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. Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15
Learning Journals	These will be sent home next week and will only be returned to school on Monday 17th October
Class Open Mornings 8.45-9.45 (first half of term)	Beech Class - Monday 19 th September & Wednesday 19 th October Chestnut Class - Wednesday 21 st September & Tuesday 18 th October Maple Class - Wednesday 28 th September & Monday 10 th October Apple Class - Tuesday 11 th October
Class Open Mornings 8.45-9.45 (second half of term)	Maple Class - Tuesday 8 th November & Monday 28 th November Beech Class - Wednesday 9 th November & Tuesday 22 nd November Chestnut Class - Monday 14 th November & Wednesday 23 rd November Apple Class - Tuesday 15 th November & Friday 2 nd December
Parent Information Sessions	Beech Class - Monday 12th September, 2.30 Maple Class - Tuesday 13th September, 2.30 Apple Class - Wednesday 14th September, 2.15 - in pavilion Chestnut Class - Thursday 15th September, 2.30
Parent Consultation Evenings	Tuesday 11 th October, 3.15 - 5.00 Wednesday 12 th October, 3.15 - 6.00 Thursday 13 th October, 3.15 - 5.00
Class Assemblies 8.45	Thursday 10th November Beech Thursday 24th November Chestnut Thursday 1st December Maple Friday 9th December Apple
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 th September (term time only)
Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears	Care Bears After School Provision - this will run everyday from 3.00-4.00. Please see attached club timetable for the autumn term. Please do make a note of these dates. The clubs DO NOT run throughout every week of the term! We would also like to remind parents that pick up time is 4pm (unless otherwise stated) . 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 charges 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. 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! Please email: sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com Thank you for your support in this matter.

Dates for 2016/17

Autumn Term Tuesday 6th September - Friday 16th December 2016

Half Term Holiday Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Inset Days: Monday 5th September & Friday 30th September

Tuesday 6th September - Autumn Term 2016 starts for children

Sunday 11th September - 4:30pm - Pet Service at Singleton Church

Monday 12th September - Club timetable begins

W/C Monday 12th September - Parent Info Sessions - see above for class dates

Wednesday 14th September - Valley Voices at West Dean, 6.00-7.00 (and every Wednesday thereafter)

Tuesday 20th September - Maple Class visit to Planetarium, 12.00

Thursday 22nd September - Governing Body Meeting - 5:30pm

Friday 23rd September, 2.00 - Year 5/6 French Residential Meeting

Friday 30th September - INSET - **AAA coaching available**

Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd October - Apple Affair at West Dean College

Monday 10th October, 10.30 - School Friends Service at Chichester Cathedral, Chestnut Class

Thursday 13th October, 8.45 - Harvest Assembly - all welcome

Thursday 13th October, *all day and all evening* - Chestnut Chichester Festival Theatre Visit - info to follow

Monday 17th October - Learning Journals returned to school please

Friday 21st October, 2.30 - Chestnut Class Community Café

HALF TERM

Friday 11th November, 8.45 - Remembrance Assembly - all welcome

Monday 21st 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 21st November, 11.00 - Flu Vaccination for Year 1, 2, 3

Tuesday 13th December, 12.00 - Chartwell's Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 14th December, 1.00 - Christingle making at West Dean

Wednesday 14th December - Christingle Service at West Dean Church - **5:15pm**

Thursday 15th December, 8.45 - End of Term Assembly - all welcome

Thursday 19th 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 9th September 2016

Willow - for being such a kind friend to our new Apples

Sonny - for such a super start in Maple. What a thoughtful, hardworking boy!

Pip - for settling in so well to year 3 by working hard and asking good questions

Esther - for being such a great role model and team member in Beech Class

Charlie - for listening carefully to instructions, providing a good role model for others

Francesca - for being a super year 6 role model, showing a mature and respectful attitude