



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ
Telephone: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
Newsletter 23 12th March 2021



Dear Children and Parents,

This week has been joyful for us all. Hearing children's laughter throughout school and seeing happy faces at playtimes has given us all the boost we needed! Well done to all the children for coming back with such a positive attitude, even if they had butterflies on Monday. Well done to all the grown ups for arriving on the right day at the right time! Lots of you have said it is good to relinquish the teaching role and return to being parents again—we really understand that and we are delighted to be working face-to-face with all our pupils once again.

The children are tired, however, and we still need your support with the basics of reading, phonics, number work and good bedtime routines etc., so that we can ensure the best progress is made for the rest of this year.

*We have enjoyed our focus on books and book week. Next week, we are learning about **counting**, data handling, and some big global issues, using a super book '**If the World Were a Village**' as a stimulus. This book is worth buying for home, as it opens up some big thinking about equality, numbers and power in the world, but is accessible to all ages. It links very well to the census, which you will all be asked to take part in this week, as a family.*

It would be great if you could involve your children in this.

For the final two weeks, we will immerse ourselves in lots of other learning, including science and Easter topics.

Have a restful Mothering Sunday weekend.



Please continue to stay safe. DO NOT RELAX YOUR COVID SAFE BEHAVIOURS NOW!
There are staff and colleagues in our neighbouring schools who are very poorly with the virus—
we want to protect everyone from this.

Some reminders from WSCC:

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms needs to book a pcr test (not a LFD) and should isolate along with their household and not be in school while they wait for their result.
- Secondary schools will have separate information for their pupils.
- Please use this link for further information: [Guidance on this is available on the council website](#)

Look at this lovely rainbow! A sign of hope!

HOME LEARNING CONTINUES:

If your child is at home isolating due to Covid, but is well, we are committed to supporting with home learning. This will look a bit different to the large scale Google Classroom presence, but we will do all we can to make it work.

If your child is at home poorly for any reason, we will not provide home learning resources, as time off school for illness is for recuperation!

Apple and Maple Classes will continue to use the Google Classroom Message Board for communication, as this has proved really effective.

Our Google Classrooms will now be 'mothballed' a little, but will be used as and when teachers feel they will be useful. Chestnut Class may still use theirs, for example, for homework, and as good preparation for secondary school.

Diary Dates 2021

Spring Term 2021:

Monday 4th January—Thursday 1st April

Summer Term 2021: Monday 19th April—Friday 23rd July

Half Term : Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June

2020/21 INSET days

Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September 2020

Monday 22nd February, Monday 7th June, Wednesday 7th July 2021

Monday 8th March, we will be open to welcome all children back.



Comic Relief Red Nose—'The Power of Funny'

We are joining in the fundraising for Comic Relief and asking you to wear something red on Friday 19th March in exchange for a minimum donation of £2.00 on schoolmoney.co.uk. If you would like to donate more than £2.00 you may add as many items to your basket as you wish.

The theme this year is 'The Power of Funny' so we would like to ask all the children to bring in their favourite joke to share, if they would like to.

This is one of Mrs Chilton's jokes:



Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay they would be called baygulls!

HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT

Thank you for your input—we can still take your views into consideration in the process. The post has now been advertised, and our new headteacher will be 'out there', ready to apply! Once we know how many people the governors have shortlisted, we will design the interview process, with more support from WSCC. The children will be involved during the interview days. We will keep you updated and involved along the way. Interviews will be held after the Easter holidays.



Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the school?

Are you interested in making a valuable contribution to your child's education?

Are you interested in helping to shape and oversee the administrative arm of the primary school?

Then we are looking for YOU!

Become a Parent Governor!

For more information, speak to the school office, or contact the Clerk of Governors, at pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Dear parents, carers, governors and children,

We are excited to provide you with some Yoga & Mindfulness video lessons for your family to practise at home together (adults and children!). These are part of a new Yoga & Mindfulness programme school has purchased which also includes Yoga P.E lessons too! Hopefully your children will become Yoga experts very soon!

To access these FREE videos, simply visit:

<https://kidsloveyoga.thinkific.com/courses/free-for-kids-at-home-yoga-mindfulness-online>

You will need to create an account on the website. Please do not share this link with other families outside of our school.

We are excited to be offering this resource and we will use it from time to time in the classrooms too, especially throughout this pandemic period.

Remember—trying new things is good for the development of our brains, and activities which help us to focus and be calm are really worthwhile in this modern busy world.

Contact information for this resource:

Shaping Healthy Minds / Kids Love Yoga

info@kidsloveyoga.org.uk

07540 489 779 / 07540 240 404

www.kidsloveyoga.org.uk

How wonderful to have everyone back and to be celebrating achievement together in school!

Well done everyone, and to these seven children, in particular.



*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards - Friday 12th March 2021*

***Ned** - for coming back to school with a huge smile and a positive approach to all his learning*

***Khloe** - for being kind and showing care and consideration to others at all time*

***Monty** - for returning to school ready to learn. His independent approach to his poem was super*

***Emily** - She has had a super week back at school, we can see how hard she has worked at home but it's even better to see how ready to learn she is in the classroom, keep up this amazing attitude*

***Henry** - for his fantastic and interesting contributions to our class discussions, we continue to be amazed at just how many facts he knows*

***Ben** - What a fantastic return to school. He has been so quick to 'get stuck into' his learning and show super focus and concentration*

***Mia** - for a focussed return to classroom learning. She has maintained high expectations for herself—fantastic listening and concentration, and well presented work*

**Current Useful Information and Reminders:
March 2021**

Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15 - Pop in and see your child's classroom and have a look at their work. Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in. We would love to have the opportunity to share your child with you.

This is currently unavailable but we will be available in the playground each afternoon—Wednesdays remain a good day to 'catch us'.

School Money on-line donations.

We have been asked to set up the facility for people to make donations to the school if they would like to. This is available on Schoolmoney.co.uk and will show on your account as 'School Donation' with the amount of £1. There is absolutely no obligation to make this donation and if you wish, you can alter the figure to select the amount that you would like to pay.

Any donations to the school are very much appreciated and we thank you for your support.

Schoolmoney.co.uk on-line payments enables you to book for trips and clubs etc. and make payments on-line.

Please do log in regularly and check for 'live' visits and events.

Please log-in to your account to make sure any outstanding balances are settled.

PTA News:

If you would like to get involved in the PTA in any way please to contact westdeanpta@outlook.com or contact the school office (office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Governing Body News:

Our team of governors continue to work together to help steer the school and support staff and the community.

For information about our Governing Body, to find out who we are and what we do or how to contact us please email Mrs Pasha Delahunty, Clerk to Governors - pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk.

Lost Property

Don't forget to check the lost property 'bin' , on the pavilion decking, for any items that you might be missing.

Please make sure that school uniform is clearly named to enable us to return clothing that has been found.