



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247

Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 4

23rd November 2015



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are fast approaching December 3rd, when we will open the school up once again to share the learning with you. Our focus is on Learning Together and we very much hope that you will be able to come along, whether in the morning to see the classrooms in action, and/or in the evening, to find out more about what we do in school and how you can really give your children a head start at home. I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend in the morning, to work alongside your children, as there is an overwhelming body of research showing that this can have a greater impact on children's learning than anything else we can do separately as schools or parents.

We also have our KS2 theatre visit this week and lots of events in the run up to Christmas, as well as some exciting developments in the classroom.

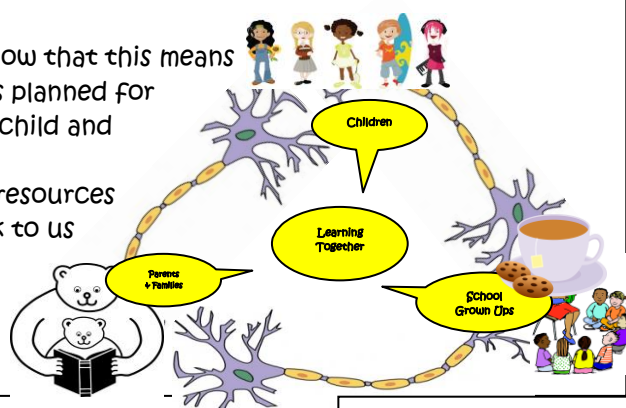
Do also remember that teachers are available in the classrooms from 3-3:15 every Wednesday for you to pop in for a chat, look at books etc and ask any questions you may have.

School Open Morning/Evening

Please do come along and join us if you are able to. I know that this means taking time out of work for many of you, but we have sessions planned for each Classroom where you will be able to work alongside your child and take really useful resources home to share.

For parents unable to attend, we will, of course, send the resources home and make sure we are available for you to come and talk to us about it, but there is no substitute for actually being able to join in with the children.

Please see the accompanying letter and let us know by
Friday 27th November if you are able to attend.



Sporting Success!

We have had Mike Phillips from Chichester Racquet Club working with Yr 5/6 children coaching squash sessions to take part in a festival with other schools next week.

Eight children from Beech and Chestnut class took part in the GAS football tournament at CHSB this week, coming third out of eight teams – well done footballers!

Dates for 2015/16

Autumn Term Monday 7th September - Friday 18th December

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

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

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

Thursday 26th November - Beech & Chestnut Class visit to G-Live 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 - 8:45-11am & 6:30 - 7:45pm

Friday 4th December - 5.00-7.00 PTA Film Night - Nativity II (Danger in the Manger)

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

Tuesday 8th December, 2.00pm - KS1 Raggedy King performance - info to follow

Wednesday 9th December, 9.15am - KS1 Raggedy King performance - info to follow

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

Monday 14th December - Christingle Making 1pm

Christingle service at West Dean Church (5.00pm) all welcome

Tuesday 15th December - Chartwells Christmas Lunch

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

Please see overleaf for details of our Christmas events and arrangements

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

Charity Donations

Royal British Legion -

Poppy Sales - £28.03

Your 'scary hair' raised

£150 for **Children in**

Need - Thank you.

Our Olympic Athlete visit raised £291 in

sponsorship: we have

ordered some PE

equipment and the

remainder has gone to

'Sportivator' to support

Olympic Athlete training

programmes - thank you

for supporting us with all our charity work.

Family Support Group

We now have dates for this super support group to share top tips for bringing up children in harmony: not a parenting class - a support network - to be run in school.

Please see separate letters soon:

6/13/20/27 Jan, 10 Feb

(then half term) 24 Feb, 2,

16 March **9:10 - 11am**





West Dean C.E. Primary School Christmas Activities 2015



As Advent draws nearer and we begin to prepare for Christmas at home, so we, at school, are making preparations. Our KS1 children are preparing for their performances of **Raggedy King**, and we are all preparing for our **Christingle Service**. Entry to both of these Christmas celebrations will be on a ticket basis only. Letters will be sent separately to communicate this. Chartwells Christmas lunch and the school party take place in the final week, and we will finish the year with a **Christmas assembly**, at 8:45am, to which you are all warmly invited. Please see the attached dates list for details and find out more about the Christingle Service and The Raggedy King from the separate letters.

On Monday 14th December, we will be **making our Christingles** in the afternoon, so please contact Claire Mitchell, Chair of PTA, or the School Office for details if you would like to come and join in.

For the **Christingle Service** itself, we will be restricting numbers and allocating seats: entry will be strictly by ticket. By this method, we aim to ensure our congregation arrive safely, in a respectful and appropriate manner, so that children, staff and families alike have a positive experience. Initially, *tickets will be limited* to two per family, and, after Wednesday 9th December, further tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, if there are any remaining. Parents of YR pupils and pupils singing solos will be guaranteed seats nearer the front of the church, with those parents helping with the safe movement of people to and from the church also allocated seats at the front. This team of volunteers will support us with torches and umbrellas. We are lucky that West Dean Estate have kindly agreed to let us use the college car park: only parents of YR pupils, staff and anyone with limited mobility will park in the church car park. We will send a letter out to confirm the arrangements and for you to request tickets.

For the **party day**, children should wear school uniform but bring a change of clothing with them for the party, which is in the afternoon. It will be really helpful if party clothes can be in a named carrier bag please. For the Chartwells **Christmas Lunch**, our PTA and parent helpers usually come along to help, so please contact Claire or the Office if you would like to help and join in with this Christmas event. On Wednesday 16th, when we visit the College to **meet Father Christmas** and sing carols, it is even more important than ever that children have waterproof coats and footwear for the walk to the church, please.

Don't forget to have a look at our **school web-site** for latest information and updates.

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

ACORN AWARDS 2015

Acorn Awards

6th November 2015

- Elodie** – for working so hard on her handwriting, for persevering.
- Bradley** – for trying to listen on the carpet and in Book Club time.
- Lucy** – for putting her hand up and contributing on the carpet.
- Holly** – for really challenging herself when writing a speech.
- Amy** – for her hard work and focus in Geography labelling the blank map with Viking facts.
- Issy** – for showing independence and effort in her unsupervised tasks. She always makes sure that her work is her best effort.
- Amelia** – for her engaging work choice and creative ideas for our sentence starter challenges.

13th November 2015

- Willow** – for super listening every day!
- Jago** – for being enthusiastic about his writing.
- Leo** – for his enthusiasm and great questions for the firefighters.
- Will** – for working so hard in Maths with Mrs Canning.
- Milly** – for her hard work applying fractions to her investigations and cooking.
- Noah** – for sharing his mathematical thinking in our problem solving tasks.
- Joe** – for sharing his mathematical thinking in our problem solving tasks.

Learning Journals

Don't forget to bring your Learning Journals into school every Monday morning.