



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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

Newsletter 12 9TH December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting week we have had with some super Christmas treats as we move closer to the end of term. We had our very own theatre experience as Beech and Chestnut Class treated us to their play, 'Silent Night', which told the story of the writing of this much loved carol.



There was so much excitement in school and they performed extremely well for both their afternoon and evening shows. The staff team, led by Mrs Turner, did a fabulous job of preparing the children and we are grateful to many others, including Keith, Gill and Harry Garfield and Mrs Stone for ensuring we had such super costumes. The children were, obviously, the stars and we are really pleased to be able to give them so many chances to shine! We also raised £237 towards our new stage lighting with the sale of the very professional programmes which are a super souvenir of the show.

Meanwhile, Maple and Apple Class had a **theatre workshop** with the team from CFT, which they thoroughly enjoyed and did really well with. We hope to do some more drama workshops over the coming terms. Their visit to Chichester Festival Theatre to see **Mr. Popper's Penguins** was a treat and all the children loved it and behaved so well that we received compliments about their behaviour. Well done to the whole school for such a super week. Next week we have something festive happening every day, so do look carefully at the diary section to make sure you don't miss anything!

Apple Class assembly this morning was a joyful start to our day and we can see so much progress in a short time for YR pupils and Y1 too. Our Y6 **squash** players took part in a competition this week and are through to the finals which will be held next Tuesday.

Our week has ended with a **violin performance** given by Mrs Urquhart and all our KS2 children. In just one term, the children have learnt so much and we thank Mrs Urquhart for her work with them. We also celebrated another successful music examination result: Dylan joins Oscar, Noah and Sophie who already have 3, 2 and 1 grades, as he has just passed his grade 1 exam with a distinction! Our other clarinetists hope to follow in their footsteps next year. Our thanks go to Mrs. Schofield, who has supported them so well in their peripatetic lessons, which take place during school time and are proving really successful. It is wonderful to have so much music in school and we very much hope that some more children will take up peripatetic lessons. Mrs Schofield has some spaces in her timetable and would be able to teach clarinet and other woodwind instruments by arrangement. We would love Mrs Urquhart to become a more permanent fixture in school and hope that some of the children will choose to continue with the viola or violin. **Please do see the information included in this letter for how to apply for this with West Sussex Music Trust.** (All three of our music teachers are sourced through West Sussex Music and we will have a new instrument for KS2 children to learn next autumn term).

We have three opportunities for parents and carers to be involved in Christmas events next week: making Christingles on Wednesday morning and attending the service at 5:15 (see below for ticket information), and our end of term assembly, which is 8:45 on **Thursday** (on Friday we will not have an assembly in school as we will be singing carols at West Dean College).

We look forward to sharing another great week in school in the run up to the Christmas holidays and to seeing lots of you at our events.

Apple Class need your rubbish!

Please collect any interesting bits of rubbish suitable for making things with. The Christmas period is a great time to keep wrapping paper tubes, sweet wrappers and packaging, which the children will love to transform into something wonderful. Please just send smallish items and make sure everything is clean before you send it in!

Current Useful Information and Reminders	
<p>Christmas Information</p> 	<p>Please see attached letter for information about our Christmas events next week.</p>
<p>Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>School Uniform</p> 	<p>If you have ordered and received uniform, please could you make payment to the school office as soon as possible. We still have a number of outstanding payments. We are currently in the process of transferring the sale of our uniform to Game, Set & Match in Chichester. A list of uniform available from Game, Set & Match will be available shortly. Our School Council will be working on taking some photographs of our sample uniform and this will be available shortly along with the pricing structure.</p>
<p>Valley Voices</p>	<p>Please do come and join our 'Valley Voices' adult choir which will be led by Emily Barden in the school hall, 6.00-7.00, every Wednesday evening. (term time only)</p>
<p>Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears</p> 	<p>Care Bears will be open as usual until the last day of term. Care Bears After School Provision - this will run every day from 3.00-4.00. This is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! If you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know.</p> <p>Please email: sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com 07852 255628 (Please note new telephone number) Thank you for your support in this matter.</p> <p>AAA Coaching will be available on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December, in the Christmas holiday. See attached flyer for information and how to book your place.</p> <p>You will have received information about our Spring term programme of clubs. These are now all available to book and pay for via our on-line booking system www.schoolmoney.co.uk. The timetable for spring term 1 clubs is attached for your information.</p>
	<p>You will have received information about our new on-line payments system in school to enable 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. Current events available to book are Westgate swimming, the French residential, United Voices-Festival of Singing, Beech class vWW1 visit to Chilgrove, Christingle Tickets and our prestigious Valentine Ball.</p> <p>Plants: Maple Class will soon be selling plants after school so bring your cash with you at pick up time!</p>

IS YOUR CHILD WORTH LESS?

this important county-wide campaign for better funding for West Sussex schools continues, as you may have seen on national news and in our letters. Pupils and staff visited 10 Downing Street with our letters. You can support our schools in our campaign for fair funding on Facebook and there is a petition which can be found at the following link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/167761>

<p>Yellow School Photographs</p> 	<p>The closing date to accept orders in school for your Yellow School Photographs was Monday 5th December and the order have all been collected. Photographs should be with us next week.</p>
<p>United Voices - Festival of Singing</p> 	<p>You will have received a letter this week about our exciting new Locality project working with Chichester Festival Theatre. Tickets are available to buy on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk. We only have a limited number of tickets available at school, 2 per family, if you would like to purchase more, please let us know and we will keep any spares to one side, or they are available from the Theatre Box Office.</p>
<p>West Dean Valentine Ball </p>	<p>You will have received information this week about our exciting 'Valentine Ball' event which will be taking place on Saturday 11th February. Tickets are available to book on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk. Tickets are limited and available on a 'first come, first served' basis so don't miss out! Please see attached invitation too.</p>

Reminder: Contacting Staff

There are a number of ways in which you may communicate effectively with teachers: informal chats on the playground at the end of the school day are often best and we make ourselves available on Wednesdays after school in particular, before our staff meeting (3-3:15pm). Telephone or email messages to the office are acceptable and will work well, but please do not expect instant replies as we will be in the classrooms most of the day! Emails directly to me (at the school HT email address) are far from guaranteed to receive instant responses as I am frequently in classrooms/meetings/on visits etc and do not always see emails on the same day: I am, however, perfectly happy to respond to emails when time allows!

Some parents have obtained teachers' own email addresses: this is not a manageable means of communication as we do not check emails during the school day when we are in the classroom teaching. In special circumstances, it may be appropriate to communicate directly by email in this way - this is up to the class teacher to arrange. However, teachers have been **directed** by me **not to respond to emails** outside the hours of 8.00-5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Please do not send emails to teaching staff outside these hours, as we need our staff to be rested for teaching and not up late at night responding to emails! Thank you for respecting our teachers' work-life balance and for your co-operation.

Dates for 2016/17

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

Week Commencing 12th December - No Clubs this week, Care Bears as normal

Monday 12th December, 9.00-12.00 - Beech Class Visit to WW1 Exhibition in Chilgrove

Monday 12th December, 2.30-2.50 - Rocksteady Concert

Tuesday 13th December, 8.45-12.00 - Year 6 Squash final in Chichester

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

Wednesday 14th December, 9.00 - 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

Friday 16th December - School finishes for the Christmas holidays



Christmas Holidays

AAA Coaching Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th December 9.00-4.00

W/C 2nd January - No clubs this week, Care Bears as normal.

School is closed Monday 3rd January 2017

Tuesday 3rd January - Spring Term begins for children

Wednesday 11th January, 9.15-11.30 - Chestnut Class - Festival of Singing rehearsal at Chichester High School

Thursday 12th January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 12th January, 5.30 - Governing Body meeting

Thursday 19th January - Festival of Singing - Y5/6 at Chichester Festival Theatre - rehearsal in the day and performance in the evening for Chestnut Class - info to follow

Thursday 26th January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 2nd February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Friday 3rd February, 9.30-11.30 - GAS On-line Safety Meeting, Yr 6 children

Monday 6th February - History Treasure Hunters at Chichester Cathedral (x6 Yr 5/6)

Tuesday 7th February - National On-line Safety Day

Tuesday 7th February, 6.30 - E-Safety for parents at Chichester High School

Thursday 9th February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Saturday 11th February, 7.00-11.00 - Valentine Ball at West Dean College

W/C 13th February - No after school clubs this week, Westbourne House & Care Bears as normal.

Wednesday 15th February - Beech Class visit to CFT - Running Wild, Michael Morpurgo

Thursday 16th February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 16th February, 2.30 - Community Cafe

Friday 17th February - School Closed - Inset Day

Thursday 2nd March - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 2nd March, 1.00-4.00 - Maths Challenge event at Christ's Hospital (selected yr 4)

Monday 6th - Friday 10th March - Chestnut Class French Residential Visit

Wednesday 8th March, 12.00-3.30 - SSP Arun Swim Gala, Yr 3/4

Monday 13th March, 9.30-2.30 - Maths Challenge at Chichester Cathedral (selected yr 3)

Wednesday 15th March - Collective Worship Enrichment day at Singleton (selected yr 4)

Thursday 16th March - Westgate Swimming, Beech & Chestnut

Saturday 18th March - Cormorants Swimming Gala at Westgate

Acorn Awards - Friday 9th December 2016

We had Apple Class assembly today so we will celebrate our Acorn Awards on Monday.