

# West Dean Church of England Primary School West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss Newsletter 24 24th March 2017



# Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has felt like Spring at West Dean as **Maple Class** had a beautiful day for their visit to Marwell Zoo - they do always seem to pick the days with good weather! The visit was extremely exciting, particularly as the children had researched the animals and then actually found them in the zoo! We were proud of the reports they wrote and so you will be able to read Ava's on this newsletter and, hopefully, Jago's in the Valley Diary next month. Also, we have reports in the Valley Diary on our French Residential visit, the Cormorant Challenge and our swimming successes. Do take a look at the website for photos and videos of what's happening in school - select the gallery section.

**Beech Class** are making good progress with their 'Interwoven' art work, for the Chartres competition, with the help of students from Chichester University and Mrs Garfield. They are also working on a project with Bob Pulley and Sharon Mich-Kusunoki, which we hope will be rolled out to be shared with schools around England and in Chartres. Both **Beech and Apple Class** are creating art with fabrics in support of Canine Partners, and they hope that some of their work with fabrics will be exhibited later this year in the Oxmarket Centre in Chichester, from 25<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April. Finished pieces will be sold to raise money for the charity!

**Chestnut Class** assembly gave us a window into the busy lives of the children and into their learning, which shows high levels of independence and higher order thinking. We found out how long the Bayeux Tapestry is, by having the length recreated in wool around the hall! They are also using the learning platform within the school website to share their learning with one another, and to access homework such as spelling tasks.

**Apple Class** held their Open Morning, where parents and visitors found out about how we spell cvc, ccvc and compound words. It was super to have so many visitors in school again. Our thanks to the staff for opening up their doors in this way and to everyone who came along.

Hugo Van Driel was in school to do an **assembly** today and the children learnt about projects in Nepal to build classrooms and help children and families. Today is also Comic Relief **Red Nose Day**, and, although we are not celebrating this formally in 2017, (we do this in alternate years), James Stringer has set up a really exciting football challenge to raise money, so we hope that this goes well. Ben from AAA coaching is helping with this, as is Mr Stringer, so our thanks go to them, and to James and Indie who has helped him organise the event.

# GAS Enrichment Day - Forest Schools at North Mundham

By Harry Garfield and Max Brown

Mrs Pinnington took us to North Mundham school for a Forest Schools day. When we arrived we went onto the field where there was a gate that led to the forest.

We sat in a circle, there was a fire in the middle, then we stood and walked around the forest to have a look so that we knew our way around.

We had hot chocolate and a biscuit which we made on the fire. We made a camp, with some string tied to two trees with a tarpaulin which we pegged down with some sticks. We made maps with sticks.

We cooked some bread on the fire; we sharpened a stick and put the dough around the stick - we had our packed lunch and when we came back the bread was cooked and we had some for lunch.

For some of the day we worked together and we worked with children from other schools too. We played some games - Eagles Eye and Giant, Wizard, Dwarf, which is a bit like 'Paper, Scissors and Rock'.

We split into groups to make a plan and decide what we would do to take down our camps and maps.

We really enjoyed the day, especially making hot chocolate on the fire.

#### SWIMMING NEWS

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, mighty swim team West Dean competed in the Chichester Cormorant Primary School Swimming Gala.

We competed against 5 other primary schools: The March, St Richards, Jessie Younghusband, Central and Bosham. The competition was tough; tougher than tough in fact! At the half way point we were joint second with St Richards and JYH was 3 points ahead.

The team were simply amazing, we did not come last in any of the 29 races, and we finished in the top 3 for 75% of the races. The atmosphere poolside was electric, the team was (and is!) so supportive towards each other, encouraging everyone to swim their hardest in every event, and congratulating each other after each event regardless of finishing position. Their sportsmanship is fantastic and Mrs Johnson, Mrs Cruttenden and I feel so proud to be part of their team.

We came a very proud 2<sup>nd</sup> with JYH taking first place this year we have asked them to look after the shield for us ready for next year..... and the swim team are already preparing for the competition! Huge thanks to everyone, parents and teachers, who came to cheer us on we certainly have the loudest support of any team there! In our very latest swimming news, we are pleased to announce that our elite squad, Kitty, Oscar, Mathilde and Dylan have made it through to the next round of the ESSA (English Schools Swimmming Association) relay gala which will take palce in Guildford on May 20<sup>th</sup>. we will, of course, update you about their progress nearer the time!



Well done everyone. Mrs Goacher

You are invited to join us for a short Swimming presentation in the hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.40pm.

# Marwell Zoo Trip with Maple Class

We are learning about Africa and how animals live. We have found out about food chains and life cycles. Some of the animals in Africa are endangered or threatened. That made us very sad! So we wanted to find out even more.

So we went to Marwell Zoo to investigate and have fun too. First we had snack and saw the penguins, then the giraffes - one had lost its tail.

All of us researched about one animal before we went to Marwell and then we went to look for them -My one was a gentle lemur and they looked so cute! Once they have climbed up a bamboo they bounce off onto another bamboo stick and that's how they move. The gentle lemurs are really cuddly and very fluffy. They are a softish sort of grey and I liked their shiny eyes. You might not know that fossas eat lemurs and that Fossa's and Lemurs live on Madagascar. Did you know that the babies stay in the mummies tummy for five months? We need to look after gentle lemurs because they are critically endangered!

We went to a workshop and learnt about habitats. I got to stroke a cockroach named Colin. Colin's friends were in a cage. I saw a live snake but it was sleeping. We had a game where Emmy was a crow and they are reallycool because they can trick other animals so they keep their food.

It was a really fun day and learnt lots too.

By Ava (with a little help)



#### Valentine Ball

We had a super evening on the 11th February at the Valentine Dinner at West Dean College. We enjoyed delicious canapés, cocktails and a three- course dinner. All the feedback from parents has been glowingly positive with this possibly becoming a yearly event. We all enjoyed dressing up and socialising in the beautiful surroundings of the college. Through ticket sales and the raffle on the evening, we have raised an amazing £2 000. We plan to buy more iPads for the classrooms. Thankyou for your support for this very special event.



#### STAFFING News

In our staffing news, we are in the midst of the interview process for a new teacher following Mr Wilcox's decision to leave after his two terms, to move house, and we hope to appoint over the next week: we are looking for someone super to join our team, and to inspire and nurture our children

We are currently advertising for someone to join our premises team in the role of clearer, on a daily basis: a role which could suit a parent or someone who lives in the village. (see previously circulated advert) Please do let us know if you are interested or pass on the information to anyone you know. This position has become available following some re-structuring following Pete Snow's leaving on health grounds and Chloe Procter's decision to relinquish her post in school to devote her time to her other role and her family. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her all the best and in thanknig her for her hard work to keep the children and the school safe and clean. If you would like to contribute towards a leaving gift, then please do this via the school office, as usual.

#### Governor news

We hope to be able to announce our new governor membership in our next newsletter.

## **e-safety warning:** Do you know where your children are?

There is an app called: 'Movie Star Planet ' which children are accessing and playing games on. This app/game has some very unsavoury and inappropriate elements to it. It also exposes children to potential grooming by unsavoury adults. Please seek advice and be aware of where your children go on the internet. 

### Dates for 2017

Spring Term Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March** 8.45 - Beech Class Assembly

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March Forest School Enrichment Day at North Mundham (selected pupils)
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March Final Westgate Swim for Beech and Chestnut
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March Governing Body Meeting
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 8.45 Beech Class Open Morning
- W/C Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Bikeability for Year 6 at Singleton School
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2pm Rocksteady Concert
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 8.45 Apple Class Assembly
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April Dance House Event, Alexandra theatre, Bognor
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 8.45 Maple Class Open Morning
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2.30 chestnut Class CFT visit, 40 Years On
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May Governing Body Meeting
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May Racing to school at Goodwood Year 6
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May INSET
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June am Governor Visits
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June Yellow School Photos
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June School Fete
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1.15pm Year 6 Leavers Service at Chichester Cathedral
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July** GAS Sports at Boxgrove (selected pupils)
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July INSET
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July Cricket at Boxgrove (selected pupils)
- Wednesday 19th July, 9.00 Sports Morning
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 9.00 Sports Morning Reserve

Our PTA are considering dates for a potential **family walk and BBQ** on the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> May, and a possible **family and friends sponsored run** in September, as we are facing a PTA year without the Apple Affair, which will no longer be in the West Dean calendar. The next PTA meeting is planned for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March in the evening.

Drop-in Sessions ch ses Spring Term Clubs and Care Bears Th Ple Wa	eachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in to see your ild's work, to chat to teachers and to ask about Learning Journals, at these drop-in ssions. Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15 re Bears After School Provision - this will run every day from 3.00-4.00. his is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! ease make sure that you have booked for your required places through <u>www.schoolmoney.co.uk</u> .
Care Bears Th Ple Wa	is is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children!
If can Ple <u>nur</u> Th	e have had a number of children this term, expecting to be in Care Bears but not booked in or id for. We only have 1 member of staff and 12 places each day and this has caused us issues. you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know. You can ncel your place through school money and your account will be credited or ease email: <u>sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com</u> 07852 255628 (Please note new telephone <u>mber</u> ), or contact the office ( <u>office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk</u> - 01243 811247) hank you for your support in this matter. <b>he timetable for spring term 2 clubs is attached for your information</b> .
In	formation will be available shortly regarding clubs for the summer term.
et Ple	choolmoney.co.uk on-line payments enables you to book for trips and clubs c. and make payments on-line. ease do log in regularly and check for 'live' visits and events. Current events vailable to book are Forty Years On and Dance House
Ap Ma Be	ass Open Mornings – ople Class – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March aple Class – Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April eech Class – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March mestnut Class – TBC
ou	nese are dates when you will be able to spend 20 – 30 minutes in the classroom, finding It about how we learn and teach some specific concepts and skills. We hope that you Il join us to aid you in supporting your children.
W ou en If th	emises Team Member - Ve are seeking to appoint a team member to help us with the task of keeping ar school clean and tidy and helping to create a happy, healthy learning avironment for our children. You think you might be the right person to join our team, please do come into the school office and have a chat to us, we would love to hear from you. Please attached information for further details.

