



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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Newsletter 13 16th December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,



This week has been bursting at the seams with exciting learning and Christmas treats. On Monday, our **Rocksteady** Musicians wowed us with their band music and on Tuesday the children and staff enjoyed a our traditional Christmas lunch, waited on by some wonderful parents and carers.

The children shared crackers, wore crowns and did quizzes and challenges: the points they gained, along with marks for caring behaviour and manners, combined to give each table a score. The winning table received prizes and we thanked all our helpers and cooks.

On Wednesday, the children made **Christingles** in the morning and we all attended our church service at St. Andrew's church. Our thanks go to all the helpers on this day too, as managing a hundred children and their families in a small church is a challenge! The children read and sang beautifully, and our youngest pupils helped to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas with their nativity tableau. Thank you for all your kind comments and feedback - we all enjoy this event and view it as one of the most important days in our school calendar.



On Thursday, we held our **end of year assembly**, where we celebrated the joy of Christmas and also said 'thank you' and 'good bye' to Mrs. Turner, our Beech Class teacher. Once again, we wish her every happiness as she takes the next steps in her teaching career. This was followed, in the afternoon, by the children's Christmas party, where all the children from YR to Y6, enjoyed dancing and playing games, supported by our fabulous PTA.



Finally, today, we have enjoyed a fitting end to the year, with a whole school visit to **West Dean College**, to see **Father Christmas**. This year, he arrived in a steam powered vehicle, and gave each child a lovely gift and a personal message. We sang carols in the oak panelled hall, with home-made refreshments and an audience of college staff. The children behaved extremely well, as ever, and we are very proud to be able to offer such wonderful festive experiences, and to have so many traditions here at West Dean.

It only remains for me to say a huge 'thank you' on behalf of all the staff for gifts, cards and support. We wish you all a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** We hope that you enjoy your children this holiday and return refreshed for our Spring Term.

Beech Class Appeal for bits and pieces

In the Spring term, Beech Class will be busy with a number of projects, one of which is an art competition, where we will produce art work to display in Chichester University gallery and in Chartres, France. This is a competition which we have won previously as a school, and very much enjoy taking part in. This year, we plan to model shapes and make an art installation using old umbrellas and 'found' or 'discarded' materials. So, if you can spare an old umbrella, we will transform it into a thing of beauty! Also, we would really appreciate any used ribbons and pieces of fabric you may have left over after Christmas. We may incorporate items such as interesting driftwood and packaging too. Please do help if you can!

	Current Useful Information and Reminders
News from West Dean Pre-School	<p>Many, many thanks to everyone for their unfailing support of Pre-School this term. The Christmas bake sale was a huge success, raising £93. The raffle ticket sales were also staggering, with over 300 tickets sold in total. Thank you everyone for your generosity! All the money raised goes towards buying valuable resources for the children at Pre-School.</p> <p>Winners of the raffle:</p> <p>Max Brown - hamper Mrs Moss - manicure Ewan Edwards - bottle of fizz Sidney Ingram - Christmas centrepiece Hazel (Granny to Ava Davies) - massage Rae Russell - day pass to Goodwood John Jarvis - hamper</p> <p>Congratulations and Happy Christmas! Pre-School Committee</p>
Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions	<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>
School Uniform 	<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.</p> <p>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>
Valley Voices	<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>
Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears 	<p>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 until Tuesday 3rd January 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, and our prestigious Valentine Ball.</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>United Voices - Festival of Singing</p> 	<p>Don't forget our exciting Locality project where children in Chestnut class will be working with other local schools and performing at 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 invitation previously attached to our newsletter.</p>

Dates for 2016/17

Spring Term Tuesday 3rd January - Friday 7th April 2017

Half Term - Monday 20th - Friday 24th February 2017

Inset Day - Friday 17th February 2017

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

School is closed Monday 2nd 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

HOLIDAY

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 16th December 2016

Frankie - for making a super elf!

Teale - for amazing writing, joining her letters and thinking about her spelling

Samuel - for his super creative writing inspired by Mr Poppers' Penguins

Holly M - for being a kind friend in Beech class

Charlie - for persevering with his writing

Stan - for writing a well structured description of how you felt listening to Neville Chamberlain, clear paragraphs and a super image created

Amelie - for writing a descriptive and engaging piece of writing to describe how you felt when Neville Chamberlain announced the outbreak of war, lovely use of language