



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mr C Williams
Newsletter 15 - 17th December 2021



We do our best in all we do, with God's love.
'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.'
John 13

Dear parents, carers and children,

It's been a wonderful week in school, with much excitement and laughter as the children have enjoyed the various Christmas events, including visiting Father Christmas at West Dean College, watching the pantomime, feasting on a fantastic Christmas lunch and of course, gathering in the church today for our Christingle and Carol Service.

Whilst it is a great shame to be unable to include adults and family members in our celebration of Christmas this year, I can assure you that the magic has been well and truly kept alive for the children. My sincere thanks to all involved in

arranging such a fantastic programme of fun activity for our children - school staff, members of the PTA, West Dean College Staff, Rev Sarah and the church community, friends and families. We are very grateful for your generous support and the time you give to our school.



The Christingle and Carol Service was a magical and fitting end to the school term and made me feel so proud of our community. The children all sang beautifully and our Year Six children read from the Bible with clarity and confidence. The children will be bringing their Christingles home with them today, and should be able to explain the symbolism of each element. It really was beautiful to see them singing *Away in a Manger* by the light of their Christingle candle.

Before I wish you all well for the Christmas holidays, I do need to address the increasing anxiety around the rising number of COVID cases, and consequently the questions over a potential third lockdown.

As explained last week, the government remain steadfast in their aim to keep schools open for in-school learning, and that remote learning must be avoided unless absolutely necessary. I have not been given any direct indication from the government or local authority that a further lockdown and period of remote learning is likely, but I do think that it is vital to have plans in place to be able to switch to that mode of operating at any time, should the need arise. As it stands, school will reopen for the spring term on Tuesday 4th January. Any change to that, resulting from the government moving to a higher level of COVID response, will be followed by an email communication to you from me, as soon as possible, but only when I have gathered all updated information. If the Prime Minister makes an announcement at any stage, it would be helpful if you could refrain from contacting the school with questions, until after I have made that initial contact with you. I am sure you will understand that experience has taught us that there is usually quite a lot of detail to clarify first, in order to communicate a clear and consistent message to parents and families.

I also urge families who have not yet accessed their child's Google classroom to please do so, as this will be our main point of teaching and learning and communication with the children, should there be a switch to remote learning in the future. Accessing it now, will make that process easier, should a further lockdown arise. Again, as I said last week, I do not intend to worry you, but rather to provide assurance that all potential scenarios are being actively considered, so that we are ready to respond at any time.

Exciting news - our new look school website has gone live. Please do have a look. At this stage, it is simply a new 'look' and style that has been applied to the existing content, with the aim of giving a fresher, more modern feel that celebrates the unique location of West Dean School in the heart of the South Downs. In the New Year we will begin to focus on reviewing, revising and refreshing the content on each page as well, so please bear with us if certain elements of the new site, don't look quite right yet. I hope you will agree that it is a great start though.

It is hard to believe that my first term as Head of West Dean Primary School is almost over; the weeks have flown by, but when I reflect on the past three and a half months, a great deal has been achieved. I thank you all sincerely for the tremendously warm welcome that the whole school community has shown me, and for your energy, enthusiasm and eagerness to embrace the gradual change that new leadership inevitably brings. West Dean is a wonderful place to work and learn, and I feel very proud to be leading this community on its next exciting steps. There is much to look forward to in 2022!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your families and send you my very best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. I will sign off for 2021 with the words of the Christmas Blessing, which Rev Sarah used at the end of our church service this morning:

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Chris Williams



Chichester District Foodbank

Thank you to everyone for your very generous donations to our Foodbank Hampers this week. We have an amazing selection of goodies to drop off.



Governing Body News:

For information regarding our Governing Body, please contact Pasha Delahunty, Clerk to Governors.

pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

COVID safe procedures and routines

Following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the operational guidance for schools has been updated.



Please remember your face mask when visiting school, including drop-off and pick-up times.

Further details of the measures in place in schools and how outbreaks will be managed, can be found at:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/backtoschool

We are, once again, limiting grown-ups in school. Please, only come into school if necessary. If you need to contact us you can give us a call or drop us an email and we will respond.

As per Government guidance, school staff are wearing face coverings in shared and communal areas and continue to LFT twice weekly. We continue to remain vigilant with hand washing, sanitising, ensuring good ventilation and cleaning in school.

Let's all work together and do all we can to stay safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

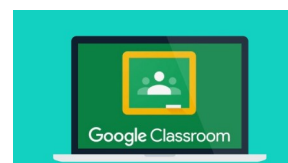
Google Classroom — online learning resource:

The government stance on the likelihood of a further lockdown remains that every effort will be made to keep children in school and maintain face to face education.

However, with an ever changing COVID landscape, we remain alert to the potential need for future remote learning, and want to be ready with a contingency plan.

Google Classroom is central to our remote learning provision, so we want to ensure that you have access to this now, so that transition to learning online can be quick and seamless, should the need arise. I ask all parents and carers (if you have not already done so) to log-in to your child's Google Classroom account, so that the system recognises your child as a member of the class. This is particularly, although not exclusively needed for families of children in our younger classes, as the older children are already using Google Classroom regularly. This is a valuable route for communication and contains important information relevant to your child's class and learning.

If you need help with log-in details, please contact the school office.



Year 3 & 4 Football, Area Final

Following the success of our Year 3 and 4 football team coming 3rd in the Sports Partnership event, they won a place in the Area Final this week. They went along to The Arena in Bognor, supported by Mrs Johnson and Mr Langhein and played with all their might, using strategies and tactics to be proud of.

They came a very respectable joint 3rd in this event.

Huge congratulations and well done to our young team.



Cross Country Running Club

Well done to our four keen cross country runners, who powered to the top of The Trundle in just 23 minutes during their final club for this term on Tuesday. All four boys have worked really hard to improve their pacing and stamina, which really helped them to tackle the uphill challenge from the school to the trig point right at the top of the hill.

Cross Country Club will be running again in January and we will be preparing for the locality school cross country event at Bishop Luffa school, which takes place later in the term. Come along and let's get running!

Diary Dates 2021/22



2021/22 INSET Days

Thursday 2nd September & Friday 3rd September 2021
Monday 28th February 2022, Monday 6th June & Wednesday 6th July



Autumn Term 2021

Monday 6th September - Friday 17th December
Half Term: Monday 25th—Friday 29th October



Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4th January - Friday 8th April
Half Term: Monday 21st—Friday 25th February



Summer Term 2022

Monday 25th April - Thursday 21st July

The Valley Parish December Dates for your diary

Sunday 19th December - [A Celebration of Christmas](#) 6pm Singleton Church

24th December - [Carols and Crib service](#) 4pm East Dean

24th December - [First Communion of Christmas](#) 7pm West Dean

25th December - [Christmas Day Holy Communion](#) 10am Singleton



Monday 20th December

9.00-3.00 AAA Coaching (contact Ben to book a place:
ben@aaacoaching.co.uk)

Tuesday 4th January

Return to School

Wednesday 12th January

First Westgate Swim for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 13th January

10.30 Beech and Chestnut visit to Chichester Festival Theatre

Thursday 13th January

SSP Bronze Ambassadors (details to follow)

Wednesday 19th January

Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Day	Adult Lead	Max	Club	Cost	Year Group
Monday	Miss J Ashton	10	Netball	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
Tuesday	Mrs Goacher/Mrs Johnson 6.30-7.00pm	20	Swim WBH	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6,
	Mr C Williams	20	Cross Coun- try	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
Wednesday	Mrs Muggeridge/Miss Boxall	8	Cookery	£30.00	Yr3, 4, 5, 6
Thursday	Mrs E Holder	12	Dance	£25.00	Yr 2,3,4,5,6
Friday	AAA Coaching	14	Multi-sports	£25.00	1,2,3,4,5,6

Dates: W/C 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th February - x 5 weeks

Children in Miss Ashton's Netball club will be working towards the Sports Partnership High Five Netball event in the spring term.

Children in Mr William's Cross Country Club will be working towards the Sports Partnership Cross Country event in February.

Children in Mrs Holder's Dance club will be working on their performance for the Dance House event at the Alexandra Theatre, Thursday 17th February 2022.

In addition to our after school club programme our Care Bear provision is available everyday, Mon-Fri, 3.00-4.00pm. Please make sure that you book in.

All clubs run from 3.00-4.00, with the exception of Cookery Club which finishes at 4.15 and our swimming club which will be held at Westbourne House school, 6.30-7.15pm.

For all clubs and care bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk.

Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Places for clubs are limited and will be allocated on 'first come, first served' basis.

Please collect your child from the Reception area. Children will only be released to parents or carers unless we have been notified of alternative arrangements.

Clubs will go 'live' on Friday 17th December at 3.00pm.

West Sussex Sports Partnership—Girls Football

To support girls football in the community SSP have worked hard collaborating with Sussex County FA, Bognor football club and Pathway coaching to introduce the national girls football programme: "**Weetabix wildcats**". This is to aid girls moving into club football. This casual/fun focused drop in style sessions are all over the country and now in **Bognor Regis at The Arena Sports Centre. Only £2, starting in January!**

For further information regarding wild cats: <https://www.thefa.com/womens-girls-football/get-involved/girls/fun/wildcats>
Booking Information regarding Arena wildcats session: <https://find.Englandfootball.com/venue/193123545024>