



West Dean Church of England Primary School
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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

Newsletter 36 - 01.07.2022

Dear Parents and carers,

In just the few weeks since I last wrote to you, so much has been going on in school, with summer term learning really coming alive in all manner of ways.

As you know, at the end of last week, the children enjoyed a really successful day of learning at West Wittering Beach, organised by Mrs Bowman, our SENCo, who is also a trained Beach School practitioner. Mrs B planned a series of four activities, around which each class rotated throughout the day, including beach sport, an exploration of the coastal wildlife of East Head and the sand dunes, beach art and beach builders.

Although on our doorstep, this naturally stunning coastal environment is in complete contrast to the equally stunning setting at West Dean, so the children were incredibly excited to have the whole day to explore with their classmates, asking brilliant questions about the things they were finding on the beach and learning about the work being done to protect the wildlife and ecosystem in and around Chichester Harbour.

As always, your children were impeccably behaved, worked brilliantly together as a team and showed tremendous gratitude for this exciting learning opportunity.

We hope to make this a regular fixture in the calendar each year and, in collaboration with West Wittering School, invite their children to West Dean to explore the South Downs and perhaps some Forest School. We are, of course, extremely grateful for the financial support of this trip from the PTA, and therefore ultimately from you, without which, valuable trips such as these would be more challenging. Thank you also to our school staff for ensuring that it was a safe, happy and valuable day for everyone.

The momentum has certainly been increasing over the past few months in schools sporting events, which has been great to see again, following a few years of absence. Last Saturday it was the turn of our swimmers to take centre stage at the annual Chichester Cormorants Schools Swimming Gala. You will know that West Dean has achieved an impressive record at this event over the years, but due to the reduced opportunity for swimming during the pandemic, the children and teachers had to work really hard to be gala ready, through our swim club and additional training sessions this term. Thank you Mrs J and Mrs G!

It was an incredibly exciting evening at the Westgate Centre, with all of our children giving their all in every event. We won some races and in others, were incredibly impressed by several of our children who stepped in as a replacement to swim races at the last minute, following some illness in the team. We finished a close fourth to Jessie Younghusband in third; congratulations to Bosham Primary, who won the gala and to all of our swimmers for such an amazing display of commitment and team spirit.

On Monday I had the pleasure of accompanying our Year Six children to the Diocesan Primary School Leavers' Service in Chichester Cathedral, where we joined children, staff and families from around a dozen other church schools from across the Chichester Diocese, including our closest neighbours, Lavant and Singleton. It was a lovely service, featuring contributions from the children through readings, prayers, acting and singing, and was a poignant reminder of the very special Christian community to which they have belonged during their time at primary school and continue to be as they move on in their school journey.

Speaking of community, it has been such a joy to welcome families back into school for each of our class assemblies over the past few weeks, including both the Apple Class and Chestnut Class assemblies this week. We know how you have all missed being involved in this aspect of your children's learning and in sharing in their achievements in this way, so we really are delighted that you have been able to join us this term.

The children's presentation skills at all ages really have been outstanding and their enthusiasm for learning and deeply developing understanding of the links between various aspects of their learning has been wonderful to witness. Very, very well done children for such clear, confident, informative and entertaining assembly presentations, of which you should be very proud. We look forward to welcoming families into school again in a few weeks as the children share the work they will have been doing related to Mexico, during our special themed learning week.

Thank you to those of you who have already responded to the parent and carer survey sent out on Wednesday this week. Your feedback really is invaluable in shaping ongoing school development. The survey will be open until the end of the day on Monday 4th July, so please do take a few minutes to respond this weekend, if you are able. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 'Summer Sizzler' PTA social event next Friday, 5—8pm and at a number of other special events during these final few exciting weeks of term.

With best wishes, Chris Williams.

Year 6 Leavers Service at Chichester Cathedral

Our Year 6 children represented the school beautifully at Chichester Cathedral this week when they took part in the Diocesan Year 6 Leavers Service.



GAS Sports

A group of children represented West Dean at the GAS Sports event at Boxgrove yesterday. They all did their best in their events and it was a lovely opportunity for the GAS schools to meet together for the first time since pre-Covid.



Beech Class United Voices

Beech Class joined children from two other local primary schools to raise the roof of the Guildhall building in Priory Park, Chichester with their beautiful singing last week. The event was part of this year's United Voices project, led by singer, musician and songwriter Emily Barden. Emily is fantastically talented and really gets the best out of the children. They made a wonderful sound and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



Car Park Safety

Just a reminder that children should be brought onto the playground rather than walking across on their own from the car park please. Likewise, in the afternoon, children should be collected from the playground and not expected to walk across the car park to waiting parents please, both after school and after clubs or care bears. The car park is reserved for use by parents of children in Apple Class and we are grateful for the continued support of The Selsey Arms pub team, for allowing all other parents to use their car park. These measures are in place for the safety of all of us, thank you for your support.



School Money Accounts

Please make sure that you log-in to your school money account to check any outstanding payments, particularly for Year 6 children as they prepare to leave West Dean. There are still some residential payments outstanding.

Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bag2 School collection this week. We were handed a cheque for the PTA for £56.00

Beech Class Big Camp

Beech Class children experienced their first taste of an overnight school experience last Thursday, as they camped on the school field for the night. They had spent an active day outdoors, engaged in activities ranging from archeology, to driftwood boat making and of course the evening Trundle hike, all designed to develop collaboration and problem solving skills. After a few hours of sleep, they were up enjoying breakfast at school, before preparing to join the rest of the children on the West Wittering Beach trip. Thank you to Mrs Johnson and Ms Boxall for organising this brilliant experience, and for giving up their time overnight (along with some willing parents and governors) to make the overnight stay possible.





Swimming

Unfortunately, our school system will not take bookings on the day of the event; if you would like to book a place, please try to do this in advance of the session. If you would like to book a place on the day, please contact the school office. The weather looks set to improve next week, let's get swimming!

Our whole school trip to West Wittering Beach —24th June 2022





Diary Dates 2021/22



2021/22 INSET Days

Wednesday 6th July

Summer Term 2022

Monday 25th April - Thursday 21st July

Half Term: Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June



Advance notice of 2022/23 INSET Days

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September 2022

Monday 20th February 2023

Friday 31st March 2023

One final INSET day on a Monday/Friday in June or July — date TBC in early 2023

Monday 4th July	2.00-2.45 New Entrants Visits (parents invited to stay)
Tuesday 5th July	Beech Class visit to Dr Sharon-Michi Kusunoki's Excavation
Wednesday 6th July	INSET
Thursday 7th July	12.30-3.00 KS2 Chichester Falcons Tournament , Oaklands Park (all Year 6)
Friday 8th July	5.00—8.00pm PTA Summer Sizzler
Wednesday 13th July	10.00-3.00 SSP Yr 4/5 Women's Euro Football event
Wednesday 13th July	1.30-2.45 New Entrants Visits (parents invited to stay for coffee with PTA)
Thursday 14th July	5.30pm, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 15th July	2.30-4.30 Community Café
Monday 18th July	10.00 Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Tuesday 19th July	8.45, Year 6 Leavers Service (Year 6 parents welcome)
Tuesday 19th July	1.30-2.30 New Entrants Visits (children only)
Wednesday 20th July	Sports Afternoon
Thursday 21st July	End of Term Service at West Dean Church (time tbc)

Deepali Stamp held another Punjabi cookery evening in school this week



After School Clubs
Summer Term 2022

Summer 2
Second half of Summer term

Day	Adult Lead	Max	Club	Cost	Year Group
Monday	Miss C Bond	20	Football	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
	Mrs J Reynolds	20	Summer Sports	£25.00	Yr 1,2,3
Tuesday	Mr C Williams	20	Summer Sports	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
Wednesday	Mrs Muggeridge/Miss Boxall	8	Cookery	£24.00	Yr3, 4, 5, 6
Thursday	Mrs E Holder	12	Dance	£15.00	Yr 2,3,4,5,6
Friday	AAA Coaching	20	Multi-sports	£25.00	Yr 1,2,3,4,5,6

We are pleased to be able to offer a programme of after school activities again for the second half of the summer term. These activities take place outside of school hours and are considered 'optional extras'. The charges that we make for these activities cover the cost of the provision, resources, admin and use of the school premises and facilities.

Dates: W/C 13th, 20th, 27th June and 4th and 11th July - x 5 weeks

Dance Club will run for 3 weeks this half term, 30th June, 7th and 14th July.

Cookery Club will run for 4 weeks, no club on Wednesday 6th July as this is Inset Day.

If you have a credit on your schoolmoney account that you would like to offset against payment for clubs, please do contact the school office. A part payment option is available to secure your booking in the first instance.

In addition to our after school club programme our Care Bear provision is available, **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**, 3.00-4.00pm. Please make sure that you book in, at least 24 hours in advance, if possible.

All clubs run from 3.00-4.00, with the exception of Cookery Club which finishes at 4.15.

For all clubs and care bears, you can make your bookings on-line at School-money.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 27th May at 1.00pm.