



# West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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

Newsletter 11 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week heralds the start of **Advent** and school is already buzzing with Christmas excitement: it has been a full and fruitful week in lots of ways. We had a successful recruitment day on Monday where staff, governors and children were involved in the interview process and we are delighted to announce that Mr. Wilcox will join us from January 3<sup>rd</sup>, when our new term starts. Please see the letter below, which was sent to Beech Class parents yesterday. On Tuesday, Hugo Van Driel came in and led our assembly with the children joining in with lots of fun songs. Maple class hosted their class assembly where we learnt lots about the 'Great Fire of London' and they enjoyed a visit from West Sussex Fire and Rescue as part of this topic. Apple and Maple class have had open mornings, which were very positively received by a large number of parents.




Beech and Chestnut Classes' preparations for our Christmas Production, **Silent Night**, (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm) continue, with a dress rehearsal planned for Monday. Tickets are available on-line. We are producing programmes which will contain super memories and photographs of the children, along with information about the play. We will be selling these at the performances at a cost of £3:00 per programme as we hope to recoup some of the costs of the new stage lighting purchased to complement our new audio-visual equipment, so please do bring purses and wallets to the shows! (details below in the dates section)

We are hoping to mark Mrs Turner's leaving with a special mention in our End of Year Assembly on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 8:45am, to which you are all welcome. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, then please do see Mrs Bailey or Mrs Shears in our office.

## 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.

	Current Useful Information and Reminders
Pre-School Bake Sale 	West Dean Pre-School Nursery will be holding a Christmas Bake Sale on Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm. Do come along and support them and buy lots of Christmas bakes, cakes and goodies!
Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions	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. <b>Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15</b>
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. We are currently in the process of transferring the sale of our uniform to <b>Game, Set &amp; Match in Chichester</b>. This means that you will be able to order your uniform on-line or call into their shop in Quarry Lane to try on and buy uniform there. They are open 7 days a week and have easy access and parking. We feel this will help us to improve the uniform service that we are able to offer by letting the 'experts' do a good job for us. It will also eliminate congestion in the reception when you need to purchase uniform and save space for us by not having to keep lots of stock of sweatshirts etc.</p> <p>We are confident that, although you may see a very small price increase in some items, the quality and service you receive will be excellent. This will happen for January but in the meantime, uniform will still be available to purchase from the school office. A list of uniform available from Game, Set &amp; Match will be available shortly.</p> <p>We are also planning <b>changes to our uniform</b> in response to our Respect focus. We want our children to look as smart as pupils from other schools and we are planning some minor changes. These changes will be phased in from January onwards, when both styles will be worn. From September 2017, our new uniform will be fully in place: the major changes are that our logo will be embroidered, the sweatshirts will be V neck, and we will have ties for our older pupils. <b>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.</b></p>
Class Assemblies 8.45	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Apple</b>
Valley Voices	Please do come and join our 'Valley Voices' <b>adult choir</b> which will be led by Emily Barden in the school hall, 6.00-7.00, every Wednesday evening. (term time only)
Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears 	<p><b>Please Note: Clubs for the Autumn Term will finish on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. No clubs will be running during the last two weeks of term. Care Bears will be open as usual until the last day of term.</b></p> <p>Care Bears After School Provision - this will run every day from 3.00-4.00. Please see attached club timetable for the Autumn term.</p> <p>Please do make a note of these dates. <b>The clubs DO NOT run throughout every week of the term!</b> Care Bear Cub will be available every day, but places are not guaranteed and should be booked in advance. This is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! <b>If you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know.</b></p> <p>Please email: <a href="mailto:sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com">sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com</a> 07852 255628 (Please note new telephone number) Thank you for your support in this matter.</p> <p><b>AAA Coaching will be available on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, in the Christmas holiday. See attached flyer for information and how to book your place.</b></p> <p><b>Please look out for information coming today about our Spring term programme of clubs. You will be able to book and pay for your child's clubs via our on-line booking system <a href="http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk">www.schoolmoney.co.uk</a>. Booking will 'go live' for clubs and care bears on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December - book your places!</b></p>
	<p>You will have received information about our <b>new on-line payments</b> 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. <b>Current events available to book are</b> Westgate swimming, Silent Night tickets, the French residential, and Mr Popper's Penguins, United Voices-Festival of Singing, Beech class vWW1 visit to Chilgrove, and our prestigious Valentine Ball.</p> <p><b>Plants: Maple Class will soon be selling plants after school so bring your cash with you at pick up time!</b></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 is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Any orders received after this date will have to be sent directly to Yellow and will incur a £5 late fee.</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 <a href="http://Schoolmoney.co.uk">Schoolmoney.co.uk</a>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets are available to book on-line at <a href="http://Schoolmoney.co.uk">Schoolmoney.co.uk</a>. Tickets are limited and available on a 'first come, first served' basis so don't miss out! Please see attached invitation too.</p>

# Dates for 2016/17

Autumn Term Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Half Term Holiday Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Week Commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December - No Clubs this week, Care Bears as normal**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Closing date for Yellow School Photograph orders**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 8.45-12.00 - Squash Semi Final, Chichester Racquet Club (selected Yr 6)**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 9.45-10.30 - 'Penguin Party' Workshops with CFT at West Dean (R, Yr1, Yr2)**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm - KS2 Production of Silent Night, tickets available on-line**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30 - Apple & Maple Theatre Visit, Mr Popper's Penguins, Minerva Theatre**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm - KS2 Production of Silent Night, tickets available on-line**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 8.45 - Apple Class Assembly**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.15-2.45 - Violin performance**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 3.00 - Pre-School Bake Sale**

**Week Commencing 12<sup>th</sup> December - No Clubs this week, Care Bears as normal**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 9.00-12.00 - Beech Class Visit to WW1 Exhibition in Chilgrove**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30-2.50 - Rocksteady Concert**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 12.00 - Chartwell's Christmas Lunch**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 9.00 - Christingle making at West Dean**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service at West Dean Church - 5:15pm**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 8.45 - End of Term Assembly - all welcome**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - School finishes for the Christmas holidays**

**Christmas Holidays**

**AAA Coaching Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.00-4.00**

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

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Spring Term begins for children**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 9.15-11.30 - Chestnut Class - Festival of Singing rehearsal at Chichester High School**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 9.30-11.30 - GAS On-line Safety Meeting, Yr 6 children**

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - National On-line Safety Day**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30 - E-Safety for parents at Chichester High School**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00-11.00 - Valentine Ball at West Dean College**

**W/C 13<sup>th</sup> February - No clubs this week, Care Bears as normal.**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Beech Class visit to CFT - Running Wild, Michael Morpurgo**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February - School Closed - Inset Day**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Chestnut Class French Residential Visit**

*Acorn Awards - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016*

*Lucia - for trying so hard to listen everyday*

*Elliot - for amazing reading in his group*

*Kitty - for being so interested in our fire safety visitor and her fire safety poem*

*Cameron - for thinking so practically in our maths lesson*

*Kitty - for thinking carefully about all the punctuation and skills needed for writing speech and applying it*

*Amy - for super use of different multiplication strategies in her target homework. She showed understanding of how to use them correctly*

*Franki - for ending her narrative with a WAGOLL! She managed to engage the reader's emotions and make the twist clear*