



West Dean Church of England Primary School  
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ  
Telephone: 01243 811247



**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.'**

Dear parents, carers and children,

Welcome back to a new half term; I hope you all enjoyed a happy, healthy and fun break from school last week. Lent is upon us, as we look towards the celebration of Easter and hopefully the arrival of spring just around the corner. There is a definite sense of hope in the air and I don't know how you are in the mornings, but I am certainly enjoying the increasing daylight during my 6.15am dog walk each day!

As anticipated, during the half term break the Government announced the relaxing of COVID safety measures in England. Thank you for your cooperation in continuing with our pre-half term holiday measures for this first week.

Having reviewed the updated guidance for schools this week, and in light of the fact that it is no-longer a legal requirement to wear face masks, we are **removing the requirement to do so on the school site from Monday 7th March 2022**. We will remain vigilant to changing circumstances, and may reintroduce the request to wear a mask, should the need arise in the future. You are of course welcome to continue to wear a mask at school beyond Monday, if that is your preference.

The legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19 has also been removed, although **public health advice and guidance documentation remains unchanged** on this matter. We can no-longer enforce self – isolation if your child tests positive, but ask that you do so, in line with Public Health advice, so that we can to continue to do all we can to keep West Dean healthy.

Further details of the updated guidance for schools can be found at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1057106/220224\\_Schools\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057106/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf)

With Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday this week, our collective worship and assemblies have been about the start of Lent and the significance of this in a Christian community. Rev Sarah visited each class on Wednesday to talk to the children and answer questions. She has challenged them to consider the idea of 'giving', during Lent, rather than 'giving something up', in the form of doing a good deed for somebody each day, for 40 days. Your child has been given a card, on which the motif is divided into 46 sections—40 for Lent, and the other 6 for Holy Week, which follows Lent. The idea is to colour a section on each day that a good deed is done, resulting in a colourful card to give to someone special on Easter Day.

Another key part of our collective worship is an invitation to prayer or a period of reflection. I spoke to all of the children about the terrible, evolving situation in Ukraine, focusing on the facts as we know them, albeit at a level appropriate to the age of children in our school. We then focused our prayer and reflection on the people of Ukraine, that they may be supported in this time of need and led to safety. It is undoubtedly a challenging subject for us all, but most certainly for young children, who will pick up on things overheard on the television, radio or in adult conversation and will have questions and concerns. Please be assured that we have and will continue to answer their questions sensitively and appropriately, whilst offering as much reassurance as we are able in this time of uncertainty.

On a happier note, it was great to see Beech Class taking a walk to the greenhouses in West Dean Gardens yesterday to spark their curiosity about their Science work on Plant life. We've been doing a lot of work with West Dean College and Estate to nurture our special relationship and find ways to more closely link elements of our curriculum with the unique and special resource that they offer us. The estate and college are happy for us to visit more or less as often as we wish to, subject to prior agreement etc. This is wonderful and will enable all of our classes to engage in curriculum enrichment activities at West Dean far more frequently at little or no cost.

As I said at the start of my letter—spring is around the corner and there is a lot to look forward to.

With very best wishes,

Chris Williams



*West Dean CE Primary School  
Acorn Awards  
Friday 18th February 2022*



*Reception Keanu - for your amazing artwork. You looked carefully at the animals and drew and painted a detailed deer and hedgehog. Well done!*

*Year 1 Teddy - for being a brilliant book buddy with the older children. You listened so well and shared your ideas about the story.*

*Year 2 Reuben - for always being kind and caring. You regularly think about how you can help and support your peers. You are a wonderful member of Maple Class.*

*Year 3 Jake - for your amazing natural kindness in every aspect of school life. You are a supportive friend and a wonderful role model in class, a true superstar!*

*Year 4 Leo - for your enthusiasm at the start of our new topic on plants. It's lovely to see your inquisitive mind learning new information about the natural world around us.*

*Year 5 Frankie - for being an excellent tour guide for our class visitors. You were attentive and made sure that your visitor buddies had an exciting and interesting tour.*

*Year 6 Teale - for being an amazing book buddy to your Apple Class audience. You were encouraging and sensitive while you read to them. What super skills you showed.*



## COVID safe procedures and routines

You will already know from the government announcements made last week that it is no-longer a legal requirement to wear face masks. Consequently, **we are removing the requirement to do so on the school site from Monday 7th March 2022**. We will remain vigilant to changing circumstances, and may reintroduce the request to wear a mask, should the need arise in the future. You are of course welcome to continue to wear a mask at school beyond Monday, if that is your preference.



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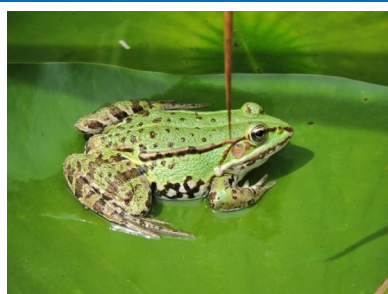
## Running Achievements

Five of our children did themselves proud in the first of this year's Chichester Corporate Challenge events last Wednesday Evening.

The race, which has been running for 30 years, takes place across three Wednesday evenings in March and features races for Primary children in Years 5 and 6, as well as Secondary School children in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and two adult races. The course runs along North and East Street, with the loop returning along the lanes of Little London.

Our children ran fantastically and were well-placed amongst the huge field of school children. They are now all determined to return in two weeks time to try to improve on their PB time.

In other running news, Willow in Year 6 enjoyed the fantastic opportunity of running in the West Sussex County Cross Country finals this week, following her 8th place in the locality race at Bishop Luffa a few weeks ago. Despite being a significant step up in the standard of running, with some very able competitors and a tough race, we are super-impressed that Willow finished in 60th place in a field of over 120 runners. Considering she was up against the best of the best from across the county, this is an exceptional achievement — Very well done Willow!



## Environmental/Pond Area

We are well under way with our plans for rejuvenating our environmental and pond area. Thank you to Caroline Daniel for being amazing and arranging a Covers delivery for us.

We would really love you to be involved and need your help. If you do have any time available and could come in, even for an hour, anytime during school, after school, at the weekend, Mrs Boxall has a list of jobs.

We also have an environmental 'WhatsApp' group, if you would like to be part of this please do let us know.

Thank you for your help and support with this project, helping to give our children the knowledge of our habitats and ecosystems to skill them to be the future carers of our environment.

## UEFA Women's EURO 2022

We would still like to hear from you if you would like the opportunity to purchase tickets for two England Women's Euro matches:

Monday 4th July, 8.00pm The Amex Stadium, Brighton and Hove—England v Norway

Friday 15th July, 8.00pm St Mary's Stadium, Southampton—England v N Ireland

If you are interested, please do let us know by email. Mr Williams is happy to take a group with some parent

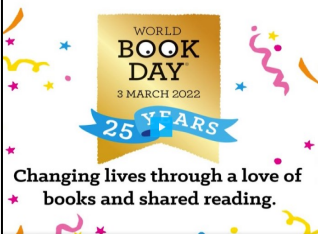


**A reminder to** all families that in order to safeguard children and adults with an allergy or intolerance to nuts, we ask that **nuts and food products containing nuts are not brought into school.**

## Spring 2 Clubs

Places are still available in some of our clubs for the second half of the spring term. The timetable is attached for your information and bookings can be made on [schoolmoney.co.uk](http://schoolmoney.co.uk).





## World Book Day Adventures

There was much excitement in school yesterday, as the children went on a mini adventure exploring the book themed doors that which adorned the entrance to each classroom and a few other areas of school.

Can you identify the book from the photos below?

During the afternoon, children of all ages gathered in their House groups for a shared reading session focussing on the favourite books that they had brought into school for the day.

It really was wonderful to see this celebration of reading in action, the care and pride shown by the older children towards the younger ones, and the excitement and concentration shown by the younger children as they listened to their older school friends read to them. Rest assured, there will be opportunities for the traditional WBD dress-up in future years, but it was equally wonderful to see the day celebrated in a slightly different way this week.



## Comic relief—Red Nose Day 2022

Red Nose Day is coming on **Friday 18th March 2022**. We plan to join in the fun and fundraising in school on the day and want to give you plenty of warning of the things we have planned.

Primary schools are being encouraged to embrace the theme of **'Superheroes'** as a focus for fundraising, so we are inviting the children to come to school dressed as their own choice of superhero for the day, in return for a minimum donation to Comic Relief of £1. We will be collecting donations via SchoolMoney—more details of this to follow in due course.

The superhero theme will be open to the children's own interpretation—anything goes from classic 'Marvel' type characters such as spiderman, hero figures in society such as the emergency services, to perhaps an inspiring person such as Emmeline Pankhurst, as seen recently on our theatre trip to 'Fantastically Great Women who changed the World'.





TEAS  
REFRESHMENTS  
STALLS

Pushchairs & children  
with scooters can go up to  
2 miles on a tarmac path

Dogs on leads welcome  
Car parking on site

# Charity Walk

ARUNDEL CASTLE PARK, BN18 9AU

1 OR 5 MILE WALK

£5 Adults/£2 Children (under 5's free)

All sponsored walkers FREE!

THE SUSSEX  
**Snowdrop**  
Nursing care at home for local children  
with life threatening or terminal illnesses **TRUST**





# 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



### 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

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

Tuesday 8th March	Trial Woodwind Lessons with Vincent Godfrey WSX Music
Tuesday 8th March	KS2 Drama4All—Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
Wednesday 9th March	Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 9th March	1.00—3.00 SSP Yr 3/4 Girls Football—Arena Sports Centre
Thursday 10th March	Apple Class visit to West Dean Gardens
Tuesday 15th March	Dance and Beyond—Superhero Dance Workshops
Wednesday 16th March	Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 16th March	Corporate Challenge 6.30 Chichester
Thursday 17th March	1.30-3.30 SSP Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics event at Bishop Luffa
Friday 18th March	Comic Relief—Red Nose Day—Superhero Dress-up
Wednesday 23rd March	Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 23rd March	Maths Challenge at Christ's Hospital (details to follow for selected)
Thursday 24th March	Apple Class visit to Arundel Wetlands Centre (details to follow)
Thursday 24th March	5.30pm Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 28th March	10.00—Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 30th March	Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 30th March	SSP Arun Swim Gala (tbc)
Wednesday 30th March	Corporate Challenge (details to follow)
Wednesday 6th April	Last Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 7th April	1.00—3.00 SSP Future Flyers

**After School Clubs**  
**Spring Term 2022**

**Spring 2**  
**Second half of spring term**

**x 5 weeks**

Day	Adult Lead	Max	Club	Cost	Year Group
<b>Monday</b>	Mrs J Reynolds )				
	& Miss C Bond )	20	Football	£25.00	Yr 4,5,6
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mrs Goacher/Mrs Johnson 6.30-7.00pm	20	Swim WBH	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6,
	Mr C Williams	20	Art/Drawing	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6
	Mrs K Prudence	10	STEM	£25.00	Yr 4,5,6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mrs Muggeridge/Miss Boxall	8	Cookery	£30.00	Yr3, 4, 5, 6
<b>Thursday</b>	Mrs E Holder	12	Dance	£20.00	Yr 2,3,4,5,6
<b>Friday</b>	AAA Coaching	20	Multi-sports	£25.00	Yr 1,2,3,4,5,6

Dates: W/C 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April - x 5 weeks

**Dance Club will run for four weeks only – no Dance Club on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

In addition to our after school club programme our Care Bear provision is available every-day, Mon-Fri, 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 and our swimming club which will be held at Westbourne House school, 6.30-7.15pm. Our swimming club, this time, will be training for the possibility of taking part in the Swim Gala competitions. Children must be able to confidently swim a length (20M). If you are not sure, please check with Mrs Johnson or Mrs Gaocher.

For all clubs and care bears, you can make your bookings on-line at [Schoolmoney.co.uk](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm.**