



West Dean Church of England Primary School  
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ  
Telephone: 01243 811247  
Headteacher Mr C Williams  
Newsletter 6- 8th October 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,

By the time you read this, we will have had our Harvest Festival service at St Andrew's church. I am so pleased that we are able to resume collective worship as a whole school at these special times of year and, at the time of writing this, am waiting with anticipation to visit the church for the first time with the children. It will of course be the first time that many of our children have been to our village church, and it feels really good to be reconnecting with the wider West Dean community. Thank you so much, for your most generous gifts this harvest time. You have contributed to a magnificent display, currently decorating the church and soon to be taken to the Chichester District Foodbank and put to good use for those in our community in need of support. You will notice that there are no Acorn Awards this week. It isn't that the children haven't been achieving, but due to our harvest service, we'll leave the awards until a bumper Acorn Assembly next week!

I have no doubt that the singing in church will be joyful, as the sound of the children practising their 'Harvest Samba' has been ringing out from the classrooms throughout this week, making us all dance our way along the corridors of the school! Apparently, the Chestnut children even sung their way along the M27 on Wednesday, as they embarked on their Titanic fact-finding mission to the SeaCity Museum in Southampton. The children were, once again, fine ambassadors for West Dean School, demonstrating impressive Titanic knowledge to the museum staff, as well as enthusiasm and curiosity to find out more. I had a fascinating conversation over lunch with several children today, who were telling me how shocked they were to learn of the unfairness of male first-class passengers being allowed off of the ship before the women and children in the lower classes. It was amazing to witness the empathy that they had for those involved in the Titanic tragedy.

Next week we have **special plans** to get out and about and reconnect in a different way. On **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October** we are running a **Wellbeing Day**, beginning in the morning with a Wellbeing Walk to West Dean Gardens Arboretum. The aim of the day is to give the children the opportunity to collaborate and learn outside of the classroom, using all of their senses to connect with nature amidst the magical surroundings of the West Dean Estate. There has been a great deal of discussion in the media and from government about post COVID catch up. There is and will continue to be academic gaps in learning emerging as a result of the lockdown periods and addressing these is an absolute priority for us. However, we passionately believe that to do this effectively, the children need to be in the right place as learners, ready to listen, take turns, share and collaborate. We hope that this special day will help the children find that readiness for learning, as well as providing a wonderful opportunity to learn alongside children from different year groups in a truly stunning outdoor setting.

**The children will need to come to school in outdoor clothes** on Tuesday, dressed as they would for a Forest School session - please **leave school uniforms at home**. They will each need a small rucksack to carry a water bottle and substantial healthy snack to fuel them on their walk. Normal school rucksacks are fine, the children will have the chance to remove any heavy and unnecessary equipment in school before we leave. We will be returning to school for lunch as normal.

Over the past few weeks whilst chatting to you on the playground, it has been interesting to listen to your feedback, both about the strengths of the school from your perspective and the aspects of school life in which you would welcome change. **In addition to this week's newsletter, you will be sent a separate email with a link to a Parent Survey.** The purpose of this survey is to gather information and views on a number of specific areas of school life, in order to inform our thinking, planning and ongoing school development this academic year.

There are 18 questions in total. If you are able, I would be most grateful if you could spare the time to answer the survey in as much detail as you can **by Friday 15th October**. As you can imagine, being new to West Dean, I have many questions and ideas. Your feedback is an immensely valuable part of school development, so sincere thanks for your time and attention to the survey.

With my very best wishes for the weekend,

Chris Williams

Please continue to stay safe and  
**PLEASE MAINTAIN COVID SAFE BEHAVIOURS!**

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FACE COVERINGS THROUGHOUT OUR  
SCHOOL CAR PARK AND PLAYGROUND.**

### COVID safe procedures and routines



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

[www.westsussex.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/backtoschool)

The Museum of the Moon at Chichester Cathedral, will be on display from 25th October - 14th November 2021. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the Museum of the Moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally-lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. The artwork will be accompanied by a programme of events, concerts and late-night openings, delivered by a variety of organisations, including the South Downs Planetarium, Chichester's Novium Museum and the West Sussex Library Service, encouraging people far and wide to celebrate the night skies of Sussex. Read on below to find out more. General day entry will not be ticketed or pre-booked, however a variety of events and evening viewings will need pre-booking.



### Chichester District foodbank Harvest Festival Service



Thank you to everyone for enabling a smooth transition to Church this morning for our Harvest Festival Service. The Service was led by Rev Sarah Manouch with input from all the children in the form of songs, poetry and prayers. All of the produce donated will be going to Chichester Foodbank, thank you for your donations. We will still have a basket in our reception area, if you have anything that you would like to bring in for the Foodbank in the future.

### West Dean Arboretum

We held our staff meeting at West Dean Gardens this week, we took part in a Forest Bathing session in the Arboretum. This was in preparation for our whole school visit to the Arboretum next week, when we will be able to share our learning with the children. We will spend the morning at the Arboretum and then the children will have the opportunity to take part in 'Forest' based activities in school during the afternoon.



### Bookfest

This week we celebrated Bookfest; we had two visiting authors in school to work with the children.

Vashti Hardy visited Chestnut Class where they built on their learning of the book Harley Hitch.

Beech Class were visited by Luke Temple, who read extracts from and talked about his books Blubber Monster and Ghost Post.



## After School Clubs — Autumn Term 2021

Autumn 1 (first half of term — x5 weeks)

<b>Monday</b>	Mrs Pearmaine	12	Lego	£25.00	Yr 1,2,3,
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mrs Goacher/Mrs Johnson 6.30-7.00pm	20	Swim WBH	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6,
	Mrs 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 3,4,5,6
<b>Friday</b>	AAA Coaching	14	Multi-sports	£25.00	1,2,3,4,5,6

**Dates: W/C 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> October - x 5 weeks**

It has become necessary to slightly increase the cost of cookery club in line with the rising costs of ingredients. The children do, however, have their tea to bring home with them so we hope that you will agree, that this is still good value.

**Please Note: There will only be four dance club sessions this term, there will be no dance club on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

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](https://www.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.**

### Governing Body News:

For information about our Governing Body, to find out who we are and what we do or how to contact us please email Mrs Pasha Delahunty, Clerk to Governors - [pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk)

### Schoolmoney.co.uk

This on-line platform enables 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.

Please log-in to your account to make sure any outstanding balances are settled.

School Money on-line donations.

We have been asked to set up the facility for people to make donations to the school if they would like to. This is available on [Schoolmoney.co.uk](https://www.schoolmoney.co.uk) and will show on your account as 'School Donation' with the amount of £1. There is absolutely no obligation to make this donation and if you wish, you can alter the figure to select the amount that you would like to pay.

Any donations to the school are very much appreciated and we thank you for your support.

### PTA News:

If you would like to get involved in the PTA in any way please to contact [westdeanpta@outlook.com](mailto:westdeanpta@outlook.com) or contact the school office ([office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk))

### Lost Property:

Don't forget to check the lost property 'bin' , on the pavilion decking, for any items that you might be missing. Please make sure that school uniform is clearly named to enable us to return clothing that has been found.



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

Tuesday 12th October  
Thursday 14th October  
Tuesday 19th October  
Tuesday 2nd November  
Thursday 4th November  
Monday 8th November  
Thursday 11th November  
Tuesday 16th November  
Wednesday 17th November  
Friday 19th November  
Thursday 2nd December  
Tuesday 7th December  
Monday 13th December

West Dean Arboretum Wellbeing Day  
8.30—Pre-loved Uniform Sale, Pavilion  
Beech Class visit to Portsmouth Dockyard  
10.00 Hugo Van Driel Assembly  
Year 6 Height & Weight Programme  
Drama for All Workshop—Apple and Maple Class  
8.45 Remembrance Assembly  
Parent Consultation Evening  
Parent Consultation Evening  
Children in Need  
Full Governing Body Meeting  
Flu Vaccination  
10.00 Hugo Van Driel Assembly