



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
Newsletter 1 11th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted with the atmosphere in the classrooms and at playtimes: all the children have come back with such enthusiasm and positivity. They are an example to us all! We are pleased to have the school fresh, clean and safe for us all, and to be able to welcome you all back with minimal disruption. The Whole School text, 'Here We Are', by Oliver Jeffers, is proving to be a superb stimulus for all age groups and we are learning about our planet, the solar system, ourselves, how and where we belong. We hope to send a copy home for each family in a few weeks, along with some of the children's work, as a celebration of our learning and our return to school. We are also learning about what makes us all so special and individual. There has been lots of maths (number work), reading and writing going on too, as we all settle back and remind ourselves of our learning behaviours etc. Thank you for your support in preparing the children so well.

We have planned a variety of ways of keeping you all informed, including the detailed class letters, the newsletters and Zoom Parent Information Sessions (see below).

We hope that you will support children with lots of reading, mental maths agility and some spelling & writing practice too. This will help us all to 'catch up' quickly together.

LOGISTICS

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Thank you to everyone for being so supportive as we navigate the logistics of keeping everyone safe before and after school. Everyone seems to have different expectations and tolerance levels regarding social distancing, so we hope that we now have a very clear approach for our school grounds—see the pages at the end of this newsletter.

We continue to adapt to changing legislation and advice, but please be aware that your behaviours over the weekend will have an impact too—any positive or suspected cases mean disruption & risk for us all.

We hope that we can maintain this safe approach in the village and in The Selsey Arms car park. Nikki has been so generous in helping us throughout lockdown, and in allowing us to use their car park. It is vital that we support her in maintaining the safe access to the pub, adequate parking for her staff and paying clients/residents, so please do be considerate.

There is parking in the village, and, although it may take a few minutes to walk to school from the bottom of the village, we would prefer this to hazardous parking and dangers when crossing the road.

Please note—all children MUST be accompanied when crossing the road and into the school grounds. Thank you all.



The Selsey Arms pub are hosting a Quiz night on Wednesday September 16th at 7.30pm. Booking required, socially distant, £5 per person including supper, for teams of up to six people. They are also open for coffee from 8.30am if you would like to contact them to book. 01243 811465

Parent Information Sessions

We will be holding an 'open' Zoom parent information session on Wednesday 16th September between 4.30 and 5.00pm. Class teachers will be available to clarify information which will be sent home in their class letters or discuss any concerns you may have. Please join at 4:30 to avoid staff repeating messages/answers to questions!

Car Parking Information

School Car Park: Only parents with children with pre-school age or in Apple Class will be allowed access to the car park immediately before school and at pick up time. Other parents will park in The Selsey Arms car park or in the village, and walk into school via the pedestrian gate.

Two appropriate spaces will be available for parents with **limited mobility**. Parents' vehicles will, therefore, be parked up towards Pre-School. The area near the bins should be kept clear, as staff parked there often need to leave school on business and must not be blocked in.

The children have designed parking permits, which have been sent home previously to Apple class parents who drive to school and to any parents with limited mobility. Permits should be displayed in windscreens please.

For parents of pupils in Maple, Beech and Chestnut classes, if you regularly carry passengers who are of pre-school age you may apply for a permit, please ask at the school office. Parking around 4pm when collecting children from clubs will be available to all parents, but please park carefully and supervise children well.

The disabled parking bay, adjacent to the fence at the edge of the playground, must be kept free for Blue Badge holders please and care taken not to block this space or park too closely either side. Whilst we appreciate that this is a challenge at times, especially for the drivers of bigger cars, please fill all parking spaces rather than parking near the disabled parking bay. Any cars found to be blocking the disabled bay will be banned from the car park; we have the right to exercise this option.

If anyone has any information about the accident that happened in the car park on Monday, please could you let us know in the office.





We are thrilled to share with you some photos of our amazing new outside area in Apple Class

The children have already enjoyed playing in the muddy kitchen, exploring the water play area and constructing with our new equipment.

We have loved seeing their imaginative play and happy smiles all week.

The sand has arrived for the sand pit and will be filled and ready to use very soon.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your support in improving our social distancing this morning at 'drop off' time. This newsletter should clarify our proposed morning and afternoon routines, now that we are fully back in school.

Whilst it is really important for all of us to communicate 'normally' with one another, chatting in person (rather than on Zoom!) and being friendly and caring, we are all very aware that we need to be mindful of the dangers of viral transmission. The inevitable increase in incidence of Covid-19 cases as businesses, schools and social groups return to closer proximity means that we all need to be extra careful. We are all navigating the priorities of keeping everyone safe, avoiding anxieties and educating our children effectively.

Please do think carefully about having any 'get togethers' over the next few days. Monday is the official start of the six in a 'get together' ruling but we are very keen to act responsibly to avoid any cases in our community, so we urge increased caution from today please. Symptomatic children will continue to be sent home so that you can then be tested/isolate as a family and return to school if the results are negative: the implications to the school, and the wider community, of a positive case are significant.

We are following Public Health England guidance and have worked with WSCC to ensure our risk assessments are robust, and will keep you all informed along the way. If we have one confirmed case, we are advised that the wider 'bubble' need not isolate, but should come to school as normal. This is a difficult time, with many grey areas and changing advice. I intend to inform families if we have any confirmed cases, so that individual families can be aware of the risk levels and act accordingly. If I feel we need to close a bubble or the school, then I will take that action, upon consultation with PHE and our governors.

In the meantime, the new government mantra of '*Hands. Face. Space.*' is one we will use in school as it is clear and will be effective in reminding us all of the actions to minimise the spread. Let us hope and pray that we can all stay safe and that school will not be disrupted. Please refer to the following for guidance on before and after school organisation.

Morning Drop Off:

If you have **only KS2 children:**

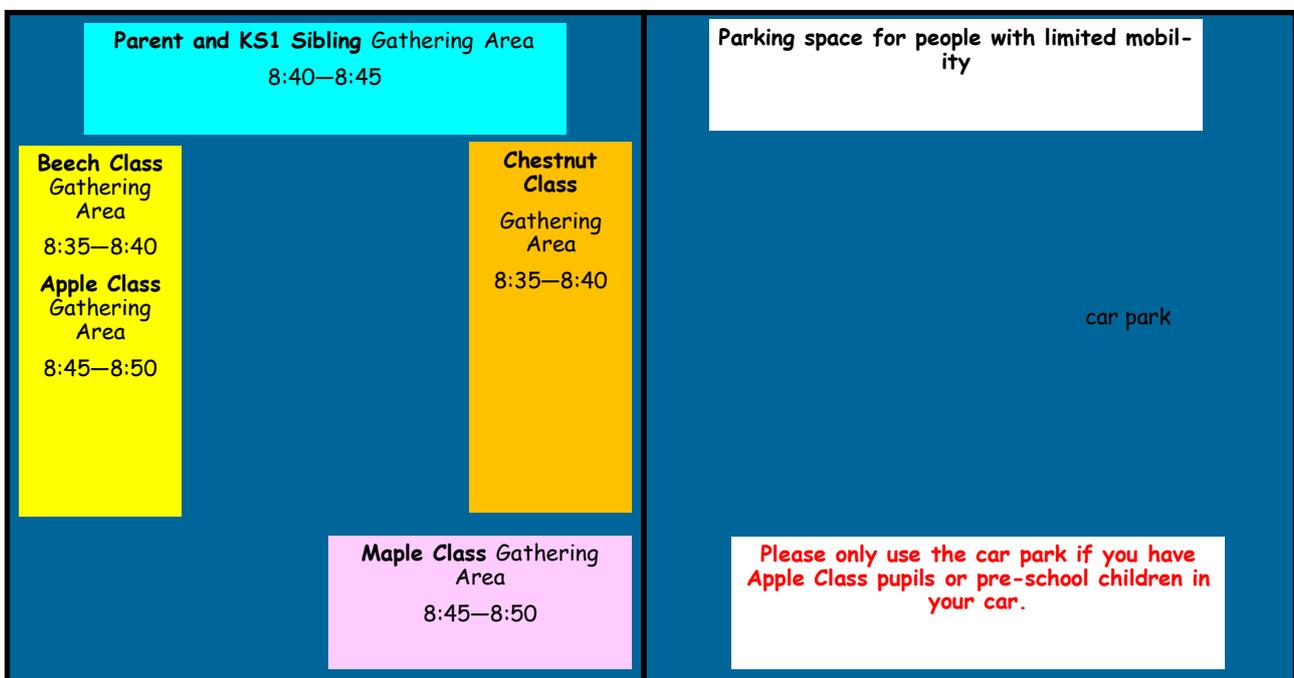
Arrive between 8:30 and 8:40. Drop your children and leave as soon as you are able—our staff will ensure children's safety from 8:30. Children should wait in the designated area until 8:35 when they will be sent/taken in through the appropriate door. If you arrive any earlier, please wait in your car.

If you have **only KS1 children:**

Please bring them onto the playground between 8:45 and 8:50, to avoid KS2 children and their parents. Bring children to their designated areas and leave as soon as you are all comfortable to do so. Staff will be available to ensure safety and to send/take children in.

If you have **KS1 and KS2 children:**

You should encourage your KS1 children to stay with you in the Pavilion area upon arrival, and you should send them to their area when the KS2 children have gone inside. Your KS2 children should go straight to their areas, please



Afternoon Pick Up:

If you have **only KS2 children:**

Collect your children from their area **at 3pm** and avoid arriving earlier as we will have KS1 parents and children on the playground.

If you have **only KS1 children:**

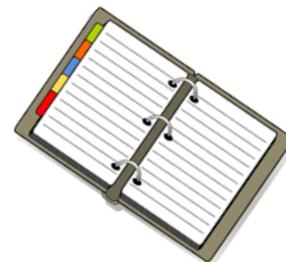
Please collect them from the playground at 2:50, from their designated areas, to avoid KS2 children and their parents.

If you have **KS1 and KS2 children:**

You should encourage your KS1 children to stay with you in the Pavilion area upon collection, and you should leave when your KS2 children have joined you.

Please take your children straight home when they arrive on the playground. Please arrive on time. If you are very early, please wait in your car.

Diary Dates 2020



Autumn Term 2020 : Monday 7th September—Friday 18th December

Half term holiday: October 26th—30th

2020/21 INSET days

Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September 2020

Monday 14th September - Return to school for Reception children (Tea and Tissues in the Pavilion for parents)

Wednesday 16th September, 4.30-5.00 - Open Zoom Parent Information Sessions

Wednesday 16th September, 7.30 - Quiz Night at The Selsey Arms (booking required)

Thursday 24th September, 5.30 - Full Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 13th October, 3.10—5.00 - Whole School Parent Evening (details to follow)

Wednesday 14th October, 3.10—6.00 - Whole School Parent Evening (details to follow)

Wednesday 14th October - Flu Vaccination for all year groups

Wednesday 11th November—Remembrance Assembly—time tbc

Friday 13th November—Children in Need

Monday 16th November, 8.30 - Yellow School Photographs - Individuals and Siblings

Thursday 26th November, 5.30 - Full Governing Body Meeting



Acorn Awards

Friday 11th September 2020

Owen - for being the smiliest 'Apple', you have come back to school with such a positive and happy attitude

Felix B - For an amazing start to Year 2; You have worked so hard this week, your phonics work has been super

Marina - for having such a super first week in Beech Class, for being switched on, always ready to learn and great listening. Well done Marina, It's a pleasure to have you in class

Bonnie - for being a fantastic role model in class and at playtimes. You are always ready to learn and give 100% effort to everything

Wilf - for your readiness to ask questions when you need more information, this is a great example to others - questions are more important than answers!

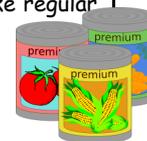


Richard - for your organised, independent and positive learning behaviours in school; you are a super role model for Chestnut Class, well done

Current Useful Information and Reminders:

September 2020

Thank you to everyone who supported us with donations to the **Chichester District Foodbank**; we continue to have a box in the Reception area to collect any items that you would like to donate and Mrs Jen Rogers has very kindly agreed to make regular deliveries of our goods.



Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15 - Pop in and see your child's classroom and have a look at their work. Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in. We would love to have the opportunity to share your child with you.

This is currently unavailable but we will be available in the playground each afternoon—Wednesdays remain a good day to 'catch us'.

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 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.

Schoolmoney.co.uk on-line payments 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.



PTA News:

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

Governing Body News:

Our team of governors continue to work together to help steer the school and support staff and the community.

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.

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.