



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.' John 13

Newsletter 21 - 24.02.23

Don't forget Rev Sarah's 'Rectors Ramble' which can be found at: <http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>

Industrial Action

We do not anticipate a need to close school on the day of industrial action next week (**Thurs. 2 March**), but we are not yet in a position to provide a firm plan for the following potential dates of action on:

Wednesday **15** & Thursday **16 March** 2023.

Thank you for your patience and support in this matter.

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

It surely cannot have escaped your notice that it was Shrove Tuesday (aka Pancake Day) this week and no doubt many of you slaved over a hot frying pan all evening at family tea time!

In school, lots of the children got the chance to make and taste pancakes and in collective worship, we looked at the meaning of 'Shrove' or 'Shriving' and tried to beat what we thought to be a truly amazing world record for pancake tossing of 424 in 2 minutes. We've now fact checked this and the current record is actually 140 flips in 60 seconds. In school our fantastic flippers managed just over 60 flips in 2 minutes.



In Beech Class, the children also looked at Shrove Tuesday celebration in other parts of the world and made some fantastic Mardi Gras masks.



TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



We ask that you continue to hold all of those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in your prayers. If you wish to support, we suggest that you make a donation via the Disasters Emergency Committee website:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

Thank you.

Also in our continued prayers are the people of Ukraine, as they live with the ongoing impact of war in their country. This week marked one year since this conflict began.



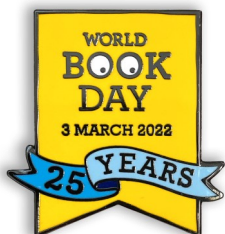
Thank you from Rev Sarah and The Valley Parish community

On behalf of The Valley Parish we'd like to thank all the parents and carers who responded to the survey on children's provision in our churches. We had a fantastic response which has enabled us to focus our resources where they are most wanted. As a result of the survey, we will be organising a Messy Church to take place in the afternoon of Palm Sunday (2 April) at East Dean Village Hall. We also have plans to launch a monthly Children's Service later this year. More details of both to follow. If you would like to volunteer to help or would like more information on children and youth provision in the Valley Parish, including qualifying attendance for Bishop Luffa School, please contact :

Our **Youth Leader Sarah Peirson** on sarah_peirson@btinternet.com or **Rev Sarah** on priestvalleyparish@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday worship actually took place this morning, as Rev. Sarah was able to join us for our Friday Acorn Assembly and lead us in an invitational signing of the cross in ash on the foreheads of those who wished to receive it. For those of you who are not familiar with this tradition and practice in the Christian Church, the palm crosses from the previous year are burnt and the ash is used by the priest to make a sign of the cross on a person's forehead, as a symbol of repentance and forgiveness at the beginning of the season of Lent. As with all aspects of worship in school, we hold special value in this, but always ensure that participation is completely invitational. A significant number of children and adults chose to come to receive the sign of the cross from Rev. Sarah during a period of reflection and quiet, calming music.

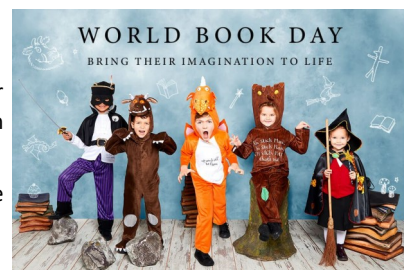




**DON'T FORGET—next Thursday (2nd March) is World Book Day
Costumes at the ready!**

Children are invited to start a reading adventure and dress up as their favourite book or character to celebrate World Book Day, in school, on Thursday 2 March.

Children will also receive a £1 National Book Token to either exchange for a free World Book Day book or £1 off a book/audio book, (full details will be included on the voucher).



Chestnut Class—SSP Sports Hall Athletics

The children in Chestnut Class had a very sporty morning on Wednesday; following their usual swimming lesson at the Westgate centre, they took the short walk along to Bishop Luffa School, where they participated in the Local Area Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletic event, run by the School Sports Partnership (SSP). All of the children competed in all manner of athletics inspired events, cheered on by a very lively crowd of classmates and local school children, as well as some upbeat music to get everyone in the mood and energised. A fantastic morning was enjoyed by all—I know we have said it before, but following several years of working and learning in isolation, it is such a joy to be able to join together at events like this with our neighbouring schools again this year. Well done Chestnut Class—you showed amazing determination and team spirit.



Year 6 Computer Science Workshop at Bishop Luffa After a demanding morning of sport, the Year 6 children had yet more offsite activity to enjoy on Wednesday afternoon, as they remained at Bishop Luffa School to be led in a Computer Science workshop, by the school's student Digital Leaders. Each Year Six pupil was able to work with one to one support of at least one Digital Leader and were given a beginners course in how to use the 'Kodu' to code and program a game. The children have now been set the challenge of coding their own Kodu game back at West Dean, for which they will receive feedback from the Bishop Luffa Digital Leaders later in the year. Many thanks to the Computer Science team at Bishop Luffa School for facilitating this brilliant opportunity.



And finally...

Apple and Maple Class had two very special and unusual visitors today in the form of Shelby and Simba, the Huxham family's two bay tortoises. Both tortoise seemed to be very happy to be stroked by the children and (for tortoises) were surprisingly lively throughout their trip to school. It was a lovely way for the children to continue their learning about caring for animals and for Charlie and Finlay to share their enthusiasm for their special friends. Thank you Huxham family!





West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 24th February 2023



- Yr R** *Willow* - for brilliant role playing in the 'bus' in Apple Class. You were great at being the driver and making the tickets.
- Yr 1** *Sophia* - for making great progress in your reading. You are now using your 'story voice' and can answer questions accurately. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Teddy* - for working hard to show your understanding of the 5 times table and equal and unequal groups in maths. Well done!
- Yr 3** *Tilly* - for a beautifully presented mind map about our new chocolate topic - an amazing page filled with fantastic ideas!
- Yr 4** *Beatrix* - for showing great resilience and determination when faced with an unexpected list of new times table challenges - Well done!
- Yr 5** *Benny* - for cracking the 'show, not tell' technique. You know how to describe without using our 'banished' words.
- Yr 6** *Frankie* - for showing great stamina and enthusiasm at the Sportshall event. You were a super member of our Year 5/6 team.



Diary Dates 2022/23



2022/23 INSET Days

Friday 31st March 2023

Friday 21st July 2023



Spring Term 2023 - Tuesday 3rd January—Thursday 30th March

Half Term—Monday 13th—Friday 17th February

Easter Holiday—Monday 3rd April— Friday 14th April

Summer Term 2023 - Monday 17th April - Thursday 20th July

Half Term: Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June



Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 28th February	Apple Class visit to Goodwood Motor Circuit
Wednesday 1st March	Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 1st March	6.30 Chichester Runners Corporate Challenge
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day—children to dress as favourite book or character
Tuesday 7th March	Chestnut Class visit to Science Museum, London
Wednesday 8th March	Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 8th March	1.30-3.30 SSP Year 4 FUNdamentals event at Bishop Luffa
Wednesday 15th March	Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 15th March	ESSA Swim Gala (swim squad children, details to follow)
Wednesday 15th March	6.30 Chichester Runners Corporate Challenge
Wednesday 22nd March	Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 22nd March	SSP Swim Gala at Arun Leisure Centre (details to follow)
Thursday 23rd March	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 29th March	Final Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 29th March	1.00-3.00, SSP '60 Active Minutes' at Westgate, Beech Class
Wednesday 29th March	6.30 Chichester Runners Corporate Challenge
Thursday 30th March	End of Term Assembly at West Dean Church (details to follow)
Thursday 30th March	SSP Future Flyers Westgate (selected Yr 5/6)
Friday 31st March	INSET Day