



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247

Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 25 31st March 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of a super term here, with a lovely sunny weekend ahead of us all. It has been a full week with Beech Class Assembly and Open Morning, where the children, Mr. Wilcox and Mrs. Goacher showed us just how much they have done this term.

The children of Beech Class were also very busy acting as our 'guinea pigs' when we interviewed for a new teacher. They were super and all three candidates were very impressed indeed. We were supported by our School Council, led by Mrs. Chilton, by Mrs. Prudence who did lesson observation with me and by Mrs. Shears and Mrs. Park, who were on our interviewing panel. The candidates also had lunch with the staff, so we were able to gain feedback from everyone! We all agreed on our favourite candidate. Unfortunately, she is probably not going to be able to take on the role, so we will be advertising again. On the plus side, this is the best time of year to be advertising for teachers and we have a strong team of staff with some flexibility. I know you will all be disappointed, as we are but it is vital that we find the right person for West Dean, even if it takes a little longer. Thank you to everyone for your patience and support in this.

GAS Enrichment Day - Forest Schools at North Mundham

By Charlie Gran and Alex Wilburn

We built dens with rope and tarpaulins and we had some food - we made bread on the fire, built our own small fires which we lit using flint, steel and cotton wool. We also made 3D art on the ground using sticks and other things that we found. At first we worked together and then we worked with children from other schools. We had some wood that we hollowed out with a little stick to make necklaces and bracelets. We had a really good day and enjoyed it.



Comic Relief - Football Tournament - This was organised by James Stringer helped by his dad, Nick and Ben Johnson from AAA Coaching. The children (and staff) had a super time playing football and taking part and they raised an amazing £80.50. Well done to James for his initiative.



Thanks to input from the School Council, after Easter we will be organising a lunch time rota to ensure that all children have a chance to have their first choice lunch. We also hope to be able to welcome our new Lunch time team member, who will be working for Chartwells very soon. As soon as this is all confirmed, we will let you know.

See below for important club information

Summer Term Clubs

This term we are pleased to be able to introduce a new club to our timetable; Mrs Goacher will be running a Stoolball club.

Stoolball is a sport that dates back to at least the 15th century, originating in [Sussex](#). It may be an ancestor of [cricket](#) sometimes called "Cricket in the air". Traditionally it was played by [milkmaids](#) who used their milking [stools](#) as a "[wicket](#)".

Stoolball is played on grass with 2 teams, one team fielding and the other batting. Each over consists of 8 balls. The "wicket" itself is a square piece of wood at head or shoulder height fastened to a post. Traditionally the seat of a stool hung from a post or tree was used. Some versions used a tall stool placed upright on the ground.

We also have a new 'Debating' club which Mrs Pinnington will be running where children will be able to discuss current topics of their choice. They will be able to build on their ability to present a reasoned argument and improve their research and presentation skills in a fun and exciting way.

Alex Urquhart will be introducing a Violin/Viola club for the children already learning these instruments in school. We have also invited children from Singleton to join us on a Friday for our 'String' club.

The timetable is attached with all the information for our clubs for Summer term 1, 5 weeks up to half term.

Booking will be open on School Money on Tuesday 4th April and will be on a first come first served basis. Spaces are limited to do make sure you book your places early if there is a particular club that your child is interested in. We are always looking for new ideas for our clubs so if you would like to volunteer for an after school activity, please do let us know.

Cookery Club - Our very own Master Chefs made Almond Balls with artichoke mash this week - the recipe is attached if you would like to have a go. Please do send us in your photographs of your finished products and there will be a small prize for the best presentation, judged by our Cookery Club children.

We are very much looking forward to our blueberry brownies next week - look out for the recipe in next week's newsletter, so that you can have a go at making them over the Easter holidays.

Art Club - this will be open to younger members for the Summer Term, but our KS2 children would like to open their gallery to any grown ups who are collecting from clubs on Monday 3rd April. This is the last day and we hope to finish our Impressionist inspired Acrylic masterpieces, ready for a short display at 3:55pm.

Mrs. Moss's Art club have been working very hard on paintings inspired by two of Van Gogh's pictures, which are Sunflowers and Starry Night. We mixed them together to create a painting of sunflowers on a Starry night background.

On Monday we are going to be finishing our paintings and we Would like you to invite you to our informal short gallery.

Date: 3rd of March

Time: 3:55 – 4:05pm

Place: Maple Class West Dean C.E. Primary School

Here are some of our paintings at the different stages



invitation by Esther and Alex

STAFFING News

Governor news

We hope to be able to announce our new governor membership in our next newsletter. The parents who have been nominated and elected will be contacted this week by Mrs. Shears (Clerk to Governors) and by Wendy Goacher, our Chair of Governors.

Governors visited us this week to look at our reading, writing and spelling in our classrooms. They attended a staff meeting to discuss their observations and feedback to our Governing Body meeting this week.

e-safety warning:

Do you know where your children are?

There is an app called: 'Movie Star Planet ' which children are accessing and playing games on. This app/game has some very unsavoury and inappropriate elements to it. It also exposes children to potential grooming by unsavoury adults. Please seek advice and be aware of where your children go on the internet.

Dates for 2017

Spring Term Tuesday 3rd January - Friday 7th April 2017

Monday 3rd April - Art Club Gallery - 3:55 - 4:05pm

W/C Monday 3rd April - Bikeability for Year 6 at Singleton School

Monday 3rd April, 2pm - Rocksteady Concert

Tuesday 4th April, 8.45 - Apple Class Assembly

Wednesday 5th April - Dance House Event, Alexandra theatre, Bognor - rehearsal and performance

Thursday 6th April, 8.45 - Maple Class Open Morning

Tuesday 25th April - Year 5 Weald & Downland RSPB Day

Monday 1st May - BANK HOLIDAY

Wednesday 3rd May, 2.30 - chestnut Class CFT visit, 40 Years On

Thursday 4th May - Election Day School open as normal

W/C Monday 8th May - SATS and Assessment Week for Y6 and all KS2 children

Thursday 18th May - Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 25th May - Racing to school at Goodwood - Year 6

Friday 26th May - INSET

Thursday 8th June am - Governor Visits

Monday 12th June - Yellow School Photos

Saturday 17th June - School Fete

W/C 19 June - Parent Evenings Year 1, 3, 5

Friday 23rd June 1.15pm - Year 6 Leavers Service at Chichester Cathedral

Tuesday 4th July - GAS Sports at Boxgrove (selected pupils)

Wednesday 5th July - INSET

Monday 10th July - Cricket at Boxgrove (selected pupils)

Wednesday 12th July - Whole School Production (details to follow)

Friday 14th July, 2.00pm - Music Concert

Wednesday 19th July, 9.00 - Sports Morning

Thursday 20th July, 9.00 - Sports Morning Reserve

Our PTA are considering dates for a potential **family walk and BBQ** on the weekend of the **6th/7th May**, and a possible **family and friends sponsored run** in September, as we are facing a PTA year without the Apple Affair, which will no longer be in the West Dean calendar. The next PTA meeting is planned for **Thursday 30th March** in the evening.

	Current Useful Information and Reminders
Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions	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.
Spring Term Clubs and Care Bears 	<p>Care Bears After School Provision - this will run every day from 3.00-4.00. This is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! Please make sure that you have booked for your required places through www.schoolmoney.co.uk. We have had a number of children this term, expecting to be in Care Bears but not booked in or paid for. We only have 1 member of staff and 12 places each day and this has caused us issues. If you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know. You can cancel your place through school money and your account will be credited or Please email the office (office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk - 01243 811247) Thank you for your support in this matter.</p> <p>Information is now available regarding clubs for the summer term. The timetable for summer term 1 clubs is attached for your information. Booking will be open on Schoolmoney from Tuesday 4th April.</p>
	<p>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. Current events available to book are Forty Years On, Dance House and summer term clubs and care bears</p>
Class Open Mornings	<p>Class Open Mornings - Apple Class - Friday 24th March Maple Class - Thursday 6th April Beech Class - Friday 31st March Chestnut Class - TBC</p> <p>These are dates when you will be able to spend 20 - 30 minutes in the classroom, finding out about how we learn and teach some specific concepts and skills. We hope that you will join us to aid you in supporting your children.</p>
	<p>Premises Team Member - We are seeking to appoint a team member to help us with the task of keeping our school clean and tidy and helping to create a happy, healthy learning environment for our children. If you think you might be the right person to join our team, please do come into the school office and have a chat to us, we would love to hear from you. Please see attached information for further details.</p> <p>Please do take some time to consider if someone you know might like this role. We can offer care-bear or other club attendance as part of our contract, to ensure that the cleaning role 'fits in' around family commitments.</p>

*Acorn Awards -
Friday 23rd March 2017*

Freddie - for great progress with his sounds

Elizabeth - for always challenging herself with her reading

Otto - for using his sounds to help him with his writing and for great written responses in guided reading

James - for showing vast improvement in his answers during book club sessions and for organising a Red Nose Day football event.

Jack - for answering questions at Butser Farm and by being curious to find out as much as he can by asking thought provoking questions

Kitty - for her enthusiastic and positive attitude to her learning

Mathilde - for her perceptive mathematical observations when working on surface area

Friday 31st March 2017

Daisy - for her super cow made from a paper plate

Christopher - for amazing spring colour mixing

Elodie - for her great work in French this week, really enjoying trying out new sounds and words

Cameron - for massive improvement in his handwriting recently

Will - for explaining his mathematical thinking clearly and confidently on the carpet

Alex - for applying his understanding of volume to successfully complete our 'design and make' challenge

Amelie - for showing a positive attitude in class and sharing her thoughts with us