



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 6 21st October 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

The half term has come to an end with another week of exciting learning, including the exotic animals who were the subject of lots of discussion and writing in YR to Y4 and Y6 have been completing their Titanic work and preparing for their Community Café, which was held this afternoon. Very appropriately, the funds raised from this French themed event will be put towards subsidising the cost of our residential visit to Normandy with Chestnut Class in March 2017. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported and/or baked!

Please do put the class **Open Morning dates** in your diaries, as these are the best way to find out how we teach key concepts. You won't be put on the spot - you will just be able to join in with your child in class! After half term we have **Maple Class on Tuesday 8th** and **Beech Class on Wednesday 9th**, **Chestnut Class on Monday 14th** and **Apple Class on Tuesday 15th November**. These are not suitable for younger siblings: if you would find a *crèche* useful for any of our Open Morning dates, please do let us know *in advance* and we will do our best to arrange this for you.

The Children have been busy designing their own Christmas cards this week. The designs will be sent off and a sample card will be made for each child. After half term the sample and an order form will be sent home. You will then have the opportunity to order Christmas cards, gift tags and mugs with your child's design on them. A percentage of all sales go directly to school. More detailed information explaining how to order will be sent home after half term, so keep an eye out for this!

We are now ready to introduce our **new on-line payments** system in school to enable you to book for trips and clubs etc. and make payments on-line. We will still take cheque and cash payments in the office if *absolutely necessary* but we are hoping that the majority of payments will be made on-line. We will also have the facility for you to make card payments at the office. This will help to keep us all a bit more organised and hopefully, make things easier for you to access information and make payments. **Further details have been sent home today.**

IS YOUR CHILD WORTH LESS?

Our campaign for better funding for West Sussex schools continues, as you may have seen on national news. Pupils and staff visited 10 Downing Street with our letters. You can support our schools in our campaign for fair funding on Facebook and there is a petition which can be found at the following link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/167761>

Bonfire and Fireworks Display - Friday 4 November 2016

West Dean Estate are holding their traditional free bonfire and firework display for local families, West Dean staff and students on the front lawn of West Dean College. The West Dean Arms cash bar will operate from a tent on the front lawn from 5.00pm and suitably warming food will also be on sale to give everyone a chance to quench their thirst and get something to eat before the bonfire is lit at around 6.45pm. The firework display will start at around 7.15pm. Please come in via the West Dean College entrance.

Science Demonstration:

On Tuesday 15th November we are very lucky to have a visit from Tim Harrison, a working scientist, who will give a demonstration and talk to the children about materials in Earth's atmosphere. He will show case what different gases are and conduct different experiments with them. This demonstration is visually spectacular and interactive, really WOW science! If you would like to join us, please contact the school office as we have some availability for adults to be included in the audience.

<p>PE KIT</p> <p>We will no longer be sending PE kit home each week as we are still having instances of kit left at home each week. If it becomes dirty or smelly it will be sent home, otherwise we will keep it here all half term. Parents surveyed have said this will be helpful at home too! For clubs, we will be getting children changed before they come home so that kit stays here and children travel in uniform. Exceptions to this may be cycling club, where a different kit will be required to be brought in for the club. Please support us in this.</p>	
<p>Secondary School Applications</p>	<p>For children in Year 6, the closing date for Secondary School applications is on Monday 31st October. Please contact the office if you have not received details.</p>
<p>Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions</p>	<p>Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in to see your child's work, to chat to teachers and to ask about Learning Journals, at these drop-in sessions. Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15</p>
<p>Class Open Mornings 8.45-9.30 (second half of term)</p>	<p>Maple Class - Tuesday 8th November & Monday 28th November Beech Class - Wednesday 9th November & Tuesday 22nd November Chestnut Class - Monday 14th November & Wednesday 23rd November Apple Class - Tuesday 15th November & Friday 2nd December</p>
<p>Learning Journals</p>	<p>Please remember to return your Learning Journals to school on Monday 17th October.</p>
<p>Class Assemblies 8.45</p>	<p>Thursday 10th November Beech Thursday 24th November Chestnut Thursday 1st December Maple Friday 9th December Apple</p>
<p>Valley Voices</p>	<p>Please do come and join our 'Valley Voices' choir which will be led by Emily Barden in the school hall, 6.00-7.00, every Wednesday evening. (term time only)</p>
<p>Autumn Term Clubs and Care Bears</p>	<p>Care Bears After School Provision - this will run every day from 3.00-4.00.</p> <p>Please make outstanding payments to Mrs Mugeridge or the office as soon as possible.</p> <p>Please see attached club timetable for the Autumn term.</p> <p>Please do make a note of these dates. The clubs DO NOT run throughout every week of the term!</p> <p>We would also like to remind parents that pick up time is 4pm (unless otherwise stated). Our staff have been taken advantage of by some regular late collections and we would very much like this to stop. We have decided that charges should be made if this occurs on more than one occasion, unless there is a particular unavoidable reason. The clubs are well run by our dedicated team who really care for the children: please do respect their time and good will by ensuring you arrive in good time for collection.</p> <p>If you have signed up for a club it is important that children attend each week once they are allocated a place: often clubs have limited numbers and waiting lists. We often have disappointed children when forms are not returned on time or clubs are full. There is a lot of organisation required to co-ordinate all of our clubs and we do our best to ensure that children can attend the clubs they have selected. Please do support us in this by committing to their attendance and not leaving booking to the last minute.</p> <p>Please remind your children which clubs they are doing to avoid confusion at the end of the day.</p> <p>Care Bear Cub will be available every day, but places are not guaranteed and should be booked in advance. This is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! If you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know.</p> <p>Please email: sandra.mugeridge@btinternet.com 07852 255628 (Please note new telephone number) Thank you for your support in this matter.</p> <p>AAA Coaching will be available on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th October during half term. They will also be available on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December, in the Christmas holiday. See attached flyer for information and how to book your place.</p>
<p>School Uniform</p>	<p>If you have ordered and received uniform, please could you make payment to the school office as soon as possible. We still have a number of outstanding payments.</p>

Dates for 2016/17

Autumn Term Tuesday 6th September - Friday 16th December 2016

Half Term Holiday Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Thursday 3rd November - Thursday 24th November - 1.00-2.30 Chestnut Class - Squash at West Dean

Tuesday 8th November, 9.30-11.45 - GAS Football Tournament at Chichester High School (selected pupils)

Wednesday 9th November - GAS Enrichment Maths at The March (selected pupils)

Thursday 10th November, 8.45 - Beech Class Assembly

Friday 11th November, 8.45 - Remembrance Assembly - all welcome

Tuesday 15th November, 10.00-11.0 - Tim Harrison Science Demonstration

Wednesday 16th November 9.30 - Chestnut Class Weald & Downland Visit (Takeover Day)

Monday 21st November, 8.30 - Yellow School Individual and Sibling Photographs - please let us know if you would like to include pre-school siblings (we do this at 8:20am)

Monday 21st November, 11.00 - Flu Vaccination for Year 1, 2, 3

Thursday 24th November, 8.45 - Chestnut Class Assembly

Thursday 24th November - Able Writers Workshop at Portfield Primary (selected yr5/6 pupils)

Thursday 1st December, 8.45 - Maple Class Assembly

Wednesday 7th December, 2.30 - Apple & Maple Theatre Visit (information to follow)

Friday 9th December, 8.45 - Apple Class Assembly

Friday 9th December, time tbc - Violin performance

Monday 12th December, 2.15 - Rocksteady Concert

Tuesday 13th December, 12.00 - Chartwell's Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 14th December, 1.00 - Christingle making at West Dean

Wednesday 14th December - Christingle Service at West Dean Church - **5:15pm**

Thursday 15th December, 8.45 - End of Term Assembly - all welcome

Tuesday 3rd January - Spring Term begins for children

Wednesday 11th January, 9.15-11.30 - Chestnut Class Festival of Singing rehearsal at Chichester High School

Thursday 19th January, - Festival of Singing - Y5/6 at Chichester Festival Theatre - rehearsal in the day and performance in the evening - info to follow

Acorn Awards - Friday 21st October 2016

Claude - for careful colour mixing after our Autumn walk

Aaron – for his amazing shape work and vocabulary

Amelie – for really challenging herself in maths by crossing the tens boundary when adding

Maia – for using lots of brilliant punctuation and vocabulary in her story

Kitty – for putting thought and effort into her Titanic writing

Oscar – for showing a positive attitude to his learning and demonstrating respect at all times – always doing the right thing