



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ

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 30 08.05.26

Our overall attendance level for the year has remained at **96%** this week.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).



West Dean Baby News

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Reynolds has welcomed her healthy baby girl, Freddy, into the world, born 22nd April, weighing 6.6lbs. Huge congratulations to Mr & Mrs Reynolds.

Mrs Pierron came to visit us this week too and we were able to meet little Gabriel for the first time, who is now 5 months old and full of smiles!

Swimming Pool

We have made really good progress with our swimming pool preparations this year and we are almost ready to open for after school use. **We are pleased to be able to offer a poolside first aid training session with Mrs Gocher on Monday 18th May, 1.00-3.00pm. If you feel that you would like to join in so that you can help with supervising our after school sessions, please do let me know.**

In order to run the after school swim sessions we need a First Aider and a Supervisor so please sign up if you can to help us share the duties. A rota will be available soon. The pool is ready for use, in school, depending on the weather and water temperature, so if we get the opportunity, the children will be swimming. Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit in school, everyday, in a named bag. Thank you for your support and fingers crossed for some lovely sunny weather. The pool will be open straight after the half term holiday for after school use.



Maple Class Plea for Newspaper

Maple class are in desperate need for some newspaper please. If you have any old newspapers that you are able to donate please do bring them in, we

would be very grateful, thank you.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 15th July (late afternoon / early evening—timings TBC)

Whole School Exhibition & Showcase of our summer learning journey 'There's a Power in the Music'

Following the success of our Olympic themed combined learning journey two summers ago, this year all of the children in the school will be working on a music inspired cross-curricular learning journey. The culmination of this half term of work will be celebrated at an exhibition event on 15th July, in school. We would love to see every family joining us to celebrate their child's achievements, so please save the date and further details of precise timings will be coming soon.



Headphones

We are in desperate need of some headphones that we can use for the children in class. If you have any that you are able to donate please do drop them in.

We are looking for just ordinary headphones, **of the kind that are worn outside the ear**, with a standard audio jack plug. Thank you.



Many hands make light work!

Now that the weather is improving we would like to put up the gazebo so that the children can eat outside at lunch times. If you are able to stay and help us with this on **the morning of Monday 18th May**, your help would be greatly appreciated. There more people the easier the job.

Three children from Y5 joined pupils from our partnership schools at an enrichment day at Chichester Cathedral today. Cathedral education leader, Rosie Bradberry, led a fantastic day of art & craft activity inspired by, and in preparation for, the Festival of Flowers. Guided by chief FOF designer, Caroline Daines, the children made part of the installation that will be placed on the central Arundel screen in the cathedral during the festival in June. It was an amazing day and our budding artists and florists were brilliant!





Marvellous Musicians

Wow! We had a record-breaking nineteen performers at this week's Music Assembly. With recorder, piano, guitar, voice and violin, it was a real showcase of the talent that we have here at West Dean. For some children, it was the first time they had bravely performed while others are more seasoned performers. A really big WELL DONE to all those involved!

Maple Class Gardening Adventure

Maple Class have been busy gardeners this term! At the start of term, the children planted a variety of seeds and have since enjoyed spotting the first signs of growth as tiny green shoots appear.

The sunflowers have been a particular focus for the class. Although they are still small and just beginning to sprout, the children are excitedly checking them each day and observing the changes as they grow.

This has been an important part of the children's learning journey, as they explore what plants need to grow and stay healthy. They have learnt that plants need air, water and light, and are beginning to understand how these help plants to grow strong.

Mrs Chesshire's love of gardening has inspired the children and supported their growing interest in caring for the plants. The children have taken responsibility for watering and looking after the plants, working together to ensure they continue to grow. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and understanding develop alongside their seedlings.

We look forward to watching the garden continue to develop over the coming weeks!



News from West Dean 'Friends' Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

'Pre-loved Uniform: westdeanuniform@gmail.com. If you have any specific requirements from our pre-loved uniform, don't wait for the next sale, you can email us to see if we have what you need!

Friends are busy planning for our Summer Sizzler event, Friday 19th June - Save the Date.

Please do let us know if you are able to help in any way, run a stall, donate your expertise, organise etc, we would love to hear from you. Look out for **raffle tickets** coming soon. Each family will be allocated x2 books to sell, these will be sent home within the next week or so.

David Covers

A huge thank you to David Covers for donating x2 lovely new benches for our grounds. Thank you to Keith Goacher for collecting them for us and to Ian Staples for figuring out the flat pack instructions and putting them together!



Final 2025/26 INSET Day: Wednesday 22nd July 2026

All 2026/27 INSET Days:

Autumn: Tues 1st September 2026 (school closure), Weds 2nd September

Spring: Mon 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Mon 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Summer Term 2026: Monday 13th April — Tuesday 21st July.

Half term break — Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

Saturday 9th May	Chichester Cormorants Swim Gala (details to follow)
Monday 11th May	SATs Week
Tuesday 12th May	Maple Class visit to Waitrose—Farm to Fork
Tuesday 12th May	1.00-3.00, SSP Quadkids (selected Yr 3/4)
Wednesday 13th May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Wednesday 13th May	7pm, Parish Council Meeting for Pupil Parliament
Thursday 14th May	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 15th May	8.30am, Friends Meeting (Class Reps)
Monday 18th May	1.00-3.00, Poolside First Aid session with Mrs Goacher for after school swim sessions
Tuesday 19th May	Dancehouse—rehearsal and performance for Dance Club
Tuesday 19th May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Wednesday 20th May	Open The Book Worship in School
Wednesday 20th May	2.30, Chestnut Class Residential Visit meeting for parents/carers
Thursday 21st May	School Nurse in school—Year R screening
Thursday 21st May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Friday 22nd May	Last day of the first half term
Half term break	
Tuesday 2nd June	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Thursday 4th June	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 5th June	Foodbank Friday
Monday 8th June	Yellow School Photos, Year 6 Leavers' and Classes
Tuesday 9th—Fri 12th June	Chestnut Class Residential Visit to YHA Medway
Monday 15th June	Sports Afternoon (all welcome)
Wednesday 17th June	Open The Book Worship in School
Thursday 18th June	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 19th June	3.00-6.00pm, 'Friends' Summer Sizzler Event
Monday 22nd June	Open The Book Worship in School
Monday 22nd June	1.30, Year 6 Leavers' Service—Chichester Cathedral
Thursday 25th June	Beech Class Big Camp (Year 4 camping)
Friday 26th June	Beech Class Activity Day (Year 3 & 4)
Monday 29th June	Sports Afternoon (Reserve date in case of bad weather on the 15th June)
Thursday 2nd July	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Thursday 2nd July	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 7th July	Hugo Vand Driel Assembly in school
Wednesday 15th July	Whole School Music Event—Save the Date (details to follow)
Thursday 16th July	End of Term Disco (details to follow)
Friday 17th July	Year 6 Bikeability at West Dean
Monday 20th July	Year 6 Bikeability at Singleton
Tuesday 21st July	2.45, Mrs Chilton's Afternoon Tea (all welcome)



- Yr R Winnie - for being a fantastic role model and having a great attitude to your learning.*
- Yr 1 Wilf R - for your confidence in writing independently. Brilliant work this week!*
- Yr 2 Hugo Y - for your super writing this week on our story 'The Disgusting Sandwich' Great use of sentence starters and use of adjectives.*
- Yr 3 Theo - for quietly getting on with your learning and doing so brilliantly, showing more and more resilience.*
- Yr 4 Harry - for your gentle and kind manner towards both children and adults. What a role model you are!*
- Yr 5 Frank - for your teamwork and listening skills on Thursday afternoon whilst problem solving!*
- Yr 6 Lilly - for digging deep this week and working hard to make the most of all the extra revision for SATs. You've got this Lilly, we know you can do it!*



Working in partnership with our BLLP Trust schools, we are offering parents and families an opportunity to engage in an information and training session designed to support you in navigating the increasingly complex digital world safely and positively. We are grateful to Fishbourne School for hosting this event—full detail below. This is really critical aspect of your child’s development and we therefore wholeheartedly encourage you to engage in this opportunity if you are able.



**You are invited to Fishbourne CE Primary School on
Wednesday 3rd June at 7pm for a 90-minute workshop called:**

Let’s Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech

This session, Let’s Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech, offers parents and carers clear, research-backed insights and practical strategies for managing children’s mental health and tech use. It covers the impact of smartphones and social media, helping families set healthy boundaries and make informed choices. The session is non-judgmental, open for honest discussion, and for adults only.

<https://www.papayatalks.com/about>

Papaya have already been to Fishbourne Primary to lead workshops for children in Year 4, 5 and 6 which were excellent – this workshop is appropriate for parents of children of all ages.

Please register your interest with office@fishbourneprimary.co.uk so we can make sure we have enough tea and biscuits!

“The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it.”

Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

Once Upon a Storytime...



Step back in time this half term for some spellbinding stories and a charming craft activity



Tuesday 26 May 2026

10.00 - 11.00am

Suitable for children aged 4+

Booking essential – please speak with staff to reserve a place
Parents and carers must remain with their child during this activity