



West Dean CE Primary School

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 3 18.09.26

Our whole school attendance has dipped slightly this week, to **96.8%**.

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

*This week's winning
House Team is Kite
with 126 points
Well done everyone
Great effort!*



Thursday this week was our first West Dean Wellbeing Walk of the year and although it was a wet start, the weather brightened up and we all had a glorious morning. The younger children were looking for the first signs of autumn, in the gradually changing colours of the leaves. we are so lucky to learn in such a beautiful place. Thank you to our extra adult volunteers, who helped make the morning run safely.



Please note: Mrs Shears will be out of the office at a Trust Partnership meeting on Tuesday 22nd September.

Mrs Bailey will be in the office during the morning but if you need to contact us during the afternoon please use the office email which will be monitored and we will respond. Thank you for your understanding.



Don't forget, you can follow us on Instagram. Search for **@westdeanceprimary**



Friends Meeting

Wednesday 23rd September, 2.30pm

Our first 'Friends' meeting of the year will be held in the pavilion on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.30. This will be for our year group representatives, we look forward to seeing you there.

Information will then be communicated through class 'WhatsApp' groups to the rest of the school community. Please do let us know if you are interested in becoming a Year Group Rep.

One of the topics for discussion will be our school participation in the West Dean Christmas Market. This proved to be an extremely valuable fundraising event for our school last year, but to run a stall over two full days again this year, we will need significant help from parents and families. Please come along to find out more about how you can support us.

Please see the Christmas Wreath banner on this page for details of this year Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November.



Apple Class Plea

We are desperately in need of some spare pants in Apple Class, just in case of little accidents! Boys and girls, any pants very gratefully received. Thank you!

A festive banner for Christmas Wreath Making Workshops. The background is a close-up of a Christmas wreath with green leaves, red berries, and pinecones. A large, golden, five-pointed star is centered on the banner. Text is written in various fonts and colors around and inside the star.

Create a beautiful Wreath to take home

Enjoy Festive drinks

Mince pies and Biscuits

A wonderful Christmas atmosphere

£4.50 per person

Booking open on Arbor to our West Dean Families

CHRISTMAS
Wreath Making Workshops
MONDAY 30TH
NOVEMBER
—★—
11am & 7pm

Brought to you by
West Dean School PTA & Friends

Book here

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern.

11am Session

FARBRIDGE
BINDERTON
CHICHESTER
PO18 0JT

Book here

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern.

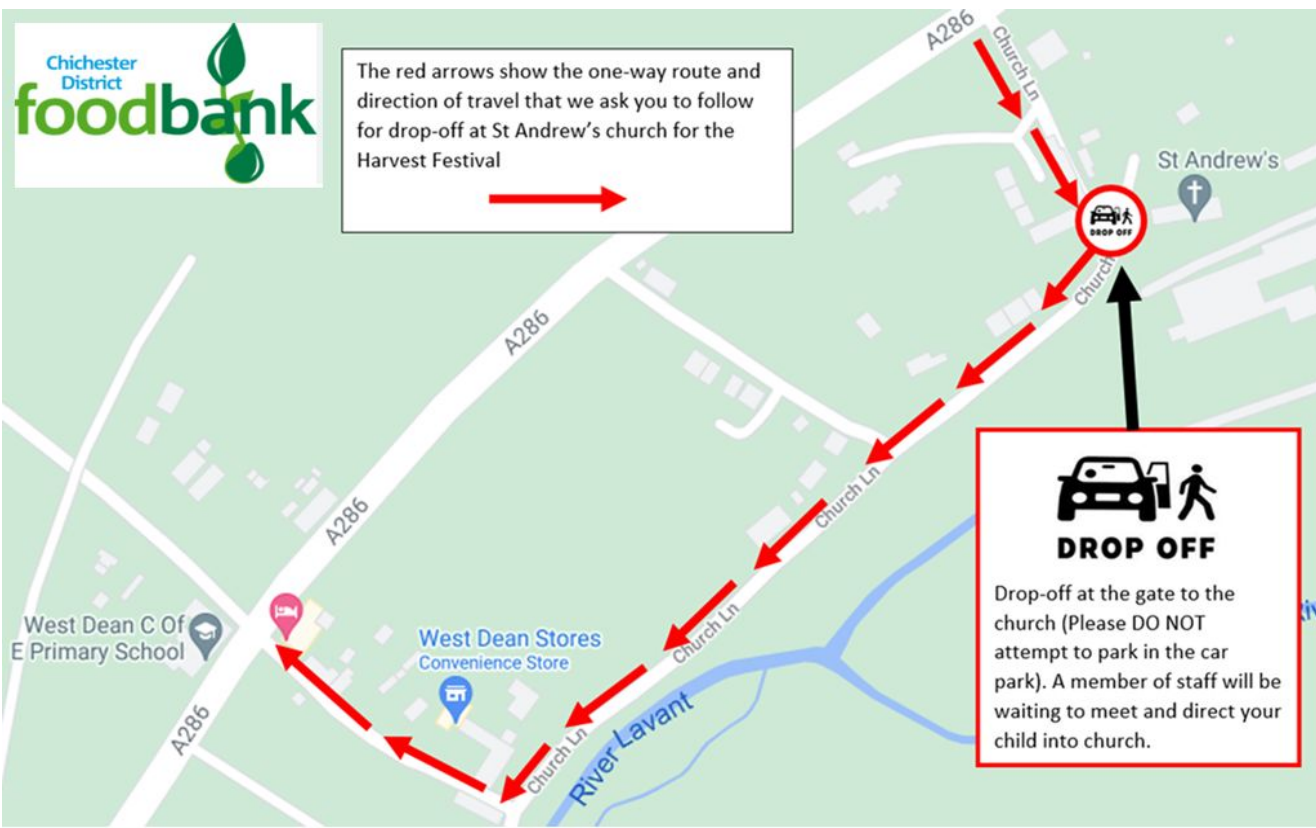
7pm Session



We will be supporting the work of Chichester Foodbank through our harvest collection and would be grateful of your donations of food / grocery items. The most urgently needed items are: **Treats (Kit Kat Snack Bars etc), Tinned Tomatoes or Passata, Kitchen Roll, Tinned or Packet Soup, Rice Pudding or Custard, Deodorant and Shampoo, Tinned Meat or Vegetarian Meals, Instant Mashed Potato, Washing Up Liquid, Jam, Honey, Spreads etc, Dried Lentils and Pulses, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fish, Long Life Milk and Fruit Juice.** It would be helpful to receive these in earlier in the week, from **Monday 21st to Thursday 24th September.**

We are delighted to be holding our School Harvest Festival Service in St Andrew's Church, West Dean, next **Friday 25th September at 8.45am.** We ask parents and carers to bring children **directly to the church** for the service **by 8.30am**, ready for an 8.45 start, rather than coming to school first.

Staff will be on hand to welcome the children from 8.25 and we ask that you access Church Lane from the A285, operating a **one-way system**, dropping off at the Church and exiting through the village. Parents, carers and relatives are welcome to join us for the service, which will last for approximately half an hour. If you intend to do so, please drop your child off first, as described above, before finding parking elsewhere in the village.





*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 18th September 2026*



- Year R - Todd - for a brilliant start in Apple Class. A super role model! :)*
- Year 1 - Toby - for being so kind and caring to the new Reception children.*
- Year 2 - Wilfred - for the pure joy you bring to Maple Class. You entertain us with your stories which link so beautifully with our learning.*
- Year 3 - India - for making an excellent start in Beech Class, you are always kind, caring and very polite to all of your peers as well as teachers. You are a delight!*
- Year 4 - Seb - for working very hard this week. You listened attentively and always had your hand up with different ideas. Your contributions and effort are greatly appreciated.*
- Year 5 - Viva - for always being ready to learn! You check the board, follow instructions, think for yourself and help others. What a star!*
- Year 6 - Frank - for showing kindness, consideration and maturity when helping Apple Class at the start of our wellbeing walk yesterday.*





To the children and families of West Dean and Singleton schools,

The Valley Parish welcomes all pupils back to school after what we hope was a FUN-FILLED summer! We particularly welcome all new families, whether joining in Year R or later in the school.

As pupils of Singleton and West Dean Schools, you are a part of the Valley Parish Church Family and we would LOVE to see you at one of our Sunday services.

The pattern of services is:

First Sunday (6th September)

10AM, East Dean, Worship + Communion

Second Sunday (13th September)

10AM, Singleton, Worship + Communion

Third Sunday (20th September)

10AM, West Dean, Worship + Communion

Fourth Sunday (27th September)

11AM, West Dean, Children's Church

Every Fourth Sunday, we host Children's Church at West Dean which is 30 minutes of worship, games, stories and songs.

There is also cake and coffee before the service to chat and get to know the Valley Parish community.

In September, we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival at Children's Church and thanking God for all we have. We hope you can join us and would LOVE to see you there.

Rev. Sarah Manouch
priestvalley.parish@gmail.com

Bookfest visiting authors

We have been lucky enough to secure dates with visiting authors, as part of Bookfest 2026. Wednesday 7th October

for Apple and Maple: Gareth P Jones with the book 'Chicken Vs Egg' and Thursday 8th October for Beech and Chestnut: Kieran

Larwood with the book 'Jed Greenleaf'. In addition to an exciting author visit each child will receive a copy of the book.

In the past we have been able to fund this through school but this year, as finances are so squeezed, we would like to request a donation from parents towards the cost of this. A payment will be set up on Arbor to enable parents to make a suggested contribution of £4.20 per child.

Thank you for your support with this, we know that this will be a valuable experience for our children.



CHILDREN'S BOOKFEST



How beautiful is this piece of natural art, created by the children in Forest School this afternoon! We never cease to be amazed by the creativity of Ms Boxall and her Forest Schoolers - instead of throwing away flowers after a spot of dead-heading, each petal was used to create this incredibly colourful creature. Wow!



**THE VALE
BALLET
CLUB**

Where little dancers grow in confidence

A fun and friendly ballet class designed especially for children aged 4–11 years.

2 AGE GROUPS | EVERY MONDAY

4–6 YEARS	7–11 YEARS
16:00 – 16:45 (45 MINS)	17:00 – 17:45 (45 MINS)

£50
FOR 6 WEEKS

EARLY BIRD OFFER
£45
UNTIL MONDAY 31ST AUGUST

USE CODE: BALLET5

STARTS
MONDAY
14TH SEPTEMBER

6 WEEK TERMS
BUILD SKILLS
AND CONFIDENCE

LIMITED TO
15 SPACES
PERSONAL
ATTENTION

PARENTS CAN
RELAX IN
COMFORT IN
OUR CAFE

Book your place online!
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
www.thevalecafestudio.co.uk/ballet-club



SCS
SOUTH COAST SPORTS

Trusted services,
quality coaching

**WEST DEAN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**MULTI SPORTS | Y2 - Y6
FRIDAYS 3PM - 4PM**

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk OR via iPAL

Caterlink

We have had a good start to the term with our new catering provider, Caterlink. The meals are freshly cooked each day and delivered in for lunch time. The system is running smoothly and the children are enjoying the new choices of food. Please do have a look and give it go, meals can be ordered through ParentPay. You will have been sent a welcome message inviting you to set up an account for your child.

UFSM

Children in Apple and Maple class are entitled to UFSM. This means that they may have a free school meal each day. These meals do need to be ordered through ParentPay, in advance. Please be aware that if you have ordered a meal school will be charged for it. If your child brings a packed lunch please remember to cancel your ordered meal. This will save waste and will save the school money.



Dear Parents and Carers,

The government recognises the benefits of providing a healthy school meal to the most disadvantaged pupils.

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children attending school, from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free meal.

There will be two categories of benefits-based free school meals:

- **Targeted FSM**, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.
- **Expanded FSM**, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

Who is eligible for benefits-based free school meals?

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, FSM eligibility has been expanded to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings. Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

A pupil is only eligible to receive a free school meal where both:

- a claim for this support has been made
- their eligibility has been verified by the school where they are enrolled or by the local authority

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for [families with no recourse to public funds](#)

If you think this applies to your child, you can apply on-line:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#how-to-apply>

If your child is currently in receipt of FSM, they will continue to receive this but you will need to re-apply to be eligible for either targeted or expanded FSM. Please do let us know if you need any assistance with the application process.



CHICHESTER CITY
FOOTBALL CLUB

CHICHESTER CITY
GIRLS U11s
(CURRENT YR 5/6)

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A GOALKEEPER



KEEN GOALKEEPER
IDEALLY WITH
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE



TRAINING:
TUESDAY EVENINGS
6-7PM
AT CHICHESTER FOOTBALL CLUB



GAMES:
SATURDAY MORNINGS





MESSAGE SEAN FOR MORE INFO:
07971 824541

Pirate Day Lunch



Thursday 1st October 2026

~ MENU ~

Crispy Coated Chicken
or Veggie Dippers
Chips, Baked Beans, Peas
& Tomato Ketchup
Mini Doughnuts & Fruit

Also available: Jacket Potato with Fillings,
Salad Bar, Homemade Bread & Yoghurt



caterlin
feeding the imagination

Get more out of what you're into!

Writing Workshop

For ages 11-14



Join an award-winning YA author, Nicola Garrard, for two hours of dedicated writing time, publishing insight and discussion.

Bring your ideas, poetry and stories and get personal feedback, next steps and encouragement.

Free, but places are limited. Please book your place online.



Scan to find out more!

The Novium Museum
Saturday 14 November | 10.15am - 12.15pm
Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1QH

GO ALL IN.




September 2026

Dear parents and carers of Year 6 pupils,

We hope that you will consider sending your child to Bishop Luffa School in September 2026. We pride ourselves on the family feel of our school, which is based on our Christian values and our belief that children should experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding an **Open Evening** on **Thursday 8th October**. Classrooms will be open from 5.30pm until 7.45pm. This event is open to all parents, carers and children and you do not need to book to look around the school.

However, in order to reduce overcrowding in our main Hall, we will be asking parents and carers to book to attend one of the Head Teacher's talks (taking place at 6.00pm, 7.00pm and 8.00pm). Booking for the talks will be through Eventbrite and the **booking system will open at 8.00am on Thursday 10th September**. Please click on this link to book. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/head-teachers-talk-at-bishop-luffa-school-open-evening-2026-tickets-2000149996482?aff=oddtcreator>
Talks will be given by the Head Teacher, our School Captains and some of our new Year 7s, before you are taken on a tour around the school by our Sixth Formers.

We will also be holding Open Mornings for Year 6 pupils and their families from Monday 12th October – Friday 16th October. The Open Mornings are from 9.30am until 11.00am. Booking is required as there are limited spaces available for each morning. Attendees will need to arrive by 9.30am when the Head will give a talk before you are shown around the school by some of our students. Booking for the Year 6 Open Mornings are through Eventbrite and **the booking system will open at 8.00am on Thursday 10th September**. Please click on this link to book

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishop-luffa-school-open-mornings-2026-tickets-2000151178016?aff=oddtcreator>

Please do not hesitate to contact us:

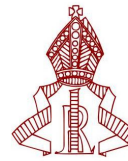
- If you have questions about the Admissions process, please email Mrs Gill Cooper admissions@bishopluffa.org.uk
- If you have questions about Year 7 specifically, please email Mr Neil Topley topleyn@bishopluffa.org.uk
- If you have questions about additional needs for your child, or if your child is on the SEND register and you would like further information, please email Mrs Olivia Basurto SENDCO@bishopluffa.org.uk
- If you have general questions about the school, please email me head@bishopluffa.org.uk

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours faithfully,



Austen Hindman.
Head Teacher



Bishop Luffa School

Part of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership

Westgate Chichester West Sussex PO19 3HP
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
Telephone: 01243 787741

Head: Mr Austen Hindman
www.bishopluffa.org.uk

INSET Days in 2026/27:

Autumn: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (school closure), Wednesday 2nd September

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

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

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Autumn Term 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 21st September	2.30, Apple Class Meet the Teacher Meeting
Tuesday 22nd September	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Tuesday 22nd September	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Wednesday 23rd September	2.30, Friends - Year Group Reps meeting
Thursday 24th September	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Friday 25th September	8.45, Harvest Service in West Dean Church
Sunday 27th September	11.00, Harvest Service in West Dean Church.
Monday 28th September	Open the Book Assembly in School
Tuesday 29th September	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Thursday 1st October	Bishop Luffa whole school worship
Thursday 1st October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Tuesday 6th October	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)

Wednesday 7th October	Bookfest Author visit, Apple and Maple. Gareth P Jones, 'Chicken Vs Egg'
Thursday 8th October	Bookfest Author visit, Beech and Chestnut. Kieran Larwood 'Jed Greenleaf'
Thursday 8th October	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Wells (no football club)
Monday 12th October	Flu Vaccination Sessions in school for all children (Closing date for consent 08.10.26)
Thursday 15th October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Friday 16th October	Foodbank Friday (please bring in donations for Chichester Foodbank)
Monday 19th October	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 20th October	Perform Drama Workshop, Apple and Maple in school
Tuesday 20th October	3.00 - 5.30, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Wednesday 21st October	3.00 - 6.00, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Thursday 22nd October	Chestnut Class visit to The Royal Courts of Justice in London (details to follow shortly)
Thursday 22nd October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells



Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Tuesday 3rd November	Hugo Van Driel - whole school assembly
Wednesday 4th November	Friends Film Night - Details tbc
Thursday 5th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only)
Thursday 5th November	'Raise your Voice' - Beech Class Music Project, details to follow
Thursday 5th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Monday 9th October	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 10th October	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks (Details to follow)
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Assembly in school
Thursday 12th November	Yellow School Photographs (Individual and Sibling)
Thursday 12th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only)
Thursday 19th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Friday 20th November	Children in Need (details to follow) - Whole School Wellbeing Walk to West Dean Gardens
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir) Details to follow
Monday 30th November	'Friends' Wreath Making event at Farbridge, 11.00am and 7.00pm. (See poster for details - coming soon)