



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 13.02.26

Our overall attendance level for the year has remained at **96.2%** this week. Let's hope the half term break helps the winter bugs to clear.

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

So glad to hear you are on the mend, Rev Sarah. We will continue to hold you in our thoughts and prayers.

Measuring the World's Largest Fish

Earlier this term, Maple Class learnt about endangered animals, including the whale shark - the largest fish in the world. This week, the children brought their learning to life by measuring out the average length of a whale shark on the playground. At an average of 12 metres long, and with a mouth measuring around 1.5 metres wide, the children were amazed by its enormous size and could clearly see just how big these gentle ocean giants really are.



Well done to our 'Headteacher for the Day'

Congratulations to Amelie, who has proven herself to be a first-class 'Headteacher for the Day'. She led Acorn Assembly this morning, supervised break times, conducted a learning walk around each of the classrooms and was a great help in putting today's newsletter together. Definitely a school leader of the future in the making. Here's what Amelie thought of the experience:

"It was really nerve-racking holding assembly and speaking in front of the whole school. It was also strange seeing where I usually stand in assembly as I was at the front of the hall instead of the corner. I have enjoyed being head teacher so far and it has been interesting in the office seeing how all the teachers work."



Well done everyone for all that has been achieved this half term. Although the weeks since Christmas have truly flown by, there has been some fantastic learning demonstrated and a real buzz about school. Have a lovely half term week off.

Staffing news

It is with very mixed emotion that I have some staffing news to share.

After many years of truly exemplary service, Mrs Chilton has informed me that she will sadly be leaving West Dean at the end of this school year, having decided to take early retirement.

We know this has been a difficult decision for Mrs Chilton, but we also know it is the right time for her and her family. She will leave very big shoes to fill.

In the summer term, there will be plenty of opportunity to say a proper goodbye to Mrs Chilton, as well as to thank her and celebrate all she has achieved during her time at West Dean. I am sure you will all agree that a more caring, loving and diligent teacher you will not find—and the good news is that we get to keep Mrs Chilton for another half a school year, so it's not goodbye yet!

This will of course have an impact on our staffing structure for September 2026; please be assured that there is already detailed planning in progress for how this will look. Further detail will be shared in the summer term.

In other news, after discussion with the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership leadership team and Trustees, it has been determined that West Dean should have a Deputy Headteacher. As well as this being of clear benefit to the strategic development of the school, there are times when the headteacher is off-site and decisions must be made by a member of staff authorised to deputise. A recent example of this was just last week when the cut in the water supply caused the sudden need to close the school.

With the above in mind, we are taking a two-phase approach to appointing a Deputy headteacher. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Sarah Johnson has been appointed as Acting Deputy Head for an interim period. Mrs Johnson will continue to work 4 days a week in Chestnut Class, and will also become more involved in the operational and strategic direction of the school. Mrs Johnson is not only a very experienced teacher, but has also completed the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL), so is more than qualified for this role.

Subject to the positive impact of this interim role, in the summer term, there will be a full recruitment process to appoint a permanent Deputy Headteacher.

Congratulations to Mrs Johnson – we are all looking forward to working with her in this new way.



FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS COMING SOON

Download our FREE Chichester District Council app today to receive live updates during service roll out, including container delivery and collection start dates.

For more information and to download our app, visit chichester.gov.uk/food-waste



West Sussex recycles



GET READY TO RECYCLE YOUR FOOD WASTE!

From spring 2026 we will be introducing a new weekly food waste collection service. Two new containers will be delivered to your home together with instructions on how to use them.

What we will deliver

To enable you to recycle your food waste easily we will provide you with:



A kitchen caddy



A roll of liners to get you started



An outside food waste recycling bin which we will empty weekly



What you can recycle

You can recycle all your food waste, including the following:



Food waste



meat & bones



dairy



Bones



Tea & coffee grounds



Fish



Rice, pasta & beans



Dairy products



Cheese



Eggs



Cooked fish



Bones



Bread & pastries



Bread



Cakes



Pastries



Raw vegetables



Cooked vegetables



Whole fruit



Peelings

When collected separately, food waste can be treated via anaerobic digestion where it will be used to generate natural forms of energy such as biogas and bio fertilisers. This is a much more efficient and environmentally friendly way of processing your food waste.

No matter how little food waste you produce, it is really important that it is recycled.



For more information and to download our app visit: chichester.gov.uk/food-waste



WEST DEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

QUIZ NIGHT

AT THE SELSEY ARMS
WED 18TH MARCH 6-9PM

TEAMS OF SIX

£15
for quiz
& meal/
dinner

Steak burger with melting cheddar fries & coleslaw

Or

Tuscan bean stew with homemade bread
(v. vegan option available))

Or

Chicken & ham pie with creamy mash & gravy



Email to book your food and ticket
office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

News from West Dean 'Friends'



Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

Wednesday 18th March—Save the Date.

Quiz Night at The Selsey Arms with host, Ken Jones.

6.00—9.00pm. £15 to include quiz ticket and meal option.

Poster with full details attached, booking is now open on Arbor.

'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! Thank you to everyone for all that you do to help and support our 'Friends'. Our next sale is **Wednesday 25th February at 3.00pm**.

Even though Christmas is over there are still some lovely West Dean gifts available! These are available to purchase from school. They are a shop item on Arbor, Tea Towels £5 each and bags now at the reduced price of £4.00.

These will make wonderful gifts for friends and family and also a lovely keepsake of your child's time at West Dean.

Look out for details of our Eggsciting Easter Event, coming soon!

Thank you to everyone who supported our film night this week, we raised £250! The children enjoyed watching Sing 2 (KS1) and Wild Robt (KS2). Thank you to our volunteers who helped with drinks and snacks too!



Westbourne House School Holiday Camp (Chichester)

Pied Piper Activities

holiday camps at Westbourne School

Embark on an exciting journey with Pied Piper multi-activity camps, the ultimate experience for children aged 4 to 12 during their Easter and Summer holidays!

Providing fantastic OFSTED registered childcare with over 60 different activities for children to take part in, you will have complete peace of mind knowing that your children are not only having a great time but are safe and cared for too.

Our camps are safe, friendly, and secure, ensuring your child's adventure unfolds in a nurturing environment. Our handpicked staff are carefully selected for their fun-loving, caring, enthusiastic and committed nature and their ability to deliver the Pied Piper difference throughout your child's week at camp.

Join Pied Piper at Westbourne House School, where joy knows no bounds, and every moment is a chance to create wonderful childhood memories that last a lifetime!



**BOOK NOW
ONLINE**



Scan me to book!



Creating wonderful childhood memories...

Contact us:

E: teamyellow@piedpiperactivities.co.uk

W: piedpiperactivities.co.uk

Follow us on:

@PiedPiperActivitiesLtd
 piedpiperactivities



Yr R Toby – for huge improvement in your reading and writing. We can see how hard you are working.

Yr 1 - Marley – for your super attitude and focus with your learning! What a brilliant role model.

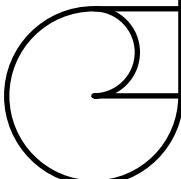
Yr 2 Margot – we are so pleased with your attitude to your learning and really making an effort with presentation. We are very impressed with your progress in learning about money and making different amounts and calculating change.

Yr 3 Freddie – for a terrific week of learning in beech class. We have spotted your focus and determination!

Yr 4 Luna – for that wonderful light bulb moment when you understood multiplication. You didn't give up and showed great resilience.

Yr 5 Nella – for being a supportive hard working partner full of good ideas and positive attitude.

Yr 6 Fynn - for your calm, organised and methodical approach to our investigation - a super role model as always.



2025/26 INSET Days

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6th January—Friday 27th March

Half term break—Monday 16th to Friday 20th February



Clarification and a polite plea — We have had some question from parents about the drop-off routine in the morning, which we are more than happy to clarify. **All children** should be on the playground ready to line up by **8.30am**. Reception children should be at their classroom door by this time. If you arrive after this time and the children have left the playground, **even if there are still parents standing on the playground**, please enter school through the front door. We need to close our gates at this time and often, as we try to close one gate, some families are rushing in via another gate and then we accidentally trap people! **By 8.30am—playground please. After 8.30am or no children on playground—enter via the front door.** Thank you.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Friday 13th February | Final day of half term |
| Monday 23rd February | INSET Day (no children in school) |
| Tuesday 24th February | First day back to school for all children |
| Tuesday 24th February | Pete Watson—Drumming Demonstration in school |
| Wednesday 25th February | 8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 |
| Wednesday 25th February | 2.45—3.30, Pre-loved Uniform Sale |
| Monday 2nd March | 1.00-3.00, SSP Stinger Netball at CGHS (rescheduled 05.02.26) |
| Wednesday 4th March | 8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day—children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character |
| Thursday 5th March | Bishop Luffa Worship in School |
| Monday 9th March | Open the Book Assembly in School |
| Wednesday 11th March | 8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 |
| Wednesday 11th March | ESSA Swimming Gala, Horsham (details to follow for selected children) |
| Wednesday 11th March | 2.00-3.00, Choir visit to Marriott House for Spring Singing (details to follow) |
| Thursday 12th March | Maple Class visit to The Living Rainforest (details to follow) |
| Thursday 12th March | 1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut) |
| Wednesday 18th March | 8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 |
| Wednesday 18th March | 2.30, Apple Class Exhibition in Hall |
| Wednesday 18th March | 2.30, Maple Class Exhibition in classroom |
| Wednesday 18th March | 'Friends' Quiz Night at The Selsey Arms (details to follow) |
| Thursday 19th March | 2.30-3.00, Beech Class Science Fair in the hall |
| Thursday 19th March | 3.00, 'Friends' Bake and Book Sale |
| Friday 20th March | Comic Relief |
| Tuesday 24th March | Beech Class visit to CFT for BFT (details to follow) |
| Wednesday 25th March | 8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 (Last Session) |
| Wednesday 25th March | SSP Arun Swim Gala (details to follow for selected children) |
| Friday 27th March | Palm Sunday Procession to West Dean Church from school. |
| Friday 27th March | Final Day of Spring Term. |