



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 22 27.02.26

Our overall attendance level for the year is **96.1%**.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#). It was wonderful to welcome Rev Sarah back into school today for a belated Ash Wednesday worship to mark the start of Lent.

Pub Closure — We were very sorry to receive news of the closure of The Selsey Arms pub earlier this week. We send Nikki Tester, the landlady, our very best wishes and good luck in her next endeavour and thank her for her support of our school during her time in West Dean. We are so sorry to see you go. Thank you for your patience this week, whilst we sought clarification on whether or not we can continue using the pub car park at drop-off and pick-up times. We understand that new management will soon be in place at The Selsey Arms and we look forward to more detail and news of when the pub may be reopening. In the meantime, we have been told that we may continue to use the car park as a school community - from this afternoon. As always, I respectfully ask that you do so in a polite manner that is considerate to other non-school users who may also be on site.

Drumming up some excitement!

Big thanks to Pete Watson for visiting us on Tuesday and inspiring some potential future rockstars. All of the children were super excited to listen to Pete and he was more than happy to share the stage with our own Chestnut Class drum legend, Jack, too!

Anyone interested in drum lessons should contact Pete on:



Tel: 07990 583874

rhythmroomdrums@hotmail.co.uk



Chichester Corporate Challenge Races

We were so caught up in the excitement of the moment on Wednesday evening, we forgot to take any photos, so please excuse the old image above—must do better at the next race! At the first of this year's three races this week, our children's teams performed brilliantly with more runners than we've seen for many years.

Thankfully the weather was on our side and the sometimes treacherous North Street pavement was perfectly dry. Everyone put down a brilliant personal best, which they will all no doubt try to beat in races two and three in a few weeks time.

Not to be outdone by the children, there was an equally good showing in the senior (B) race, by our newly formed adult team. After some nerves before the start, everyone crossed the line with fresh(ish) faces, smiles and impressive times, with Chris MacLean coming in as first placed West Dean / BLLP runner. Well done everyone—see you at the next race in two weeks (and do join us for race 2 and 3, even if you couldn't make it this week).



DRUM LESSONS



CONTACT PETE WATSON FOR MORE DETAILS ON:

07990 583874
RHYTHMROOMDRUMS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
WWW.RHYTHMROOMDRUMS.CO.UK



West Sussex Bikeability Training

Our Year 6 children will be taking part in West Sussex Bikeability training during the latter part of the summer term (July). Hopefully, this will give you plenty of time to make sure that your child has a roadworthy bicycle and helmet ready for this.

News from West Dean 'Friends'



Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

Wednesday 18th March—Save the Date.

Quiz Night at school with host, Ken Jones.

7.00—9.00pm. £5 for a quiz ticket, booking is now open on Arbor.

See below for full details.

'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 sale on Wednesday 25th February raised £27, thank you for your support.**



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 before the half term

break, we raised £250! The children enjoyed watching Sing 2 (KS1) and Wild

Robot (KS2). Thank you to our volunteers who helped with drinks and snacks too!



Quiz Night News

Sadly we have been notified of the closure of the Selsey Arms pub.

We have therefore had to change the venue and plans for our Quiz Night on

Wednesday 18th March 7.00—9.00pm.

The evening will still go ahead, with Ken Jones as our Quiz Master, but **it will take place in school.**

The cost for a ticket will be £5 per person (available on Arbor) and you are invited to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please do organise your own teams, up to maximum 8 per table.

We are hoping to raise a small amount for our 'Friends' but the main aim of the evening is a social one, so please do come along, test your knowledge and have fun!

Some exciting news

In response to our 'Friends' plea for support from local businesses, we have been working with Matt Lindsay from Growing Revolution, who is going to help us with installing a 'Living Wall' in school.

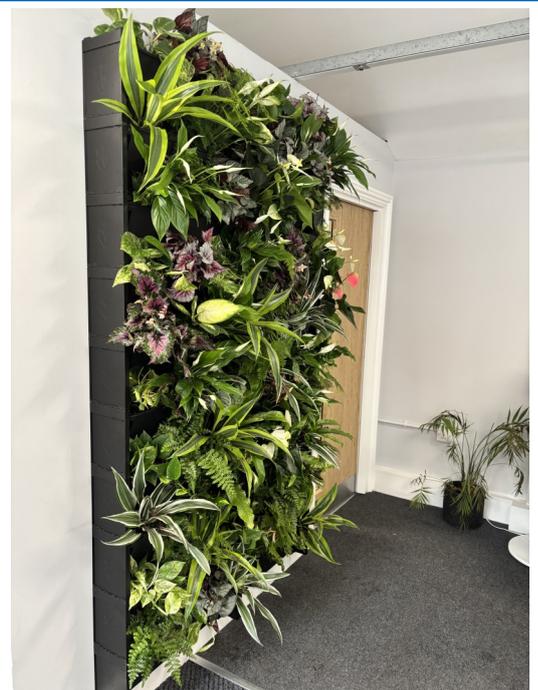
Matt will be coming in to introduce this to the children during an assembly on Thursday 26th March.

Do have a look at their website:

<https://www.growingrevolution.com>

Matt has very kindly offered our school community a very generous 15% discount, see details below:

15% discount across our website for all West Dean Primary staff and parents. You will need to enter **WESTDEAN15** at checkout to redeem this.





Monday 16th

Please bring in an
egg to decorate
(in box)

- real chicken egg
- not cooked

Tuesday 17th

Pupil Parliament will
judge the eggs. A
winner from each year
will be chosen

Easter
Week
'Friends'
events

Thursday
19th

March
Bake Sale
Invited to bring in
a bake to sell
?use your
egg?

We are advertising the following teaching opportunity. If you know of any teachers looking for a new opportunity, please do circulate this advertisement. We welcome applications from ECTs (Early Career Teachers).

Vacancy: Full time class teacher role for two school terms of maternity cover from 1st September 2026.

Are you an enthusiastic, inspiring, caring teacher, looking for a job in a wonderful Church of England school, where children and adults learn together and everyone's ideas and contributions are valued?

West Dean CE Primary is a small, Church of England village school, with a charming Victorian building and beautiful grounds, set in the heart of the South Downs National Park. The school is an exciting and busy environment where Christian values and the needs of each individual child are at the heart of all we do. We recently converted to an academy school as a member of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. This partnership enables exciting and supportive collaborative work with pupils and colleagues across the six Trust schools in the Chichester area.

We also have excellent links with local organisations, particularly West Dean College of Arts and Conservation. We have a deep connection with the outdoors, making best use of our environment to support our curriculum, as well as unique opportunities for enrichment through exploring the West Dean Estate. Our families come from near and far, choosing our school because of its high standards, Christian ethos and the range of exciting learning opportunities we offer.

We focus on what is important in education and in life, and our teachers have the freedom to be creative, use their professional judgements and innovate. We are really proud of our team and are looking for an enthusiastic teacher to bring new things to our school.

Our children hope that, as our new teacher, you will be: *kind, fun, confident, intelligent, scientific, calm, energetic, understanding, honest, thoughtful, polite, happy and strict but fair.*'

Our adults are looking for someone who: *has a passion for teaching, thinks deeply, understands how we all learn, is creative, adaptable, reflective, positive, fun-loving, resilient, organised, forgiving and hard-working.*'

We need a teacher who will: *laugh with us, who will celebrate the individuality of every child and team member, who will be able to wear lots of different hats and have an open mind. We will give you support and respect, time and space to flourish, and we will value your contributions and happily share our expertise.*

We are looking for a temporary, full time maternity cover, class teacher. The ideal candidate will have the experience and willingness to work in any phase within the school. We would welcome applications from ECTs.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

We strongly advise that you visit us to get a feel for all we value about our school and what a vibrant place it is in which to work and learn. We have set aside three dates for visits and would love to meet you if you are considering an application. Please telephone our school office (01243 811247) to arrange a visit on:

Monday 9th March, 1.00pm.

Tuesday 10th March, 10.30am

Friday 13th March, 10.30am

Closing Date for applications: Friday 20th March

Shortlisting of candidates: Wednesday 25th March

Interviews: Wednesday 15th April

We look forward to receiving your application and to meeting you! Previous applicants to other roles are welcome to apply.

For further information and an application pack, please contact Merrill Shears, Business Manager, via email on:

office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk.



- Yr R** *Jonah* - for the kind and gentle nature you have to others in Apple Class.
- Yr 1** - *Sofia* - for your enthusiasm in your learning and always putting in 100%. Keep it up!
- Yr 2** *Leo* - for your kindness towards others. You always make the right choices and are consistently ready to learn when you come into the classroom. Well done!
- Yr 3** *Alfie* - for making some super links in this week's learning. We have spotted you really thinking hard. Well done!
- Yr 4** *Holly* - for the effort and determination you bring to swimming each week. Your speed and stamina is increasing every week.
- Yr 5** *Florence* - for the quiet and gentle way you have helped Emji to settle in this week.
- Yr 6** *Rufus* - for a positive start to the new half term. You have come in every morning with a 'can do' attitude.



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.

Monday 2nd March	1.00-3.30, SSP Stinger Netball at CGHS (rescheduled 05.02.26)
Tuesday 3rd March	1.30-3.30, Chestnut Class, Little Shop of Horrors at Bishop Luffa
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
Thursday 5th March	1.00-3.00, SSP Quick Sticks Hockey at CHSG
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
Wednesday 11th March	6.30, Chichester Runners, Corporate Challenge
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)
Monday 16th March	Easter Egg Decorating, bring eggs and egg boxes in to school
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	‘7.00-9.00, Friends’ Quiz Night in School
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	8.30, ‘Friends’ Meeting in pavilion, all welcome—Summer Sizzler planning
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)
Wednesday 25th March	6.30, Chichester Runners Corporate Challenge
Thursday 26th March	Matt Lindsay, Growing Revolution Assembly, to introduce our Living Wall
Friday 27th March	Palm Sunday Procession to West Dean Church from school. Final Day of Spring Term.

WEST DEAN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

WAC NEWSLETTER



January - February 2026

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The past two months at the club have been full of fun and creativity! K'NEX has been a big favourite, with children designing and racing their own cars and motorbikes while experimenting with weight, stability, and design. Arts and crafts have also been popular, including making braided bracelets and colourful wristbands to take home. The children have enjoyed Dominoes too, with some playing classic games and others creating and knocking over domino runs. Alongside this, Maddy and a group of children began their Dungeons and Dragons adventure, designing heroes and starting a fairytale journey called The Bureau of Temporal Investigation, which now takes place every Wednesday.

In January, we enjoyed 'Bookmark Bingo', which we now run every couple of weeks. The prize is a choice of bookmarks and the children absolutely love the excitement and tension as the numbers are called out.



AFTER SCHOOL TEA TIME

We have recently refreshed our menu, introducing lighter, healthier options that the children have been really enjoying. Each day includes fresh, tasty bites with a choice of fruit or crunchy vegetable sticks always available.

We've also expanded our vegetarian range, now offering cheese-filled ravioli, a richer vegetable soup, more fresh salad options and less bread to create a more balanced meal. Tea time is going really well, and we're always happy to welcome more children to stay and enjoy it with us.

westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk - 07840 557 065

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CHILDREN'S BOOKFEST



Chichester District Foodbank
Together with Trussell

World Book Day Event

Thursday 5 March | 4:00 - 5:00pm

Come and celebrate World Book Day with us!
In collaboration with Children's Bookfest you'll enjoy:

- Storytime
- Kid-friendly snacks and drinks
- Making your own bookmarks
- Free book and art pack for every child!



Free session, everyone welcome!

To book, please contact:
keely@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk
07300802377

Address:
Unit 10, Chichester Trade Centre,
Quarry Lane, PO19 8ET

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS COMING SOON

Spring 2026!

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:



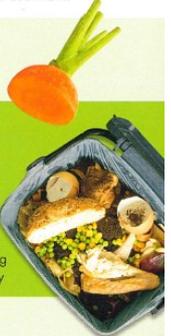
A kitchen caddy



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	✓ All uneaten food and plate scrapings	 dairy	✓ Dairy products ✓ Cheese ✓ Eggs	 fish	✓ Fish ✓ Cooked fish ✓ Bones	 bread & pastries	✓ Bread ✓ Cakes ✓ Pastries
 meat & bones	✓ Raw meat ✓ Cooked meat ✓ Bones	 tea & coffee grounds	✓ Tea bags ✓ Coffee grounds	 rice, pasta & beans	✓ Rice ✓ Pasta ✓ Beans	 fruit & vegetables	✓ 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

