



West Dean Church of England 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 32 22.05.26

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](#).



A Totally Titanic Performance at Dance House

After months of hard work and preparation, Dance House performance night finally arrived for our West Dean Dance Group on Tuesday. Once again our girls were given the honour of opening the show at Worthing Pavilion Theatre with their dance, inspired by the story of the sinking of the Titanic and set to the music from the well-known film. The quality of the dances performed by each of the 14 participating schools was exceptional, but we are of course particularly proud of the truly stunning and very emotive performance from our dancers.

As head teacher, I get a huge number of emails each day, but one that popped into my inbox yesterday was particularly welcome. It was from a lady who had been at Dance House on Tuesday evening to watch her own daughter from a local secondary school perform her GCSE level dance. She explained that our dance had moved her and her husband to tears, such was the emotion portrayed by our girls and their accuracy moving around the stage as one. She went on to say *'The passion and emotion they poured into their dance was advanced beyond their years, they were breath-taking and uniformed in time; a credit to you and your school'*—and let's not forget that our youngest two dancers this year, Dora and Delilah, are in Year Two. West Dean Dancers, we are immensely proud of you. You have worked so hard, gave a confident and beautiful performance and thoroughly deserve huge praise and congratulations for your achievement.

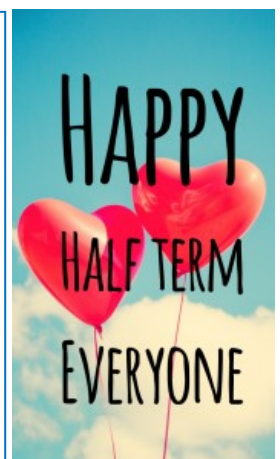
Of course, none of this would be possible without the talent and care of Ellie Holder, who encourages the girls week after week, choreographs and teaches the routine and generally makes sure that everything is done to the highest standard to prepare our dancers for the performance—and they have a lot of fun along the way too of course. Thank you Ellie, you are a superstar, and thank you Mrs Anstee for supporting the children through the long rehearsal and performance day too.



BLLP Peer Review Day

Over the past year, we, as part of the trust-wide leadership team, have been developing a review process to enable quality assurance in all of our schools. In each half term since September the head teachers from each primary school, plus a senior leader from Bishop Luffa, have visited one of our schools for a day, to observe learning, talk to children and staff, see examples of work and discuss and aspect of school improvement. In order that we get an out-of-trust viewpoint on this and can benchmark our findings against the national picture in education, an external education consultant also takes part in each review day.

It was West Dean's turn on Thursday this week and the review focussed on how we develop children's skill and understanding in writing. The review team were full of praise for how articulate your children are, and how enthusiastic and proud they are in talking about how they learn to write for a wide range of purposes and audiences. As you would expect, the day also provides helpful and supportive suggestions for next steps and areas for continued improvement for us as a school teaching staff.





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.



Gardening Plea:

We would really like some washed egg shells please to protect our young plants from slugs and snails. If you have any please could you bring them into the office.

If any of our keen gardeners are out and about shopping this weekend and would like to pick up an extra bag of compost we would be very grateful for any donations. We are beginning to plant our veggies and their beds need a little bit of a top up. Thank you.

Head Lice

We have had a reported case of headlice in school. Please could we ask that you are vigilant and treat if you find anything in your child's hair. Thank you.



Further information can be found:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Please see attached our club timetable for the second half of the summer term. Booking will be live on Tuesday 26th May at 8.00am.

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.

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. **Thank you to Mrs Goacher for running a poolside first aid training session, and to those who attended.** 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 is available, please see Abbie Williamson or Maeva Colchester to sign up.



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. Booking will go live for after school swims next week. Hopefully, if we have enough volunteers, we will be able to open every day after school, £4 per child per session, available on Arbor.

Parents/carers are required to be present poolside during swim sessions and responsible for their own child.

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

'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 your **raffle tickets** which have been sent home this week. Each family has been allocated x2 books to sell, please do your best.

Plea for raffle prizes please, if you have anything that you would like to donate or you have a contact that might be happy to donate a prize, please do let us know.

We would like to start collecting things for the event and would like to invite you to bring in items for our Tombolas, during the **week commencing 1st June**. Bottles of any kind, size, variety for the adult tombola, and Teddies/soft toys for the children's tombola. Please bring any items either to the office or to the pavilion. We are also asking for donations for our preloved homeware, good quality children's clothes on hangers and childrens books" stall . If anyone is having a clear out over the half term and wishes to donate, these items can be brought into school during the **week commencing 8th June**.





SUMMER SIZZLER



**WEST DEAN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Everyone welcome
Please come and have fun!

Friday 19th June

3pm - 6pm

**Bouncy Castle *Food & Drink*
**Fun Games & Stalls*
**Live Music *Children Performances*

FREE ENTRY!



Event organised by West Dean Primary School Friends
to raise important funds for West Dean Primary School



BISHOP LUFFA PFA PRESENTS



BIG BAND *& Cocktails Night*

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026 • DOORS OPEN: 7:00 PM
MARQUEE ON THE SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS, PO19 3HP

- **LIVE BIG BAND MUSIC** • **DANCING** • **COCKTAILS** •

FEATURING THE INCREDIBLE
PHOENIX BIG BAND (ARUNDEL)

Cocktails crafted by a qualified mixologist
Delicious street food available to buy from Fire & Smoke
(of "Ghost at the Feast" in Chichester)

Tickets: **£12.50** per person
Includes a complimentary drink
STRICTLY OVER 18s ONLY
Dress Code: Party Ready
Parking available on site

**CLICK TO
BOOK
TICKETS HERE**



Dance **THE NIGHT AWAY**
AND SUPPORT OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

**OR SCAN QR
CODE**

We can't wait to see you there - invite friends and family!

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

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
Wednesday 17th June	2.00-2.45, New Entrants, first visit
Thursday 18th June	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 19th June	3.00-6.00pm, 'Friends' Summer Sizzler Event (No SCS after school sports club)
Monday 22nd June	Open The Book Worship in School
Monday 22nd June	1.30, Year 6 Leavers' Service—Chichester Cathedral
Wednesday 24th June	1.45-2.45, New Entrants, second visit
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)
Wednesday 1st July	1.45-2.45, New Entrants, third visit
Thursday 2nd July	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Thursday 2nd July	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 7th July	Hugo Van 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 Athena - for your brilliant and detailed description of your fairy house in forest school.*
- Yr 1 Harry H - for your fantastic independent writing. Your enthusiasm for writing has made you a writing superstar!*
- Yr 2 Raffy - for excellent writing this week on instructions to make your delicious sandwich. Well done on always being ready to learn and having a super attitude to your work.*
- Yr 3 Edith - for the joy and smiles you showed during the rehearsals and performance at Dance House.*
- Yr 4 Todd - for becoming so knowledgeable about beavers and creating a super fact sheet about them.*
- Yr 5 Alfie - for your continued hard work and enthusiasm towards all parts of your learning—keep it up!*
- Yr 6 Hetty J - for your writing! Whenever there's a spare moment you are writing... What a role model and particularly well done for experimenting with different levels of formality.*



Funtington and West Stoke Scout Group

Chairman

Tim Hoare

Adsdean farm

Funtington

Chichester

PO18 9DN

Tel 07712 612 634

Tim.hoare@farming.co.uk

29th April 2026

To Leaders, Helpers & Parents,

F&WS Scout Group is facing some challenges, and we're reaching out to share some upcoming changes and ask for your support to help us continue providing fantastic opportunities for local children.

Beaver Leader. Our Beaver Leader, Clare Hosking, will be stepping down at the end of the summer term after an incredible 22 years of dedication. We are hugely grateful for everything Clare has done. However, if we are unable to find a new leader, the Beavers section may unfortunately have to close.

Treasurer. Our Treasurer will be retiring from the role in July 2026 after several years of valued service. He has kindly agreed to continue with core duties until then and will provide a full handover. We are urgently looking for someone to take on this essential role.

Chair and Trustees. We are also looking to strengthen our Trustee team. Ideally, we should have five Trustees, but currently have only two. We would warmly welcome parents who are willing to support the group in this capacity. I am keen to step down as Chair when a volunteer is found to take on the role; our Secretary, Francis Griffiths, will continue to provide valuable continuity during this period.

F&WS Scout Group currently provides Scouting opportunities for over 30 children. We have a dedicated and capable team of Leaders, and your ongoing support at meetings and events is greatly appreciated. To keep the group running successfully, we now need additional help behind the scenes.

Even a small contribution of time can make a big difference. If you feel you could help in any capacity, please do get in touch using the contact details above. You won't be on your own—this is a team effort, and support will be provided.

Finally, please note that the Village Hall will be closed over the summer for refurbishment works, which may extend into September/October. We will keep you updated on arrangements during this time.

Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to hearing from you.

Tim Hoare

Chairman



Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday	Mr C Williams	Cricket (20)	3, 4, 5, 6	Develop cricket skills in a fun, safe environment learning bowling, batting, fielding and teamwork through engaging games and activities.
Tuesday	Mrs J Anstee	Choir (Lunch time)	Yr 2,3,4,5,6	A chance to practice and improve your singing and have fun
	Mrs K Chesshire	Lego (15)	Yr 1,2,3	Explore fun building challenges and imaginative projects, children can design, build and experiment with Lego models.
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs E Holder	Dance (Hall)	Yr 3,4,5,6	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles.
Friday	South Coast Sports	Multi-sports	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

For our after school provision this half term we are offering a range of after school clubs, which our teaching staff will be leading (with the exception of Dance Club, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club.

The cost of our Dance club will be £5 per child, per session. SCS is booked and paid directly through their booking system. (details above. Other clubs will be free of charge to join and all of our clubs run between 3.00 – 4.00.

After School Club Dates: W/C 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th June, 6th and 13th July - x6 weeks

Mrs Goacher will be running a lunch time **Gardening Club** on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, children are invited to sign up to this.

SCS Please check their website for details: <https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/> No after school club on Friday 19th June, our 'Friends' Summer Sizzler event.

In addition to our after school club programme, Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8: <https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com>. Bookings must be made in advance, up to 12 noon on the day of care. Email: Josh at westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk.

Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4 per child (including breakfast) Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance.

After School Clubs and Breakfast Bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Arbor. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

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.



TRAVEL BACK 2,000
YEARS IN TIME THIS
MAY HALF TERM...

CHICHESTER ROMAN WEEK

Tuesday 26 - Saturday 30 May 2026

Ever wondered what the Romans did for us? Find out at Chichester Roman Week, when five days of talks, tours and family activities bring the district's Roman past to life for all ages.

Scan the QR code or visit thenovium.org/romanweek to see what's on and plan your week in Roman Chichester.



@TheNovium



@NoviumMuseum



@NoviumMuseum



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