



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 18 23.01.26 Overall attendance for the year has remained at 96.3% this week. Well done everyone.



Please keep Rev Sarah in your thoughts and prayers.

She is not writing her weekly 'Rambling' at the moment, having taken a tumble and broken her arm recently. Sending you our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery, Rev Sarah.

Young Voices 2026 – On Tuesday Chestnut Class were very excited to go all the way to the O2 Arena in London for a singing concert called Young Voices. Young Voices is a fun, powerful choir for schools and this year, 8996 children attended the event and were eager to sing. We started on a two hour drive to London and the coach was buzzing. When the rehearsals began every one started to sing with joy and Chestnuts represented our school with politeness and kindness. It was also great to share the experience with other local schools including Lavant, North Mundham and The March. After a long afternoon of rehearsals, finally it was show time. As the audience space in the arena began to fill with equally excited parents, we spotted some familiar faces and a very impressive, brightly coloured 'Go West Dean' banner. The show began and all of the Chestnuts sang their hearts out. The lights made it magical and the dancing and singing by the professionals was the cherry on top. On the way back to school the Chestnuts were exhausted but everyone thought it was an inspiring and truly memorable trip.

Martha Forbes

'Headteacher for the Day'.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Greg & Becky Mahon of Raymond James, Chichester, who kindly covered the cost of the coach travel for the Young Voices trip.

Thank you so much for making this magical experience possible for our children.



Headteacher of the future!

Congratulations to Martha, who has been 'Headteacher

for the day today'. She led a fantastic Acorn assembly this morning, has helped to create today's newsletter and has been a kind but firm presence around the school. Definitely a leader of the future! Well done, Martha.



Apple Class Digital Microscope



Apple class have been really enjoying enhancing their 'Look closely' project by investigating bugs using their new digital microscope! This resource was purchased using funds raised at our 'Friends' bake sale last term.

Exciting gifts from Mexico



You may remember that we were honoured to be visited last term by The Ambassador of Mexico to the UK, Josefa Gonzalez-Blanco, as she was extremely interested in supporting the unique link and partnership that we have with a school in Xilitla, Mexico. We were delighted to receive a very special parcel from The Ambassador recently, containing dozens of toys and magical gifts. Our Headteacher for the Day, Martha, unwrapped the parcel and investigated the contents with some Maple Class children today, all of whom were so excited by what they found. We are now making a plan for how we can share these lovely gifts across the school and use them to develop all of the children's understanding of the culture and traditions of Mexico. Martha also drafted a personal message for The Ambassador:

Dear Ambassador,

Thank you for your kind gifts from Mexico. All the toys are lovely and the children at West Dean adore them. The colour makes it feel warm and brings hope. It is all up and on display for all the children to see, they are all very thankful for it and hope to see you again. Thank you so much again and hope you are well. From all of West Dean CE Primary School.

With kind regards, Martha—(Pupil Headteacher for the Day).

Sports Partnership Future Flyers



It was great to see 6 of our Chestnut Class children in action, representing the school at the locality

'Future Flyers' event at the Westgate Centre on Thursday. These children will be developing their sport and leadership skills at these sessions throughout this school year and hopefully using these skills to lead activities for other children back in school.



Apple and Maple Class — Drama for All

KS1 enjoyed a 'trip to the toyshop at midnight' on Tuesday morning. We helped the toyshop owner rescue the toyshop from closure.

Thank you to Drama for All for a great workshop!

Calling all Runners!

It will soon be time for some of our Year 5 and 6 runners to compete in the annual Chichester Corporate Challenge races. Encouraged by our friends at Lavant Primary, who entered an adult team last year, there was some enthusiasm for West Dean to do the same this year. We have decided to join forces and enter one combined Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership Team. Mr Williams and our Chair of Governors, Edward Younghusband have promised to run, but we're sure there are more keen beans out there who would like to join us. Anyone interested should contact Mr Williams.



The three races are on the evening of **25th Feb, 11th & 25th March** and is 4.5km in length for adults.

News from West Dean 'Friends'



Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

Thursday 29th January, 8.30, 'Friends' Meeting for Year Group Reps

Thursday 12th February—Film Night, 3.00-5.00. (details to follow)

Wednesday 18th March—Save the Date.

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



'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'.

Even though Christmas is over there are still 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.

Wraparound Childcare Survey

West Sussex County Council's Early Years and Childcare team has launched a new survey to understand families' experiences of wraparound childcare. Wraparound childcare provides families with care for school aged children before and after the school day. The survey is open to all families with primary school-aged children, whether they currently use wraparound childcare in West Sussex or not. It asks about what is working well, what could be improved, and how childcare outside of the school day can better meet the needs of local families.

Why your support matters

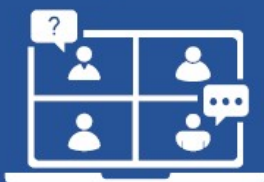
Schools play a key role in reaching a wide range of families, including those who may not be in regular contact with childcare services. This survey will ensure the team gather a full picture of what families need and where they may require more support.

The survey is anonymous, and your feedback will contribute to countywide planning and development.

Please share [this survey](#) with parents and carers within your setting. The deadline to complete the survey is **23:59 on Sunday 22 February**.

Thank you for your support in helping us gather meaningful insight from families across West Sussex.

TRAINING SPRING TERM 2026



Understanding Sensory Processing Differences

Wednesday 28th January

10.30am - 12.30pm

Making Sense of Anxiety in Adolescence

Tuesday 3rd February

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Wednesday 4th February

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Annual Reviews

Thursday 5th February

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Thursday 12th February

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge. For more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com



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- Yr R** *Athena* - for being a super role model and being so kind to others. Well done!
- Yr 1** *Harrison* - for your enthusiasm in our topic and the effort you put into learning! Keep it up!
- Yr 2** *George* - you showed some excellent manners this week., holding the door open for teachers. In class, you have done some super factual writing on the whale shark. Keep it up!
- Yr 3** *Barney P* - for your terrific 'can do' attitude. We're proud of how hard you've tried with your maths this week.
- Yr 4** *Barney G* - for the joy you bring into Beech Class every morning and the polite and considerate way you speak to people.
- Yr 5** *Finlay* - for your inquisitive scientific brain and challenging questions in our forces work.
- Yr 6** *Ivy* - for some excellent 'chinking' in our division work and also for your wonderful giggle and positive energy this week.





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

Tuesday 27th January	8.45 Poetry at Bishop Luffa (Chestnut Class)
Wednesday 28th January	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 28th January	SSP Cross Country Event at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)
Thursday 29th January	8.30, 'Friends' Year Group Reps Meeting
Thursday 29th January	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Monday 2nd February	Tom's Talking Reptiles—Apple Class
Wednesday 4th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 5th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Stinger Netball Event (selected Chestnut tbc)
Friday 6th February	Foodbank Friday
Week beg. 9th February	2 x Year 10 Bishop Luffa Students in school on work experience
Monday 9th February	Open the Book Worship in School
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10th February	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 11th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 11th February	'Friends' Film Night (details to follow)
Thursday 12th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
	No Dance Club on this day.
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
Wednesday 25th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 25th February	2.45—3.30, Pre-loved Uniform Sale
Wednesday 4th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Thursday 5th March	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Wednesday 11th march	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
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)