



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ

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 27 17.04.26

Well done, our overall attendance level for the year is holding firm at **96%** this week.

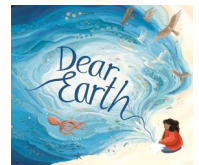
Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Please come and help us at Grounds Morning, tomorrow, 18th April, 09.30 to 12.30—even if you can spare just an hour. Thank you!



Welcome back for the start of the summer term. Those of you who follow us on Instagram or have spent time in our grounds this week may have seen some of the examples of how our school site is bursting into bloom, no doubt due to the glorious weather we experienced throughout most of the Easter break. Whilst I realise you may not have had quite as long away from work as your children, I hope you were able to have some quality family time and get outside in all that sunshine. All of our children have spent plenty of time exploring outdoors during this first week back at school. Chestnut Class children have been found mostly hanging off of our pond dipping deck or kneeling at the water's edge in search of emerging pond life. Throughout the course of this half term, they'll be conducting a close study of our school pond ecosystem and that of the wider natural area.

Maple Class have begun a joint learning journey with our Bishop Luffa partner schools, inspired by the book *Dear Earth*, by Isabel Otter. They got started by taking a wander along Centurion Way yesterday, to see what natural wonders they could find. Obviously they left most of what they found in its natural surroundings where it belongs, but they did bring some treasures back to school too, including a huge dried and twisted ivy stem, which they were delighted to discover was almost exactly the same height as me (183cm in case you were wondering!)



Apple Class have also embarked on a joint learning journey with our BLLP schools and headed off on a double decker bus to Nyewood Infant School in Bognor Regis on Thursday, for a morning of creative and outdoor fun. The children made new friends, discovered some pond life, including a newt, in Nyewood's Forest School area, they hunted for bugs and got stuck into a range of creative and busy bee activities around the theme of our natural world. Such fun and so lovely to be working in partnership again within our academy trust.

If you are feeling jealous of all that outdoor fun the children have had this week, then why not join us for a few hours of gardening graft and friendly chat at our grounds morning tomorrow from 9.30am? There is always plenty to do at this time of year, to get our school set up and looking its best for the children to use throughout the term. Best wishes for an exciting summer term ahead! **Chris Williams**



Music Assembly - Thurs 7th May

Mrs Anstee will be leading a Music Assembly on Thursday 7th May, in school during our usual worship time. Children who currently play or learn a musical instrument are invited to take part and play during the assembly, if they would like to. Please let Mrs Anstee know if your child would like to take part or email office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Staffing News

We had a busy day on Wednesday interviewing prospective teachers to join our team in September. Each teacher taught an observed lesson and Beech Class children were very mature and cooperative in hosting all three observed lessons and in giving their thoughts on the candidates afterwards. Our Pupil Parliament were also part of the interview process and Mrs Chilton, who supervised the Parliament's three candidate interviews, was overwhelmingly impressed by the children's attitude and professional conduct throughout. Well done children and thank you for helping.

I am pleased to say that we successfully appointed a teacher, who will join us in September. I will share more details of the successful candidate once they have announced their news within their own school and also share the overall teaching staff structure across the school for September, once I have finalised this in the coming weeks.

We are advertising for a **Learning Support Assistant** to join our team as soon as possible, our advert is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please do share this with anyone you know who maybe interested.

Don't miss our club timetable for the first half of the summer term on the next page.

Booking is now live on Arbor. Milk and Fruit are available to order on Arbor for the summer term. Milk is priced at £6.50 and fruit will be £7.92 for the summer term.

Changes to school drop-off this week

Thank you for your support of the new start of school day routine that we began trialling at the beginning of this week. So far, the new routine has, in most aspects, resulted in a positive improvement for the children, enabling them to enter school and begin their day in a calm, happy and purposeful manner. Understandably, the change took some getting used to by some, but we are confident that by the end of the week, everyone was beginning to see the positives.

We have had to keep the gates locked until 8.20am, as there was clearly some initial misunderstanding around when children are allowed to go into class. PLEASE NOTE, teachers will not be present and ready in class until 8.20am at the earliest. If you arrive on the playground earlier than this time, please wait for the signal from the school adult on duty that your child may proceed into class.

End of day stay and play - we really love seeing children and families enjoying our lovely school grounds after pick-up each day, especially during the sunny weather. A polite reminder please that we permit this on the understanding that you will closely supervise your children. Whilst they remain on the school site, they are officially still in our care and we may be liable should something go wrong. We cannot provide adult supervision at this time of day, so we rely on your cooperation as parents to supervise appropriately. Thank you

Dogs on site - we also really enjoy welcoming your four-legged, furry members of the family into school and Monty the school dog is happy to share his grounds with them. Please do ensure that dogs are on a lead and under ADULT SUPERVISION at all times. Please also make absolutely sure that you completely clean up after your dog, should they leave anything behind.

Summer PE Kit - please ensure that your child has a blue t-shirt and dark (navy or black) shorts in school every day for PE. Joggers, leggings and hoodies are permitted during the cold winter weather but are no-longer needed this term. All children should be wearing summer PE kit please.

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)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Summer Term 2026: Monday 13th April — Tuesday 21st July.

Half term break — Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

Saturday 18th April	9.30-12.30, Grounds Morning —everyone welcome—please help!
Monday 20th April	Open the Book Assembly in school
Tuesday 21st April	Chichester Falcons Baseball, in school, Chestnut Class
Tuesday 21st April	3.00-5.30, Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 22nd April	3.00-6.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 23rd April	Matt Lindsay—Growing Revolution Assembly in school
Thursday 23rd April	SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected children)
Saturday 25th April	ESSA Swim Gala Finals (selected children with Mrs Goacher)
Monday 27th April	2.30, Chestnut Class parents, SATs Meeting with Mrs Johnson
Tuesday 28th April	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Thursday 7th May	Music Assembly (in school)
Friday 8th May	Cathedral Enrichment Day KS2 (selected children tbc)
Saturday 9th May	Chichester Cormorants Swim Gala (details to follow)
Monday 11th May	SATs Week
Tuesday 12th May	1.00-3.00, SSP Quadkids (selected Yr 3/4, details to follow)
Tuesday 19th May	Dancehouse—rehearsal and performance for Dance Club
Wednesday 20th May	Open The Book Worship in School
Wednesday 20th May	2.30, Chestnut Class Residential Visit meeting for parents/carers
Thursday 21st May	School Nurse in school—Year R screening
Friday 22nd May	Last day of the first half term
Half term break	

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



'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!

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.

A new 'Living Wall'

Matt Lindsay from Growing Revolution, who is going to help us with installing a 'Living Wall' in school, will be in school next Thursday to explain the project to the children in assembly.

Don't forget Matt's kind offer to our school community of a very generous 15% discount at:

<https://www.growingrevolution.com>



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

Summer Term one Clubs




Our after school club provision looks slightly different again 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 in preparation for the Dance House event, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club.

The cost of our Dance club will be £6 per child, per session, to include a donation towards costumes. 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 13th, 20th 27th April and 4th, 11th, 18th May - x6 weeks.

Dance Club Dates: 16th, 23rd, 30th April and 7th, 14th, 21st May. **SCS** Please check their website for details: <https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/> 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. You can make your bookings for after school clubs and Breakfast Bears on-line at Arbor. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday				
Tuesday	Mrs A Chilton  Mrs S Johnson & Mrs S Goacher	Art & Craft Westbourne House Swim	Yr R, 1 & 2 Selected Children	A creative club of art, craft and colouring using a selection of different materials. An opportunity for children to be independently creative. Max 10 Swim Club for selected children in preparation for the ESSA Gala Final, Saturday 25 th April and The Cormorants Swim Gala on Saturday 9 th May. Dates: Tuesday 14 th , 21 st , 28 th April and 5 th & 12 th May, 5 weeks only £5 per child per session. 6.30-7.15pm.
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs E Holder  Mrs L Plackett	Dance (Hall) Hamma Beads	Yr 3,4,5,6 Yr R, 1	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles. Children will be practising for the Dancehouse performance and must be available for this date: Tuesday 19 th May 2026 X14 sessions @ £6 per child per session (to include contribution towards costumes) 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th January 5 th & 26 th February, 5 th , 12 th , 26 th March 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th April and 7 th , 14 th , 21 st May. No Dance Club Thurs 12th Feb or Thurs 19th March Use of Hama beads to create colourful designs, artwork and patterns.
Friday	South Coast Sports 	Multi-sports	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Please note: The first session will be Friday 24 th April, there is no club on Friday 17 th April. https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/



- Yr R *Sam* - for your passion and enthusiasm on our trip!
- Yr 1 *Poppy* - for making new friends on our trip. You were kind and considerate all day!
- Yr 2 *William* - for being considerate to your classmates. Always helping them around the classroom and outside, showing kindness and a good sense of responsibility.
- Yr 3 *Eddie* - for demonstrating such wonderful handwriting in your terrific sentences this week.
- Yr 4 *Kash* - for writing some terrific sentences with expanded noun phrases. Keep it up!
- Yr 5 *Mia* - for always showing care, kindness and consideration for the children and grown ups in our school.
- Yr 6 *Martha* - for being able to find the good in everyone and use kind words to make us all feel valued.



WEST DEAN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

WAC NEWSLETTER

March - April 2026



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The children have been enjoying a range of creative and engaging activities recently. Maddy introduced them to the card game Superfight, a fun activity that encourages debate, creativity and patience, with many of the children enjoying the chance to take part. Lego building remains a fan favourite, with some of the children constructing imaginative creations, including multi-tiered forts and flying houses, showing great enthusiasm and creativity.

We have also been having great fun with XL dominoes, carefully building long lines before knocking them over in a satisfying chain reaction. Target practice on the velcro dart board was another highlight, with the children competing for points and practising their throwing skills. Some took on the challenge of keeping score, adding to the excitement.

Outdoors, the children embraced physical and creative activities. They enjoyed designing and making their own kites, collecting sticks and using felt and paper to bring their ideas to life. Outdoor hockey provided a mix of passing, mini-games and friendly competition, with the children excited to swing their hockey sticks and work together.



Creative crafts have also been popular. The children explored loom bands, making wristbands and ankle bracelets that they loved and some tried their hand at crochet, learning new skills and making great progress.

Finally, games that challenge the mind were also on offer. An anagram game encouraged the children to race to solve a large jumbled word while scoring points for smaller words discovered along the way, creating plenty of excitement and quick thinking.

westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk - 07840 557 065

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We have a job opportunity for a Learning Support Assistant. Please share the advertisement below with anyone you know who may be interested in joining our team.



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mr C Williams



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John 13

Vacancy - Learning Support Assistant/Mid-Day Meals Assistant

Fixed Term, Part Time, Term Time Only

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8.30-3.00

Learning Support Assistant

GO3 pt 3 - £24,796 (pro-rata) £12.85 Hourly Rate

Mid-day Meals Assistant

GO2 pt 2 - £24,413 (pro-rata) £12.65 Hourly Rate

We are seeking to employ an enthusiastic, well-motivated person to join our friendly and committed team, to work with children in KS2 initially, with the potential to work across both key stages in the future, on a full time basis, as soon as possible.

The successful candidate will work alongside the class teacher, their role being to support inclusivity, group work and also to work with individual pupils under the direction of the teacher.

This Learning Support Assistant role will be combined with an additional 30 minutes per day Mid-day meal assistance: the duties for this might include supporting children whilst they eat their hot meals and packed lunches, organising furniture and supervising children at play and socially.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide tailored learning support in the classroom, in small group settings and in the outdoor environment.
- Assist with the delivery of speech and language and occupational therapy programmes under the guidance of external professionals.
- Work closely with the class teacher, SENCo, and external agencies to ensure consistent and effective support.
- Foster a positive, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has experience working with children with additional needs (desirable but not essential).
- Is confident in basic maths and literacy
- Is patient, kind and nurturing; able to motivate and communicate well with children
- Can build strong relationships with children and staff.
- Can follow specialist programmes and adapt learning activities to meet individual needs.
- Willing to work as part of a flexible team with a positive attitude and a commitment to safeguarding and inclusion.
- Supportive of our school's Christian ethos.
- A current First Aid certificate or a willingness to undertake training would be advantageous.

We can offer:

- The opportunity to be part of a caring school community
- Families who support the strong values and ethos of the school
- Enthusiastic children who are keen to learn
- A skilled, enthusiastic, flexible and dedicated staff team
- Opportunities for continuous professional development
- A fun, creative and innovative learning community.

Continued overleaf

Additional Employee Benefits include:

- Company pension
- Cycle to work scheme
- Employee discounts
- Free flu jabs
- Free on-site parking
- Health & wellbeing programme
- Sickness pay
- Transport links

This is an exciting time to join the team at our school as we have recently joined with the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership to embark on an exciting Academy future with the Trust.

We have a happy, hardworking and dedicated staff team who all play an important part in the organisation and development of the school. As a staff team, we are committed to 'providing our pupils with a happy and secure learning environment, which promotes respect and love for each other and of life and learning. Our pupils are responsive and well behaved, and their families are supportive and involved in the life of the school.

As a Church of England School, our faith underpins all we do. We have strong and active links with our local Church community and our neighbour West Dean College of Arts and Conservation. We are in a beautiful location, in the heart of the South Downs National Park, easily accessible on the number 60 bus route or a 10-minute drive from Chichester.

We have high expectations of our pupils and ourselves. However, we believe excellence and enjoyment go hand in hand, and we take every opportunity to be creative and flexible in the curriculum we follow.

Visits are welcomed and encouraged to school; please do contact us to make an appointment: Wednesday 22nd April, Monday 27th April or Thursday 30th April.

We are an equal opportunities employer, are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, along with all other relevant employment checks.

If you feel you can offer these skills and attributes, further details and an application form can be obtained by contacting Mrs M Shears, 01243 811247, office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk.

Closing Date for Applications: 01/05/2026 (12 Noon)

Shortlisting: 01/05/2026

Interviews Held: 06/05/2026

Expected start date: As soon as possible