



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 28 24.04.26

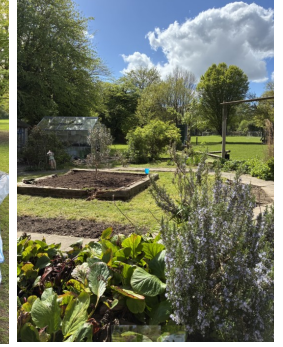
Well done, our overall attendance level for the year has remained at **96%** this week.

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

Huge thanks to the elite team of parent & staff gardeners and odd-jobbers who helped out at Grounds Morning

We were blessed with a dry, sunny morning and got masses done and tidied. Our pond area is now weeded. Clearer and ready for learning. The PTA (Friends') shed is organised and accessible. The swimming pool changing rooms and surrounding area in clean, tidy and ready for action and our garden beds and borders are also weeded and looking great.

We are really grateful for the time our volunteers gave to help keep our grounds in tip top condition for your children.



Chichester Falcons Visit

It was great to welcome Chichester Falcons Baseball and Softball Club into school for their annual visit this week. This is a lovely opportunity each year, to introduce some of the children to sport that will be relatively unfamiliar to them.



This time they worked with Year 6 and Year 4; who knows — maybe inspiring some pitchers and home-runners of the future!

Forest School

There was great excitement during Year 5's Forest School session this week. Due to the eagle-eyed observation of Lucas, a baby slow worm was spotted! Great to see that our grounds are such a haven for wildlife. Great spot Lucas!



A new 'Living Wall' - Matt Lindsay from Growing Revolution, led our assembly on Thursday morning and told the children all about his work developing ways for plant life to flourish in urban spaces. With Matt's help, as well as some generous support from local plant supplier [The Little Botanical](#), we are looking forward to installing our own 'Living Wall' in our school foyer in the next few weeks. 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. Enter **WESTDEAN15** at checkout to redeem this.



Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all families who met with their child's class teacher at one of our consultation evenings this week.

This is a really important aspect of our home-school partnership in supporting your child's learning and development.

If you were unable to attend on this occasion, I urge you please, to contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternative time to meet for this discussion.



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



You might remember that we were visited by drum teacher, Pete Watson @rhythmroomdrums, last term, when he entertained us in assembly in an attempt to drum up (pun intended) enthusiasm for learning to play the drums.

We're delighted that 6 keen beans began their lessons this week, which is great to see. Although we're sure that their drumming will be awesome very soon, Pete cleverly used an electronic drum kit for the lessons, ensuring that everyone else in school was able to concentrate, while the drummers perfect their beats.

We are looking forward to a music assembly later in the year, maybe autumn, by which point hopefully our drummers will have plenty to demonstrate.

Maple Class Celebrates Earth Day

On Wednesday, Maple Class marked Earth Day with a range of thoughtful and creative activities, reflecting on the importance of caring for our planet.

As part of their celebrations, the children created their own unique Earth prints. These vibrant pieces of artwork are now proudly displayed around the large 3D Earth model they painted at the beginning of the term.

In addition to their artwork, every child wrote a heartfelt "prayer to the Earth." These prayers were inspired by the book *Dear Earth* by Isabel Otter and encouraged the children to think deeply about gratitude, responsibility, and hope for the future of our planet. Maple Class will be sharing their prayers with the Bishop Luffa partner schools, helping to spread their message of care and respect beyond the classroom. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to express both their creativity and their commitment to protecting the Earth.



A dramatic story from the Book of Judges

The 'Open the Book' assembly on Monday told the Old Testament story of wise Deborah, who with great faith, led her small army against a supposedly mightier enemy, but aided by rising floodwater, achieved ultimate victory. The core message was less about the battle and more about having the courage of your convictions, believing in your purpose and having faith that things will turn out for the best in the end.

As always, the assembly was a great dramatised portrayal of the story, this time featuring masterful performances from most of the Year 5 children, who were tasked with strengthening the army and making the floodwaters rise! Many thanks to our friends who run the Open the Book project.



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.

General School Notices

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. We also politely ask that you ensure that your children tidy away any sports resources that they use, into the equipment cupboard.

One final point—our Apple Class outside area is not open for free play at the end of the school day. It is part of the Apple Class children's learning to pack away resources at the end of the day, leaving it ready for the next day, therefore we would prefer it if resources were not got out again and left out in this area. 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.

Attendance & Term Time Holiday - This is a topic about which we have been very clear for some time. Term time holiday **will not be authorised** in all but very exceptional and rare circumstances (such as a family bereavement necessitating travel).

Our attendance policy, which is a Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership trust-wide policy states that requests for term time absence should be made in writing the headteacher. Please email head@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk a minimum of four weeks prior to the requested time of absence. You will then be sent an absence request form to complete.

Please note—completion of this form **does not mean** that your absence request will be approved, as in most cases concerning holiday requests, it will not. It is however of vital importance that we have robust records on this matter, as attendance is, rightfully, an aspect of school life that the government monitor closely.

Please note: A fixed penalty notice (FPN) referral in English law is considered when a pupil accrues 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 full days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period. These sessions can be consecutive or accumulative.

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](#) (please note: this was missed off the list last week—in case you noted them down then!)

Summer: [Wednesday 21st July 2027](#)



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

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

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

Apple Class Plea for Flower Pots!

We are keen to start planting our sunflower seeds but we need lots of little flower pots. If you have any that you could donate please do bring them in for us, we would be very grateful, thank you.



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.



- Yr R** *Mila* - for an amazing attitude in forest school taking care of our environment. Well done.
- Yr 1** *Bertie H* - for writing some super sentences about the tiny seed. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Hugo O* - for your good manners and kind attitude towards others. You have also worked with great enthusiasm this week.
- Yr 3** *Mila* - for coming up with and performing such an effective drama to show how the sea erodes the coast.
- Yr 4** *Monty* - for your enthusiasm for everything coastal erosion. You have so much knowledge to share with the class.
- Yr 5** *Lucas* - for your unwavering good manners and polite behaviour, you are a super role model.
- Yr 6** *Owen* - for the tolerance and kindness you consistently show others in our class. Well done!



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.

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