



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 24 13.03.26

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](#).



ESSA Swim Gala

On the 11th March, four of our swimmers went on a trip to Pavilions in the Park, Horsham to swim two relays; a front crawl relay and a medley relay which is a race where you do backstroke, breast stroke, butterfly then freestyle (instead of butterfly we did freestyle). There was some tremendous swimming and great teamwork. It was a joy to see such a small school do so well. All of the children from West Dean enjoyed it very much from start to finish.

By Fynn and Bronte—Year 6.



Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running!

Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-82NM255V> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. A Scholastic book catalogue and World Book Day token have been sent home with your child. Please place your order online by March 13th, 2026.

Maple Class visit to The Living Rainforest

This week Maple Class visited The Living Rainforest, where we experienced the sights, sounds and smells of a tropical rainforest. Inside the huge indoor glasshouses, we discovered over 850 types of plants and animals, including many rare and endangered species. It felt like stepping into another world!

One of the first animals we spotted was the striking yellow-knobbed curassow named Luigi, who looked very proud as he wandered around.

We were also lucky enough to see a channel-billed toucan with its enormous beak.

Along the pathways, the tiny Roul-Roul partridges were busy scurrying around our feet, making everyone smile as they hurried past. Another fascinating animal we saw was the six-banded armadillo, with its strong armoured shell. We also learnt about the beautiful emerald tree boa, which blends perfectly with the leaves of the rainforest.

One of the most fascinating animals for Maple Class was the Cuvier's dwarf caiman. They are experts at staying completely still and blending into their surroundings. In fact, they looked so still that we thought they were sculptures - we didn't see them move at all! A clear favourite of the class was the green iguana named Rio. We liked Rio so much that we went back throughout the day to see him again. These are just a few highlights of the amazing animals we saw during our visit. Maple Class had a fantastic day and learnt so much about rainforest animals and plants. It was wonderful to see so many incredible creatures up close!

Thank you Mrs Chesshire & Miss Scott for organising such a fabulous trip!



Choir Visit to Marriott House for Spring Singing

Mrs Anstee took 23 keen singers from her choir to sing to the residents of Marriott House in Chichester on Wednesday afternoon. They sang a varied repertoire of songs and spread lots of smiles and cheer as they did so. Well done everyone.



Well done runners! Our runners of all ages put down another strong performance at this week's Chichester Corporate Challenge races, with many improving on their own PBs. We are always relieved for the children when the weather is on our side and the running surface dry. All of the children ran brilliantly, with many finishing in the top half of the pack!



All of our adult team returned for a second week of punishment too and were equally successful in bettering their previous times across the 4.5K course. Will they go even faster in the third and final race of the series in two weeks?

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!

Quiz Night - Postponed

Unfortunately, we have had to make the decision to postpone our planned quiz night, Wednesday 18th March. We have had less response than we had hoped and it is not viable to run this time. We are hoping to be able to rearrange this once The Selsey Arms pub is back up and running fully, with their support. Thank you for supporting us, any money paid will be refunded.



Friends Easter Event

Monday 16th March

Children to bring in a fresh egg for decorating in an egg box/carton. Children will be painting and decorating their eggs in school.

Tuesday 17th March

Pupil Parliament will be judging the eggs and prizes/certificates will be awarded for the best decorated eggs. The eggs will be then sent home with the children.



Thursday 19th March

Easter Bake Sale 3pm on the playground. We are inviting you to bring in your Easter bakes, using your child's decorated egg (as part of your ingredients) on Thursday morning. Please leave your cake donations in the Pavilion.

All of our bakes will be available to purchase at our sale at the end of the school day.



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.

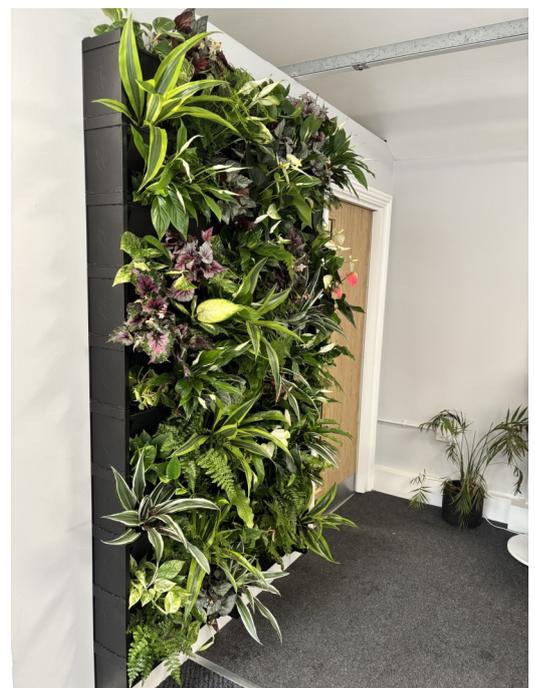
Matt will be coming in to introduce this to the children during an assembly on Thursday 26th March.

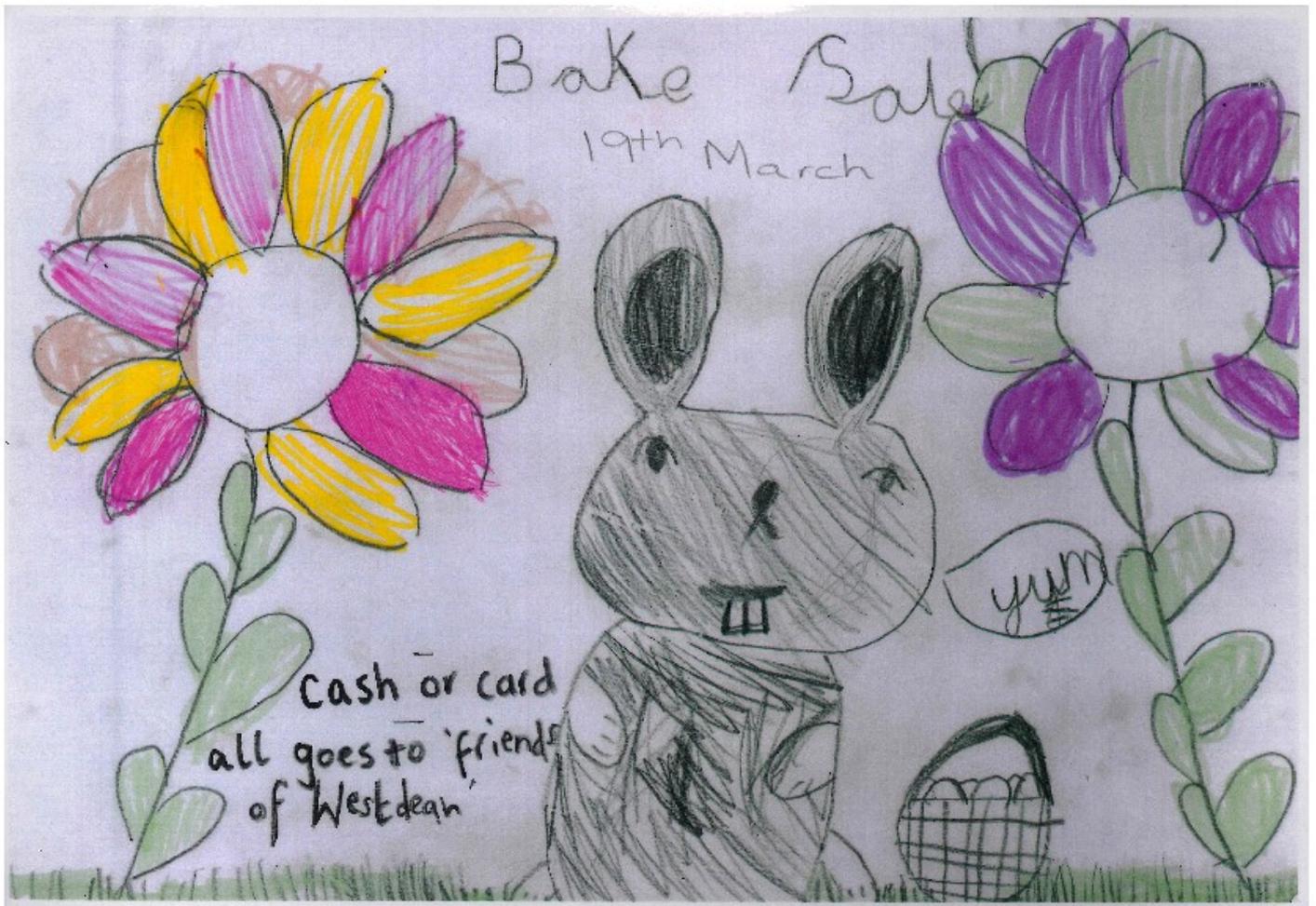
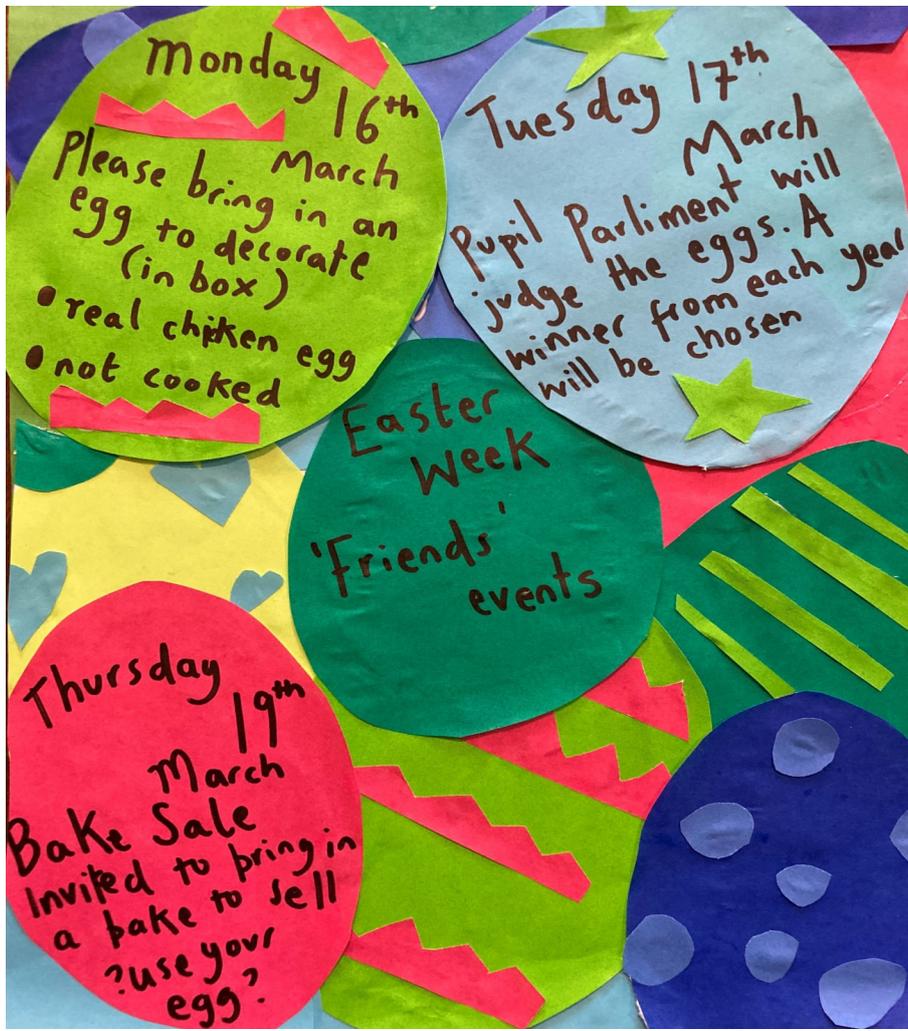
Do have a look at their website:

<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.





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.



WEST DEAN WAC CLUB

DAY	CRAFT / ACTIVITY	SPORTS/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
Monday	BOARD GAME DAY/Arts and Crafts	Basketball
Tuesday	DRAWING CLUB	Tennis
Wednesday	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS DAY/ Arts and Crafts	Striking and Fielding
Thursday	Construction Club/Arts Crafts	Football
Friday	Nature Club/Arts and Crafts	Skittles/bowling

How to Book

Step 1: Register for an account on our iPAL booking system or if you already have one go to <https://activ4forkids.ipalbookings.com>

Step 2: Verify your account and create a profile for each child

Step 3: Select your chosen session(s) and book.

We offer 3 different sessions: After School Early Session 3.00-4.30. Includes a small healthy snack After School.

Late Session: 4.15/30-6.00pm We will collect your child from a club at the school. Includes a healthy light tea Full After School session: After school until 6.00pm Includes a small healthy snack on arrival and a healthy light tea at 5pm.



Easter HAF Holiday Clubs

HAF spaces are free to children in receipt of benefits related free school meals

30TH MARCH - 10TH APRIL 08.30AM - 4.30PM

Our friendly, experienced team creates a safe and welcoming environment where children can build confidence, make new friends and enjoy their time to the fullest.

- Free hot meal provided
- Send spaces available
- 4 Sessions available
- Snacks included



SCAN ME

West Sussex County Council

East Preston Infant School | St Margarets C of E Primary School | Chichester Free School

Multi-sports | Dance | Drama | Crafts | Free Play | Board games | & More

<https://haf.bookinglab.co.uk/westsussex/37147/login>




Music & ICT Workshops

- Use computer software to create sounds and compose music.
- Experiment with microphones to record voice and instruments.
- Use software to change and manipulate sounds.
- Use other equipment [drum machines and theremins, etc] to create sounds.
- Save work and burn it onto CD.

Other Music Workshops

I am able to deliver other music workshops related to literacy texts, science and history topics.

Extra-Curricular Activities

I offer a range of club activities. These can be tailored to meet the needs of any age range or mixed age group.

The activities include: Harmonica Ensemble, Ukulele Orchestra, Percussion Club and Music & ICT.

The charge can be per child or by the hour. More information about activities, clubs, or workshops can be found on my website.

Contact



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sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk



SUSSEX MUSIC WORKSHOPS



sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk



Yr R Harry O - for your super writing in phonics, keep up the great work!

Yr 1 - Beatrix - for coming to school every day with a smile and such a positive attitude!

Yr 2 Bodhi - for being so confident in maths. You are participating so well in our class work and answering questions, showing a super understanding in multiplication.

Yr 3 Ivy S - for the brilliant independence you have shown this week. You have really taken ownership of your learning. Well done Ivy!

Yr 4 Etta - for your imaginative use of expanded noun phrases in your character description of Sophie.

Yr 5 Indigo - for amazing use of emotive and figurative language in your poetry writing.

Yr 6 Tilly - for showing super understanding of the links between fractions, decimals and percentages—great work!



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 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 POSTPONED
Thursday 19th March	2.30-3.00, Beech Class Science Fair in the hall
Thursday 19th March	3.00, 'Friends' Bake Sale (Please bring in donations on Thursday morning)
Thursday 19th March	5.30pm, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief—wear something red, donation of £2 on Arbor
Tuesday 24th March	8.30, 'Friends' Meeting in pavilion, all welcome—Summer Sizzler planning
Tuesday 24th March	Beech Class visit to CFT for BFG
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
Thursday 26th March	Beech Class, CFT Poetry Workshop in school
Friday 27th March	Palm Sunday Procession to West Dean Church from school. Final Day of Spring Term.
	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	First day of the Summer Term
Thursday 16th April	9.00-1.00, Apple Class visit to Nyewood Infants School re Trust Project
Monday 20th April	Open the Book Assembly in school
Thursday 23rd April	SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected children)
Friday 8th May	Cathedral Enrichment Day KS2 (selected children tbc)
Monday 11th May	SATs Week
Tuesday 19th May	Dancehouse—rehearsal and performance for Dance Club
Wednesday 20th May	Open The Book Worship in School