



# 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 26 27.03.26

Well done, our overall attendance level for the year has returned to **96%** this week. Let's try to get our attendance back up to an even healthier position next term please.

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



### A glorumptious, splendiferous week!

Beech Class rounded off their Bishop Luffa Partnership joint learning journey this week in style. On Tuesday they all went to see the fantastic stage production of *The BFG* at Chichester Festival Theatre and then on Thursday, CFT came to us, in the form of a puppeteer who led a brilliant puppetry workshop with the children. What a glorumptious, splendiferous, hopscotch, scrumdiddlyumptious way to finish off the term, as the BFG himself would say!



### Chestnut Class get Tongue-tied!

Don't be mistaken, that is actually a compliment, as Tongue-tied is the name of the group of poets who have inspired our Y5/6 children across the BLLP Trust this term to write the most fabulous poetry. All of the schools met at Chichester Baptist Church on Thursday for their project finale poetry 'slam'. We'll publish some of their poems here soon, as they are absolutely brilliant.

### SSP Swim Gala & final Westgate session

This week was the last of this year's swim sessions at Westgate for Years 3, 4, & 5. Some of the children spent the final session working hard on their lifesaving skills by practising helping others to get out of the water and by treading water for as long as they could. Later the same day (because they just weren't tired enough) our team of Y5/6 relay swimmers raced at the SSP Arun Gala. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Goacher reported that the children's effort and determination was first class, earning them an impressive 6th place out of 14 schools in attendance. Well done everyone— we are all really proud of you for how you 'dug deep' and encouraged each other. It has been a great term of swimming all round.



### Palm Sunday on a Friday!

That was the name that Rev Sarah gave our pre-Easter celebration procession and service in West Dean Church today. Depending on where Easter falls relative to our school holidays, we either have an Easter service (sometimes after Easter) or an act of worship that relates more to Palm Sunday, which this year is this coming Sunday. Our worship began with the now traditional palm procession from school to church, led by our trusty equine friend, Tilly, who always does her best to imitate a donkey (thank you, Emma Brown). Once inside the church, the children led us through beautifully reflective prayers, songs, readings, acting and poetry. Rev Sarah talked about the significance of the palm crosses gifted to each child and blessed the crosses. Thank you to the parents who were able to share this special end of term worship with us today. **Happy Easter everyone** — *may the promise of Easter fill you with hope and the assurance of God's love.*



### Well done to this term's Star Table!

One particularly well-mannered group of children got the 'Star Table' treatment at lunchtime today, with some delicious cake treats. Throughout the spring term, these children have demonstrated the most consistently good standard of behaviour, manners and politeness during school lunchtimes. **Well done everyone.**



## Some changes to school drop-off from the start of next term—PLEASE READ

We are going to trial a different way of beginning our school day **from Monday 13th April** and I am trusting in parents' and families' understanding and support of this to help your children enter school in a calm, happy and purposeful manner.

You are welcome to drop off your child on the school playground from 8.20am each morning. From 8.20am onwards there will be an adult on duty on the playground and they will send your child straight into class, where their teacher will be waiting with some calming, independent activities with which to begin their day. With the exception of Reception children, parents **should not accompany** their child to the classroom. The children know where they are going and the goodbye 'cuddle and go' point needs to be on the playground or at the school gate please. Reception parents, you may still bring your child to the classroom.

We will no longer line up on the playground at 8.30am. Instead the pedestrian gates will be locked at this time and anyone arriving after this time should enter through the front door by the school office. Teachers, will be in class supervising the start to the day for the children, rather than on the playground, therefore any urgent messages for the teacher from parents, should be communicated via email or through Mrs Shears / Mrs Bailey in the office.

Like many schools, we are seeing a rise in anxiety in our children and we feel the a gradual flow of arrivals over ten minutes or so, together with classroom activity specifically designed to promote a calm start, could be the right way to support many of our children. This is already the way in which a number of our Bishop Luffa Partnership primary schools start their day.

The end of the day will remain as it is now; teachers will lead your children out onto the playground and will be available for a few minutes if you need to talk to them. We will review how this new approach is going at the end of the first half term in May. Thank you for your support of this—we all hope it will be a positive change for your children.

Chris Williams, Head teacher

### 2025/26 INSET Days

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

### Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April — Tuesday 21st July

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



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
<b>Saturday 18th April</b>	<b>9.30-12.30, Grounds Morning</b> —everyone welcome—please help!
Monday 20th April	Open the Book Assembly in school
Tuesday 21st April	Chichester Falcons Baseball, in school, Chestnut Class
<b>Tuesday 21st April</b>	<b>3.00-5.30, Parent Consultation Evening</b> (booking opening after the Easter break)
<b>Wednesday 22nd April</b>	<b>3.00-6.00, Parent Consultation Evening</b> (booking opening after the Easter break)
Thursday 23rd April	Matt—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)
Tuesday 28th April	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
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 19th May	Dancehouse—rehearsal and performance for Dance Club
Wednesday 20th May	Open The Book Worship in School
Thursday 21st May	School Nurse in school—Year R screening
Friday 22nd May	Last day of the first half term
<b>Half term break</b>	



*Yr R Wilfr - for your fantastic writing in phonics. We are very proud of you.*

*Yr 1 Zephyrn - for being independent and always ready to learn. Well done!*

*Yr 2 Rory - for your super independent writing about Rory and the dinosaur. You worked so hard sounding out all the words. Also for working so hard on counting in 2s and 10s. Well done Rory!*

*Yr 3 Seb - for your opening line of your review. "The production of the BFG is a world of emotional happiness that changes your whole life"*

*Yr 4 Matilda - for your increased confidence and fluency during Book Club. You are reading with super expression now. Well done.*

*Yr 5 Conran - for showing determination and courage at the swim gala - you dug deep and gave it your all. Well done!*

*Yr 6 Amelie - for your careful, detailed wave artwork, the finished picture is incredible!*



## 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 met this week to start 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.



**Comic Relief—Red Nose Day**

The children all looked amazing today dressed in their red noses, clothes and accessories! Thank you to everyone for supporting Comic Relief. **We raised £120.00**

## Grounds Morning—Saturday 18th April, 09.30—12.30

Once everyone has had time to relax over the Easter holiday, we would be really grateful if you would give us a few hours of your time on the Saturday morning at the end of the first week back at school. There are a lot of jobs to do at this time of year to get our lovely grounds tidied and looking their best ready for the children to enjoy throughout the summer term.

Once you get going, Grounds Mornings are always a fun, social time and there's no truer phrase than 'many hands make light work'. There will be plenty of digging, pruning, weeding and sweeping to do and possibly the odd repair job too, so something for everyone to get stuck into.

We are really fortunate to have such expansive grounds, and your children adore being outside as much as possible during the warm summer weather. However, it is a challenge to keep everything maintained without your support. We can promise a refreshing drink mid-morning and quite possible a treat too, so come along and join the fun. Any general garden tools that you are able to bring are always welcome—we have some but never enough. Do make sure you label or keep a keen eye on your own tools. **See you there on the 18th April.**



## 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.

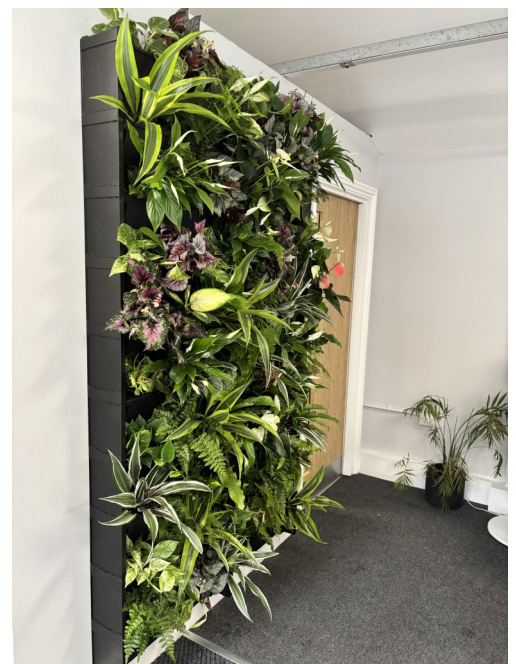
Matt was unwell and had to postpone coming into school to introduce this to the children this week, but he will be in soon in the summer term.

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.



Summer Term 1 - After School Clubs 2026

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday				
Tuesday	Mrs A Chilton 	Art & Craft	Yr R, 1 & 2	A creative club of art, craft and colouring using a selection of different materials. An opportunity for children to be independently creative. Max 10
	Mrs S Johnson & Mrs S Goocher	Westbourne House Swim	Selected Children	Swim Club for selected children in preparation for the ESSA Gala Final, Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April and The Cormorants Swim Gala on Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> May. Dates: Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> April and 5 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> May, 5 weeks only. £5 per child per session. 6.30-7.15pm.
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. Children will be practising for the Dancehouse performance and must be available for this date: Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026. X14 sessions @ £6 per child per session (to include contribution towards costumes) 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> January 5 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> February, 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> April and 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> May. No Dance Club Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb or Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> March
	Mrs L Plackett	Hama Beads	Yr R, 1	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 <sup>th</sup> April, there is no club on Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April. <a href="https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/">https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/</a>

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 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> May - x6 weeks.

Dance Club Dates: 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.

**Please see above, our club timetable for the first half of the summer term. Booking will be live on Arbor from Saturday 28th March.**

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.

**South coast Sports—After School Provision:**

Please be advised that summer term Multi-sports club is now live and bookings can be made using the link below or the logo above.

<https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/>



Congratulations to Jack Holt who played at the under 8s Sussex Festival in Chichester last week. He played 5 games of rugby without subbing out. His grit and determination was amazing, he has such an ability to rally his team, support his friends from outside school and be an incredible team player. His confidence and his rugby skills are improving every week. Very well done Jack!



29<sup>th</sup> March  
3pm - 5pm

# East Dean Village Hall

*Crafts, activities, food, songs, and  
worship.*

**For all Primary and Pre School  
Children**

*Registration and start @ 3pm  
Please bring an adult with you*

Check us out on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/  
ValleyParish](http://www.facebook.com/ValleyParish) and book your place or email  
[priestvalleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:priestvalleyparish@gmail.com)

# Early Help Service



## SEND Event

Chichester Family Hub

St James Road, Chichester, PO19 7AB

Join us for lots of sensory fun and messy play

**Monday 30th March**

We have two sessions running on the day

**10.00am - 11.30am**

**1.30pm - 3.00pm**

Open to all families with a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) up to age 11, and their siblings.

To book your place at this FREE event,

please call the Hub: 01243 642950

For additional information please email.

[ChichesterFamilyHub@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ChichesterFamilyHub@westsussex.gov.uk)






# Join us for one of our special Easter boat trips in Chichester Harbour

Kids  
tickets  
starting  
from just  
£5!

Harbour Discovery 

Guided tour of our special harbour, departing Itchenor.

Easter Special 

Easter hunt, spring activities & a chocolate treat for all.

Seal Safari 

Three-hour trip to visit our special seals (age 8+).

Birds Ahoy! 

Meet the special birds of Chichester Harbour - all ages

All aboard 'Solar Heritage' our solar-powered, eco-friendly tour boat



[www.boattripschichesterharbour.co.uk](http://www.boattripschichesterharbour.co.uk)

Gift vouchers and private hire available



in partnership with  
**westsussexwest**  
School Sport Partnership



**ARENA**  
**SPORTS CENTRE**

Ring  
reception  
to book:  
01243  
870000

# Easter holiday camps

Sessions run by experienced & qualified teachers,  
coaches & School Games Organisers. Activities include:

**Football, Tag rugby, Golf, Athletics, Striking  
& Fielding, Arts & Crafts and much more!**

*Please note activities may vary daily*

Bookings open **Monday 2nd March** (limited places available)

**Arena Sports Centre 09:00-15:00**

**School years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Academic year 24-25)**

Date **Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April**

(individual day bookings available)

**£19.75 or £74 for all 4 days! - Includes a hot meal!**

All children accessing benefits related free school meals can access for  
free via HAF, check with West Sussex County Council for more information.

**HAF places please book via the WSCC website:**

**[www.westsussex.gov.uk/haf](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/haf)**

**Booking deadline Wednesday 25th March**

Please contact us for booking:

**Tel 01243 870000 [www.arenasportscentre.com](http://www.arenasportscentre.com)**

Email **[bookings@arenasportscentre.com](mailto:bookings@arenasportscentre.com)**

Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5JD





# 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

**30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 10<sup>TH</sup> 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



Daniel Gilmore B.Ed Hons Music  
**Tel: 01903 297 048**  
**Mob: 07771 880 482**  
[daniel@sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk](mailto:daniel@sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk)  
[sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk](http://sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk)



# SUSSEX MUSIC WORKSHOPS



[sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk](http://sussexmusicworkshops.co.uk)