



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 20 06.02.26

There is quite a bit of illness about unfortunately, so our overall attendance for the year has dropped to **96.2%** this week.



Even though Rev Sarah is still recovering from a broken arm, she has honed her left handed typing skills and blessed us with a Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#)

So glad to hear you are on the mend, Rev Sarah. We will continue to hold you in our thoughts and prayers.

Watch out... rainforest birds have landed in Maple Class!

Maple Class children have been learning about the rainforest and the amazing birds that live there. They then created their own colourful birds.

These beautiful birds can perch right on their arms—just like they're holding a real rainforest friend! A fantastic mix of creativity, imagination, and learning.



Apple Class welcomed 'Tom's Talking reptiles' into school this week to support their 'Look Closely' learning about minibeasts. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Pogo the stick insect, Chloe the curly haired tarantula, Hansel the African land snail, Millie the millipede and Wally the hissing cockroach this week. Any anxieties were soon forgotten as everyone was introduced to each minibeast and told so many interesting facts about them. It was wonderful to be able to hold and stroke them-and to look closely at Chloe. Thank you Tom!



No such thing as bad weather! When we run tours for prospective families for our new Reception cohort, we always talk about how the children always have a change of clothes and wellies with them and we endeavour to get outside to learn all-year-round, whatever the weather.

We certainly lived up to that claim yesterday, with some children still managing Forest School and lots heading out on various routes around West Dean Gardens, on this half term's Wellbeing Walk. There is always a lot to see, hear and smell and this time the children were fascinated by the height of the River Lavant, almost bursting its banks.

Today was our first Foodbank Friday of 2026. Thank you so much for all your donations, your support it is greatly appreciated.

Please see below, message from Chichester District Foodbank:

On behalf of the Chichester District Foodbank team, I want to say a huge thank you for your amazing support over the past year. In 2025, you generously donated **102kg** of provisions - that's around 255 meals! Your kindness really does make a difference, and means so much to us and the people we support across Chichester District.

Thanks to you, we can continue offering essential support to families and individuals in crisis across the Chichester District. And it's not just about the food. Your generosity frees up resources that let us provide extra help, like practical guidance and a caring, listening ear when it's needed most. As a largely volunteer-run charity, every donation makes a real difference, and yours is truly appreciated. Last year, we were able to provide emergency food parcels to over 6,000 people, with 38% of them being children. These numbers show just how important your support is to our community.

Thank you again for your generosity and for being such an important part of what we do. You truly help make a real difference, and we hope to work with you again in 2026!



Chartwells Meal Ordering

This week we had x2 Universal Infant Free School Meals ordered but not taken, costing school £6.40. Please continue to be careful with ordering to support us to reduce cost and waste.

Headlice

A case of headlice has been reported in school. Please follow the link to access further information regarding vigilance and treatment:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Calling all Runners!



If you would like to join Mr Williams in the combined Bishop Luffa Partnership team and run the Corporate Challenge races on 25 Feb, 11 March & 25 March, please sign up here:

<https://www.chichester-runners.org.uk/cc-entry/>

Please select the "corporate team" option and enter BLLP as the team name.

Each race is approximately 4.5km. On the night, there are different pace groups you can join: 'A race' 7:30pm

Any pace 'B race: 7:55pm

Come along and join the fun!

**WEST DEAN
SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

Movie night

KS1: SING 2

KS2: WILD ROBOT

DATE: WED 11TH FEBRUARY

TIME: 3PM - 5PM

£5 PER CHILD

INCLUDES A SNACK, DRINK, & TREAT

**CHILDREN CAN BRING EITHER A SMALL
CUSHION OR BLANKET**

PLEASE BOOK BEFORE TUESDAY 10TH 12NOON

News from West Dean 'Friends'



Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

Wednesday 11th February—Film Night, 3.00-5.00. (poster attached) KS1 s Sing 2, KS2—Wild Robot.

Booking is now open on Arbor, £5 per child (to include a drink and snack)

Wednesday 18th March—Save the Date.

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

6.00—9.00pm. £15 to include quiz ticket and meal option.

Poster with full details to follow.

'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'. **Our next sale is Wednesday 25th February at 3.00pm.**

Even though Christmas is over there are still some 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.

Look out for details of our Eggsciting Easter Event, coming soon!



Westbourne House School Holiday Camp (Chichester)

Pied Piper Activities

holiday camps at Westbourne School

Embark on an exciting journey with Pied Piper multi-activity camps, the ultimate experience for children aged 4 to 12 during their Easter and Summer holidays!

Providing fantastic OFSTED registered childcare with over 60 different activities for children to take part in, you will have complete peace of mind knowing that your children are not only having a great time but are safe and cared for too.

Our camps are safe, friendly, and secure, ensuring your child's adventure unfolds in a nurturing environment. Our handpicked staff are carefully selected for their fun-loving, caring, enthusiastic and committed nature and their ability to deliver the Pied Piper difference throughout your child's week at camp.

Join Pied Piper at Westbourne House School, where joy knows no bounds, and every moment is a chance to create wonderful childhood memories that last a lifetime!



**BOOK NOW
ONLINE**



Scan me to book!



*Creating wonderful
childhood memories...*

Contact us:

E: teamyellow@piedpiperactivities.co.uk

W: piedpiperactivities.co.uk

Follow us on:

@PiedPiperActivitiesLtd
piedpiperactivities



Yr R *Mila* - for your brilliant writing about number. Well done!

Yr 1 *Bertie M* - for being so confident in your maths this week. What a superstar!

Yr 2 *Finlay* - Well done for a super week. For settling into school and your work so well, for trying so hard with your times tables and your work on money.

Yr 3 *Eadie* - for believing in yourself and having the confidence to write at length this week. Keep it up!

Yr 4 *Elsie* - for your brilliant attitude to learning. You are a wonderful role model for everyone in Beech Class.

Yr 5 *Miles* - for your fantastic interpretation of a character, using your inference skills to draw him with great detail.

Yr 6 *Bronte* - for your improved resilience in maths when tackling tricky problems and for your amazing arithmetic skills. Well done!





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

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 KS1 Sing 2, KS2 Robot (Booking available on Arbor)
Thursday 12th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut) No Dance Club on this day.
Friday 13th February	Amelie Burton—Headteacher for the 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
Tuesday 24th February	Pete Watson—Drumming Demonstration in school
Wednesday 25th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 25th February	2.45—3.30, Pre-loved Uniform Sale
Monday 2nd March	1.00-3.00, SSP Stinger Netball at CGHS (rescheduled 05.02.26)
Wednesday 4th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day—children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character
Thursday 5th March	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Monday 9th march	Open the Book Assembly in School
Wednesday 11th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 11th March	ESSA Swimming Gala, Horsahm (details to follow for selected children)
Wednesday 11th March	2.00-3.00, Choir visit to Marriott House for Spring Singing (details to follow)
Thursday 12th March	Maple Class visit to The Living Rainforest (details to follow)
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)
Thursday 19th March	2.30-3.00, Beech Class Science Fair in the hall
Thursday 19th March	3.00, 'Friends' Bake and Book Sale
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief