



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 29 01.05.26

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](#).



Maple Class Land Art

Last Friday, Maple Class created their final responses to the work of Andy Goldsworthy. After learning about his nature-inspired art, the children designed and made their own land art using natural materials.

They focused on patterns such as spirals, geometric shapes, trails, and symmetrical designs, carefully arranging leaves, sticks, and stones to create eye-catching creations.

The project also helped develop teamwork skills. Working in groups, the children practised listening to each other, sharing ideas, and compromising to include everyone's thoughts.

By collaborating, they produced creative and thoughtful artwork while learning the importance of working together.



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.



Maple Class Plea for Newspaper

Maple class are in desperate need for some newspaper please. If you have any old newspapers that you are able to donate please do bring them in, we would be very grateful, thank you.

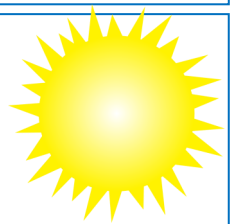


Swimming Pool

We have made really good progress with our swimming pool preparations this year and we are almost ready to open. We are pleased to be able to offer a poolside first aid training session with Mrs Goacher on Monday 18th May, 1.00-3.00pm. If you feel that you would like to join in so that you can help with supervising our after school sessions, please do let me know.

In order to run the after school swim sessions we need a First Aider and a Supervisor so please sign up if you can to help us share the duties. A rota will be available soon.

Thank you for your support and fingers crossed for some lovely sunny weather. The pool will be open straight after the half term holiday.



ESSA Swim Gala – Four of our heroic swimmers competed in the English School Swimming Association South-East Primary Schools Team Championships at the Guildford Spectrum last Saturday. This was a really big deal, as we were one of the only local primary schools to qualify for this and one of very few state schools in attendance.

The swimmers gave a really strong performance amidst stiff competition and should be really proud of themselves. A big thank you to Mrs Goacher for facilitating their attendance at the event, and for her coaching and support.



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



Our new **Living Wall** was installed in the school foyer today. It looks fantastic and we look forward to watching it grow. Huge thanks to **Growing Revolution** and **Hills Plants** for donating the wall system and plants, and to Mrs Plackett and Mrs Shears for organising this project and their green-fingered creativity this afternoon.

Once Upon a Storytime...



Step back in time this half term for some spellbinding stories and a charming craft activity



Tuesday 26 May 2026

10.00 - 11.00am

Suitable for children aged 4+

Booking essential – please speak with staff to reserve a place
Parents and carers must remain with their child during this activity



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.

David Covers

A huge thank you to David Covers for donating x2 lovely new benches for our grounds. Thank you to Keith Goacher for collecting them for us and to Ian Staples for figuring out the flat pack instructions and putting them together!

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

Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Thursday 7th May	Music Assembly (in school)
Friday 8th May	Cathedral Enrichment Day KS2 (selected children)
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)
Wednesday 13th May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Wednesday 13th May	7pm, Parish Council Meeting for Pupil Parliament (details to follow)
Friday 15th May	8.30am, Friends Meeting (Class Reps)
Monday 18th May	1.00-3.00, Poolside First Aid session with Mrs Goacher for after school swim sessions
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
Thursday 21st May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Friday 22nd May	Last day of the first half term
Half term break	
Tuesday 2nd June	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Thursday 4th June	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 5th June	Foodbank Friday
Monday 8th June	Yellow School Photos, Year 6 Leavers' and Classes
Tuesday 9th—Fri 12th June	Chestnut Class Residential Visit to YHA Medway
Monday 15th June	Sports Afternoon (all welcome)
Wednesday 17th June	Open The Book Worship in School

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** *María* - for your enthusiasm in class. You are going from strength to strength.
- Yr 1** *Darcey* - for working so hard and having such a positive attitude to your learning.
- Yr 2** *Eva* - for always helping in class and being a good friend to everyone. Well done on some super writing this week
- Yr 3** *Barney P* - for your terrific confidence in our work on telling the time this week. Keep it up Barney!
- Yr 4** *Barney G* - for your EPIC swim at Tuesday's time trials. You blew us away with your back stroke!
- Yr 5** *Ned* - for your consistently good manners towards adults in the school which you balance well with a great sense of humour!
- Yr 6** *Ivy* - for your mature, confident attitude to reasoning and problem solving in maths.





Temporary Main Scale Teacher for EYFS / KS1
0.4 (2 days a week) - for one academic year

Start Date: September 2026



***'There is only one you in this great big world...
...make it a better place.'***

We have an exciting opportunity for a teacher to join our fun, creative and innovative learning community. At Fishbourne Church of England Primary School every member of the school family is valued for the unique gifts and talents they bring to the school and championed to be the best they can be. We strive to make learning irresistible and for children to be nurtured to become determined, courageous, positive, collaborative and reflective learners.

We are looking for someone who is:

- *Passionate about **every** child's learning and progress
- *Positive about growing as a teacher and a learner
- *Able to work closely within a strong, collaborative team

In return, we can offer you:

- *A skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated staff team
- *A positive and supportive school family – children, parents, staff and governors
- *A fun, creative and innovative learning community

We are committed to safeguarding and all applicants must be willing to undergo screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure Barring Service.

We would warmly welcome you to visit the school prior to application to meet a member of the leadership team and see our school in action. Our website has a wealth of information about our vision, values and pedagogical approach - please do explore it!

Closing date: Friday 15th May 2026
Interview date: Wednesday 20th May 2026

'There's work and there's your life's work. The kind of work that has your finger prints all over it. The kind of work that you'd never compromise on. People don't come here to play it safe. They come here to swim in the deep end. They want their work to add up to something. Something big. Something that couldn't happen anywhere else.'



Main Scale Teacher
PPA Teacher – Modern Foreign Languages and RE
0.2 (1 day a week)

Start Date: September 2026



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